

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of:

Place: Adelaide Police Station, Adelaide

Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

Date: 3 August, 1995

Name: FERGUSON, Rosemary Joan

Tel No.: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Semaphore

Occupation: Student

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 54.

3. In 1957, when I was in Leaving Grade at Woodville High School, Woodville, I first met Kenneth BRENNAN when he was a classmate. I left in Grade 11 and went to Teachers College at Adelaide Teachers College. Ken did another year at Woodville High School and then went to Wattle Park Teachers College. In 1961, Ken taught at Wandilo Rural School and living in Mount Gambier. I met him through a local theatre group. We started going out as a couple and married on 18 May, 1963, at Exeter, South Australia.

4. Ken and I lived at Mount Gambier for the remainder of 1963. Ken and I then moved to Katherine in 1964, and both taught at Katherine Primary School until 1966. In 1967, we moved back to South Australia, Ken taught at Nailsworth Primary School and I was teaching in Adelaide. Ken and I lived in Adelaide. In 1976 we purchased property at North Adelaide, [REDACTED]. We both taught in various schools in South Australia, both rural and city until 1989 when I separated from Ken.

5. Circumstances surrounding the separation were that in 1988, Ken told me that he was gay and was unsure about staying in the marriage. In hindsight I feel that Ken was not happy in himself. It was a relief when he told me because it made sense because I now understood why he was not happy within himself. Prior

Witness:

[Signature]

Signature:

R Ferguson

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

Name: FERGUSON, Rosemary Joan

to this Ken and I had a great social life, a wonderful group of friends, we both had a love of art, theatre and travel. We agreed to continue with the marriage for a bit longer, but it was miserable for both of us and I left the house. Ken told me that he was after a relationship similar to what we had but with a male. It was not a bitter separation, we parted with a lot of sadness. We have never been formally divorced and Ken told me that he did not want a divorce, and that we would only divorce if I wanted to marry.

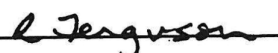
6. Ken and I kept in touch through writing and telephone calls. Not long after I shifted out I became aware that Ken was in relationship with a South American fellow. I then became aware that 1272 may have entered a relationship with Ken. At this time I had decided that Ken and I should sell the house. I was trying to get myself established. On 31 March, 1990, we sold our home in [REDACTED]. Not long after this Ken bought a unit at [REDACTED], North Adelaide. I was aware that Ken had a large network of gay male friends and he would talk to me often about his friends.

7. In mid 1993, I went to Kens unit to tape some classical music. Ken was home at the time and we had a meal together. I did not see any belongings in the unit that did not belong to Ken. To my knowledge he was living on his own.

8. Over the years of our marriage Ken and I had accumulated a number of art works. This included a lot of South Australian paintings and etchings. The majority of these were on display in Kens unit at [REDACTED]. This was an agreement between us because I was in a small unit and did not have the room.

9. In 1993, Ken accepted a Targeted Voluntary Separation Package from the Education Department of South Australia. He was looking at doing some consultative work or teaching in Sydney. I was not aware of the package value however, he told me that he was going to invest the money.

10. In the second term of 1994, he moved to Sydney and took up a teaching position at the Open Learning Institute. I believe he was assisted by a friend, 1282 who told him of the position. Ken got the job which was to last

Witness: Signature: 

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

Name: FERGUSON, Rosemary Joan

for one term. He later took up the position on a permanent basis. He was living at one address in Sydney for three months and then moved to Elizabeth Bay. I was corresponding with Ken through letters which I addressed to [REDACTED] Onslow Avenue, Elizabeth Bay, and by telephone to the unit.

11. In March, 1995, I travelled to Sydney with Sandra KELLY, a friend of Ken and I. We all went out for a meal and listened to some jazz. Only Ken, Sandra and I went out and Ken did not indicate to me that he was living with anybody. I had never visited his unit. Whenever I telephoned Ken, he would always answer the telephone.

12. In 1977, Ken and I made a will at the Public Trustees Office in Adelaide. This is the only will, to my knowledge, that Ken ever made and was current at the time of his death. When Ken and I separated he reaffirmed to me that the will should stay as it was, because when he died, he wanted to provide for me.

13. On 13 June, 1995, about 4.30am uniform police knocked on my door and told me that Ken had been murdered in Sydney. They gave me a card with the names and telephone number of police at Kings Cross and told me to ring in business hours.

14. Later that morning I telephoned Kings Cross Detectives Office and had a telephone conversation with Detective Sergeant Graeme ORCHARD. Over the next couple of days I had several conversations with Detectives at Kings Cross. During one of these conversations I was told that Ken had been living with a fellow by the name of [REDACTED] NP215 . I had never heard of a person by the name of [REDACTED] NP215 , nor had Ken ever mentioned the name [REDACTED] NP215 , or mentioned that he was living in a steady relationship.

15. I am puzzled as to who is responsible for Kens murder, he is a very loving man, warm, full of fun, energetic. He was very intelligent, worked hard at his job, was involved with the community, the Teachers Registration Board and the union and many other organisations.

16. Prior to Kens funeral I spoke to a person on the telephone who identified

Witness: Stattell

Signature: R Ferguson .

STATEMENT (Continued) in Matter of: Murder of Kenneth BRENNAN

Name: FERGUSON, Rosemary Joan

themselves as **NP215** and stated that he was staying at **NP214** home in Sydney. **NP215** stated that he was Kens partner for the last five years. This seemed amazing to me because I had never heard Ken mention his name and I had never met him.

17. On Wednesday, 21 June, 1995, I attended Kens funeral at Centennial Park, Adelaide. I attended with my immediate family and close friends. Also attending were Kens Adelaide friends, colleagues from organisations that he worked with, Kens family and members of the gay community. After the ceremony a person approached me and introduced himself as **NP215**. After this I noticed that **NP215** was in the company of what appeared to be a transvestite in womens clothing, and several other men who I had never seen or met before.

18. On several occasions since the funeral I have spoken to and seen Paul TRELOUR of the Public Trustees Office in Adelaide in regards to Kens property and will. To my knowledge the will made by Ken in 1977 is current and I have been told through my solicitor, Leonie MILLARD of Mellor and Olssen Solicitors, that **NP215** intends to contest the will.

19. On the Sunday after the funeral I went to the unit with **NP215** and we went through the property inside the unit and made notes of all of **NP215** belongings.

20. On the weekend of the 8,9,10 of July, 1995, I went with my sister-in-law Jan FERGUSON and brother, Chris FERGUSON to Kens unit at [REDACTED], Adelaide. The unit has three bedrooms, one of which is a study, a kitchen, lounge room and living area. Whilst we were at the unit Jan bought my attention to three photo albums which she told me she found in the top section of the linen press. This top section had two opening doors, one door was locked and the other door could be opened. Access could be gained to the locked section through the unlocked door. I have only briefly looked at these photographs and they appear to be of males performing sexual acts.

Witness:



Signature:

