

Transcript of walkaround with Craig ELLIS

Product Type: Transcript:Other Transcript

Period From: 2 Aug 2001 00:00

Period To: 2 Aug 2001 00:00

Transcript Type: Full Transcript

Brief Description: On the 02/08/2001, a video walkaround was conducted with Craig ELLIS, a witness to the disappearance of Ross WARREN. During the video walkaround ELLIS describes the events when he attended the Marks Park area at Tamarama to search for his missing friend WARREN. He describes finding WARREN's motor vehicle and later the keys to the car in the honeycombed rock face below Marks Park. He also describes the some sexual habits of WARREN when he attended the Park. The transcript is 12 pages long, the audio and video tape relating to this product is filed at Paddington Police station.

DATE: 2/8/01

LEGEND

- V.1 SENIOR CONSTABLE TASESKI
 V.2 DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE DAGG

- V.1 Video camera operator Senior Constable Taseski,
 Video Operations Section. Recording has commenced.
- V.2 My name is Detective Senior Constable Dagg and I'm
 attached Operation Taradale working from Paddington
 Police Station. This here is Mr Craig Ellis. The
 time is now 11.38am on Thursday the 2nd of August,
 2001. We are presently at a location at Kenneth
 Street and Marks Lane at Tamarama directly opposite
 Marks Park. Also present is Detective Sergeant Page
 and Plainclothes Constable Ingram. Do you agree
 today earlier I showed you earlier a document
 regarding, a jurat regarding the statement?
- V.3 Yes.
- V.2 Could you get that document out please?
- V.3 Sure.
- V.2 It's regarding the statement what we're going to
 talk to you about today. Could you just state your
 name please?
- V.3 O.K. My name's Craig Ellis.
- V.2 And how old are you?
- V.3 I'm 34 years old.
- V.2 O.K. Can you just read out that document please.

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- V.3 Yes. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which I would be prepared if necessary to give in court as a witness. This 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. I am 34 years of age.
- V.2 O.K. Craig, earlier you had a microphone attached to you.
- V.3 Yes.
- V.2 And do you give permission, you understand that you are going to be recorded both by video and by sound.
- V.3 Yes.
- V.2 Do you give permission for that recording to take place?
- V.3 Yes.
- V.2 O.K. What we're doing here today is I believe you can assist us with regards to the disappearance of Ross Bradley Warren on the 21st of July, 1989, and we are present at a location here. Can you tell me anything about this location that we are at the moment?
- V.3 Yes, this is the location where um, I found Ross's car on the day after he went missing um, the car I believe was parked approximately where the silver Audi is parked just here um, I'm fairly confident it

- was in that spot or if not then fairly close to that spot.
- V.2 You mention that you came down and the car was in that spot, do you know what date that was?
- V.3 That was I believe the next day on the Saturday um, either on the Saturday evening or if not then on the Sunday. He disappeared on a Friday night.
- V.2 Righto. Ross disappeared on the 21st of July, 1989.
- V.3 Yes.
- V.2 So how many days after that?
- V.3 Either one day or two days.
- V.2 O.K. I believe you've given a statement in September last year to police?
- V.3 Yes.
- V.2 Um, And in that statement you discuss that Ross attended your home?
- V.3 That's right. Ross came to my house on the Friday evening to stay for the weekend, up from Wollongong.
- V.2 And he was in, he left, you said he left, did you see him leave when he left your place?
- V.3 Yes, I did. He left later on in the evening maybe 11 o'clock or so to go out for a few drinks.
- V.2 Right. And he left in his motor vehicle?
- V.3 He did.
- V.2 And that's the motor vehicle you saw here a few days later, located here?
- V.3 That's correct.

- V.2 I'll just show you a photograph of a motor vehicle here, is that the true, his vehicle?
- V.3 Yeah, yeah.
- V.2 It's depicting a location, that location, you don't know where that is or - - -
- V.3 No, no, it doesn't look familiar the location um, it, it may or may not be here but the car was definitely here when I found it.
- V.2 And earlier you mentioned something when the car was here that someone came out and said something to you?
- V.3 That's right. I was with ah, my partner at the time and we um, were looking around the car and looking to see if we could see if we could get into the car at all um, and I believe from memory a man came out of this block of units, an elderly man and I think commented on the fact that the car was here and was slightly parked over his driveway perhaps blocking the driveway a little.
- V.2 O.K. And when you found the car, how was the car, was it like, did it look like it had been disturbed or opened or anything?
- V.3 No, it was locked. Yeah, it was locked. There was no sign of disturbance, no sign of break in um, and full of Ross's things his clothes were on the back seat, there was old McDonalds wrappers sitting on the seat so - - -

V.2 The interior of the car did it look like it had been ransacked?

V.3 No, no.

V.2 Had you been in that car before?

V.3 Oh, yeah.

V.2 So the condition was - - -

V.3 Typical, typical, yeah.

V.2 In meaning typical, meaning that messy?

V.3 Messy, yeah.

V.2 O.K. And then once you located the car what did you do then?

V.3 O.K. Then we ah, Paul and myself went for a walk down the path here um, because obviously we knew that ah, the reason the car was here was that Ross had probably been for a walk in the park here um, so we proceeded to go down the path to see if we could see anything which might help us understand where Ross might be.

V.2 O.K. The time is now 11.35am. I'm just going to suspend this interview and we're just going to move to a different location, O.K.?

V.3 O.K.

V.2 This interview is now suspended.

V.1 O.K. Recording's suspended

WALKAROUND SUSPENDED

WALKAROUND RESUMED

V.1 O.K. Recording has recommenced.

- V.2 We'll now recommence this recording. Do you agree it's now 11.42am by my wristwatch?
- V.3 Yes.
- V.2 And do you understand that we're recording everything that's said and done and it's going to be recorded electronically?
- V.3 Yes.
- V.2 Earlier we discussed that we were up in the block of units, at 25 you discussed you saw Ross's vehicle there, and then we moved, you said you walked down with your friend down the stairs.
- V.3 That's correct.
- V.2 Can you just explain that to us now?
- V.3 O.K. From memory Paul and myself walked down the stairs from the block of units um, and then we walked ah, along the path ah, towards the north to see if we could any sign of Ross at all, so I believe that we would've walked along the path, come back, probably walked along from here down to the south a bit towards Tamarama, come back um, having seen nothing we then came, came down the cliffs here to see that there was a path that you could come down so came down to see if we could see anything down the bottom of the cliffs.
- V.2 O.K. So you said you walked down the cliffs, down the cliff face?
- V.3 Yeah.

- V.2 And then whereabouts on the, so the rock face down here whereabouts could you walk?
- V.3 Um, well, I don't know exactly which path we took but it would've been a path similar to this one. As you can see you can actually come down ah, ah the cliffs here and it's fairly, fairly easy to walk down.
- V.2 Yeah.
- V.3 So I imagine we walked down here or a similar path and then found ourselves down ah, at the bottom of the cliffs here. I was actually by myself by this time. Paul, Paul stayed up the top here um, so I walked around in this area um, to see if we, if I could see anything, probably walked a little further along around here, it was just the general area.
- V.2 And as you can see there's quite a large swell rolling?
- V.3 Yeah.
- V.2 Um, obviously on that day the see was calm, was it?
- V.3 Yeah, either it was calm or the tide was lower because you could walk around the bottom fairly safely here, no water there.
- V.2 Now, you discussed, you walked down onto the bottom rock shelf and what happened as you walked along there?
- V.3 Um, I walked along um, and happened across Ross's keys which were sitting in a, in a pocket um, on one

of the ledgers here so um, as you can see there's sort of lips formed with the rocks

V.2 Like a honeycomb?

V.3 Yeah.

V.2 Yeah.

V.3 That's right. Um, and his keys were sitting in, in one of those, those lips on the rock there.

V.2 And how were the keys, did they look like they'd been lodged there or placed there or how did it look?

V.3 Yeah, I mean, they were in a lip up on the top of, near the top of one of the shelves so the, there was no way I could see them, the keys would've been washed into there because they were, there was several feet, I mean I sort of reached out and was able to pick them up from this sort of level when I was standing on the ground so they were up, up a few feet so I doubt very much that they would've been washed up, they'd either fallen in there or they'd been put there.

V.2 And you knew definitely that they were Ross's keys?

V.3 Yes, yeah, they were his car keys, I mean I, I recognised them from the keyring at the time.

V.2 You're pointing in this location here, like do you know exactly where?

V.3 No, I don't, it could've been either down here or directly in front of us down here or even across there a little further along here, but it would then

sort of ah, you know, thirty or forty metres either side of where we are standing was the general area.

V.2 And what was your thinking and feeling once you found those keys?

V.3 Oh, it was ah, horrified, you know, I mean, the fact that his keys were there and he wasn't there and this was sort of a day or two later meant that something had obviously happened to him and I was pretty, pretty shocked and scared.

V.2 And then what did you do after that?

V.3 Well, I called out to Paul who was um, hanging around somewhere up here to tell him that I found the keys ah, I think I was even too scared to touch them, you know, and ah, I remember at the time that ah, I can remember saying to Paul, you know, can you go and get the police to come, come and see what we've found. I remember looking out to sea and seeing this lump or something out at the sea and thinking that it might've been Ross but it turned out to be just a fishing buoy or something in the end but yeah, I was pretty shocked at that stage.

V.2 The time is now 11.46am. I propose to suspend this interview and just move to another location. This interview is suspended.

WALKAROUND SUSPENDED

WALKAROUND RESUMED

V.1 Video recording has recommenced.

- V.2 We have recommenced this recording. Do you agree it's now 12.00pm according to my wristwatch?
- V.3 Yes.
- V.2 Earlier you said that you met Ross down in this Marks Park area?
- V.3 Yeah.
- V.2 Is this the general location?
- V.3 Yeah, yeah, somewhere around here.
- V.2 Could you just discuss with me what happened and how you come to meet Ross?
- V.3 Sure. Yeah, I was down here the night I met him um, and just walking along the path somewhere around here ah, Ross came from the other direction ah, I guess we eyed each other up, established some eye contact um, and then ah, just started talking to each other, had a bit of a chat ah, don't know exactly what about um and then he ended up coming back to my place um, he had his car here so we jumped in his car and drove back to my place.
- V.2 And what time did you meet Ross down here?
- V.3 Oh, it was definitely in the night time. It was Easter time um, I don't think it would've been late at night, probably anywhere from sort of 9.00 to 12.00 some time between then.
- V.2 And after that you had the relationship with Ross?
- V.3 Yep.
- V.2 How long did that, that relationship friendship disappeared or - - -

- V.3 Oh, I mean, I, it was ah, you know, boyfriend relationship for ah, a couple of months, three months maybe and then we just became friends after that, quite good friends, quite close friends.
- V.2 And during that time you were friends did Ross discuss with you he'd come here?
- V.3 Yeah, I mean he was reasonably reserved. He never told me ah, everything that he was getting up to sexually but, you know, we talked about, about a lot of it um, and I am pretty sure there would've been at least sort of two or three occasions when ah, he told me about coming down here over the course of ah, sort of fifteen months between when I met him and, and when he disappeared.
- V.2 And that's just to meet men, and was it to have sex here?
- V.3 Yeah, meet men, have sex here if that's what was happening, maybe go somewhere else if that was better.
- V.2 Would Ross be the type of guy that, to have sex in a public park or something like that?
- V.3 Oh, yeah, look I think, I think he would if ah, if it was the right guy and ah, you know, if that's what he wanted to do um, I mean, as I say he's reasonably conservative so ah, I'd, he'd, yeah, he'd do it, but it probably wasn't his preferred option but, you know, he'd, it wouldn't be unheard of for him.

V.2 Are you satisfied that what you've told us and shown us here today is a true and accurate record of what's been said?

V.3 Yes.

V.2 Do you have anything further to add regarding the disappearance of Ross?

V.3 Ah, no, not that I can think of.

V.2 The time is now 12.02pm according to my wristwatch. This interview is now concluded.

V.1 Video recording concluded.

WALKAROUND CONCLUDED