

Statement of Det Sgt BOWDITCH

Product Type: TEXT DOCUMENTS:Statement

Completed Date: 19 Feb 1991

Brief Description: Attached to this product is a statement from Det Sgt BOWDITCH who was in charge of the WARREN investigation. BOWDITCH outlines information provided by SAUCIS, ELLIS and ROBINSON in relation to the disappearance and discovery of keys/vehicle. BOWDITCH states that a canvass was done of the vicinity with no information forthcoming. BOWDITCH states a brief was filed at the Missing Persons Unit and filed locally. BOWDITCH states there is nothing to suggest foul play .

Summary:

- Para 3:** Became involved in the investigation of the disappearance of WARREN about 24/07/1989 and had carriage of the investigation.
- Para 4:** Interviews Paul SAUCIS and Craig ELLIS, and it becomes apparent that WARREN's disappearance was out of character.
- Para 5/6:** Discusses WARREN's vehicle being located appearing in tact near Marks Park at Tamarama, with cash/wallet inside. Keys are later found at the base of cliff face nearby.
- Para 7:** A search is conducted using Water Police and Air Wing, with no items of significance found. A canvass is conducted of nearby residents with no information forthcoming.
- Para 10:** Concludes there is nothing to suggest that WARREN disappeared as a result of foul play or a deliberate ploy by WARREN. The area of the disappearance is a gay beat, but the disappearance is not gay related.

New South Wales Police

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STATEMENT in the matter of:
Suspected death of Ross WARREN

Place: Paddington
Police Station

Date : 19 February 2001

Name: Kenneth James BOWDITCH
Address: [REDACTED], Paddington
Occupation: Company Director

Tel. No.: [REDACTED]

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 for 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 57 years of age.

3. I first became involved in the investigation of the disappearance of Ross Bradley WARREN on or about the 24th of July, 1989. I had carriage of the investigation.

4. During the course of the investigation, I spoke with Paul SAUCIS and Craig ELLIS. These persons were close friends of Ross WARREN and reported him missing to Constable ROBINSON at Paddington Police Station on 23 July, 1989 at 8.15pm. It became apparent during my interviews with ELLIS and SAUCIS that Ross WARREN was not one to make appointments and not keep them. Statements were obtained from SAUCIS and ELLIS during the initial investigation.

Witness:

D. Boye

Signature:

K. J. Bowditch

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5. On the morning of 24th of July, 1989, a brown Nissan Pulsar sedan (NSW regn [REDACTED]) was located by Paul Saucis and Craig ELLIS in the vicinity of Marks Park at Tamarama. The vehicle condition did not appear to be out of order, with the wallet belonging to Ross WARREN located inside. The wallet contained \$70 cash, a visa card and personal papers.

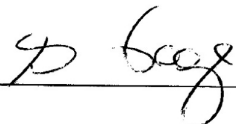
6. Later that morning Paul SAUCIS and Craig ELLIS located a set of keys belonging to Ross WARREN at the base of the cliff face at Marks Park at Tamarama.

7. The Police AirWing and Water Police Branch were utilised to search the surrounding ocean and foreshores for the deceased. No items of significance were found. A search of the Marks Park area was conducted by foot police and no items of significance were found. A canvass of surrounding houses was conducted and no information was forthcoming.

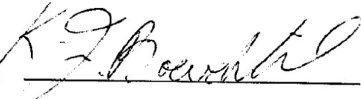
8. I later spoke with Detective Sergeant Dennis GREEN of the Wollongong Police Station and made arrangements for him to search the residential unit of Ross WARREN. Subsequent conversations with Detective Sergeant GREEN revealed no items were located relevant to this enquiry.

9. From the parents of Ross WARREN, I obtained health and dental records as well as a number of recent photographs relating to Ross WARREN.

Witness:



Signature:



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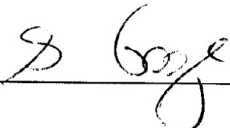
STATEMENT (continued) in the matter of: Suspected death of Ross WARREN

Name: Kenneth BOWDITCH

10. There is nothing to suggest that Ross WARREN's disappearance was the result of foul play or a deliberate ploy on his part to disappear. He was highly regarded by his employers and amongst his friends, and our inquiries revealed that he appeared to enjoy a fruitful and happy lifestyle. The area where his vehicle and keys were found is well known to police as a homosexual beat, although I stress there is nothing to suggest that his disappearance is or was gay related. The area in question is near a footpath or coastal walkway frequently used by walkers and joggers of all ages at all hours of the day and night. The immediate area at that time was particularly slippery due to seeping water and moss which had been caused by recent rains. Inquiries I made at the time revealed that the expected time Ross WARREN was at Marks Park, there was a full moon, the tide was high and the night was overcast which would have effected visibility. There is a distinct possibility that Ross WARREN may have slipped on the rock ledge overlooking McKenzie's Bay. It was not unusual and is still not unusual to see people sitting on the rocks day or night. I inspected the scene during the initial investigation and I am extremely familiar with the area as I regularly walk between Bondi and Bronte.

11. The initial investigation led to the creation of a brief of evidence, which contained the statements of Paul SAUCIS, Craig ELLIS and Philip ROSINI. Also included was bank records, dental and health records, newspaper clippings, and recent photographs of WARREN. Copies of the brief were forwarded to the Missing Persons Unit, as well as being filed at Paddington Police Station.

Witness: _____



Signature: _____



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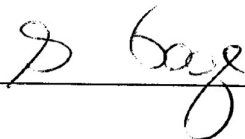
Name: Kenneth BOWDITCH

12. During the initial investigation, I prepared occurrence pad entry 7/149 (of 1989) at Paddington Police Station relative to this matter. This outlines enquiries made at that time in relation to the disappearance of Ross WARREN.

EXHIBIT I PRODUCE THAT OCCURRENCE PAD ENTRY.



Witness:



Signature:

