

NSW POLICE FORCE

Juliet JOHNSON

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STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

| In the matter of: | Murder in Centennial Park on 26 September 2009 | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Place: Date: | The Rocks Police Station, 132 George Street, Sydney | |
| | 2 February 2016 | |

Name:

STATES:

- This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that 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 will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
- 2. I am 50 years old.
- I was previously employed by the security company ACES (Australian Concert and Entertainment Security). I started work with ACES in 2005. My NSW Security Licence number is however it has now lapsed because I have changed professions. I ceased my employment with ACES in January 2010.
- 4. During my employment with ACES I worked in a casual capacity. My preference was to work within the Centennial Parklands jurisdiction and fortunately that happened. I worked mainly at Centennial Park during the last 12 months of my employment but I always had to be prepared to work elsewhere if asked. The ACES staff were contracted to the Centennial Parklands and worked under the direction of the Trust Rangers David CAPLE and Colin CHESHIRE, and the ACES Supervisor Pedr DANKS.
- 5. My position was termed "Ranger Security Officer" or RSO and my duties included daily patrols of all venues in the control of Centennial Parklands; unlocking / locking of gates, amenities and facilities; observing and evaluating any security concerns; ensuring that all park users were safe, clean and tidy; responding to medical incidents; responding to property damage or theft; assisting with emergency rapid response for events in the park; traffic management and

Witness:

Melanie Staples Detective Senior Constable 2nd February 2016

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general customer service for park users. These duties related to the safety of all park users which included pedestrians, cyclists, horses and their riders. The daily patrols were done both on vehicle and foot. The RSOs would complete End of Shift Security Reports and Incident Reports as required.

- 6. As a casual employee, I worked a variety of shifts which varied from 4 hours to 12 hours in duration. I worked a mixture of day shifts and afternoon shifts. The earliest I would start work was 6am and the latest I would finish was 10pm, or at 12:30am or 1am if there was an event on.
- Detective Staples has asked me about my knowledge of homeless people residing within Centennial Parklands during the period of my employment.
- 8. We were given clear instructions that homeless people were not to reside in Centennial Parklands and we were to move them on. There was only one homeless man that we were told to be lenient with and this man was known as "Mudman". I don't know his name but he had been around for a long time. Most of the homeless people would use the oval in Moore Park across from the Bat and Ball Hotel - an area that is known in the reports as Moore Park East. These homeless people seemed to come and go. On one occasion I saw the belongings of homeless people near Kippax Oval which is located near the corner of Moore Park Road and Anzac Parade. I also saw some young homeless people sleeping in the rotunda at Moore Park West. As per the directive, these homeless people were politely informed that they had to move on, and they were told of alternate accommodation options for homeless people. I always tried to be sensitive and compassionate in my dealings with the homeless.
- 9. Detective Staples has asked me about my knowledge of homosexual activity within Centennial Parklands during the period of my employment; and specifically the location/s where this activity occurred and the time of day when this activity was prevalent.
- 10. The only knowledge I have is at the Lachlan Swamp area. This was the main area where this activity was known to happen. There was evidence of suspicious sexual activity within this area and this was during the day. When I patrolled this area, men would flee the area back to their cars. The only direct observations I made of homosexual activity is recorded by me in the report I made regarding Sunday 20th September 2009.

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Melanie Staples **Detective Senior Constable** 2nd February 2016

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11. Detective Staples has shown me a document titled "Incident Report – Statement – written by Ranger Juliet JOHNSON". This document is nine pages in length. I recognise this document as being a document written by me which I provided to the Police following the murder that occurred in Centennial Park. This report relates to an incident that I witnessed at Lachlan Swamp off Dickens Drive, Centennial Parklands between 16:40 and 17:20 in the afternoon of Sunday 20th September 2009. I prepared this report because I thought it might be useful for the Police investigating the murder. It contains my interpretation and speculation of the incident.

I PRODUCE A COPY OF THIS NINE PAGE REPORT WRITTEN BY ME, JULIET JOHNSON

12. Between 14:00 and 14:25 on Friday 25th September 2009, when I was working at Centennial Parklands I went to Lachlan Swamp to patrol the area as per my running sheet. There was a man that was standing at the entrance to Lachlan Swamp trying to deter me from entering. I called this man "the gatekeeper". The man asked me some questions about improvements to the amenities. My interpretation of this was that the man was acting as a scout and was trying to delay me from patrolling the area. I made some notes regarding this incident in my notebook. I don't recall proceeding with my patrol of Lachlan Swamp.

I PRODUCE A COPY OF MY NOTEBOOK ENTRY FOR 25 SEPTEMBER 2009

- 13. I never saw any signs of sexual activity outside of Lachlan Swamp. My last shift before the murder at Centennial Park on 26th September 2009 concluded in the late afternoon on Friday 25th September 2009.
- 14. Detective Staples has asked me about my knowledge of any males of black African appearance living within Centennial Parklands; and whether during the course of my duties I had any dealings with a man of this description.
- 15. I had heard that after the murder Rangers and RSOs had been asked to look out for a man of black African appearance. However, I never came across a man matching that description during my patrols and duties at Centennial Parklands. It surprised me when I learned that an African male had been living in Centennial Parklands for several months before the murder and afterwards. It surprised me because I am a keen observer and I never noticed him.

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Melanie Staples **Detective Senior Constable**

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