



STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of: Disappearance of Ross WARREN
Place: Maroochydore Police Station
Date: 27/6/2017

Name: Michael MATHISON

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 50 years of age.
3. I have been shown a statement dated 14th June 2002, I have been given a chance to read the statement and I acknowledge it is true and correct and that I have signed each page.
4. I grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney and I went to Japan from 1986 to 1988. I was working in Japan in a restaurant, doing some modelling and teaching English. I recall I came home for my 21st to Sydney so that would have been 1988 when I returned home. I think I might have then gone back to Japan after that and then returned home. When I returned from Japan I lived at Potts Point in a unit. It was on Victoria Street but I can't recall the unit. I had a flatmate Brad and he was a chauffeur with Budget Drive and he got me a job with Budget Drive in the office at Mascot because of my Japanese language skills. I was organising the tour groups to use the limousines with Budget Drive. I commenced this role in 1988 when I got back from Japan. I caught up with a friend Brad INNES and that's when we got a unit together in Potts Point. I probably commenced this role a couple of months after that. Brad was a person I knew before I went to Japan and I had a relationship with his flat mate Darren WALSH. Brad has since passed away.

Witness:

Katherine TIERNEY
 Detective Senior Constable

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5. Darren WALSH and I met when I came back to Sydney from Japan before I moved back permanently. I recall Darren's birthday was three days before mine and he was the same age as me. Darren came to Japan with me and we broke up in Japan. I believe I went back to Japan in April 1988 and I think I only stayed around six months in Japan this time before returning home permanently.
6. Brad and I lived together in the unit on Victoria Street just the two of us for about two months. I met Ken MARSH at the Midnight Shift club on Oxford Street. When I met him he was living at Glebe and then he moved in with me when his lease at Glebe was up. I'm sure Ken moved in with me before the end of 1988. Ken and I were definitely together during the year of my dad's 50th in 1990. Ken was working as a rep for Goldwell hair products when I first met him. He then got a second job filling in Coke vending machines. Ken lived in my room when we lived at Potts Point.
7. I met Ken and Brad met a guy called Greg and he moved into the unit as well. So there were four of us living there. Brad was an aspiring actor. I can't remember Greg's surname, he was a skinny little blonde fellow. He had curly blonde hair. He was a bit younger than me, he was about 18/19 years old.
8. Ken and I were together from 1988 then we broke up when we got to Malta on a holiday. I think we left to go to Europe in 1991. It was summer there so it would have been winter here when we left. I think it was about June or July 1991. We intended to go to Greece for a holiday and Malta was going to be the stop over. When we got to Malta we broke up. Ken met someone in Malta and brought him back to the place we were staying. I had been out partying and when I got back to the place Ken and this other person were in bed together. After this happened I packed a bag and stormed off from the place we were staying. I then met some people and stayed with them and I decided to stay in Malta for a while and work. Prior to this our relationship was fine, he never gave me any indication he wanted to break up. It was a monogamous relationship before this. There was never any domestic violence or other issues within the relationship. The last time I spoke to Ken was when I went to Oxford Street one night to catch up with a friend at least 10 years ago and I saw him walk past. I spoke to him and we exchanged numbers with the intention of catching up but we never did.

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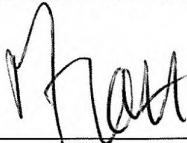
9. It was during the time when I first met Ken and he was working as a rep for Goldwell hair products I met Ross. From what I remember Ross had contacted Ken to catch up and he came over to the unit and that's when I met him then. I don't recall when that was but I have a feeling it might have been around Mardi gras. I don't think Ken and I had been together that long. I think I only met him around 2 or three times before he went missing.
10. When Ross first came over to the unit I think we might have had a couple of drinks at the unit then gone out. I can't recall if we went out or not I recall Ross was very shy because he was the news reader and didn't want to come out in case someone recognised him. If we had gone out it would definitely have been to Oxford Street. The best place to go was The Midnight Shift. I don't know how long Ken or Ross had known each other, I don't know if they had a relationship or not, I don't know how they met.
11. There was nothing that gave me cause to think they had been together but it was just one of those thoughts in my brain that they might have been in a relationship.
12. I knew very little about WARREN, I didn't know who his friends were. All I knew was that he was from Wollongong and that he was a news reader. The fact that he was a newsreader was told to me by Ross. I never saw Ross on the television because we didn't get Wollongong's channel in Sydney. My impression of Ross was that he was quiet, good looking, he seemed like a gentle person and he seemed a little sad. This was maybe one of the reasons I thought Ross and Ken had been in a relationship because I think he had feelings for Ken but Ken was in a relationship with me. The reason I thought this was because of the way Ross looked at Ken, with puppy dog eyes. I never asked Ken about this and it was only a feeling I had so I wasn't sure if this was actually the case. It didn't seem to be that Ken was looking at him the same way, it seemed Ross was infatuated with Ken and Ken was sort of blasé about it. I think the fact that Ken didn't seem to reciprocate the feelings Ross did was why it didn't worry me and I didn't mind Ross coming over at all. Ross and Ken didn't act differently they just seemed like friends. I think also maybe he was struggling with his sexuality a bit and coming out to his family because of his job, I'm not sure if they knew he was gay. I never met his family.
13. I don't recall places Ross liked to go or visit or about any of his interests. I didn't know him that well. I think Ross drank but not much. I don't recall what he liked to drink. I have no idea if he

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was into drugs at all. He wasn't a smoker, Ken was a smoker but nobody else in the unit was. I'm not aware if Ross had any health problems, Ken didn't have any health problems, he was buff, he would body build. I think he used to go to City Gym in Darlinghurst. Ken was from New Zealand and I recall he never spoke about his family which I thought was strange so I thought there may have been some problems with his family. I don't recall where in New Zealand he was from. His real name was Kingi but he called himself Ken.

14. Ken and I were very fortunate in that we did not contract HIV but [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were not, [REDACTED] passed away from AIDS sometime after I came back from Malta. I had met a guy named Robert and we moved in with [REDACTED], this was on the same road (Victoria Street) as we were living with [REDACTED] before but it was a different apartment block. It was when Robert and I were living with [REDACTED] that he passed away.
15. I think my flat mate Brad and his partner Greg were there the night Ross came over but they weren't friends with Ross.
16. I didn't drive a car around that time that Ross disappeared, Ken did. I think it was maroon. It was a four door sedan and I can recall him having the Goldwell hair products in the boot.
17. The other times I had met Ross were at our unit. I don't remember going out at all with him. I only ever remember him at the unit. Those other times I don't recall if they were during the week or weekend but I think those other times he came over for dinner. From what I can remember it was never really late and there was never a lot of drinking. I think Ross drove so I think if he drank, drink driving might have been an issue for him. I think Ross came up from Wollongong, stayed with other friends, came for dinner and then went back to his friends place. I don't recall where they lived though. I think the reason he stayed with them was because we didn't really have room. I think Ross and Ken were good friends, I don't know how long they had known each other.
18. All I remember about the weekend Ross went missing was that he was supposed to come and visit us and he didn't. He had rung Ken and organised to catch up but he didn't come. I don't recall what the plan was when he was supposed to visit but I think he was supposed to come to the unit, maybe he was supposed to have dinner at the unit. I remember we didn't go out that night thinking that Ross was going to turn up and he didn't. I don't recall what day of the week

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[REDACTED]
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that was but I would assume it might have been on the weekend because I think Budget was a 9-5 Monday to Friday job. Having said that I would go out any night of the week it didn't matter if I had work the next day because I was young.

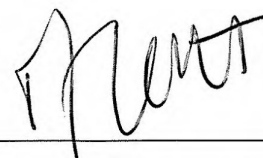
19. The weekend he disappeared I don't think we went out I think we were just at the unit. That's me, Brad, Greg and Ken. After he didn't show up the next morning I think the phone rang maybe around 9am and Brad answered. Whoever it was, I think it was Ross's friends, asked for Ken. And I think the friends were asking if Ross stayed with us. I think later in the day Ken rang me when I was at work and told me he's gone missing. I only mention that part about Ken ringing me when I was at work because I've said it in my other statement but I don't specifically recall that now.
20. I can't recall which day Ross was supposed to come over. I think Ross's friends rang Ken to find out if he'd stayed with us the day after he was supposed to come over.
21. My reaction to the news that he was missing was that I think I just thought he's gone home, I didn't think the worst straight away. Ken seemed a bit shocked by the news Ross was missing. I'm picturing in my mind Ken on the phone to Ross's friends saying "Oh really? That's odd." This reaction from Ken was when Ross's friends rang to see whether Ross had stayed with us. I don't really think Ross going missing really affected Ken, I think if he had known his car had been found maybe that would have made him react differently. I didn't hear anything about Ross's case after he disappeared until I was contacted by Police to make the statement in 2002 and by Detective Tierney recently.
22. After this, I don't remember Ken or I being interviewed by the police. I can't recall what happened after this. I didn't make any other inquiries about Ross, Ken may have but I don't know. I don't even know if Ken would have known his number for his family home.
23. I don't remember the friends Ross would stay with, I don't even remember him talking about them, I couldn't tell you their names.
24. I can't remember if Ken worked Monday to Friday but I assume he did being a rep. I can't recall what days Ross worked either.

