

New South Wales Police

P.190

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STATEMENT in the matter of:

Deceased 'Scott Stuart MILLER'
Wharf 4, Hickson Rd, Darling Harbour

Place: The Rocks

Police Station

Date : 7 March 1997**Name:** Sarah Anne COATES**Address:** The Rocks Police**Tel. No.:** [REDACTED]**Occupation:** Constable of Police**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 anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

2. I am 24 years of age.

3. On Monday 3 March 1997 I was rostered work from 7am-7pm as Driver of Rocks 1. Senior Constable CROWE was the Observer.

4. At 8.00am we received a message via Police radio to attend the location of Wharf 4, Hickson Road, Darling Harbour in relation to a deceased person.

5. At 8.10am Senior Constable CROWE and I arrived at Gate 5 and were instructed by the gate attendant to proceed through the gate and turn right and head towards the stone wall.

6. On arrival at the scene, I noticed there were two ambulances. One was a motorcycle ambulance. I then spoke to this officer, Paul RILEY who stated he was the first to arrive at this location at 7.58am and he confirmed the male person was deceased and lying face down near the stone wall. Mr RILEY stated at no time did he move the deceased. Senior Constable CROWE, Paul RILEY and I then

Witness:

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B CROWE
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7/3/97

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walked over to the deceased male. The deceased was covered with a grey woollen blanket.

7. Senior Constable CROWE lifted the blanket off the deceased body to verify that fact that the person was deceased. The deceased was described as male caucasian, about 180cm-190cm tall, solid build, with light brown short hair, aged about 20-25 years. The deceased was lying face down with his head tilted to the right. His right arm was bent and tucked under his body. His left arm was outstretched beside his body with the palm facing upwards. At this stage I noticed there was a small amount of blood on the lower left forearm. I also noticed a considerable amount of blood was coming from the head region. There was also a small trail of blood flowing along the bitumen ground from the head wound. There was also a bruising and swelling to the right eye in the form of a black eye.

8. The deceased was wearing a dirty white collared short sleeve shirt with blue jeans, brown shoes, blue socks and brown belt. The shirt had a lot of blood on the right sleeve including blood on the back of the sleeve. At this stage I then checked the right back pocket nearest to me, for a wallet. In the presence of Senior Constable CROWE, I found a black wallet in the right rear jeans pocket. In the black wallet contained a NSW Drivers Licence in the name of Scott Stuart MILLER, [REDACTED], Orange, with Date Of Birth 27/07/75. Also in the wallet was a Railway Concession photo card and a University of Western Sydney, Nepean ID card. I then placed the wallet back into the rear right jeans pocket of the deceased as I had established a possible identification of the deceased.

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9. I then walked away from Senior Constable CROWE and the deceased and spoke to the persons who located the deceased. I spoke with Peter COWAN who informed me that he and his work mate, Jim GOULD were driving past the area known as "The graveyard". This area is name this because it is where all the old machinery is kept and this area is hardly used. Mr COWAN stated that they were driving in the compound around wharf 4, when Mr COWAN looked over his shoulder and saw the male person lying there. Mr COWAN and Mr GOULD then drove there vehicle to wharf 5 and got the first aid officer, Vince MICALLEF and went inside the grounds of the graveyard site, near wharf 4 gate. Once there they found the body of the deceased lying face down on the ground. Mr MICALLEF touched the left wrist to try to find signs of a pulse but didn't find any. Mr COWAN then called an ambulance. They stated that at no time did they touch the deceased person anywhere else except to check for a pulse then left the deceased where they found him.

10. About 8.30am Sergeant WILSON and Senior Constable WHEELER attended the scene at wharf 4. I then saw them leave and a short time later I saw Sergeant WILSON and Senior Constable WHEELER appear at the top of the cliff from Munn Reserve, Millers Point. At this stage I notice the area surrounding the deceased was roped off with Police tape.

11. About 8.35am The Rocks Detectives arrived with Senior Constables LANE and CRANER. Senior Constable CROWE and I explained the current situation regarding the deceased.

12. Senior Constable CROWE and PC LANE then went up to the top of the cliff and examined the surrounding area. After examined the crime scene they then returned back to the wharf 4 where the

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deceased body was.

13. About 9.25am Senior Constable ROSE, from Police Media attended the scene to assist in controlling the increasing media that had gathered.

