



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.5 (05/2015)

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of: Disappearance of Ross WARREN
Place: The Rocks Police Station
Date: 16 June 2017

Name: NP250

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 57 years of age.
3. I have previously made a statement to police regarding Ross WARREN in the 2000s. On Thursday the 15th June 2017 Detective Tierney from the Homicide Squad called me and asked me to meet her to discuss Ross Warren. On Friday the 16th June I provided the following information.
4. I was born in Brisbane and when I was 11 I moved to Western Australia, living there until I was 18. Then I went back to Brisbane until 1984, up until this point I was living with my family at Coopers Plains. I joined Ansett in Brisbane in their reservations department until 1984. I got transferred to the flight attendant department and that's when I moved to Melbourne, the training was done in Melbourne in Tullamarine Airport for 6 weeks and after that I was allocated a flight attendants role in Melbourne. I lived there until 1988 when I moved to Sydney in June. In Melbourne I lived in Coburg then in South Yarra. I had requested a transfer from Melbourne to Sydney with Ansett.

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5. In June 1988 when I moved to Sydney I lived in a two bedroom flat [REDACTED] Bellevue Hill. There I lived with Mark I can't think of his last name. I think I lived maybe six months or a year in Bellevue Hill.
6. Then I moved to a fairly big house on [REDACTED] Bondi Junction. The house had around 5 bedrooms. It was either six months or a year there. There I was living with an ex-boyfriend, Joshua, he was Australian and his entourage, they were all druggies. I got out of there quickly when my possessions started disappearing.
7. I think after that I lived for a period of around six months in Elizabeth Bay in [REDACTED] In [REDACTED] that was a flat as well, maybe the sixth or eighth floor. I shared with another guy, I can't remember his name. I recall I was still working as a flight attendant when I was living at Elizabeth Bay.
8. I finished with Ansett in 1991. I got a job working for the Green Park Diner in Oxford Street just opposite the court. I moved in with my friend Daniel FRASER into a flat on [REDACTED] Bondi. It was a two bedroom flat. I think I was there maybe a year. Then I moved to [REDACTED] Bondi Junction with two girls Sue and Fiona and Daniel. That was for six months, then I moved to [REDACTED] in Bondi.
9. I think it was a bit before my move from Melbourne to Sydney that I spoke to Ross on the phone and he told me he got a job in Wollongong at the TV station. He had worked at a TV station in Northern NSW prior to that. I remember Ross was very excited about going to Wollongong, it was that one step closer to working in a Sydney news room.
10. When I was at Ansett in Sydney I was a flight attendant. We would usually get a month's schedule in advance and I would work to that schedule. I would know about a week before the month coming up what I was doing for the following month. When I was in Sydney Ansett had secured some international flights to Vanuatu so occasionally I did some international flights to Vanuatu but mainly domestic. At that time I was mid tier in seniority so I could choose which flight schedules I wanted for the whole month, generally I picked the flights to the warmer places like Darwin and Perth because I liked the sun.

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11. When I started working for the Green Park Diner I was working full time as a manager. It was open from 9am until about 11pm at night. I think half the week I did morning days and half the week night shifts. There were two managers, the owner Terry, I can't think of his last name, and me. I recall always working the weekends and having days off during the week and I think I only had one day off during the week. I think I worked at the Diner two or three years.
12. I first met Ross on the Gold Coast, it was the period I was living in Brisbane with my family between 1981-1984, I don't think it was too far before I went to Melbourne, possible 1982, 1983. I think Ross and I were about the same age, I think he might have been a year younger than me. Ross was very slim, he was slightly taller than me, short dark hair, no facial hair, high cheek bones, his face is quite angular and he was very clean cut. He had nice teeth and nice eyes.
13. The top end of Southport beach is a gay hangout and I met him on the beach there. I think I met him in the dunes area behind the beach. We had a sexual encounter there, and we certainly liked each other a lot and we exchanged phone numbers and we arranged to ring each other after that. This would have been before I moved to Melbourne when I was still living in Brisbane. That's when Ross had the job with the TV station in northern NSW, I think it was too far to be a daily drive so I think he was living there during the weekend staying at his parents place during the week. His parents were living somewhere near surfers paradise. I had been to his parent's house once. I think his mum was home when Ross took me to his parents house and I think I met his mum but I can't really recall.
14. So back in that year it was difficult to be gay and you kept it all hidden away so the fact that Ross took me to his parents place showed a lot of trust to take me into his world like that.
15. Ross and I saw each other quite regularly, I think it was a week later we met up again and then every once or two weeks we saw each other. I think we had a bond because both of us were trying to hide the fact we were gay and we felt we could talk to each other. When we met up we would have sex usually at the Southport beach.
16. When we met up we would both drive because I was driving down to Gold Coast from Brisbane. Ross was quite a punctual person. He had quite a dry and reserved personality. I

