

OUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

Cold Case Investigation Team Homicide Group, Crime and Intelligence Command Level 2, 200 Roma Street | Brisbane Q 4001



Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

31 January 2021

TO:

Mr Terry RYAN

Office of the State Coroner, Queensland

FROM:

A/Detective Sergeant Adam DENNIEN

Cold Case Investigation Team, Queensland Police Service

SUBJECT:

Review into the death of Gwen Lorraine GROVER in Cairns on 14

October 1983

Death of Gwen Lorraine GROVER

- 1. Around midday on Friday 14 October 1983 Gwen Lorraine GROVER's deceased body was located in her vehicle, a green 1975 Valiant Galant sedan Queensland registration number 757 NXO on Lake Street, approximately 125m south of the intersection of Rutherford Street Cairns North having suffered a gunshot wound to her head.
- 2. The deceased person's post-mortem examination conducted on 17 October 1983, revealed a small circular entry wound with surrounding charring on her left temple consistent with a small calibre weapon. A distorted bullet was located near the exit wound, in the vicinity of the deceased person's high right parietal area.
- 3. The Form 10 'Post-Mortem Examination Report', prepared by Dr J.C. RAMSAY prescribes the deceased person's cause of death as:
 - (a) cerebral destruction, due to (or as a consequence of);
 - (b) bullet wound to the head
- 4. A rifle was located with the deceased in the vehicle and the subsequent Form 4 'Report Concerning Death by Member of the Police Force' prepared by then Constable Edward John KINBACHER reported 'suicide is suspected'.
- 5. The original recommendation by the Office of the State Coroner dated 31 January 1984 was that the holding of an Inquest was unnecessary.

Referral to Queensland Police Service (QPS)

6. On 27 May 2019 the deceased person's sister Sue COLE contacted the Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Justice outlining her belief that the investigation into her sister's death was insufficient and that her death was suspicious (Attachment A1).

- 7. On 8 December 2019, the Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Justice directed the State Coroner to conduct further investigations and hold an Inquest into the death of Gwen GROVER on 14 October 1983 at Cairns (Attachment A2).
- 8. The investigation was assigned to the Office in Charge (OIC) of the Tablelands District Criminal Investigation Branch, Detective Senior Sergeant Brett DEVINE.

CCIT Engagement

- 9. On 7 April 2020 State Coroner Terry RYAN in response to correspondence received by COLE to replace the QPS appointed reviewer, formally requested the assistance of the Cold Case Investigation Team (CCIT), Homicide Group, Crime and Intelligence Command (Attachment A3).
- 10. On 14 July 2020, the reporting officer Detective A/Sergeant Adam DENNIEN was apprised of the associated Ministerial file and tasked to review the circumstances of the deceased person's death and the original police investigation.
- 11. In consultation with the QPS Coronial Support Unit, the deceased person's physical coronial file was reviewed and copies of the following documents acquired directly from the Office of the State Coroner:
 - Form 4 'Report Concerning Death by Member of the Police Force' completed by Const. E.J. KINBACHER dated 14/10/1983 (Attachment A4);
 - Form E 'Post-Mortem Examination, Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death' completed by Dr J.C. RAMSAY dated 17/10/1983 (Attachment A5);
 - Form 10 'Post-Mortem Examination Report' completed by Dr J.C. RAMSAY dated 18/10/1983 (Attachment A6);
 - Queensland Police Scientific Section Ballistic File, Case Reference Number B2361 prepared by QPS Scientific Officer, Glen KANOWSKI, dated 26-27/10/1983(Attachment A7);
 - > Statement of Kenneth Cyril SOPER dated 31/10/1983 (Attachment A8);
 - Form 5 'Coroner's Recommendation and Notification that the Holding of an Inquest is Unnecessary' completed by Cairns Coroner, Bernard James SCANLAN dated 31/01/1984 (Attachment A9);
 - Form 6 'Decision of and Notification by Under Secretary of the Department of Justice that the Holding of an Inquest is Unnecessary' completed by Colin PEARSON dated 07/03/1984 (Attachment A10); and
 - Associated correspondence between COLE and the Attorney-General, the Office of the State Coroner and others (Attachment A11).

CCIT Investigative Review

12. As part of the review, the reviewing officer has identified 44 witnesses and where possible obtained witness statements. 14 new statements (including some addendums) have been précised and are attached to the report as **Attachments B to O**.