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25. In regards to Ken's other relationships I recall Ken was sharing a flat at Glebe with a guy I think he was Asian and I think his name Clifton. I think Clifton was a clothes designer. They weren't together they were just flat mates. I can't recall anything about this unit as I only went there a couple of times but I think it had wooden floors. I think Ken was only a couple of years older than me but I don't recall when he came to Australia from New Zealand.
26. My friends at the time included Brad and Greg. We had quite a few people we would associate with. In the gay scene in Sydney back then we would usually just go out and party with whoever was around. When we went out I would go out with Ken, Brad and Greg. We didn't necessarily stay with each other the whole time, we'd chat to other people.
27. When asked if I knew Craig ELLIS, Paul SAUCIS or Phillip ROSSINI. I don't recall. I only really knew people on a first name basis.
28. I'm not aware of Ross's partners at the time or ex-partners. I don't know whether Ross or Ken used beats. I did, there was one at Town Hall Station that I went to but this was when I was younger. Once I became aware of the Oxford Street scene I didn't need to use the beats. This was the only beat I used I'm not aware of a beat at Tamarama along the coastal walk. I wasn't using beats around the time Ross disappeared.
29. I became aware of the Oxford Street scene when I first started working in the city. I had left year 10 at high school and started working at a restaurant in The Rocks. I commuted from St Marys where I was living for a while before moving into a unit at the Park Ridge apartments on Oxford Street.
30. Detective Tierney showed me some photographs to identify:

Photo 1: I can say the person on the far right is Ken but I can't identify the others. The person next to Ken on the left in the photograph might have been Ross.

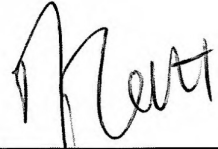
Photo 2: I can say the person on the right is me and I think this photo was taken in our unit at Potts Point. Maybe the person hugging me is a friend of Brad's or Ken's but I can't recall who they are. This photograph looks like it might be when we are getting ready to go out.

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Photo 3: I can say the person on the far right is definitely Clifton, Ken's flat mate from Glebe. I don't know anyone else in the photo but I think it might have been taken at the Midnight Shift.

Photo 4: This person is Ken MARSH.

32. I signed each photograph to acknowledge these photos were shown to me during this statement.

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Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Mathison'.

MICHAEL MATHISON

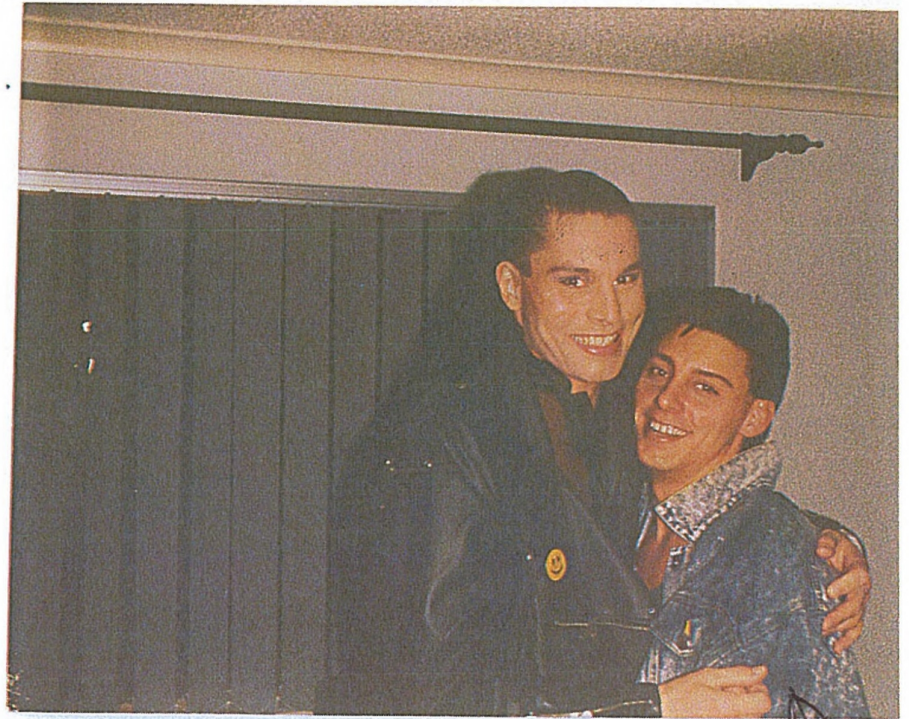
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Photo 1



2A/6/17
 of
 MICHAEL
 SURIN'S son
 KEN
 MARSH

Photo 2



ME ↑

I THINK THIS PHOTO MAY
HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT
THE UNIT I LIVED IN, IN
POYAS POINT.

Photo 3



CRIFTON

MICHAEL MARSHON

M. Crifton

27/6/17.

Photo 4



KEN MARSH [↑]

MICHAEL MARHISON
↑ photo
27/6/17.