



## STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

**In the matter of:** Disappearance of Ross WARREN

**Place:** Balmain

**Date:** 2 May 2017

**Name:**

**198**

### STATES:

1. 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 63 years of age.
3. The following information about Ross Warren and the time period where he disappeared are provided as best as I can recall given it has been such a long time since then.
4. In 1989 I was living in Balmain and working as a flight attendant for Qantas International. I became a flight attendant in 1978. In 1989 I probably would have just been moving into a supervisory role, a senior steward which is a sort of middle rank. I was friends with Ross WARREN when he disappeared. I had been friends with him for maybe a twelve month period the year prior to and the year of his disappearance. I believe this time period was from the summer to the winter when Ross disappeared. Ross was shy and didn't seem to be a confident person. He was thought to be attractive within my group of friends that knew him but his lack of confidence caused him to contribute little and thus not stand out in a crowd.
5. Ross and I became acquainted through my partner at the time **1145**
6. **1145** lived in [REDACTED] Surry Hills, [REDACTED] Balmain and finally in a public housing block in Glebe prior to his death. The council flat was behind [REDACTED] opposite Sydney University on the Glebe side. I don't recall his address. **1145** died from AIDS

Witness:

[REDACTED]  
*Detective Senior Constable*  
*15/5/17*

Signature:

**198**

**198**

15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Statement of** [198]  
**In the matter of** Disappearance of Ross WARREN

related brain tumours around 1990 at the age of 25. Sometime before dating me, I believe [1145] had been in a relationship with [1413]. [1413] was a former police officer who later worked as a flight attendant with Qantas Airways

7. [1413] and Ross had been in a relationship and [1145] remained in contact with [1413]. This is how I came to know Ross further. I believe about 12 months before Ross disappeared, [1413] and Ross had ended their relationship. From what I understood from [1145], [1413] didn't want to continue the relationship with Ross but Ross was still smitten with [1413]. I did not have a personal relationship with [1413] however, I do not believe [1413] harboured any negativity toward Ross immediately before Ross disappeared.
8. My immediate circle of friends in 1989 included some men who were also flight attendants and their partners. In this group was my partner at the time [1145], John McCLEAN, Brett GARDINER and [1409]. [1409] GARDINER and McLEAN were Qantas International flight attendants like myself and this is how we became friends. John McLEAN joined as a flight attendant the year after me, 1979 and I think [1409] joined in the 1980s.
9. The relationships in our group were quite complicated. John McLEAN and myself had a thing together years before Ross disappeared. Then John introduced me to [1145]. It is through my relationship with [1145] that I became aware of [1413], [1413] and I never formed a friendship as [1413] and [1145] had also previously been together and I had been in a relationship with [1145]. I knew [1409] through work and we developed a friendship on a work trip that extended into our social gatherings.
10. Ross became involved in our group on a once or twice a week basis at the most and sometimes I wouldn't see him for a few weeks. He would either have dinner here at my place in Balmain and we'd catch up or go out somewhere. Ross rarely went to gay venues. He was very concerned about revealing his homosexuality for family reasons or for professional reasons as he had high aspirations of moving up in the television field.
11. I can recall there was a time he interviewed for a weather/news presenter job at channel nine in Sydney. It was through a contact I gave him but I don't believe he got that job.

Witness: [REDACTED]  
 DSC  
 15/5/17

Signature: 198  
198  
 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017



**Statement of [198]**  
**In the matter of Disappearance of Ross WARREN**

12. During the time I saw Ross when he was coming up to Sydney from the south, Ross and [1409] [1409] were introduced. [1409] was already established within our group. He was a flight attendant as I was. At the time [1409] was a trusted confidant of mine.
13. During the period we were friends Ross remained very private about what happened in his life. He was very introspective and not very talkative about personal matters, he didn't drink a lot or take drugs that I knew of. He was clean living and quite secretive about his personal life.
14. I believed Ross to be an intense person however he generally kept his feelings to himself. He appeared to me to be able to handle the complexities of living his double life. As far as the possibility that he committed suicide, I don't believe there was any indication that was the case. To support that, had Ross decided to terminate his life, he definitely wouldn't have done so in a way that would have shone a spotlight on his sexual proclivities – as turned out to be the case with his disappearance.
15. In the time leading up to Ross's disappearance he began a relationship with [1409] [1409]. I believe Ross overnights at [1409]'s place on occasions when he was in Sydney. I believe [1409] at that stage was living in the Eastern suburbs but I'm not sure.
16. Some months prior to Ross's disappearance, Ross divulged to me that he had read [1413] [1413]'s diary. Ross told me that he had read in the diary, relating to a dinner date [1413] and [1145] had shared, [1413] had written words to the effect "[1145] and I had a great meal and the best sex since we broke up". I found this revelation devastating as I believed [1145] and I were in a monogamous relationship. I had no reason to believe [1145] was vengeful towards Ross about telling me.
17. This disclosure from Ross marked a fairly cataclysmic change in my life. I approached [1145] about what Ross had told me and [1145] told me about everything he had done, his previous infidelities with [1413] and other people he had met through me and people he'd met at beats. Prior to this I was fairly conservative in my sexual life. When I discovered [1145] went to beats I went along to them as well to torture myself about what he was doing. After quite a few exploratory visits to beats I began to participate and I ended up becoming addicted to beats for a period of about 2 years.

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

DSC  
15/5/17

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**198**

[198]  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Statement of [198]**  
**In the matter of Disappearance of Ross WARREN**

18. I started using two beats, Marks Park was one and the other was a toilet in Birkenhead Point.

These beats were the ones [145] told me he used. I originally went there to try and catch [145] but as our relationship shifted I went there for personal adventure. I recall telling Ross I had been going to these beats. I mentioned the Marks Park beat specifically. Ross acted with scorn, condemnation and judgement. He was quite negative in his reaction to it saying "How could you do that?"

This was not too long before his disappearance; possibly in the month or two preceding his disappearance

17. Q. Can you tell me about that Mark's Park beat?

A. The Marks Park beat occurred on the rock path which began on the southern edge of Bondi beach where the houses start, not in the beach area but you walked in past fairly low rocks to start with. You could climb down to the rocks to the sea edge if you wanted but the main action began and mostly took place around the 3-400 metre headland. The further the headland went to sea the higher you were from the sea. I usually parked at the southern end of Bondi and I usually entered from the south side of Bondi. Rarely was there activity right in the park area because it was an open area.

18. Q. How would you meet someone there?

A. Well it was through body language, if there was a sense that I found someone attractive I would look for a face to face eye contact and if that person kept staring forwards you'd get the idea they weren't interested. If, at that point it was mutual interest, then one would step off the path into a more discreet area and the other would follow. Frequently, if someone stepped off the path and the other didn't follow it meant they weren't interested.

It wasn't an overt thing, it was very discreet. If there were normal people walking on the path I don't think they would know what was happening. We didn't want to be offensive to people who weren't involved. If there was mutual interest, one would step off and go to a bushy area or rocky area a few metres off the path, not far off the path at all.

Usually there would be two types of men in the gay sexual culture. The first who just want to get their rocks off and engage in the sexual encounter with anyone who would partake, irrespective of the attractiveness of the partner. The second is someone who is looking for an

Witness:

[REDACTED]

DSC  
15/5/17

Signature:

**198**

**198**

15<sup>th</sup> May 2017



Statement of **198**  
In the matter of Disappearance of Ross WARREN

encounter only with a person they find attractive and will depart without achieving a liaison if no one fit the bill. I would sometimes spend hours at the beat searching for someone attractive to me

19. Q. Did you ever take the sexual acts somewhere else outside of the beat? For example to someone's car or residence?

A. No, it sort of defeats the purpose of the anonymity of it. Usually there wouldn't even be a real discussion, there's one purpose and that's to get into the act. And there's not a desire to prolong the act any more than required. It's not a romantic act or setting. Also a lot of the people who go there are keen to guard their identity.

20. Q. What times of day would there be activity at the beat at Marks Park?

A. Always during the night when it was dark. I don't believe much happened before 10pm. Mostly it would happen around 1am and 2am, these would be the peak times because that's when bars have finished and people have more courage.


I'm aware there were toilets at Marks Park but I'm not aware of anything happening in the toilets, I believe they may have been closed up.

21. Q. Were you aware of any violence at the Marks Park beat?

A. I had heard of gay bashers in the area however I had never witnessed anything, I hadn't even witnessed any shouting or screaming though I was ready for it. I used to carry a small nun chuck weapon with me in case I was attacked. I was scared of groups who would carry out poofster bashings. I never saw it but I was aware of the potential. Attending the beats caused me to feel excitement and your adrenaline was up because you were doing something nefarious and I knew it wasn't socially accepted and knew that if a group attacked me no one would step in to stop it.

The men that used the beat would come alone, I would say 95-98% of the time men were alone. I can't recall ever seeing anyone there that I recognised or knew personally though I had seen the same people there on more than one occasion. A lot of people who were there didn't associate themselves or identify themselves as being gay. That, in some ways made it more attractive to me.

Witness:   
DSC  
15/5/17

Signature:   
**198**  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Statement of** 198  
**In the matter of** Disappearance of Ross WARREN

22. Q. How often would you attend the Marks Park beat?

A. I would go about twice a week for about 2 years. I was quite addicted to it. The period between me discovering 1145 was frequenting beats (when Ross told me about what he read in 1413's diary) and my meeting another man, Glenn who became my lover in about 1990, I was doing the beats twice a week. So this would have been a two year period. I didn't have a preferred day it was any day of the week when not raining.

23. Q. When you went to the beat what would you take with you, if anything?

A. I would take my wallet and keys and that's it. Sometimes I would hide my wallet in the car in case someone tried to rob me. Although at the time I was a black belt in karate so I wasn't too concerned about my ability to fight if someone wanted to fight me although I never wanted to fight.

24. Q. Would the weather ever prevent you from going to the Marks Park beat?

A. Yeah, I wouldn't go if it was raining because there wouldn't be much activity. My strongest memory of the place was in winter time so the weather being cold wouldn't have been much of an issue, just the rain. I remember it would sometimes be windy but you could always find a spot on the headland that was protected.

25. Q. Would it be fair to say that if someone was new to the beat they would be cautious and uncertain about it?

A. Yes, I never felt it was a safe environment and that was because, there was a danger there could be gay bashers, the fact that you were alone out there without anyone who could come to your aid, the fact that you were doing something nefarious that people could use as justification to hurt you and because of the physical environment, the cliffs and the type of area it was. I was cautious about how the beat worked and what the process was. I reckon most people would have tried to have a cover story if they were new about why they were there in case they were approached by police.

26. Q. Getting back to the relationship between Ross and 1409 what can you tell me about that?

Witness:

[REDACTED]  
 DSC  
 15/5/17

Signature:

198  
198  
 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017



**Statement of [198]**  
**In the matter of Disappearance of Ross WARREN**

A. So as far as I knew Ross and [1409] may have been experiencing conflicts or issues in their relationship though I can't recall the basis of it both were secretive about personal matters. I can't recall the specifics of the issue between them. This was in the weeks before Ross's disappearance. Then I became aware of Ross's disappearance. It became a matter of fairly important discussion about his disappearance within our group about what could've happened. We were quite surprised about the location at which his belongings were found. Everyone knew he was quite closeted. It was surprising he was last seen at an Oxford Street bar and disappeared from the Marks Park beat.

27. When I heard of his disappearance my thoughts went to his parents as I knew they were fairly conservative people and I knew he would've been protective of his mum. I don't recall the last time I saw Ross but it would have been one of my dinner parties most likely in the weeks before he disappeared. I know he and [1409] were seeing each other at the time and he was spending more time with [1409] at his place.

28. I can't recall where I was when I heard about Ross disappearing. I think it had hit the media almost immediately but I can't remember who told me. I remember the media producing images of Oxford Street in Darlinghurst and the information that his gear was found in a homosexual meeting place. The media information was sensationalised, and they amped up the insinuation that Ross was gay, producing lots of stereotyped footage of what gay people are "supposed" to look like, for example showing men in drag.

29. I was never spoken to by police when Ross disappeared. I don't know anyone who was contacted by police about Ross's disappearance.

30. I got in contact with police maybe around ten years after Ross disappeared, I can't recall the exact year but I rang a number for unsolved cases and two male Detectives came out to my place in Balmain and spoke to me there. I can't recall what instigated my call, whether there was something on the t.v. about Ross but at that stage I had a belief that [1409] was directly involved in Ross's disappearance. Some short time after Ross's disappearance, revelations about [1409]'s behaviour caused my opinion about [1409] to change. In my opinion [1409] exhibited the behaviour of a psychopath. It became clear that he had fabricated many events and stories to suit his immediate needs. Any latter probing of [1409]'s stories would uncover his lies. I was aware that [1409] would attach himself to different groups and portray himself to be a

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

[Redacted]

DSC  
15/5/17

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**198**

[198]  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Statement of **198**  
In the matter of Disappearance of Ross WARREN

likeable affable person and try to solve the problems within that group. An example of this relates to my first boyfriend, who was also a flight attendant. His name is Robert. Robert was a religious, conservative person, an American Pentecostal Baptist. **1409** involved himself with Robert's group and **1409** was feeding me information about what was going on in Rob's life after Rob and I broke up. I found out later **1409** was feeding Rob's group information about my gay lifestyle to feed their gossip and abhorrence about gays. I knew that he did this over and over with other groups before the groups found out what he was really like and then they would disassociate themselves with him.

31. The thing that caused me concern apart from the fact that Ross was apparently murdered was that **1409**'s reaction to Ross's disappearance was self centred. There was no expression of remorse or wonder at the possibility Ross was murdered or the circumstances or possible alternatives explaining his disappearance. The entire response was "Oh my God I hope the police don't investigate me, I hope the police don't come and question me."

32. He was very worried about his involvement with Ross at that time. Normally **1409** was pretty easy going but this time seemed very concerned that he would be in some way implicated to his disadvantage in the investigation. I'm not sure whether he was worried because he thought the police may uncover some of his false identities or if it was because he was involved in Ross's death. **1409**'s true nature was not apparent to me at the time of Ross's disappearance or **1409**'s unusual reaction. Soon after I realised **1409** was a destructive individual and his reaction seemed to fit the pattern of his later to be revealed behaviours. I suspect him but could provide nothing that wasn't anecdotal, I wanted to bring the information to the attention of investigators in case **1409** was not considered as a suspect and something else could be uncovered that would corroborate my feelings.

When I provided this information to police originally I gave them a photograph of myself and Ross. Detective Tierney showed me a copy of this photo. In it I can identify myself in the white shirt with Ross to my left. This photo was taken at my house in Balmain. I think it was around 1988-1989. It was at a dinner get together where there probably would have been six to eight attendees. I often had dinner parties at my house. I'm not sure who else would have been there, at that time though the most involved in the group was Brett GARDINER. **1409**

Witness:   
DSC  
15/5/17

Signature:   
**198**  
198  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2017



**Statement of** [198]  
**In the matter of** Disappearance of Ross WARREN

[1409] and [1145] Then there were other friends who were on the periphery or attached to other groups, but those three tended to be in the centre of my social circle.

**Exhibit: Photo 1 depicting Ross Warren and** [198]

Detective Tierney also showed me a copy of a photograph of four males in separate photo frames. I can identify the first male on the left in the red singlet to be [1413] I do not recognise any of the other men.

**Exhibit: Photo 2 depicting four framed photographs of different males**

Detective Tierney also asked me to indicate on a map of Marks Park where the beat activity would take place along the coastal walk. I indicated an area along the headland in black pen.

**Exhibit: Photo 3 depicting Mackenzie’s Point at Tamarama**

33. Q. Were you aware if [1409] ever used beats?

A. I don’t know, but I believe he would say that he didn’t use them because he would never say he did anything immoral.

34. Q. Were you aware if [1409] ever had a girlfriend?

A. No, unless he had one to build his charade within the religious group he attached himself to. I always knew him as being gay. However I believe that if he went on a trip with a bunch of straight people he would purport himself to be straight in order to fit in and be part of that group.

36. Q. Regarding your employment as a Qantas International flight attendant can you tell me what the process was when you had a flight scheduled and what was the requirements for your rest days in 1989?

A. Usually if we had a trip I would drive to the jet base and we would have a briefing. The jet base was somewhere near the airport in Mascot. We would then get on the crew bus, we would be driven to the airport and prepare the aircraft for boarding. Because this was prior to the merger between domestic and international Qantas departments we would only be on international flights, but sometimes we would do the domestic leg of an international flight. In the late 1980s in terms of rostering and rest days, if I was scheduled for a one day flight, the

Witness: [Redacted]  
 DSC  
 15/5/17

Signature: [198]  
 [198]  
 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**Statement of** 198  
**In the matter of** Disappearance of Ross WARREN

minimum would be having one day rest after the trip. If I was scheduled for a ten day flight, the rest days would be at least 75% of the length of the trip. Arrival and departure days were considered working days and part of the length of the trip.

37. On Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 Detective Tierney asked me if I could show her the locations at the Marks Park beat that I've referred to in my statement. I agreed and met her and two other Detectives at Marks Park Tamarama at 11am that day. I participated in a video recording of the coastal path where I indicated locations I identified as being areas men cruised the beat as well as areas where men engaged in sexual acts. I also provided some general information about the Marks Park beat drawn from my experience of the area.

Witness:



DSC  
15/5/17

Signature:

**198**

198  
15<sup>th</sup> May 2017