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think that was because he was trying to succeed in the media industry and he didn't want his private life to affect his career in the media industry.

17. For example when we were together I might go to kiss him and he would say "not here" because he wouldn't want anyone to see. Comparing the two of us I'm a bit bubbly and he's quite dry. He's not a person who laughs easily at things. I do recall that from the time I first met him to the last time I saw him in Sydney I thought how much more relaxed he'd gotten about the gay thing.
18. We maintained contact when I moved to Melbourne. I think there might have been a time when I flew up to Brisbane or the Gold Coast and I arranged to physically see him then but otherwise the contact was over the phone.
19. From those conversations what stands out for me was Ross telling me about getting the job in Wollongong and he was just so excited and talked about the potential for him to move into a Sydney newsroom.
20. From recollection it was only a year from when he moved to Wollongong that he disappeared. I moved to Sydney in June 1988. I think I was in Sydney before he moved to Wollongong. I do remember shortly after me moving to Sydney, sometime towards the later part of 1988, about December was the first time I saw him in a number of years. We met up in a cafe in Bondi and talked. I don't recall which cafe.
21. I think between then and the space of the next year we met up just a couple of times. I was still flying and his schedule in Wollongong was quite heavy so there wasn't a lot of time to see him. We still did speak on the phone more often than that. I don't recall how frequently. I don't think I always knew what was going on in his life because he was never very forth coming with what was going on, this was his nature. I don't think it was because he didn't trust me it was just that I had moved to Sydney and there was a lot going on with the gay scene and I would probably have been the one to be doing most of the talking. When I spoke to him about going to gay clubs in Sydney no doubt he would have said to me "Oh no I can't do that." Because he couldn't do the gay scene and be an anchor on a news programme.

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22. I think when we met up in Sydney those couple of times we had moved on from each other sexually so we probably just met up to catch up rather than to have sex. I think he might have come to my place, I don't think we would have gone out to a busy gay place like Oxford Street because he was still reserved and wouldn't have wanted that exposure. From memory I think I may have suggested that but he didn't want to. I think Ross might have come to my place while I was living in Sydney but I have no specific recollection of him staying at any one of my houses in Sydney.
23. Ross didn't tell me about any relationships or anyone he was involved with but I can't imagine he would have because it would have had to be so secret.
24. I know Ross drove when I was living in Sydney but I can't recall what type of car. I would have had a car, a light blue coloured Corona, it was my car.
25. I wasn't aware Ross was doing beats although I met him at a beat. I wasn't surprised he was doing beats I just didn't know.

Q. Did you ever use the beat at Bondi along the coastal walkway?

A. Yeah.

Q. Can you describe where the activity of the beat was?

A. I might have been there about three times and all three times I lucked out, I didn't meet anyone. I didn't actually see anyone.

Q. How did you know about it?

A. I don't know how I knew about it, I think it's just common knowledge.

Q. What times had you gone there?

A. It was sometime during the night, definitely dark, it probably wouldn't have been early evening. On each occasion I went I had been at home before going. I would have been in my early thirties so my sex drive was high if I was bored and thought I wanted to have sex so I went to the beat. It's less likely I would have used the beat after I had gone out because I probably would have picked up someone when I was out.

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Q. Where was the activity of the beat?

The beat was on the Bondi side of the walkway it was halfway between the lookout and Icebergs.

Q. Had you ever experienced any problems at the beat?

A. No.

Q. Had you heard that anyone else had problems at the beat?

A. Yeah I had heard that someone else had been attacked. I didn't know anyone personally who had been attacked, those people I spoke to had heard this from other people.

Q. Did you use any other beats apart from that Bondi one?

A. No not that I remember. I think I did that Bondi beat maybe three times in my whole life, in those years I was going out a lot and getting a lot of sex in night clubs so the need to go out to a beat wasn't that much.

Q. Did you and Ross ever discuss the Bondi beat?

A. No Ross was very reserved he wouldn't have discussed if he was doing anything untoward because he was worried about what other people thought. In that 1989 period going to a beat had a stigma to it even within the gay community.

Q. Were you aware if Ross used drugs?

A. No I have no recollection of that at all. From the personality that I knew of him I would say no, that's not something he was into.

26. I didn't know any of Ross's friends. It was just me and him we weren't in a group.

27. Q. What do you remember about the weekend Ross disappeared?

A. I found out he disappeared from media reports. I received a call from the police about Ross, they wanted to meet with me to find out if I knew anything that would help them. I don't remember how long after he disappeared that I heard about it. I had seen in the media Ross's

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car was found at Bondi and I recall thinking what's he doing at a beat, then I thought something must have happened to him there.

I remember thinking when I heard about him disappearing that something must have happened to him rather than him doing something because I didn't think there was anything that would stop him from pursuing his career.

I was upset when I thought that something had happened to Ross.

28. Q. Had Ross expressed any concerns about problems in his life to you?

A. For some reason I have something in my head about a flat mate of his in Wollongong. It might have been something domestic related about his flat mate not helping or something like that. I think this must have been 1989 because I didn't get to Sydney until June 1988 and so it can only be within that year that he spoke to me about his flat mate. I don't know who that flat mate was.

Q. In regards to Ross's career had he discussed any applications to progress his career?

A. I'm thinking there was something about a move to Sydney being on the cards. I think Ross was thinking about it or wheels were in progress about moving to Sydney.

Q. Did Ross ever speak about any of his friends?


A. I think Ross had only been in Wollongong a year so he was very focussed on his career, his ability to make friends in Wollongong would be limited and I think his friends would have only been ones in the media. I don't think he would have been able to get up to Sydney very often to make friends. I never met any of his friends.

Q. Did he mention if he would stay with anyone while he was in Sydney?

A. I don't remember him mentioning if he was staying overnight with anyone. Wollongong was only an hour away so he might have just driven up and back.

Q. The last time you made a statement to police you were shown a copy of a note with your name and address on it, this note was found in Ross's possessions, do you recall this note?

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A. I wouldn't have given him a note of my address if I wasn't living there so I must have given it to him so we could meet. I must have been living at [REDACTED] in 1989. I only lived in [REDACTED] for six months. If Ross disappeared around the middle of 1989 this note I must have given him when we met up for the first time.

Q. Do you recall whether Ross went to that address in [REDACTED]?

A. No. When I stated before I left Ansett in 1991 that must be incorrect because I was definitely working at the Green Park Diner when I was living in [REDACTED]. I can remember there was four of us living at [REDACTED] and I can remember the drive down to the Green Park Diner from [REDACTED]. I recall the other three housemates always going to events and I was always working. At [REDACTED] I was living with Sue CORNISH, Fiona MANNERING (now Fiona AUSTIN) and Daniel FRASER. My boyfriend at the time was Brent NICHOLS. He works as a DJ and lives in London now.

