

New South Wales Police

STATEMENT in matter of: Place: Bondi Police Station.
Inquest touching the death of John Alan
RUSSELL
Date: 24th December, 1989.

Name: SMITH. Neville Francis.
(Surname in capitals)
Address: [REDACTED], Drummoyne. Tel. No. _____
Occupation: Gym Manager/Fitness Consultant. STATES:-

1. ~~I am aware that~~ This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence which 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 shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.
2. My date of birth is [REDACTED]
3. About 10.00am on Thursday the 23rd November, 1989, I was in the Bondi area and I had some time to fill in and I walked from ~~Fele~~ Fletcher street, down some steps to a walkway which runs from Notts avenue, Bondi around to the point of Mackenzies Bay. Once on the footpath I walked towards Notts avenue (North) and then down another set of rock steps to the water level of the small bay just south of Notts avenue.
4. Near a large square shaped rock which is not far from the Fletcher street steps, I saw a male body lying in an indentation in the rock floor which formed a small pool of water. The body was lying face down with the head turned to the right. I noticed what appeared to be blood in the water next to the body. I also saw some coins near the body and in the pool of water next to the body. The body was fully clothed. His midrift was bare. I looked for rib cage breathing and there was no movement. I saw poor colouring in the skin which suggested to me maybe death. I checked the right wrist pulse and could find none. I also felt what I thought was rigormortis, which I thought may have been setting in.
5. I ran back up the same way I arrived there, via the steps leading to Fletcher street, I first knocked on a flat door in Fletcher street, and there was no answer, and I saw there was a block of units being renovated. I saw a person I now know to be Rick Joseph ~~SXBY~~ SAXBY a builder. I said to him, "Quick I found a dead body can we get the Police or Ambulance."

Witness: A.M. Ingleby. Signature: N. Smith.
Sergeant.

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STATEMENT (continued) in matter of: Inquest touching the death of John RUSSELL.

Name: SMITH. Neville Francis.

(Surname in capitals)

6. He used a car phone to get in touch with the Emergency Services. I took Rick SAXBY down to where I had found the body and showed it to him. We walked back up and I waited for the Police. About 10.13am on Thursday 23 November, 1989, I spoke to Sergeant Ingleby in Fletcher street and told him what I had seen.

7. At the time I found the body, I could see no other person down in or about that rock or Bay area. When I commenced to walk down the rock steps there were two people on the concrete walkway but no person around the rock area at water level. I think the tide was on the low ebe.

WITNESS *A.M. Ingleby*
A.M. Ingleby.
Sergeant

N. Smith
N. Smith.

Police Station, Bondi. 2026.
24th December, 1989.

Witness: Signature: