

W1894 117/03 JMB-D

it's happened to you, it's a terrible thing that will stay with you forever?

A. Sure.

5 Q. It's just a matter of time as to how you manage those awful memories but I thank you very much for your involvement in the matter. Now you are free to leave. We're going to have some morning tea now so if you wanted to come back in 15 minutes I invite you to do that, if you
10 want to leave you do that too?

A. Okay.

<WITNESS RETIRED AND EXCUSED

15 SHORT ADJOURNMENT

<PETER EDWARD RUSSELL(11.51AM)
SWORN AND EXAMINED

20 LAKATOS: Q. Sir, is your full name Peter Edward Russell?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you be good enough to tell me what your present address is?

25 A. It's [REDACTED] Valentine.

Q. Is that in [REDACTED]

A. Yes [REDACTED]

30 Q. And what is your present occupation, Mr Russell?

A. Proprietor of a furniture store.

Q. You are also the brother of John Allan Russell--

A. Yes.

35

Q. --who died either on 22 or 23 November 1989?

A. That's right.

40 Q. Now in the course of the police inquiries, plural, you made two statements I think to the police. One dated 24 November 1989--

A. Yes.

Q. --and another dated 15 June 2001?

45

A. Yep that's correct.

Q. Now you've said in your statements that you of course were the brother of John Russell and you lived together, as you've put it, all of our lives?

50

A. That's right.

Q. Up until 1989?

A. That's correct.

55

Q. You originally lived at Ocean Street, Bondi and then you moved to a flat in Oakley Road, Bondi?

A. That's correct.

Q. You'd indicated that your brother in fact was a barman

W1894 117/03 JMB-D

at the Bronte Bowling Club?

A. Yes.

5 Q. At about - we're talking now November '89 that's the general time?

A. Yep.

Q. And one day a week he worked at the Double Day School?

10 A. Yep.

Q. What was he doing there?

A. He was what they call a general assistant. He used to do like a lot of the small maintenance jobs around the place and things like that.

15

Q. Now his best friend at about that time was a Peter Smith, was it not?

A. That's correct.

20 Q. How long were they friends for as at 1989?

A. To my knowledge they'd probably been friends about 7, 7 or 8 years.

25 Q. And in fact they had commenced their relationship, your brother having been gay, in an intimate relationship and then they became firm friends, is that right?

A. Yes.

30 Q. You indicated in '89 to police that John was in the habit of going out and staying out and not letting you know where he was. For what periods of time, about '89, was he out for?

35 A. Well he used to frequent like the gay bars in Oxford Street in Darlinghurst and he was working at Tropicana at the time and like a few other places and they didn't close until like 3 o'clock in the morning and he was in the habit of either going back to somebody else's place or whatever and then I wouldn't catch up with him until probably either at football training or after work you know the next day.

40 Q. Now on Wednesday 22 November I think you were at home with John when Peter Smith came to your house?

45 A. Yes.

Q. That was about what time 6pm or thereabouts?

A. Yeah.

50 Q. They left together some short time after 6pm did they?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know where they went?

55 A. To my knowledge they were going - because John was - he was going - he had just finished his job with the bowling club and he was about to move up to some land that we had up in the Hunter Valley at Wollombi because it'd been not long we lost our grandfather which was about a month before that and there was an inheritance that was

W1894 117/03 JMB-D

5 coming from that and he was going to build a kit home up there, you know, and to my knowledge they were going out to have farewell drinks because my father was coming down the following day to pick him up and take him up there and that's, when he came down, that's when he got the news when he turned up.

10 Q. I think as he left with Peter - your brother John left with Peter Smith that was the last time that you saw John--
A. That's correct.

15 Q. --prior to his being discovered dead at the base of Marks Park or Mackenzies Point?
A. Yep.

20 Q. Generally speaking was - how would you describe your brother's outlook on life? Was he a cheerful person--
A. Always cheerful, always happy. Had very very few worries.

25 Q. And how would you describe how he appeared as he left that evening at 6.30 on 22 November?
A. In very high spirits. He was looking forward to going up to the farm and getting out of Sydney.

30 Q. So far as you're aware was John in any current relationship with any person at the time he died?
A. No not that I'm aware of.

35 Q. Was that a topic, in any event, that he would confide in you about at that time or was it something that you learnt by observing that he was keeping company with people?
A. No, no we used to communicate, your know, fairly well. If there was anything going on in his life usually, you know, I would know about it.

40 Q. I think after his body was found you identified his body in these premises, was it?
A. Yes.

45 Q. You've told us that you and John were a very close set of brothers?
A. Yep.

50 Q. And in fact having resided with him almost your entire life he was part of the family unit, being yourself, your son was 11 years old at that stage--
A. That's correct.

55 Q. --and him?
A. Yes I was a single parent for about six years prior.

Q. And you'd take turns in looking after your boy?
A. Yes.

Q. When did you first become aware of John's

W1894 117/03 JMB-D

homosexuality?

A. Would have been when he was about 16, 17 so mid to late teens.

5 Q. How did he make that known to you or how did you come to discover it?

10 A. Well it was the places he used to frequent, any social life like he didn't advertise the fact that he was gay but a lot of the places that he used to go to and you know, like Oxford Street, Darlington and places like that. Sort of like that opened up the first indication to myself.

15 Q. Was he nervous about letting people who didn't know he was gay know about that fact--

A. No.

Q. --or it didn't concern him?

20 A. No not really. Not when he got into his 20s.

Q. And of course I think at the time of his death he was 31 years old?

A. That's correct.

25 Q. You indicate that at about 1878 when John was 21 he started his working life working in bars and club?

A. Yep at Darlington.

30 Q. And you've said that he's worked at Charlie Brown's Wine Bar at Pitt Street which was a gay bar or at least partly so and also later at Patches and Tropicana and also at the Bronte Bowling Club. In the course of those jobs occasionally you'd have to confront unruly patrons would you not?

35 A. Yes that's correct.

Q. Was that something that, so far as you were aware, your brother did?

40 A. Yeah.

Q. And was he able to handle himself--

45 A. Yes he was a pretty fit fellow so you know we did a lot of judo and like he trained - well he used to help me train football sides and things like that so he was pretty fit.

Q. Would you expect that if he was attacked by somebody that he would put up fierce resistance?

50 A. Yes. I have no doubt about that at all.

Q. And in fact I think in your statement you note that as late as some four months before he died, that is to say when he was in his 30s you and he came to blows did you?

55 A. That's correct.

Q. Still hadn't grown out of the sibling rivalry at that stage?

A. Never.

W1894 117/03 JMB-D

CORONER: Q. Who won?

A. I'd call it a draw.

5 LAKATOS: Q. I think you've also indicated that John spent some time as a yardsman for Rose Bay Public School and used to help you coach the football teams that you were associated with?

A. Yes.

10

Q. So that underlined the fact that he was in reasonable shape?

A. Yep.

15 Q. How often would you go - I wanted to dwell on John's drinking habits. You and he used to drink together fairly regularly did you not?

A. Yep.

20

Q. How often would that be?

A. Probably three times, three times, four times a week.

Q. At the Rose Bay Hotel and other places?

25 A. Yeah. Well we used to train the football side on Tuesdays and Thursdays and we'd be there for the raffles on Friday.

30 Q. And in those three times a week on average how many hours would you and he spend at say the Rose Bay Hotel or whatever pub it was?

35 A. On the Tuesdays and Thursday we were probably only there for an hour, have a few schooners and go home, you know, about tea time, like it was only just straight after football training which was down the road and straight in there and have a few schooners and then go home because he used to work at the BP Service Station at Rose Bay and that was just down the road from where we trained and I was working at Double Bay School myself at the time.

40 Q. From time to time would those drinking sessions go from about - perhaps not commonly but sometimes from 5 o'clock in the evening to about 11?

A. Easy.

45 Q. And over that period of time, on estimate, how much would you and he drink?

A. I suppose on average you're probably looking at say three, four schooners an hour.

50 Q. Right so I take it a conservative estimate at three schooners an hour that would be six hours about 18 schooners over that period of time?

A. Yep.

55 Q. I suppose I should ask you before I ask you about how you handled that amount of alcohol before I ask you about John but after say 10 to 15 schooners, putting it conservatively, what kind of shape were you in after that

W1894 117/03 JMB-D

drinking session?

A. Good enough to get in a taxi and get home.

5 Q. And so far as John was concerned how did he handle that level of intake of alcohol?

A. He was pretty good.

10 Q. You are aware, I think, from having looked at the papers that an examination of John's blood after he was found indicated a reading of .255 grams per 100 mils of blood alcohol concentration?

A. Yes.

15 Q. That of course is something in excess of three times the higher legal limit or the middle legal limit which is .08 I think. That indicates, if it's a true gauge - and there are I think not necessarily it may not be - that he had a fair amount on board at the time that he died?

A. Yep.

20 Q. At least one possibility is that he came to his death by reason of an accident, it's a possibility - it may not be right. Was he, when you saw him after these drinking sessions uncoordinated and likely to be clumsy or not?

25 A. No.

Q. What's your view about the proposition that he may have accidentally fallen from the cliff up the top?

30 A. Well I don't believe so.

Q. All right. You don't think the alcohol would have put him to such a limit that he--

A. No.

35 Q. --that that might have occurred?

A. No.

40 Q. And I think in your statement I think you noted that whilst he drank a fair bit he never drank until he was sick or passed out or even lost proper control of his reflexes because he never liked to be out of control?

A. That's correct.

45 Q. Apart from drinking alcohol from time to time John smoked some marijuana but not often, is that so?

A. That's correct.

50 Q. And I think that after he was found deceased a search of his personal possessions indicated there was no pot or anything there?

A. No. Look he only used to have say the occasion smoke at a party or something like that.

55 Q. So it was a social thing--

A. Yes just a social thing.

Q. --I understand that. So far as you were aware do you know whether John frequented Marks Park often or regularly

W1894 117/03 JMB-D

prior to his death?

5 A. Well I few times I had heard him refer to, you know, having been to the beat not knowing actually where it was because you know I really had no idea but it wasn't until after it all happened that we worked out where that beat was.

10 Q. He didn't identify Marks Park in particular--

A. No.

15 Q. --it was simply a beat or the beat?

A. No.

20 Q. All right. I think you do say however that whilst he might have been at the beat, assuming that's Marks Park, it was not a regular thing for him?

25 A. No I don't believe so.

30 Q. Did he have many partners in the time before his death?

35 A. No not really.

40 Q. And would it be fair to say that with the inheritance the kit home at Wollombi near Cessnock that your view was that there seemed to be no occasion for him thinking about taking his life let alone taking it?

45 A. No.

50 Q. You are aware, are you not, that found, at least near his body, were three groups of items, some coins, a cigarette packet and a coca cola bottle?

55 A. Yes.

60 Q. He was a smoker, was he not?

65 A. Yes.

70 Q. And he smoked the brand of cigarettes which the packet of which was found near him?

75 A. Yep.

80 Q. What were they?

85 A. Peter Stuyvesant soft pack.

90 Q. And was he a drinker of coca cola?

95 A. Yeah if it had scotch in it or the day after for a bit of a hangover cure.

100 Q. Do you recall how he was dressed before he left that night?

105 A. He was wearing a pair of ripped jeans, the knees out of them and a red jumper with Australian motives sown to it.

110 Q. Beer motives I think they were?

115 A. Yes beer motives.

CORONER: That's Australian motives, isn't it?

W1894 117/03 JMB-D/F

LAKATOS: That's very Australian. Almost the boxing kangaroo your Worship.

5 Q. Can I ask you perhaps some general questions. Firstly there was a police response and an investigation into your brother's death?

A. Yes.

10 Q. What is your perception about how seriously or thoroughly the police investigated your brother's death in 1989/1990?

15 A. Well at the time I didn't really give a great deal of thought you know with everything that was going on at the time but a few months after that, you know, I sat back and thought about it and not a lot was done at the time. The statements that were taken were very brief, like I only went down there gave one statement that was basically the last we heard of it you know.

20 Q. So police didn't get back to you and say--

A. No they didn't get back to us and--

25 Q. Did anybody ever tell you at any point look this is as far as we can go, either the investigation's, perhaps if not closed but at least can't go ahead on the information, did anybody say that to you for example?

A. No I don't believe so.

30 Q. May we take it that belatedly it would be fair to say that the investigation by Detective Page was a little bit better to put it mildly?

A. Yes.

35 Q. Can I ask you these general questions, and I've touched upon them in passing, do you know of any reason which may have caused your brother to contemplate taking his life?

A. None whatsoever.

40 Q. There were no relationship problems so far as you're aware?

A. No.

45 Q. No money problems?

A. No.

50 Q. He wasn't particularly stressed about his homosexuality or any other matter?

A. Not at all.

Q. And you looked forward to seeing him in the days following Wednesday 22 November it just wasn't to be?

A. That's right.

55 SAIDI: Q. Now Mr Russell the football teams which you trained with the assistance of your brother what age group were the boys in those?

A. Well the Rose Bay Rams Junior Rugby League Football

W1894 117/03 JMB-F

Club they range from six years of age right up to the representative teams and the Matthew Shield teams for eastern suburbs.

5 Q. What up to 16, 17?

A. Up to 13.

Q. Up to 13 years of age?

A. Yep.

10

Q. Did your brother ever come to mix socially with any of those football players, that is the--

15 A. Not so much the players but we used to have - as I said we used to do the raffles down at the Rose Bay Hotel every Friday night and a lot of the families used to come down there, like the parents and that sort of thing but not so much in social circles no.

20 Q. You're aware that there's some information contained within the fairly voluminous brief which has now been prepared to suggest that some of the gang members played rugby league?

A. Yes I believe so.

25 Q. Are you familiar with any of the names which have cropped up?

A. No.

30 Q. The persons of interests who you've seen over the last day or so have they been recognisable to you?

A. The only person that I have seen so far here that shows any signs of resembling, you know, someone that I've seen in the Bondi area was Mr Cushman.

35 Q. And that's only someone you've seen in the area not necessarily being related to rugby league--

A. No.

40 Q. --am I correct?

A. Yes.

45 Q. Did he have any problems at all that you're aware of with any persons who'd been coached by him in terms of rugby league--

A. No.

Q. --or any gang members?

A. No.

50 Q. Did he ever complain about any problems with rugby league or gang members?

A. No.

55 Q. And did he ever complain to you about having been previously attached in any way?

A. No.

Q. Never, to your knowledge, was he attacked at a beat

W1894 117/03 JMB-F

previously?

A. No.

5 Q. Was he, from your discussions with him at least, was he aware of the dangers of going to a beat?

A. Yes I'm pretty sure he was aware.

Q. I think that's from your discussions with him?

10 A. Yep.

Q. I assume you would have given him some warnings about that?

A. Yeah.

15 Q. And what was his response?

A. Well I can't really recall but it never used to worry him all that much.

20 LAKATOS: May I do something with leave, your Worship before your Worship does.

CORONER: Yes of course you can.

25 LAKATOS: Q. Mr Russell, you of course I think know, at least from reading the material if not otherwise, that there was some hairs - hair or hairs found on your brother's hand after his body was discovered?

A. Yes.

30 Q. I think you also now know that those hairs have gone missing. Detective Page informed us yesterday of information he gleaned from either yourself or another member of your family concerning whether or not those hairs were available at the first inquest in July of 1990

35 he indicated that one of the Russells - and I'm not sure he specified who--

A. That was myself.

40 Q. Okay. What did you learn about the existence of the hairs when the first inquest was held?

A. When the first inquest we didn't know anything about them. I gathered it from the photos that I'd seen.

45 Q. Detective - just to put a fine point on it - Detective Page said yesterday that he thought that he had been informed by a member of the Russell family that the hairs were lost in fact as at July 1990. Was that you that conveyed that information to him?

A. Yes.

50 Q. And how did you then find out that that was the case back then? How did you come to learn it?

55 A. What that the hairs had gone missing? No well I didn't know that they'd gone missing at the time. It was Detective Page that informed me that they'd gone missing when they contacted us to - because we kept the clothes--

Q I see I understand?

W1894 117/03 JMB-F

5 A. --because they were going to try and extract some evidence from that and I made inquiries as to well you know if you're looking for DNA evidence why don't you go to the hairs that were in his hand and that's when it came to light that they were no longer available.

Q. Did you or any member of your family attend the inquest in July of 1990?

10 A. Myself.

Q. Do you remember whether or not hairs were referred to in that inquest?

A. I don't think so. I couldn't be 100 per cent sure.

15 Q. And it was a fairly short and sweet affair, was it not?

A. It was very short and sweet.

Q. About half an hour, a little longer, wasn't it?

20 A. That's it.

CORONER: Q. Your hair is very distinctive and so was John's?

25 A. Yes.

Q. In fact looking at you you look so much alike, don't you?

A. Yep.

30 Q. And you're the younger brother?

A. I'm the younger brother.

Q. Did he ever do anything to his hair? Did he leave his hair natural or did he ever put--

35 A. Yeah.

Q. He didn't need to - if he had hair like yours he wouldn't have needed to do anything to it?

40 A. That's it.

Q. So he didn't dye his hair--

A. No--

Q. --his hair remained the same colour?

45 A. --he wasn't in the habit of dying his hair.

Q. You've kept - you kept his clothing that he was found in did you?

50 A. Yep. Well my father did.

Q. You just kept that at home?

A. Dad kept every news clipping. You name it he's got a box full of it.

55 Q. From what I read you're a very close family?

A. Well yeah.

Q. There's a lot of love in that family?

W1894 117/03 JMB-F

A. Yeah.

Q. And I mean for your brother to be happy to go home and live on the farm with dad that just says a lot about the closeness of your father and John, does it not?

5

A. Yep.

Q. And how have you been coping, over the years did you ever feel like sort of shaking someone and saying look why isn't somebody doing something about my brother's death?

10

A. Well yeah that's always at the back of the mind--

Q. Were you told about the theories that they thought oh well he's probably had too much to drink and he would have fallen?

15

A. Yes well - well we - I even tried - this was a couple of years after that, you know, when it surfaced in the media again after the events of I think it was - the Tonks case--

20

Q. Yes Wayne Tonks that's right?

25

A. You know bits and pieces of it kept resurfacing in the media and that used to get under my goat all the time so I decided oh well first I got onto Waverley Council and I thought well you know maybe something's got to be done, you know--

25

Q. What about the area?

30

A. About the area down there like as in putting lights and things like that in and I even contacted the Wentworth Courier and papers like that but they--

Q. So what was their response to you?

35

A. They showed absolutely no interest, no response.

Q. So you actually followed the notoriety of the Marks Park area?

A. I have been since it happened.

40

Q. And not only - well Wayne Tonks wasn't Marks Park, he was killed in his home--

A. No, no but at that time--

45

Q. So it was a combination of the Marks Park area and the gay, the fatality of the gay victims?

A. Yeah.

Q. So you sort of followed that all the way through?

50

A. That's right.

Q. And you got on to Waverley Council?

A. Yeah and I had three dead-ends with both newspapers and Waverley Council at the time.

55

Q. So the Wentworth Courier--

A. Yep.

Q. --Waverley Council--

W1894 117/03 JMB-F

A. Yep.

Q. Who else?

A. The Wentworth Courier--

5

Q. The Southern Courier--

A. It wasn't the Southern Courier.

Q. --they would have been the same?

10

A. No the Bondi Spectator.

Q. Did you ever go through the gay press or?

15

A. At one stage I did speak to someone from the Star Observer that were doing an article - well this was a couple of years after that - that were going to do an article on gay bashings and places of interest and they come and spoke to me briefly and they were going to forward me a copy of that and I never got that.

20

Q. You never got anything?

A. No.

Q. So you don't know whether any warnings went out or--

25

A. No I don't know whether anything became of that.

Q. Did you feel impotent in the investigation, did you feel like it had nothing to do with you in the terms of being heard--

30

A. Well that's the way I was made to feel in the first place.

Q. By who?

35

A. Well the way they put it down is - well the police at the time that, you know, it could be a combination of him falling off or, you know, but there was never any mention of fowl play--

Q. Fowl play?

40

A. --as such.

Q. Okay and the first time - the first you knew about hairs was not that they were missing, the first you knew that hairs were found on your brother's hand was when?

45

A. When I looked at the photographs.

Q. When you looked at the photographs?

A. I looked at photographs--

50

Q. And when was that? Was that at the inquest, the first inquest?

A. I think so.

55

Q. So no-one had mentioned any - no-one had sort of said look we've got some good news, earlier in the investigation, there are some hairs?

A. No.

Q. You were never told?

W1894 117/03 JMB-F

A. No I was never told.

Q. And your efforts through the press and through
Waverley Council to try and get someone to do something
5 about helping with the problems at Marks Park did you ever
feel like getting back to the police and--

A. Well there - like when it came to that I didn't think
that there was much that the police could do in light of
you know getting lights put down at Marks Park along that
10 walkway there or anything else like that.

Q. So you accepted - but no in terms of saying well look,
you know, this is the best you can do with my brother's
15 death, forgetting about the safety issues of putting
lights or warnings or whatever but in terms of following
through to see whether there was any progress, given that
you'd read about Wayne Tonks and you'd read about the
others and you knew about the notoriety of the area--

A. Yeah no I--
20

Q. --did you ever - and I'm not saying this as a
criticism, I'm just really interested to know why people
feel or don't try to plug back into the police system and
that's something that we want to try and fix if it's not
25 already fixed now?

A. Yeah well that's part of the problem because the way
it was handled in the first place there wasn't a great
deal of effort I believe put into it and I sort of like
have the feeling that what's the good of pushing a barrow
30 up hill with no wheels because, you know, it doesn't
matter what I say to them that's not really going to make
any difference or change anything that's happened or, you
know, are they going to kick themselves into gear for the
sake of what I've said.
35

Q. You heard what Mr Ellis said and he seemed to be
answering very honestly about feelings and how gay people
would be feeling about reporting them being victims and he
talked about the element of shame being involved in it.
40 Did you somehow feel it was better to let things rest with
your brother and not make things more public? Was there
an element of that in how you approached this or not?

A. No not really. He didn't have a problem with his
sexuality and so therefore - he wasn't openly gay but then
45 again if someone asked over to him and asked him he'd give
them an honest answer, you know, so - and everybody in the
family knew he was gay, you know, the people from the
football club knew he was gay so - the people that he
worked with at the public schools knew he was gay so, you
50 know--

Q. No-one had a problem with it?

A. No nobody at all.

55 CORONER: All right, if there's no other questions from
anyone before we--

LAKATOS: There is one if your Worship would allow me.

W1894 117/03 JMB-F

CORONER: Yes Mr Lakatos of course.

5 LAKATOS: I just wanted to perhaps show Mr Russell from the inquest put previously.

10 Q. Mr Russell, you did say and I think, perhaps I'd just like to redress the balance a little bit on what you said. You said that you thought that the original police - I might paraphrase what you said - were quick to try and explain it as a slipping or an accident of some kind?
A. Mm.

15 Q. Mr Russell, I'm showing you part of the original Coronial papers which are exhibit 3 before this inquest and I've turned up a page in the middle which is tabbed with white. It's a note, apparently, on the papers headed "Assault incidences", so written, "in the Bondi area with attackers believing their victims to be homosexuals". You see that's a two page document?
20 A. Yes.

25 Q. Under the hand of Plain Clothes Constable Dunbar?
A. Yep.

30 Q. Did you know that that kind of information which appears to more properly focus upon at least a plausible explanation was put before the earlier Coroner, in other words it tends to suggest that at least some police officers--
A. Yep.

35 Q. --have given thought to the possibility that fowl play was involved?
A. Yep.

40 Q. Did you know that that was made available to the Coroner?
A. No.

LAKATOS: I just wanted to put that onto the record.

CORONER: No that's an important thing, that's good.

45 LAKATOS: That's the only questions I had.

CORONER: Mr Saidi, nothing arising from that?

50 SAIDI: If I can just take up a point.

55 Q. There are two instances of assault which are before her Worship. Two I want to specifically want to refer to. One is an assault involving a person by the name of [134] [134] Do you know what I'm talking about in relation to that, that assault?
A. No.

Q. And there's another assault by the name, a gentleman

W1894 117/03 JMB-F

by the name of [DM], that doesn't ring a bell?

A. No.

Q. All right. That doesn't ring a bell?

5 A. No.

Q. They're two gentlemen, apparently gay gentlemen who were assaulted around the general area of where the beat was out in the eastern suburbs. You weren't aware - I take it then that prior to the Coronial inquest back in the days shortly after your brother died that in fact information had been forthcoming from those persons in relation to assaults perpetrated upon them?

10 A. No I had--
15

Q. You had no idea?

A. No idea.

Q. And you had no idea of what other information had come back to the original police officers in relation to those assaults?

20 A. No.

Q. I take it that you didn't have access to the Coronial file--

25 A. No.

Q. --which was then before the Coroner at that time?

30 A. No.

Q. And your presence at that Coronial inquest, I take it, was perhaps more in terms of a formal attendance where you sat there and observed proceedings--

35 A. That's correct.

Q. --rather than having had access to documentation or being advised by anyone in relation to the process itself?

A. That's correct.

40 CORONER: Q. Mr Russell, it's a terrible thing that was visited on your family. To lose anyone in such a - sudden like that but in such tragic circumstances it's just - it's hard to imagine how families deal with that terrible loss and then not knowing really about the last moments of his life, who he was with and how he came to be where he was. You're in a different position when you look at perhaps the disappearance of Mr Warren that - it's not going to give you closure - but at least you've had the opportunity of saying goodbye to John and seeing him - you viewed his body didn't you?

45 50 A. Yes.

Q. And seeing him. For the other families of course they never know, they never get as close to anything as you did with regards to trying to find out what happened to the people that they loved but it's a terrible thing that you have to live with and I'm sorry that that's something that - only time - as I said to Mr Ellis - it's only time that

55 .01/04/03 33 RUSSELL X (SAIDI)

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helps you manage it and I know you said last night on the news that you were hoping for closure. Well there will be some part to that but you understand it's something that stays with you forever?

5 A. That's it yeah.

Q. Isn't it?

A. Yeah.

10 Q. And your father would never have imagined, in his wildest dreams, that he'd be burying a young son and it's a terrible thing that he's had to endure as well. Thank you for participating in the inquest?

A. Not a worry.

15 Q. Now I know you're going to stay in court so I won't invite you to because I know you will be there?

A. Okay.

20 <WITNESS RETIRED

<KATHRYN MORIESON(12.27PM)
SWORN AND EXAMINED

25 LAKATOS: Does your Worship have a copy of Constable Morieson's statement?

CORONER: No I don't.

30 LAKATOS: May I hand you one. It refers to a number of annexures, some of which are duplicated and have not been attached but the ones which have not been duplicated are the hard document.

35 Q. Ms Morieson, is your full name Kathryn Morieson, spelt Morieson?

A. Yes.

40 Q. And are you a plain clothes constable of police attached to the Waverley Police Station?

A. Yes I am.

Q. Now you prepared a statement dated 30 March this year, that is two days ago?

45 A. Sunday yeah.

Q. Working long hours, in relation to your investigations concerning the disappearance of Gilles Mattaini?

A. That's right.

50 Q. And if I might just take you through this very briefly you say that on 30 May 2001 Strike Force Tara Dale was created to investigate, amongst other things, the death and disappearance of Mr Mattaini. On 1 August 2002 Antony Wyzynski, having read about this inquiry in the Star

55 Observer, contacted police concerning the disappearance of his friend Gilles Mattaini?

A. That's right.