13. There are a number of witnesses who have been identified/interviewed and statements have not been obtained. Further details as to reasons are documented below:

Witnesses Capable of Testifying

Witness No. 1. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) KINBACHER

Given name(s) Edward John Preferred name Ed

Date of birth 04/02/1962 **Deceased** No

Street address Cairns CIB, Level 1, 5 Sheridan Street

Suburb/town Cairns City State QLD Postcode 4870

Occupation Police Officer (original reporting officer)

Phone No.'s (W) 0740307153, (M) 0417792402

Email address Kinbacher.EdwardJ@police.qld.gov.au

Statement taken Yes

Précis The witness is a current serving Queensland police officer, was the

author of the Form 4 'Report Concerning Death by Member of the Police Force' dated 14/10/1983 and has provided a statement in

relation to this matter, included as Attachment B.

The witness was working as a uniform police officer in Cairns Inquiries on 14 October 1983. KINBACHER has very limited recollection of the incident and no recollection of any concern with respect to the circumstances surrounding her death. providing this statement KINBACHER has had the opportunity to review the file and photographs in relation to this investigation. KINBACHER provides advice in general of what he would have done during the incident. KINBACHER refers and tenders incident scenes photos. He doesn't recall where the vehicle was taken to or what happened to the firearm once removed from the scene. KINBACHER cannot locate his official police notebook from 1983. Has viewed and confirms he is the author of the Form 4 -Report to Coroner dated 14 October 1983. KINBACHER is shown the following documents and has no recollection of seeing these previously, Form [RAMSAY], documents 10 Form [ANSFORD], BAC Certificate and Ballistics File [B2361].

Witness No. 2. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) LAW

Given name(s) Arthur John Preferred name Arty

Date of birth 27/11/1946 **Deceased** No

Street address 20 Mariner Boulevarde

Suburb/town Deception Bay State QLD Postcode 4870

Occupation Retired (former police officer, SOCO, attended IS)

Phone No.'s (H) 0731420009

Email address

Statement taken Yes

Précis The witness was a Queensland police officer between 1973 and

2006 and has and has provided a statement in relation to this

matter, included as Attachment C.

In 1983 the witness was attached to the Cairns Scenes of Crime Office. The witness's duties involved crime scene management, latent fingerprint development and photographic recording. In 1983, photographs were captured on film, developed to negatives and stored for any later requirement. The witness has been shown copies of notes contained in official police notebook B21281 pp.153-154 referencing him attending the IS on 14 October 1983 and taking photographs. The witness has no independent recollection of this matter, has not reviewed the photographs taken

and is unable to provide any further information.

Witness No. 3. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) HUNKIN

Given name(s) Rodney Neil Preferred name Rod

Date of birth 27/03/1944 **Deceased** No

Street address 207 Oceanic Drive

Suburb/town Warana State QLD Postcode 4575

Occupation Retired (former police officer, attended deceased person's autopsy)

Phone No.'s (M) 0407551005

Email address rod@hunkin.info

Statement taken Yes

Précis The witness was a Queensland police officer between 1972 and

1999 and has and has provided a statement in relation to this

matter, included as Attachment D.

In 1983 the witness was attached to the Cairns Enquiries Office and attended the deceased person's autopsy / post-mortem examination on 17 October 1983. Advised of remarks in the Form

10 'Post-Mortem Examination Report' completed by Dr J.C. RAMSAY dated 18/10/1983 in relation to a blood sample, excised entrance wound and a distorted bullet being handed to him for forwarding to the forensic laboratory. The witness worked in the Cairns Inquiries Office in 1983 and at time attended autopsies. Generally any exhibits handed to the witness from an autopsy would be delivered to the investigating officer and it is unlikely that he would have made any notes. The witness has no independent recollection of this matter and is unable to provide any further information.

Witness No. 4. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) KANOWSKI

Given name(s) Glen William Preferred name

Date of birth 26/09/1959 **Deceased** No

Street address 76 Fairmont Street

Suburb/town Elimbah State QLD Postcode 4516

Occupation Retired (former police officer)

Phone No.'s (M) 0418742898

Email address

Précis

Statement taken Yes

The witness was a Queensland police officer between 1978 and 1989 and has provided a statement in relation to this matter, included as **Attachment E**.

The witness is the author of Queensland Police Scientific Section Ballistic File, Case Reference No. B2361.

In 1983, the witness was a scientific officer, took possession of exhibits associated with this matter, made an examination and provided a statement noting the results of his examination of the exhibits. Provided and reviewed copies of documents relating to this matter (Ballistic Case File No. B2361), noting that apart from his statement being unsigned, it accurately reflects the result of his examination of the exhibits. The witness has adopted a copy of Ballistic Case File No. B2361, which is included with his 2020 statement as 'Attachment A'.

The witness recall being contacted "a few months ago" by the sister of the deceased person (presumably COLE) and being provided copies of parts of Ballistic Case File No. B2361. The witness recalls speaking about the fact that he did not receive the rifle associated with the investigation, which was uncommon for a suspected suicide as attempts were usually made to verify that the recovered projectile had been fired from the same firearm, although

not always the case. The witness recalls the exhibits coming into his possession as described in his covering report contained in Ballistic Case File No. B2361. The witness has no further information to assist.

Witness No. 5. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) MANKTELOW

Given name(s) Bevan James Preferred name

Date of birth 15/07/1978 **Deceased** No

Suburb/town Brisbane State QLD Postcode 4000

Occupation Police Officer

Phone No.'s (W) 0733646791

Email address Manktelow.BevanJ@police.qld.gov.au

Statement taken No.

Précis

The witness is a current serving Queensland police officer and the author of "Cold Case Ballistics Review Death of Gwen Lorraine GROVER - FR1945498", dated 06/10/2020, included as **Attachment F**.

NOTE: Addendum statement pending as at 31/01/2021

The witness was requested to conduct a ballistic review in relation to this matter and attempt to answer the following three (3) questions:

- 1. From the crime scene images is the weapon able to be identified?
- 2. From the crime scene images is the type of ammunition able to be identified?
- 3. From your experience, are you able to make any comments relating to the use of the non-dominant hand to pull the trigger of a similar firearm or comments on the positioning of the firearm as per the crime scene images?

Findings:

1. Unable to confirm the make and model of the firearm within the vehicle. Cannot exclude a 22 Long Rifle calibre Stirling (Squires Bingham) Model 20 semi-automatic rifle as being the make and model of firearm depicted in the crime scene images. Other makes and models of firearms that share the same design features may exist including firearms with

- different action types.
- 2. Unable to confirm the type or make of ammunition depicted in the image of the passenger seat of the vehicle. Cannot exclude Remington brand 22 Long Rifle ammunition as being the ammunition depicted in the crime scene images, however without closer images depicting identifiers on the outer box or more specific features of the cartridges this cannot be confirmed.
- 3. Unable make more than very limited comments regarding the position of the rifle in the scene images and the use of the non-dominant hand to operate the trigger:
 - 3.1 The Ballistics Unit does not routinely attend scenes where self-inflicted gunshot wounds have occurred. Therefore, Snr Sgt MANKTELOW direct experience in relation to the use of a non-dominant hand to operate the trigger is limited.
 - 3.2 An explanation as to why the gunshot wound is in the left temple area could be because of the physical confines of the vehicle. If it is assumed that the front driver's door of the vehicle was closed at the time of the shooting, as is depicted in IS image no. 1, and the deceased was seated in the front driver's seat, the use of a longarm would mean that the easiest way to position the firearm is with the buttstock placed in the front passenger seat area.
 - 3.3 With regards to the position of the firearm in the scene photographs, the right hand around the barrel near the muzzle, is consistent with the scenario of using the right hand to steady the firearm against the left temple. The lack of clear images of the firearm exclude the ability to comment further on the firearms position. The lack of images also prevents me from commenting on the status of the firearm, such as action open or closed and the safety position.
 - 3.4 Snr Sgt MANKTELOW can make no comment as to the deceased's ability to perform such an act including her ability to reach the trigger in such a position or the ability of her left hand to activate the trigger.

Witness No. 6. Relationship to deceased Estranged de facto partner

Family name(s) SOPER

Given name(s) Kenneth Cyril Preferred name Ken

Date of birth 17/07/1949 **Deceased** No

Street address 12 Falcon Street

Suburb/town Bayview Heights State QLD Postcode 4868

Occupation

Phone No.'s (H) 0740335451, (M) 0408887441

Email address faceting factory @bigpond.com

Statement taken Yes

Précis An addendum to SOPER's original statement was obtained on 31

October 1983, included as Attachment G.

The witness was provided a copy of original statement and confirmed his signature. Doesn't recall/know Constable KINABCHER. Recalls the deceased used to drink and smoke a fair bit. The witness never saw the deceased take any kind of illegal drugs. Stated that the deceased was on a pension and working as a cleaner and didn't have any savings. Doesn't know of the deceased having any mental health issues and didn't see a regular doctor. Believes the deceased was right-handed. In relation to his first statement, the witness mentions an argument which caused the deceased to move out of his house about a week prior to her death. The witness recalls the argument was over him telling the deceased son, David, to let his mum through the door first. States that he didn't have any contact with Duncan or Bet GROVER prior to the deceased death and only infrequent contact with Duncan post death. Recalls socialising with Paul and Lyn LANE whilst in a relationship with the deceased, however, has lost contact now. Recalls finding out from his mother about a day or so after the deceased death. The witness then contacted a police officer who he knew personally, Dale KENDALL, to confirm the information. KENDALL was not aware of the death, however made inquiries and confirmed the death was the deceased and that police wanted to speak with the witness. The witness then attended the police station, he was questioned about his movements around the time of the death and was also shown a rifle and a box of ammunition. which he recognised was his and should have been at home in his wardrobe. It was a couple of weeks later that he provided a typed statement to police. Recalled that he owned a number of rifles. Stated the in his original statement there was reference to a .325 rifle going missing from his bedroom wardrobe, the witness stated that this was not correct and the firearm that was taken was a .22 that belonged to Glenn GRAHAM. The witness stated that this is the rifle which was located with the deceased. Recalls that the morning the deceased was located, he woke to find the bedroom cupboard door open and one of his rifles leaned up against the wall. Stated that he didn't think anyone had been in the house but was a heavy sleeper. At the time of providing the addendum the witness was shown two photographs of rifles. Recalls GRAHAM's rifle was more like the Stirling model 20 photo. The witness stated that he always kept the ammunition in the glove box of my car, separate

to the firearms. Recalls a couple of weeks prior to the death, the witness went camping with the deceased two sons, and they took GRAHAM'S rifle with them.

Witness No. 7. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) KENDALL

Given name(s) Irene Dale Preferred name Dale

Date of birth 17/06/1961 **Deceased** No

Street address 10 McCarthy Road

Suburb/town Wurdong Heights State QLD Postcode 4680

Occupation

Phone No.'s (H) 0741565121, (M) 0429350649

Email address

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was a Queensland police officer between 1980 and

1985.

In SOPER's addendum statement dated 17 August 2020, he states that he knew KENDALL at the time of the deceased person's death and that after hearing about it, he attended KENDALL's residence and asked her whether it was true. SOPER states that KENDALL contacted the Cairns police station, confirmed the deceased person's death and advised SOPER to go and take up with police.

The investigating / reporting officer contacted the witness on 21 January 2021 and had a conversation with her in relation to this matter. The witness has only a vague recollection of the name, Ken SOPER, and does not know the deceased person. The witness has no independent recollection of events as described by SOPER, however states that is what she would have naturally done under those circumstances.

Witness No. 8. Relationship to deceased Associate

Family name(s) GRAHAM

Given name(s) Glenn Gary Preferred name

Date of birth 03/12/1953 **Deceased** No

Street address Unit 2, 10 Martin Street

Suburb/town South Townsville State OLD Postcode 4810

Occupation Pensioner

Phone No.'s (M) 0408989564

Email address

Statement taken Yes

Précis A statement was obtained from the witness on 21 January 2021,

included as Attachment H.

The witnesses .22 calibre firearm was found with the deceased

person.

Between 1953 and 1984, the witness lived at 283 Severin Street. Cairns and knew Ken SOPER, referring to him as "Sudsv". SOPER's mother lived next door at 285 Severin Street. witness became good friends with SOPER and they used to go shooting together. Remembers SOPER dating then moving in with Gwen GROVER and that SOPER bought them a house in Recalls the deceased person Westcourt near Mulgrave Road. driving a small green Valiant. The witness recalls early October 1982 camping, shooting roos and digging for gemstones at Mount Surprise with SOPER, the deceased person and her two sons. Remembers SOPER owning a number of rifles (222, 44/40 and 308). The witness used to own a .22 semi-automatic and following the trip mentioned above left it with SOPER in his rear shed. The witness recalls, although unsure of date, SOPER attending his house following an argument with the deceased person and asking him whether he'd seen her. The witness drove to a few friends' house to see if they had seen her, but no-one had. The next day the witness spoke with SOPER who was worried as that the deceased hadn't come home and later that day the witness learned that she shot herself. The witness later learned from SOPER that she had used his rifle. The witness stayed friends with SOPER, however left Cairns in 1996 and has not spoken to him since.

Witness No. 9. Relationship to deceased Separated ex-husband

Family name(s) GROVER

Given name(s) Duncan Roy Preferred name

Date of birth 14/06/1945 **Deceased** No

Street address 78 Weaver Street

Suburb/town Atherton State QLD Postcode 4883

Occupation

Phone No.'s (M) 0427147761

Email address duncan&bet@bigpond.com

Statement taken Yes

Précis

A statement was obtained from the witness on 18 August 2020, included as **Attachment I**.

The witness is the ex-husband of the deceased. Was married to the deceased from 1974 until April 1982. First met the deceased in 1967, recalls teaching the deceased how to shoot a .222 rifle. Recalls that he would load the rifle and hand it to the deceased to shoot, however the deceased would have seen how he was doing it. States that when he lived in Cairns he owned some rifles, including a semi-automatic Browning .22 and a Winchester 3030. witness stated the separation between him and the deceased was amicable. Would describe the deceased has a heavy drinker and smoker and the deceased's family was not aware of this. Doesn't recall the deceased having any mental health issues. The witness recalls the night before the death, the deceased made the witness promise to look after the boys "if anything happens to her". Recalls the following day the police attended his home and advised of the deceased death. The witness formally identified the deceased. The witness doesn't know anything about the rifle that was located in the car with the deceased. The deceased had mentioned early in their relationship that she wanted to be cremated if she passed before the witness.

An addendum statement was obtained from the witness on 31 January 2021 in relation to his knowledge of a .22 pistol. The witness stated that he had never owned a pistol or had possession of one. The only time he had possession of a pistol was at a Cousin's (Bruce GOODRIDGE) property near Surat where he fire a pistol with the owner. He stated this was in the late 1960's. The witness could not provide any further details of any pistol or .22 pistol in his control.

Witness No. 10. Relationship to deceased Former associate / friend

Family name(s) GROVER formerly POTTER and CATER nee THOMAS

Given name(s) Elizabeth June Preferred name

Date of birth 03/06/1946 Deceased

Street address 78 Weaver Street

Suburb/town Atherton State QLD Postcode 4883

Occupation

Phone No.'s (M) 0417791798

Email address duncan&bet@bigpond.com

Statement taken Yes

Précis A statement was obtained from the witness on 18 August 2020,

included as Attachment J.

The witness is the current wife of Duncan GROVER. Was dating Duncan at the time of the deceased's death. Was friends with the deceased and Duncan, whilst they were in a relationship. Recalls that whilst the deceased was alive she made a comment "I want to kill him". The witness believes the deceased was talking about Duncan, however it could have been SOPER. Recalls the deceased drank a lot and on weekends would always have a beer in her hand. The deceased only drank beer (not spirits) and the witness observed that she would sometimes get angrier when she was drunk. Recalls the deceased was friends with Paul and Lyn LANE and the deceased had purchased a car from Paul LANE. The witness states the day before the death, she helped the deceased move into her new flat. She then left with the deceased two sons who were staying with the witness that night. The following day the witness was unable to locate the deceased and recalls when she asked Paul LANE he replied "that she (the deceased) was a drunken bitch and she wasn't welcome back". The witness then contacted the police and subsequently they attended her home and delivered a death message to Duncan GROVER. The witness stated she never saw the deceased with a firearm and that she knew the deceased hated firearms.

Witness No. 11. Relationship to deceased Close friend / associate

Family name(s) MACKEDIE nee O'SHEA

Given name(s) Sharon Rae Preferred name

Date of birth 08/08/1963 Deceased No

Street address 20 Gates Close

Suburb/town Edmonton State QLD Postcode 4869

Occupation Nurse

Phone No.'s (M) 0475133592

Email address shazray20@gmail.com

Statement taken Yes

Précis A statement was obtained from the witness on 24 January 2020,

included as Attachment K.

The witness is the daughter of Mick O'SHEA and Pamela SMITH and knew the deceased person. In 1983 she was 20 years old and lived at 176 Mulgrave Road, Mulgrave, Cairns with the deceased and her two boys. The deceased moved out about a month before

her death into Ken SOPER's residence. The witness knew Paul and Lyn LANE and Paul was her fathers' brother. The witness knew Gwen for about 10 years in-between relationships with Duncan GROVER and Ken SOPER. The witness considered the deceased as her second mother and can say that she was a heavy smoker and heavy drinker but would only drink on the weekends as she looked after her boys during the week. The deceased drank NQ Lager and VB and this didn't change her deminer and she could operate normally with a few drinks. The deceased worked cleaning houses, but not sure about the details. The witness knew Duncan GROVER and was aware that the deceased married Duncan when she was about 16 years old. They separated and Duncan was living with Betty POTTER as she was a family friend. The witnesses stated that she would describe the relationship between Duncan and the deceased as the deceased was controlled by Duncan, but the witness never saw any physical violence between them and the deceased never spoke about any physical violence against her. Witness knew Ken SOPER and the deceased had been in a relationship with him for about 6 months and they lived together The deceased didn't mention how the for about a month. relationship ended, but she knew the deceased was moving out. The witness last saw the deceased the night before her death at her residence and arrived at about 9am and stayed till about 10pm. During this time the witness and her husband were assisting the deceased move from SOPER's residence into a residence on the Esplanade, Cairns which was quite small and dirty as the deceased didn't have much money. The deceased boys weren't there and with Duncan while she was moving. On this day the deceased had told the witness the previous night she had attended Betty's residence and caught Duncan and Betty in bed together. deceased was very upset about this and she was visibly devastated and would cough and vomit regularly. The witness had to leave that night to take her children home, but the deceased was insistent that they stay longer and have a drink with her, and this was unusual as the deceased was generally very happy with her own company. The deceased was drinking that night. The witnesses stated because of the following points she could have committed suicide. The deceased had broken up with Ken SOPER, was moving into a new place which was a real mess and not nice, money issues and her concerns with not enough money to buy her boys school uniforms found her ex-husband in bed with her friend and was of a heighten state.

Witness No. 12. Relationship to deceased Son

Family name(s) GROVER

Given name(s) Roy Stanley Preferred name

Date of birth 17/06/1968 **Deceased** No

Street address 124 Exeter Street

Suburb/town Torquay State QLD Postcode 4655

Occupation Paramedic

Phone No.'s (M) 0422374754

Email address grover roy@hotmail.com

Statement taken Yes

Précis A statement was obtained from the witness on 27 July 2020,

included as Attachment L.

Witness is the son of the deceased. His biological father is Duncan GROVER. His parents separated when he was in his early teens. The deceased then commenced a relationship with Ken SOPER and was going to get married. The witness had a younger brother, David, who committed suicide in early 2020. The witness doesn't recall a lot from around the time of his mother's death and the information he does know about the circumstances around her death is from what relatives have told him. The witness recalls that the deceased was a smoker and drank beer. He does recall they were in the process of moving into a new apartment on the Esplanade in Cairns. On the afternoon before his mother was located he and his brother were dropped off at their fathers house to stay the night. The witness believes that after the deceased had dropped him off at this father's she was going to the LANE's house to have drinks and stay the night. The witness states that the relationships the deceased had with both his father and SOPER "had their ups and downs" however never saw any physical abuse. The witness doesn't know of any family history mental health issues on either side of his parents families. The witness recalls both his father and SOPER having firearms, however doesn't recalls seeing them at their houses.

Witness No. 13. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) LOCK

Given name(s) Craig Wallace Preferred name

Date of birth 03/11/1963 Deceased (Y/N) N

Street address Unit 7, 11 Storey Road

Suburb/town Kallangur State QLD Postcode 4503

Occupation Disability Pension

Phone No.'s (M) 0402605953

Email address bilbo lock@hotmail.com

Statement taken Yes

Précis

A statement was obtained from the witness on 26 January 2021, included as **Attachment M**.

The witness located the deceased in her vehicle and rang 000.

The witness remembers the 14 October 1983. At that point int time he was living at 379 Lake Street, Cairns with his parents and older brother. He was walking home from town along Lake Street and arrived at the Hockey Fields and he was walking on the bitumen. The witness is unaware of the time. It was daytime and when he was a couple of hundred metres from his residence, he passed a small vehicle possible yellow, but can't be sure. As he passed the vehicle on the driver's side, he noticed a lady in the vehicle in the driver's seat. The driver's window was down, and he leaned in to ask whether she was alright. It was at this time he saw a rifle between her legs and the rifle was vertical pointing up towards her head. At this time the witness was aware that the female was deceased because of colour of her skin and her eyes were bulging. The witness went home and rang 000 and spoke to a person and advised them what he had seen. A short time later the witness observed a police officer on a motor bike and then a marked vehicle and Detectives vehicle at the scene. No Police officers spoke to this witness and this is the first time the witness has provided a version to investigators. The witness has no further information to assist.

