

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Lane Cove Police Station

Death of David ROSE

Date: 10 February, 1998

Name: THORNTON, Peter Leonard

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Waiter

States:-

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. My age is 40 ([REDACTED]/57)

3. I am employed as a waiter at an Italian restaurant named 'BEPPI's at the corner of Yurong and Stanley Street, East Sydney. I have worked there for about 3 weeks. My shifts alternate between working at lunchtimes and evenings. I work about 5 shifts a week at the moment.

4. I am a recovering alcoholic and try to go to about 6 or 7 alcoholics anonymous meetings on a weekly basis. I normally go to meetings at St Stevens Church in the city, Northside Clinic in Greenwich Road, Lane Cove, the Rotary Lodge in the North Shore Hospital, St Peters Church in Cremorne, Step Group in Lane Cove and a meeting on Military Road, Neutral Bay.

5. On Saturday the 20th of December, 1997 I think I woke up about 8am or 9am. I decided to go to an alcoholics anonymous meeting in Neutral Bay. I had been to that meeting about 5 times before the 20th of December, 1997. I stayed at home during the morning and I caught the 144 bus from a bus stop on the Pacific

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Highway about 11.30am that morning. I got off the bus off in Military Road outside a community centre about 11.50am.

6. When I got off the bus I went into the community centre and I took a seat. The meeting normally starts about 12.00pm and usually finishes about 1.30pm. When I first went into the meeting I sat down the front and when I walked in I did not see people I will refer to later in the statement as David, Clive or a woman who's name I don't know.

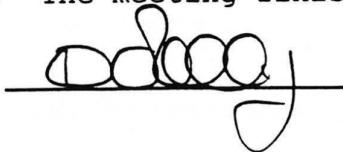
7. About 12.30 or 12.45pm I was asked to 'share' with the rest of the group. I went to the front of the meeting and spoke to the group members. This allowed me to look out over the crowd. I saw a person in the 4th or 5th row who I know as 'David'. I first met David between the 14th and 21st of August, 1997 at the Herbert Street Clinic, St Leonards. This clinic is an alcohol detoxification centre. I was a patient at that time and this person David came in towards the end of my stay as a patient.

8. Between August and December, 1997 I saw 'David' at a number of 'AA' meetings and I have occasionally said hello to him. I think one time I approached him and told him that I recognised him from the Herbert Street, Clinic. David is not a friend of mine and I have not socialised with him. The only time I ever see David is at 'AA' meetings and I might see him walking around Crow's Nest. I know David lives in a half way house at Crows Nest. I am not sure if I have seen David at the Neutral Bay meeting before the 20th of December, 1997.

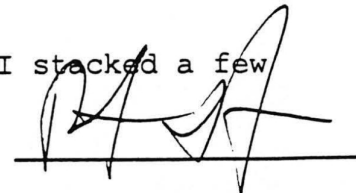
9. The person I refer to as David is in his mid forties, about 5ft 10 in tall, thin build, he has dark curly mid length hair, olive complexion, and he may be of foreign nationality.

10. The meeting finished about 1.30pm and I stacked a few

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chairs. People often hang around and speak to each other and have coffee. At the end of the meeting I spoke to a few people. I think I may have spoken to David and lady. The lady said something similar to "We're going for coffee at Maizies." I can't remember who walked away first, but I stayed at the centre and talked to some other people for a short time.

11. About 1.45pm I left the centre and walked to the coffee shop. It is only about 3 or 4 doors away from the centre so it took me less than a minute to get there. When I walked in the door I saw the lady I had spoken to with David, sitting at a table with a man who I know as Clive. I went over and sat down with them. I think the lady asked me if I had seen David and she told me that he hadn't arrived yet. I told her I hadn't seen him.

12. I ordered some coffee and we talked about recovery. Within ten minutes of sitting down with Clive and this lady, David arrived. He came over and sat with us. I was talking with Clive and I saw that the lady had an address book in her hand. The book was about 10 cm long. I glanced over at one point and saw phone numbers written in the book. The cover of the book might have been dark. If I recall correctly I think she had a newspaper sheet about accomodation and I think she may have been looking for accomodation. I didn't really speak to the lady very much while I was there. A couple of times I saw the lady get up and she went over to a blue phone in Maizies cafe and she appeared to make a telephone call. I don't remember her saying anything about the calls.

