



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.5 (05/2015)

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of: Disappearance of Ross Bradley WARREN – S/F NEIWAND

Place: [REDACTED] North Melbourne

Date: 12th September 2017

Name: Kingi Tyrone Vernon MARSH

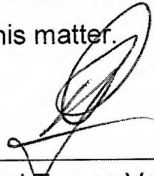
STATES:

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. On 27th March 2002, I participated in an electronically recorded interview with New South Wales Police in relation to the disappearance of Ross WARREN. I have been provided with a copy of the transcript of this interview and have read it. I can state that the information I provided to Police in the interview is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.
4. I appeared in a Crime Investigations Australia documentary called 'Bloodsport – The Bondi Gay Murders.' This was aired on Foxtel's crime channel. I have been advised by Detective CHEBL this aired on the 26th March 2009. This version I provided was not scripted it was a recollection of my events. I was asked to be involved in the show by a friend of mine who was involved in TV. I can't remember his name now but we used to see each other on Oxford Street.
5. At 2pm on Thursday 17th August 2017 I was contacted by Detective Senior Constable Michael CHEBL to provide this statement to Police regarding this matter.

Witness:

[REDACTED]
 Michael CHEBL
 Detective Senior Constable
 Homicide Squad – Unsolved
 Homicide Team
 12th September 2017

Signature:


 Kingi Tyrone Vernon MARSH
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Statement of Kingi Tyrone Vernon MARSH
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Background

6. I am originally from Dannevirke, New Zealand, I raised by my aunt, my parents passed on custody of me to my aunt. I knew my parents and siblings and would see them but my aunt raised me. I attended Church College in Hamilton New Zealand, this was a boarding school.
7. I consider myself to be a gay male, I was around 15 years of age when I realised I was homosexual. My aunt was the first person I told, she was quite accepting and it didn't have an impact on my relationship with my family. My aunt passed away when I was in my early 20's. Once she passed away I didn't really have much of a relationship with my parents. I have 7 siblings but I don't share a relationship with them.
8. I visited Sydney, Australia when I was 17 or 18 years old, I spent about 3 months here and decided I'd like to move there permanently. My relatives lived around the Kingsford area, so I stayed with them during this visit.
9. Later I worked for a company that built playground equipment, little tykes. They were based in New Zealand but eventually transferred over to their Sydney office when I moved over to Australia. I was in my early 20's when I moved over to Sydney.
10. In 1989 I lived at [REDACTED] Potts Point. I lived at this address with my then partner Michael MATHISON and another friend Brad, but I cannot recall his surname. It was a 2 bedroom apartment and it was on the 3rd or 4th floor. Our building was next door to Kings Cross train station.
11. I commenced a relationship with Michael in 1987, I was in my mid 20's when we met. We met at a gay nightclub, the midnight shift. Michael and I were in a relationship for about 5 or 6 years. We ended up travelling to Malta and I was in my early 30's. It was whilst we were overseas we broke up.
12. I remained in Malta and Michael left. I ended up being deported when my visa expired there.

Witness:

[REDACTED]

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Employment in 1988/1989

13. In 1989 I was working for a vending machine company. My work schedule was from Monday to Friday, I would start at 3am, we would visit all the train stations around Sydney city, Wynyard, Town Hall, Musuem and all that we would stock up the vending machines. It was an early start so we could do it before the rush It was quite hard and you needed to be quite fit to do it. We would finish by about 9am. I remember after work I would to the gym and then commence my day.
14. I cant remember the companies name but they were based out of Botany. I worked with this company for about 12 to 18 months.

Associates in 1988/1989

15. My associates in 1988 and 1989 would have been Michael, flatmate Brad, I can't remember Brad's surname, he was a friend of Michael's, they knew each other before I commenced seeing Michael. I had a straight female friend, Suellen, she was a hairdresser I can't remember her name. She was from the Waterloo area.
16. As far as gay nightclubs and bars I went to all of them along Oxford Street. We generally would finish up at the Midnight shift. That was usually over the weekend, we would go there on either the Friday or Saturday nights.
17. I had another friend that associated with us, Clifton AHSAM (Fijian friend) and his partner who worked with Qantas, his name was Richard but I cannot remember his surname.

Marks Park

18. I have visited Marks Park, but during the day for the purposes of going for a run from Bondi to Coogee bay run. We did it in a group it was a gay running group. I can't remember the members of this group but it was on a Sunday morning that we would run. It would have been around 10am. I never saw any violence during my visits there.

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19. I may have gone for a walk there of a night time but I was scared to go there and use it for the purposes of having sex at the beat. I knew not to go there at night. I heard reports of people being attacked at the beat. There were stories of gay men being assaulted at these beats by groups of straight men, it was in the gay community where we would hear stories.
20. I heard some associates that would attend a beat but I didn't know of anyone that would use it on a regular basis. They would tell the group of what they did at a beat, but these stories weren't frequent.

Relationship with Ross WARREN

21. I met Ross WARREN in 1988, at the time I met Ross I was in a relationship with Michael MATHISON. I never had an intimate relationship or any kind of sexual contact with Ross.
22. How I met Ross I'm almost certain we met through friends, I believe we were introduced possibly at a bar or when I was out somewhere. I don't recall ever meeting any of Ross's friends.
23. I thought Ross was a great person, a reliable, honest, trustworthy person. He was slightly conservative in his behaviour. I thought this because of his manner, he wasn't a loud, outrageous gay man. He was quite the opposite, a quieter person. I guess that was probably because of his profile in the media. He was a very decent guy. Ross was on television for WINTV in Wollongong, he was on whatever the news programs were on at the time. I had watched him on the news a couple of times.
24. We were good friends. I thought Ross was fine, it was a surprise to learn of the events and I thought what happened was out of character for him. Ross never told me about any problems in his life. He loved his work, loved being in television and he had plans to go further in the industry as in move to one of the big networks in Sydney.
25. I would see Ross once or twice a month on average. I don't recall chatting on the phone to him. I don't recall how we communicated at all unless we just made arrangements face to face. When I saw Ross he wouldn't always stay at our place but he would stay fairly

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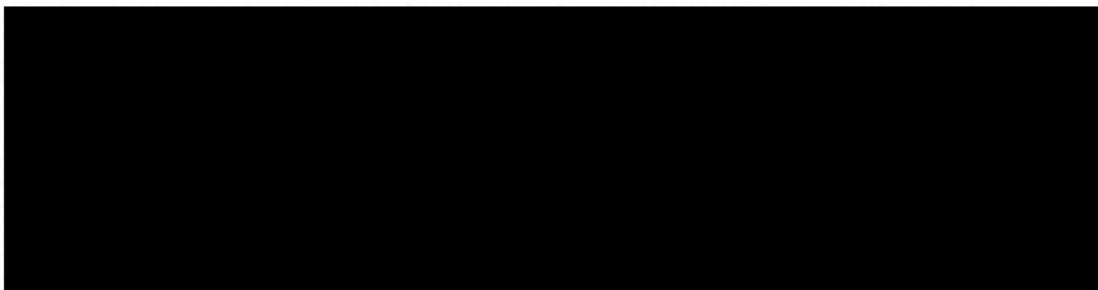
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regularly. Ross would normally stay on the couch at the apartment. Michael and I had our own room and Brad had his own room.

26. I wasn't aware of Ross's partners or anyone he was interested in. We never spoke about that.

27. I had never gone to his place in Wollongong.

28.



29. I heard through friends that Ross had told people we were in a relationship. I probably heard it through Brad or Michael or maybe some other friends on our outer circle. Most of my friends at some stage had expressed that perhaps something was going on with Ross and I. I'm not sure why Ross was telling people that we were in a relationship, I've always wondered that. I never knew Ross to be dishonest. It became obvious that Ross liked me, Ross would show affection towards me privately. If just me and Ross were just at our apartment alone Ross would show a lot of affection towards me. What I mean by this is that Ross would touch me when we were alone, but this wasn't reciprocated by me. There may have been an occasion where Ross, me and Michael shared a bed together. There wasn't any sexual activity between us all though. Had I not been in a relationship with Michael it's possible Ross and I may have gone together.

30. I spoke with Ross in the carpark of my building and confronted him about him telling other people that we were in a relationship together. Ross wanted to have a talk with me and I agreed to speak with him privately. Ross expressed his interest in me and wished I wasn't in a relationship with Michael, I explained to Ross that we could only be friends and nothing more than that. Ross was a bit upset when he left, he was tearful, I didn't want him to leave upset, he was in tears. We sat in his car and I consoled him until he was in a better state to

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leave. it was a Sunday afternoon and he was about to drive to Wollongong and I was concerned about him leaving and being upset. This could have been the last time I had seen him or around the month of his disappearance.

31. It did occur to me at the time after he disappeared I felt like was that him feeling rejected and did he do something.

Movements on Friday 21st July 1989

32. My recollection for the Friday the weekend Ross disappeared, we had made arrangements to meet with Ross at a bar or nightclub on the Friday. Ross didn't turn up and whilst I was concerned I didn't think that much about it. I became aware that he was going to meet up with other friends on the Saturday night. I don't recall the name of these friends now. Somehow we managed to make contact with each other I think Sunday. I recall that Ross didn't show up for these other friends. I believe on Saturday night or Sunday these other friends went to the Police. I think Ross's car was found on the Sunday.
33. I wasn't overly concerned initially because although he was normally pretty reliable I didn't think it was a concern that he hadn't shown up or made contact. However his other friends became concerned.
34. I don't know whether it was the news report or through the police I learnt his car was found and then that his keys were found at the bottom of the cliff at Marks Park. It was a real mystery because there was no other trace of him found that I was aware of. I remember being surprised his car and keys were found at Marks Park because I didn't think he was the kind of guy to go down there to the beat. When his car and keys were found the assumption I made was that Ross must have gone to the beat. There's only one reason you go there. I didn't know anyone he knew down there there's no reason he would go down there at night unless it was to use the beat.
35. I think the friends Ross was supposed to meet on Saturday were from Paddington.
36. I believe the arrangement to meet Ross on the Friday night was that he was working on Friday night and he was going to drive up from Wollongong and meet us, possibly at The

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Midnight Shift Hotel. I have just been informed by DSC CHEBL that during the documentary filmed I stated that I was supposed to meet Ross at 7pm on the Saturday at The Oxford Hotel. Perhaps I have the days mixed up but I'm not sure. What I do recall is that Ross didn't turn up to meet us as arranged, whether that was the Friday or Saturday night I'm not sure. My memory was that we were going to go out with Ross and Ross was going to stay with us that night. Ross had done that in the past, usually a couple of times a month. Usually I think Ross would come to our apartment before we went out, he normally would come late in the afternoon, early evening. If he came to the apartment he would settle in, unpack his gear, bring his bags up. We would then make plans for dinner, we might have a drink and then make plans for the evening. That usually involved dinner then going out to one of the clubs or even a dance party, maybe mardigra. The dance parties would usually be held at The Hordern Pavilion. I don't think there was anything going on that weekend at The Hordern Pavilion.

37. I don't know how we made the arrangements because we didn't have a phone in the apartment, it's possible we would have made the arrangements the last time we saw each other face to face.
38. I recall being spoken to by Police not long after Ross disappeared, I was under the impression it was recorded but cannot recall signing anything. I remember being called to go into Sydney Central Police Station and was spoken to by Police about Ross.
39. My impression of what happened to Ross is that he's somehow met with foul play as a result of going to Marks Park. This is what I always thought. There was always a fear within the gay community about the beat at Marks Park, that there were gangs of straight men going around targeting gay men using the beat. I used to frequent the area, not for the purpose of using the beat and I had never come across any problems myself but I had heard of things in the news about people getting bashed in beat areas.
40. In my interview with Police I stated that I would frequent *Gilligan's Bar on Oxford Street*, I would probably go there 2 or 3 times a month. It was a regular meeting place for us if we were going to go out and meet with friends.

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41. In my interview with Police I stated that I knew of Ross' friend [NP250] to be a prostitute, I knew of a good looking guy who was a male escort or prostitute. It may be the case that 'straight' males would utilise their services. I don't recall if he worked for an agency or if he worked for himself. I know the wall on Oxford Street is where the escorts would be used. I don't know why I mentioned him in my interview I don't know of Ross using an escort.
42. In my interview with Police I stated that *when attending Marks Park I walked along the pathway but had no knowledge that it was a gay beat.* I did actually know it was a gay beat, perhaps I was protecting myself. Everyone knew it was a gay beat, it was called 'the Bondi beat.'
43. In my interview with Police *I identified a photo of Ross; I stated I met him through a group of friends, possibly at a bar or nightclub in the Oxford St area.* As I said I don't recall who introduced him to me but I can't think who it would have been. I actually think it was through someone, possibly at their home, maybe at a party. I knew Ross had other friends in Sydney but I didn't know who they were.
44. In my interview with Police I stated that *I would have met Ross about twelve (12) months prior to his disappearance; and that we were close friends, but not in a sexual relationship,* I can still state that we certainly weren't in a sexual relationship.
45. In the television program Crime Investigations Australia documentary called 'Bloodsport – The Bondi Gay Murders.' which was aired on Foxtel's crime channel.
46. In relation to who approached me to appear in this documentary I believe it was someone who was involved in the production team, we used to have dinner with a group of friends and he was an older person his first name was Greg but I don't recall his surname. He approached me to be in the documentary.
47. DSC CHEBL has shown me some photographs.

Photograph 1: A photograph of four framed photographs of men. I've been informed by DSC CHEBL these are photographs found in Ross's apartment. The person on the far right

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of this photograph is me. I don't recall where this photo was taken, I don't recall giving Ross photographs of myself.

Photograph 2: This is a small photo of myself lying down. I don't recall where this photo was taken. I think it must have been taken in our apartment. I didn't know Ross at any other place I was living. I don't recall this photo being taken or giving this photograph to Ross.

Photograph 3: This is a photograph of two men, the man on the right is my ex-partner Michael MATHISON. The man on the left looks like a drag queen. I don't recall where this photo was taken. It looks like it could have been our apartment at Kings Cross.

Photograph 4: This is a photograph of four men and a female. I don't recognise anyone in this photo at all.

I have signed the copies of these photos to acknowledge I was shown them during my statement.

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Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kingi Tyrone Vernon MARSH', written over a horizontal line.

Kingi Tyrone Vernon MARSH
12th September 2017

①



myself.

②



(Bad) myself.

Michael Chebl



12/09/2017

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Michael Chobal



12/09/2017

Kingi Marsh

12/9/2017



ASF known



Michael Matheson

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Michael Chebi



12/09/2017

Not known to me

King, Marsh


12/7/2017