Witness No. 14.	Relationship to deceased	Sister
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Family name(s) COLE nee HANNAFORD

Given name(s) Susanne May Preferred name Sue

Date of birth 26/05/1964 **Deceased** No

Street address 47 Orlando Court

Suburb/town Highland Park State QLD Postcode 4211

Occupation

Phone No.'s (M) 0431582323

Email address sue.cole@optusnet.com.au

Statement taken Yes

Précis A statement was obtained from the witness on 2 August 2020,

included as Attachment N.

Witness is younger sister of deceased. Witness has made own investigations and obtained documents from Coroner and from QPS under RTI. Family mainly lived in Boggabri NSW growing up. Moved to Qld when only 2-3 y/o. Deceased remained in NSW and married Duncan GROVER. Witness saw deceased on occasions

throughout the years. Witness was about 10 when GROVER and deceased moved to OLD. Saw GROVER when about 14v/o when they came to NSW to visit. Saw GROVER in 1981 when he came to Boggabri to collect a car in possession of the deceased. Witness lived with deceased in Boggabri from 1980-1982. witness aware deceased left Cairns following an incident where the deceased caught Duncan GROVER in bed with another woman, GROVER then bashed the deceased causing injury to her eye. Deceased grabbed what she could and took the two children by road to NSW and to stay in Boggabri. After the deceased left Boggabri in 1982 to return to Cairns, next saw in early 1983 when arrived in NSW with new boyfriend Ken SOPER to meet the parents. Witnesses opinion of SOPER as arrogant and tends to exaggerate his life. Witness mainly kept up with the deceased through exchange of letters or by news from her sisters. Witness living in NSW when the deceased died. Witness attended the wake held in Narrabri NSW, witness did not talk to either GROVER or SOPER. Witness was told by her brother Stan HANNAFORD about conversation he had with GROVER about seeing a body with a small bullet hole to the forehead. Witness has never accepted suicide as cause of death and through the Attorney General requested the Coroner reopen the investigation. Witness states has never seen the deceased with a gun or aware of the deceased having any experience with guns. Witness only saw the deceased once have an alcoholic drink throughout her life. Witness states the deceased smoked cigarettes. Witness saw GROVER with a rifle on an occasion and states GROVER always talked about guns and about death and would tell stories about it. Witness provides possible witness names of Lyn and Paul LANE as persons who she had been told saw the deceased on the night of the 13 October 1983. This was conveyed to the witness through her mother and father.

Witness No. 15. Relationship to deceased Brother

Family name(s) HANNAFORD

Given name(s) Stanley Leonard Preferred name

Date of birth 08/04/1950 **Deceased** No

Street address 26 Stanley Street

Suburb/town Oakey State OLD Postcode 4401

Occupation

Phone No.'s (M) 0437770912

Email address shannaford8@bigpond.com

Statement taken Yes

Précis Witness has provided a statement and an addendum, dated

21/07/2020 and 01/08/2020 respectively, collectively included as

Attachment O.

Witness is the elder brother of the deceased. Lived with the family and the deceased up till 1967 when he moved from NSW to OLD. The deceased remained in Boggabri NSW and married Duncan GROVER in 1967. The witness had regular contact with the deceased while in NSW. The witness was aware the deceased fled the relationship and returned to the family home in NSW for a few years before returning to Cairns Qld. The witness was aware the deceased had a new boyfriend in Cairns, Ken SOPER and the new boyfriend came to NSW to meet the parents. The witness saw the deceased about 3 times after the deceased moved to Cairns with her husband. The witness called Duncan GROVER when he heard the deceased had died. The witness wanted the body to be buried in NSW near the grandmother. The witness was advised by GROVER the deceased wished to be cremated and the process had started. The witness asked for the ashes to be sent to NSW, which occurred. A short time after this a wake was held in NSW. Duncan GROVER and Ken SOPER arrived together in a 4WD. During the wake the witness talked to GROVER and SOPER in private as he wanted more information about the death and the weapon used. The witness spoke to GROVER who said, "Have you ever seen someone who had been shot in the forehead with a bullet" He went on to say that "he was surprised by the small wound". The witness thought this inappropriate and went to SOPER and spoke to him. The witness asked SOPER about the weapon and was told. "Sorry mate it's my fault I left the rifle in the boot of the car" "I borrowed Gwen's car to go shooting and left the rifle in the boot". The witness asked if it was his rifle and he said 'yes'. The witness asked what type of weapon it was and was told "a Mauser type rifle". The witness is ex-army and aware of a Mauser type weapon is a large calibre weapon and was confused by the statement of GROVER that there was a small entry wound. The witness said to SOPER "that seems a bit weird because Gwen wouldn't know how to operate a rifle." GROVER and SOPER left the next day in the 4WD. The witness has not spoken to Duncan GROVER since. The witness has seen SOPER once more at the wedding of David GROVER, Gwen's Son in Maleny. The witness did not discuss his concerns with anyone else but engaged a solicitor with his father to get more information about the death and if a coronial inquest is to occur. The witness received copies of some documents through the solicitor. The witness discussed his concerns and the documents he had with his sister Sue COLE in 2019 and COLE then went further with seeking further documents from the Police and Coroner. The witness feels the statement of SOPER where he mentions the .325 calibre rifle supports his story of SOPER mentioning the Mauser type rifle. The witness did not know the deceased well as a married adult in Cairns and not aware of her life and life issues and had never discussed her relationship with either Duncan GROVER or Ken SOPER, although the witness believed the deceased was aware he did not like Duncan GROVER.