13. I think I stayed at Maizies for about 20 minutes. It couldn't have been any more than half an hour. I think I left the coffee shop about 2.15pm - 2.30pm. Before I left I asked them if they were going to the Cremorne meeting but they said

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no. I don't know what they were going to do for the rest of the day. After I left the coffee shop, I went to another 'AA' meeting. I did not see the lady, David or Clive again that day.

14. About 12.15pm on Saturday the 7th of February, 1998 I was at the Neutral Bay 'AA' meeting. I was sitting down and the lady I had coffee with at Maizies came up to me and she said to me, "don't rush off at the end, I need to speak to you." At the end of the meeting I saw the lady and I walked over to her. She said, "Do you remember sitting in the coffee shop with Clive and David before Christmas."

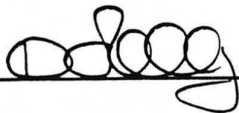
I said, "Yes I do, you and David were there."

She said, "Stop don't go any further. I need to be identified that I was there. Would you ring Detective Sergeant ? at Maroubra Police Station and tell him what you know."

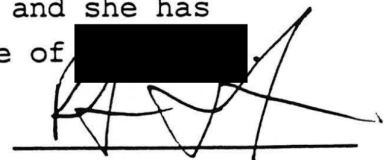
During the conversation she said something about someone she knew had been murdered but I can't remember the exact words that she used. I confirmed the details with her and then I left the building and caught a bus into the city and called the police from the Queen Victoria Building in the City.

15. The lady that I spoke of has a name similar to 'Sharon'. I met her at the Herbert Street Clinic in August 97. She came in as a patient on the 19th of December, 1997. I talked to her a couple of times in the clinic. She told me she at some point she had lived on the north coast somewhere. I believe that she said at that time her current address was in the western suburbs. I gathered it wasn't her first time in a detox situation. She is in her mid 30's old, about 5ft 5 in tall, brown hair that is past her shoulders, medium build, Australian appearance, she has a lot of broken capilliaris on her face and chest, fair complexion. She doesn't look really healthy and she has mentioned that she is a carrier of some type of [REDACTED]

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16. Since leaving the Herbert Street Clinic in August I may have seen her once at an 'AA' meeting prior to the 20th of December, 1997. The next time I saw her was on Saturday the 20th of December, 1997.

17. I am sure about the date of the 20th of December, 1997 because on the evening of the 19th of December, 1997 I left a job at 'PINO's restaurant and I was quite upset about it. I know it was the next day that I saw David and the lady and Clive at Maizies cafe.

18. About 10.30pm on Friday the 20th of December, 1997 I left PINO's restaurant at 49 Willoughby Road, Crows Nest. I had told my boss that I would not be working at the restarant any more. I went home and got my uniforms and took them back to the restaurant. It may have been about 11.15pm. I walked outside the restaurant and I went and rang my mother and sat down at a bus stop on Burlington Street, Crows Nest which runs off Willoughby Road. There was another person at the bus stop. I recognised that person as David from alcoholics anonymous. I had a conversation with David and I mention to him that I was going to an 'AA' meeting the next day at Neutral Bay. I did not ask him to go the meeting and I did not tell him exactly where the meeting was.

18. I first met the person I know as Clive at the Herbert Street Clinic in August 97. He was a volunteer at the clinic and he would escort patients at the hospital to meetings. I think that he lives in Manly and I don't that he works. I have seen Clive at the Neutral Bay meetings a couple of times. I think he goes to Narcotics Anonymous meetings. The only time I have ever seen him with the lady or David was at the coffee shop in December, 97. Clive is about in his mid 40's to 50's old, probably less than 5ft 5 in tall, he has a slight build,

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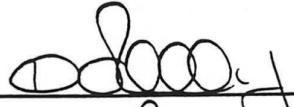
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receding at the front with a slight bald patch and it is below the collar with a slight wave, he has an light olive complexion and may be of european nationality.

Witness: 
Doreen
DSC
10/2/98

Signature: 

Witness: _____

Signature: _____