Q. When was the last time you saw Ross?

A. I think it might have been around December the year before or January the year he went missing. I can't recall specifically where we met but I think we might have just gone down to Bondi to a cafe.

Q. Was there ever an occasion where Ross would come by your house unannounced without pre arranging it?

A. No I don't think so.

Q. In 1989 the year he went missing how would you define your relationship with Ross?

A. Non sexual, good friends. He and I always found it easy to talk to each other, I understood how he was and that his career was what drives him. His career end goal was to be an anchor in Sydney and that dictated how he lived his life, as in you can't be an outwardly gay person if you wanted to be an anchor in Sydney so his gay personal life had to be a secret. I understood that and I didn't pressure him to be any way that he didn't want to. I think Ross knew he could open up to me and I wouldn't talk about him to other people.

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Q. Was the fact that you and Ross were initially sexual and then became friends ever an issue between you?

A. No the fact that we weren't having sex anymore, you know we were young we just moved on. I don't think he was upset that I moved to Melbourne and we weren't having sex anymore. I know when Ross moved to Wollongong he was really focussed on his career and I don't think he really had time for other things. Neither of us I don't think were jealous or thought we should be spending more time together.

Q. In the time you knew Ross did you ever have any arguments or physical fights with Ross?

A. No I can't imagine arguing or fighting with him about anything, there would be nothing to argue about. As for physical fights no, I don't think it's in either of our personalities to fight. Although if I do remember correctly I think I said something to him like "You should stop worrying about what people think". This was because I may have wanted him to meet at the Green Park Diner or on Oxford Street and he would always say "No." That was a constant preoccupation with him. Ross would worry if we would be seen walking down Oxford Street because he would then have been associated with that gay scene.

Q. We had received some information that someone who worked for Ansett was working as a male prostitute in the Oxford Street area, did you ever do that kind work?

A. Yes I did work as an escort but it wasn't when I was working for Ansett, it was after I worked at the Green Park Diner so around 1991, 1992 for about a year.

Q. Had you done any escort work before 1991, 1992?

A. Yes actually I had done some in Victoria. I left Victoria in 1988 so it was probably the later part of 1987 to the early part of 1988. My boyfriend at the time was a full time male escort and I think he got me to go with him three or four times.

Q. Had you done any escort work during the time you knew Ross? In the 1988, 1989 period?

A. No I don't recall ever doing anything then.

Q. Did Ross know you ever did escort work?

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A. I'm pretty open with most things so I hazard to guess that I probably did tell him about what happened in Victoria but I can't say definitely that he knew.

Q. Do you remember his reaction?

A. No

Q. Did Ross have a view about people who worked as male escorts?

A. Nothing's coming to mind about him saying anything about it.

Q. Had Ross ever used male escorts?

A. Not that he said to me. Logically if you think about it if he's trying to hide this gay thing that would have been an easier way to hire someone for sex rather than finding someone.

Q. Did Ross ever mention he had problems with his family at all?

A. [REDACTED] I can remember talking about being gay and coming out and I remember we talked about that his parents wouldn't like or accept it. I think I had asked him if I could come to his place and I think he was hesitant because he didn't want his mum, or parents to find out. I think we did have that discussion.

Detective TIERNEY showed me a series of photographs to see whether I could identify anyone and I can say the following of these photos:

Photo 1 – the guy in black looks familiar but I don't know his name.

Photo 2 – this person also looks familiar

Photo 3 – The person on the far right edge of the photo looks familiar, I asked if he was the same guy as photo 2 but I don't know his name.

Photo 4 – I don't know anyone in this photo.

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During this statement Detective Tierney showed me a photocopy of a handwritten note with the words:

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[REDACTED]

Bondi Junct

[REDACTED]

I recognise this as my handwriting. I don't specifically recall writing this note but I must have given it to Ross.

29. I signed each copy of the photographs and the copy of the handwritten note to acknowledge I had been shown these items during the statement.

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Photo 1



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Photo 2.

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Photo 3

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Photo 4

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10/6/17.

