



STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of: Disappearance of Ross WARREN

Place: Broadbeach Police Station

Date: 28th June 2017

Name: Kelli-Maree CHUTER

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. My family and I lived in Casino then moved to Broadbeach when I was about 9 or 10 years old. We lived in [REDACTED] Broadbeach Waters. In my family, there was myself, Ross, mum, dad and Craig. I'm the middle child. There was only 13 months between me and Craig and 20 months between me and Ross. Ross was the oldest [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4. I moved out with my boyfriend, Michael BROWN to [REDACTED] Mermaid Waters when I was 16 or 17. I lived there with him and his parents. I lived there for two years. We broke up and then I lived at [REDACTED] at Mermaid Beach with my boyfriend Rick LOOSE. My next address was [REDACTED] at Mermaid Waters also with Rick. We lived at [REDACTED] for a short time before moving to [REDACTED] in Broadbeach. I lived there with Rick as well. I think I was about 19 when I moved to [REDACTED].
5. After that I moved back home to my parent's house in [REDACTED] in Surfers. I think I was about 21, 22 when I moved back home. I was there for six weeks before going overseas. I lived overseas in London for seven years. I came back home when I was 31.

Witness: [REDACTED]
Katherine TIERNEY
Detective Senior Constable

Signature: [REDACTED] 28/6/17

MRS KELLI-MAREE CHUTER

Statement of Kelli-Maree CHUTER
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6. I was 22 when Ross went missing. I wasn't living at home with my parents at the time, I must have been living in the Old Burleigh Road place.
7. I went to high school at Miami High in Miami, Queensland. Ross and Craig went to that school as well. I left school in year 10 and worked as a legal personal assistant for the law firm Shakespeare and Haney in Surfers Paradise. I started when I was 16 and worked there until I went overseas when I was around 23 or 24.
8. After London I went back there to Shakespeare and Haney to work for a time.
9. When I was growing up dad was a builder and mum stayed home, she sewed bikinis and did this from home. Dad worked for himself as a builder. We were an average family in terms of wealth, we never did without. In regards to my extended family mum had a brother, Darryl and a sister whose name I can't remember, they lived in Mount Gravatt which is a suburb of Brisbane. Uncle Darryl has since passed away and I never met mum's sister. Dad had two brothers, Uncle Ian and Uncle Neil. They lived in Wynnum West in Brisbane. They are both still around. Uncle Neil lives up near Tincan Bay and Uncle Ian still lives in Wynnum West. My aunties and uncles have always lived in Queensland.
10. I have four boy cousins on my mum's side. Uncle Darryl had four boys Glen, Gavin, Christopher and Warren. I believe they all lived in Queensland, I don't believe any of them lived outside Queensland.
11. I have two girl cousins on my dad's side. They are Uncle Ian's kids. Their names are Deidre and Kimmy. They live in Winumn West still that I know of. None of them ever lived outside Queensland.
12. I never met mum's parents, and I had grandparents on dad's side. They lived in WInumn West as well. I was close to them growing up.
13. Our family wasn't religious at all.
14. When our family moved from Casino we moved to Delungra Street in Broadbeach Waters. I moved out from this address when I was 16. Mum, dad and Craig moved to [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
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21. I'm not sure when Ross first moved out of home because I had already gone. I recall he used to have his work car out the front of the lawn at the house in Delungra Street so he must have still been at home when I moved out.
22. Lismore is about 2, 2/12 hours from here. He lived in Lismore in a one bedroom unit. I don't recall the address. I know he didn't live with anyone there. It was a very messy little flat. He was never home and I used to go down there once a month to tidy up his unit. I recall he had the best tie collection. I recall he came back home probably about once a month. I wasn't living at home but whenever he came back he would come and see me.
23. I don't remember how long Ross lived at Lismore for. He then moved to Mount Isa. He was in television there I don't know whether he was reporting or news reading. Mount Isa is about 14, 15 hours from here. I never went up to Mount Isa at all. I recall mum and dad drove him up in his new car I think when he first moved there. That car was the gold coloured car that he still owned when he went missing. I'm unsure who bought that car, I think maybe mum and dad bought it.
24. I think he might have lived in Mount Isa for 12, 18 months, I'm not sure. I don't recall where he lived or what type of place it was. It was very isolated. After that he moved to Wollongong. He got a job as the weather man for WIN. I don't know where he was living in Wollongong, I never went there. I don't recall how long he was in Wollongong for, probably a couple of years I'm not sure. I recall they wanted him to change his name to Brad WARREN because they thought it sounded better than Ross WARREN but he didn't.
25. I think he lived by himself in Wollongong. I don't recall the address where he was living. My relationship with him was always good even when he moved out. I don't think I ever had an argument with Ross in my whole life. Whenever he came home he would always come and see me and take me out or buy me something. If he took me out we would go to the pub or restaurant around Broadbeach. We communicated on the phone. I think we talked probably once or twice a week. Sometimes it was early evening when I was cooking dinner or in the morning before he went to work.
26. He always had something interesting to tell me. He would often ask me "When are you getting married" when I was only 20. He would always tell me what was going on at the television

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station or if he was up for a promotion. There was never silence on the phone. He would always say Wollongong was boring in terms of the nightlife. That's why he would go to Sydney to go out.

27. I recall just before he disappeared he was up for a job with Channel 10 in Sydney. He was very excited about the job so he could move to Sydney where all the action was. I recall about two weeks before he went missing he had an interview arranged with Channel 10 and he was all excited. He didn't tell me the date. It was a news reading job not just a weatherman. I knew it was step up from the weatherman and it was for a bigger station in Sydney.
28. I know that when he went missing he hadn't yet had the interview.
29. I recall when he lived at Wollongong he would come home at Christmas time. He also came home for my 21st in May 1988. I remember he bought me an Orotan Glow mesh purse for my 21st birthday and a leather skirt. I still have that purse, it's very special to me. I presume he came home for Christmas that year of my 21st.
30. He never struggled with money, he was very generous. I think he was doing well for himself. I don't know if he spent a lot of money, he was always generous to me. I recall he wore nice clothes. All his ties were magnificent; he would never go to somewhere like Kmart. I'm not sure if he was into brands, he was always smartly dressed. He was well groomed and impeccably dressed. He always looked clean.
31. I think he only used to come home at Christmas time so the last time he had come home before he went missing I think would have been at Christmas time.
32. I recall Ross and Craig were close but I think Ross and I were closer.
33. I'm not sure if anyone from my family went to Wollongong to see Ross, I know my brother lived in Sydney for a time but I think that might have been after Ross went missing.
34. I'm not aware if Ross lived at more than one place in Wollongong, I don't think so though.
35. He was interested in reading. He always had a book in his face. He was always a studious reader. He liked educational stuff. He wasn't into sports though he used to play tennis when he was younger around 9 or 10. We all played. Ross was pretty good at tennis. He wasn't

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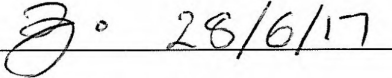
particularly athletic and he didn't have big muscles but he wasn't clumsy either. He liked the beach and he could swim. He was a strong swimmer, we were all strong swimmers. When he came home the places he would go were to the beach, or shopping centres and to lunch. He wouldn't go to the beach at night that I know of. He was a home body, he stayed close to home when he was here.

36. In terms of music, he liked classical music. Just the classical music that was on the radio. I recall he played the flute when he was little, he didn't continue this in his teenage years.
37. Other cars Ross used apart from his own one would have been just mum and dad's car, they usually had station wagons. He never needed a car until he moved to Mount Isa because he always had his work car.
38. I never knew Ross to have any debts or loans.
39. In terms of Ross going out in Sydney I recall Ross used to go to Oxford Street. He had a friend in Sydney he used to go to his house. I don't recall his name. I never met him. I think the police spoke to him when he went missing.
40. I wasn't aware he was gay until the night he was missing. Mum and dad knew but I had no inkling whatsoever. He never looked or acted gay. He had girlfriends in high school so it never occurred to me. I can't recall the names of any of his girlfriends. I recall he was very popular amongst the girls because of his looks and intelligence.
41. I assume mum and dad knew he was gay because after he disappeared mum told me he got in trouble with the police for something in Broadbeach and not to worry about it. I only knew what was told on the television that it was something about lewd conduct. They talked to me about this after Darren HINCH started slinging him on TV and when I asked mum and dad about it that's what they told me.
42. I know him being gay would not have caused an issue in the family at all. I'm not sure why he didn't tell me he was gay, I don't know if Craig was aware of it. I'm not aware if he went to gay clubs or had relationships with men. I'm not aware if was particularly close to any men, I just know he had that friend in Sydney whose place he used to stay at but I thought he was just his friend.

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43. In terms of health he had glandular fever in high school and that was about the only time I knew him to be sick. Up until the last time I spoke to him he appeared fine.
44. In terms of mental health like anxiety or depression I never knew him to have any of that. I am not aware if he used any medication but I doubt it. Ross was pretty square, well he was growing up anyway.
45. I'm not aware if Ross was into drugs or heavy alcohol. I doubt it. We used to go to the casino together but usually we would just drink and not gamble. His favourite drink was Ouzo and coke. Ross was happy to hang out with me, we were friends as well as siblings.
46. I'm not aware if Ross had any problems or issues with anyone. He would have told me if someone was hassling him, he was just excited about this upcoming interview. He never mentioned anyone he didn't get along with. I don't recall him having any fears or problems with anyone.
47. Ross never went missing before but I recall when we went to Disneyland in Anaheim, I was about 13, 14 and he was 15, 16 he ran off but we found him a few hours later. I think he ran off just to go along the rides we didn't want to go on.
48. Ross never had any suicide attempts nor did he ever talk about suicide.
49. The last time I spoke to Ross was a Friday or Saturday night. I only ever used to go out on the weekends because I had to work during the week. It was early evening. I'm not sure if he had worked that day, I think he got one day off a week. I know definitely he had to go to work the next day. I was going to go out that night. I was at home when I spoke to him. I think I probably would have called him. I was excited because I was going out. Ross was at home in Wollongong and he was about to leave to go up to Sydney. He was going to drive. I can't recall exactly what we spoke about but he said he was going to his friend's house first then they were going to a bar in Oxford Street. I don't recall which friend this was, mum would know, I think he lived Bondi. I keep thinking the name is Craig or Mark ELLIS.
50. He used to always go out later in the night, I would be going out at 7pm and he would go out at 11pm usually. He was going to be going out with the guy he was staying with. He had plans to

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- stay in Sydney but he had to go back the next day because he had to go back and read the news for his job. He was just staying in Sydney for that night. He loved going out to Sydney.
51. I recall I went out that night, I went to the Lonestar Tavern in Mermaid Waters. I got there in the early evening and I think I was probably with Debbie. At the time her name was Debbie KEOUGH. Debbie was a New Zealander, a Maori, she was very pretty. She used to live in Mermaid Waters near the Tavern. I think there was the pub band and we were there for drinks. Throughout the night I went to the toilet and this girl, Dominique I don't remember her surname was in the toilet and she said to me "How do you feel about your brother being gay." Dominique then had curly blonde hair, white girl, she was in the same year as Ross at high school.
52. I said "What are you talking about, he's not gay, he dated you."
She said "Oh yes he is."
53. I thought it was so rude of her to slag off my brother so I punched her in the face. I just walked out and I didn't see her after that. I told Debbie about it because I was so angry and she said "Don't worry about it."
54. When I heard what she said I thought why were you speaking ill of him when he's not there to defend himself. Not that it mattered when it came out that he was gay. I don't think I stayed at the pub for long after that I just wanted to talk to Ross.
55. When I went home I tried to ring him at his home at Wollongong to ask him about what this girl said to me if it was true. There was no answer, and I tried all the next day. I remember mum rang me very soon after I think the Sunday night. She asked me if I'd heard from Ross because the TV station rang mum to ask where Ross was because he didn't turn up to read the news and she rang me. I said I had spoken to him.
56. I recall something like mum speaking with a friend of Ross's who told her he went home and Ross stayed out and no one ever saw Ross again.
57. I think his friend found his car because they were looking for him and they found his car in a car park near where they lived. I remember they found his wallet inside the car.

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58. I remember mum yelling and blaming me because I was the last person to speak to him. She thought I knew more than I was letting on.
59. I only knew about the police investigation from the television and from what I read. I know mum and dad went down there and I saw their picture in the paper as well. The media reports were in Sydney papers and TV as well as Queensland. I know mum and dad went to the police station as well as Ross's flat. They went down there to see if they could do anything to help find their son. I didn't meet any one of Ross's friends or colleagues after he disappeared. I think mum and dad stayed at Ross's flat or with Ross's friend, but I'm not sure. I don't recall how long they were gone for.
60. I don't know much about the friend Ross stayed with when he was in Sydney, I remember he had someone come for Christmas one time but I don't recall if it was him. I remember he had blonde hair.
61. After he disappeared I wasn't contacted by the police, I never spoke to the police until now about Ross. I wasn't aware if mum or anyone made any reports to Queensland police about Ross going missing. Mum was the contact for the police at the time, I know she was contacted by Police a few years back by Stephen Page but I was never spoken to.
62. I recall there was an inquest into Ross's disappearance a few years back. From the media reports I was under the impression that a group of kids who had a vengeance for gays had attacked Ross and thrown him off the cliff. I don't recall there being an explanation given by police as to what had happened to Ross back in 1989. I am aware there was one or maybe two inquests into Ross's disappearance but I didn't attend and I'm not sure if anyone else attended either.
63. I don't know what of Ross's possessions were brought back. I know I got his car but I didn't want it. I remember it still had all the fingerprint dust on it. The car just sat at mum and dad's house, I never used it. I recall one my uncles fixed the car up and sold his car, somewhere in Brisbane.
64. I'm not aware if Ross had a will, I don't think so. I'm not aware if he had any property investments.

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- 65. I recall mum had to keep putting money into Ross's account because otherwise the account would have closed and the bank would take his money. I remember mum brought boxes of Ross's stuff back and I had one of Ross's jackets for a while.
- 66. I think mum did mention that Ross's unit wasn't tidy. I can't recall my parents mentioning anything else about the unit.
- 67. I recall my boss gave me the week off because my brother was missing.
- 68. I have never been approached by the media nor have I ever provided any information to the media about Ross. I recall when Darren HINCH brought everything up about Ross some media tried contacting me but I recall my boyfriend at the time just always said I was never home.
- 69. After this later on when more information came out about what was happening in that area in my mind I believed the Police didn't care about gays because there were other gay men missing apart from Ross and I was of the opinion they didn't take those crimes seriously.
- 70. When Detective TIERNEY read out the following names to me I can say the following:

 Craig ELLIS – I think that's the guy that I mentioned before, Ross's friend.


 Paul SAUCIS – No, I don't recall this name

 Michael MATHISON – I think Michael might have been the name of the person who came to Christmas that time.

 Ken MARSH – No I can't recall this name

 NP250 – No, I can't recall this name

 I413 – No, I can't recall this name.
- 71. Detective TIERNEY showed me four photographs. I can say that none of the persons in the photos came to our house and I don't recognise anyone in these photos.

Witness: 
 Katherine TIERNEY
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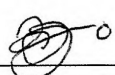
Signature:  28/6/17
 MRS KELLI-MAREE
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Photo 1



Mrs Kelli-maree Chuter
28/6/17

Photo 2



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Mrs Kelli-maree Chuter

28/6/17
Mrs Kell-maree Chuter



photo 3

Photo 4



28/6/17
MRS Kelli-maree Chuter