14. About 9.30am Senior Constable VAN LEEUWEN and NEAL from East Sydney Crime Scene attended the scene. Senior Constable CROWE and I briefed the officers regarding the investigation at that stage. Senior Constable VAN LEEUWEN and NEAL then entered the crime scene and assessed the situation. After a short time, Senior Constable VAN LEEUWEN then stated that he thought it was a suspicious death and asked the Government Medical Officer to attend the scene.

15. I then left the area and went to the main gate 4, and spoke to Lance NEILSON and Ian MALYON regarding the events of the night before. Mr NEILSON informed me that he was working from 10.00pm Saturday 1 March - 6.00am Sunday 2 March 1997. Mr NEILSON also stated that there was a New Zealand ship, the 'Ranginui' that had been docked at wharf 4, but had left the previous day, Sunday 2 March 1997 at 10.35am. I was also informed that the wharf staff had worked the early hours of Sunday morning loading up the ship and had finished at 4.15am when the main flood lights were turned off and only the pilot lights were left on by Mr NEILSON. It appears that the area was lit by the main flood lights possibly at the time of death. The area was not used after the ship had left explaining why the deceased was not found until Monday morning.

16. At 10.10am Dr DU FLOU, the Government Forensic Pathologist and two assistants arrived and entered the crime scene. Dr DU FLOU and Senior Constable VAN LEEUWEN had a conversation in

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relation to the death being a possible suspicious death. Senior Constable VAN LEEUWEN and Dr DU FLOU marked the area and then turned the deceased over onto his back and examined him. They also discussed the possibility of the suspicious death in regard to the small amount of injuries sustained that on a brief examination it appeared that there was no broken bones that would have been expected from a fall of 7m, which was the height of the small stone cliff. Also curious was the patch of blood that was on the back sleeve of the deceased right arm when it was considered that he had been dead lying face down for quite some time. When the deceased was turned over I observed that the left side of his face appeared to be flat, possibly from hitting a flat object. The deceased was then turned back over to be lying face down and his temperate was then taken. This gave the possible time of death sometime between the last 18-30 hours. Senior Constable VAN LEEUWEN and NEAL then left the crime scene.

17. About 11.00am D/Sgt Phil ROGERSON, PC Senior Constable MILLIGAN and HOWE attended the scene and discussed the matter of the suspicious death with Senior Constable VAN LEEUWEN.

18. At 11.20am The Rocks acting Patrol Commander, S/Sergeant WYSE attended the scene and was updated regarding the investigation.

19. At 11.55am Detective Sergeant ROGERSON, Senior Constable MILLIGAN, HOWE, VAN LEEUWEN, NEAL re-entered the crime scene.

20. At 12.00pm Detective Sergeant LAIDLAW, from Homicide and Senior Constable STREATFEILD and FLIPPENCE, from Photogrammetry attended the scene and entered the crime scene and assessed the crime scene.

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21. Senior Constable STREATFIELD and FLIPPENCE measured the area and then took photographs of the crime scene including the inner and outer perimeters.

22. At 1.25pm the Government Contractors arrived at the scene. The body was then taken and conveyed to Sydney Hospital. Senior Constable CROWE and I then left the scene and attended Glebe Morgue.

23. At 1.40pm a Life Pronounced Extinct certificate was issued by Dr Elizabeth CATHERWOOD.

24. At 1.55pm Senior Constable CROWE and I attended the Glebe Morgue. A short time later Detective Sergeant ROGERSON, and PC Senior Constable HOWE attended Glebe Morgue. A short time later Senior Constable CROWE and I started the relevant paperwork regarding the report of death to coroner (P79a).

25. At 2.30pm Detective Sergeant Wendy WALSH a cousin of the deceased attended the morgue and identified the deceased to Detective Sergeant ROGERSON, Senior Constable CROWE, HOWE and myself. I then returned to the office and completed the paperwork.

26. At 3.30pm Detective Sergeant ROGERSON, Senior Constable HOWE, CROWE and I observed the post mortem that was conducted on the deceased by Dr DU FLOU. Also present was Senior Constable VAN LEEUWEN and NEAL from Crime Scene.

27. At 5.30pm Senior Constable CROWE and I left Glebe Morgue after the completion of the post mortem and returned to The Rocks

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Police Station.

28. At 6.00pm we arrived at The Rocks Police Station and completed the necessary paperwork in relation to the deceased.

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SICST
7/3/97

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