

NSW POLICE

P190A

Version 4.01 (02/05)

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of:

Discovery of deceased male in Centennial Park

Place:

Maroubra Police Station

Date:

26th September 2009

Name:

Rodney Gibson LONG

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. I am 59 years of age.
- I have been living in the suburb of Kingsford in Sydney's eastern beaches for the last 12 years. I live with my wife and daughter. We have a dog as well, called Maggie.
- I have had the routine for about the last 10 years where I take the dog for a walk around Centennial park on a Saturday morning. I always go by myself.
- 5. Around 5:30am on Saturday 26th September 2009 I left my home in Kingsford with Maggie. I drove my vehicle a Blue 1999 Mercedes C180 sedan, registration (NSW). I drove North on Anzac Parade and turned right into Doncaster Avenue, right into Alison Road, and left into Darley Road. I drove through the gates of Centennial Park and left onto Grand Drive. It was about 5:45am and I was surprised the gates were open because they are often not open until 6am and I have to park on Darley Road. Grand Drive is a one way loop around the park, going clockwise. I parked my car on the right hand side of Grand Drive. I parked in a 45 degree angel park, nose in. There were no other cars parked that I could see. I saw a few joggers, who were running along Grand Drive. It was daylight, and there was a lot of dust around that made it duli.
- 6. Around 5:50am I got Maggie out of the car, she was not on a lead. I have drawn on Annexure 'A', the letter 'A' to indicate where I parked my vehicle. I have drawn a continuous line through the park showing the route I walked. I walked across the playing fields, a line of tree's were on my right, I crossed a small wooden bridge that goes over a little creek. I turned left after the little bridge and followed a line of tree's on my left across another playing field. As I approached the tree line before the dirt path at Busby pond, I looked up the embankment. The embankment is about 3 metre high and form the path around the pond and the retaining wall of the pond. As I looked up I noticed a body. I have drawn the letter 'B' on Annexure A indicating where I saw the body.
- 7. Maggie was by my side. Often when I am walking in the park I see homeless people sleeping in the park, I initially thought of this, however I then thought it was very unusual to see someone sleeping out in the open. I saw the body was lying on its stomach. The head of the body was closest to me, and its feet were closest to the pond. I have drawn a map titled Annexure 'B', indicating where I was when I first noticed the body and the position of the body. I could only see the head and shoulder's of the body due to the elevation of the path.

8. I begin to think that something was wrong, that someone was in trouble. I walken to my right up the embankment and maintained about a 3 metre perimeter around the body Asi light to the top of the

Witness:

Gavin SMITH

Signature:

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Gibson LONG

Statement of Rodney Gibson LONG
In the matter of Discovery of deceased male in Centennial Park

embankment, and I could see more of the body, the next thing I noticed what I could see the pants of the body were pulled down to its knee's. Then I noticed blood on the torso of the body, the t-shirt was pulled up about 20 centimetres from the waist. The next thing I noticed was the hands and the head were blue, I could not see he's face. I could see he had a little peaked cap half on his head. I could see the body was a male, in his mid 20's, Caucasian, slim build. He had short hair that was dark brown or black. The man was wearing knee length brown suede boots on, black g-string underpants, long trousers, I cannot remember what the man was wearing on his top half, but it was a shirt or something similar.

- I circled the body making these observations. I have drawn on the map marked Annexure B, a
 continuous line of the route I walked. I looked for signs the man was breathing, however I could not see
 the body moving at all.
- 10. The man's legs were together, the man's right arm was beside his body, his hand pointing towards his feet, the palm was facing up, I could see his hand was blue. I don't remember the position of his left arm or hand. The man's head face down, I could not see his face.
- 11. I looked around to see if there was anyone around that may have a phone, as mine was in the car. I looked at my watch and it was 5:56am. Maggie and I ran down the embankment and retraced my route to the wooden bridge, when I crossed the wooden bridge I cut across the field to where my car was parked. I put Maggie in the car and got in the driver's seat. I turned my phone on, it takes a minute or so to fire up and get a signal. I drove north on Grand Drive and stopped where the embankment path begins. I have drawn the letter 'C' on a map titled Annexure A where I stopped the car and phoned triple zero and asked for the police. I dialled triple zero from my mobile number
- 12. I was standing outside my car waiting for the police, the police arrived about 30 seconds later. They were uniformed police driving a Mitsubishi sedan. There were two female officers and a male officer. I told the police about the body. All three officer's ran off down the embankment path towards the body. I put Maggie on a lead and started walking up the embankment path towards the body because I knew the police would need my name. As I was walking towards the body I was met by a man on the path, I said, "Did you see the body up there?", the man said, "Yes I did". This man and I walked back towards the body. When we got to the body the three police were talking to another man. I saw two or three other people there as well. All the people were in sporty clothes and looked to be joggers or walkers.

Witness:	Gavin SMITH	Signature:	Rodney Gibson LONG
Wit			
	Maroubra Police Station 26 September 2009		26 September 2009
	Gavin SMITH Senior Constable	•	Maroubra Police Station
14. I did not rec	ognise the man. I did not touch the	e man. Maggie did not g	d anywhere near the man.
body toward park and ba	etails to the police and continued n ds Parkes Drive, I walked north and lick to my car. I arrived at my car at walkers, joggers and cyclists. I did	d crossed Dickens Drive 6:50am and returned h	e and did a large loop around the nome. Whilst I was doing my walk I
	n we got to the body the three polic e as well. All the people were in sp		

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