Witness No. 16. Relationship to deceased Sister

Family name(s) SMITH nee HANNAFORD

Given name(s) Irene Patricia Preferred name

Date of birth 20/11/1948 Deceased No

Street address 3 Gayndah Road East

Suburb/town Maryborough State QLD Postcode 4650

Occupation Retired

Phone No.'s (M) 0421766300

Email address

Statement taken No

Précis The investigating / reporting officer spoke personally with the

witness in her home on 28 July 2020, digitally recording the conversation. The witness expressed virtually identical concerns as those held by her younger siblings, Stan and Sue, and consequently

a statement has not been obtained to date.

Witness No. 17. Relationship to deceased Sister

Family name(s) FRANKLIN nee HANNAFORD

Given name(s) Christine Jennifer Preferred name

Date of birth 05/03/1956 **Deceased** No

Street address 89A Condamine Street

Suburb/town Dalby State QLD Postcode 4405

Occupation Retired

Phone No.'s (H) 0741253611, (M) 0418876505

Email address

Statement taken No

Précis The investigating / reporting officer spoke with the witness on 30

January 2021. The witness stated that she had very little to do with the deceased person around the time of her death and didn't think that she could assist greatly. The witness advised the investigating / reporting officer that she had come to terms with her sister's death a long time ago but is grateful that it is being looked at again. A

statement has not been obtained to date.

Witness No. 18. Relationship to deceased Nephew

Family name(s) HANNAFORD

Given name(s) Joseph Stanley Preferred name

Date of birth 21/05/1971 **Deceased** No

Street address 11 Tradewinds Avenue

Suburb/town Paradise Point State OLD Postcode 4216

Occupation

Phone No.'s (M) 0406917737

Email address

Statement taken No

Précis The witness is the son of Christine FRANKLIN and the deceased

person's nephew. The witness was raised by the deceased person's mother and father. Attempts to speak with the witness to date have been unsuccessful and a therefore a statement has not been obtained

to date.

Witness No. 19. Relationship to deceased Associate / friend

Family name(s) GILL

Given name(s) Robert Lynton Preferred name Robbie

Date of birth 07/01/1950 **Deceased** No

Street address 24 Glenpark Road

Suburb/town Moree State NSW Postcode 2400

Occupation

Phone No.'s (H) 0267529170

Email address enquiries@robgill.com.au

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was contacted by CCIT on 2 August 2020 advising

that he was married to Rae SPENCER who passed away in 2005. The witness recalled Gwen GROVER and her sudden death in 1983. When asked if Rae ever spoke about Gwen and any issues she was having, the witness advised that Rae never discussed Gwen with him. Witness lived in Boggabri up to 1971 and moved to Moree NSW. Recalls Gwen coming to Boggabri alone around 1971. He stated that Gwen seemed more reserved and as if she was trying to say something to him, but didn't. The witness recalled that Gwen was a party girl who engaged in social drinking. Gwen was

always nice and he never saw her lose her patience or be aggressive to anyone. The witness does not know if Gwen had any experience with firearms. Witness knew Duncan GROVER from his time at Boggabri and stated that he thought he was an alright bloke, he had no bad things to say about him. Witness does not know Ken SOPER or anything about Gwen's breakup with Duncan GROVER in Cairns. He was aware that Duncan and Gwen moved to Qld at some point.

Due to the limited information this witness offers and COVID-19 travel restrictions, a statement has not been obtained to date.

Witness No. 20. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) LANE

Given name(s) Tamara Phyllis Preferred name

Date of birth 19/01/1981 **Deceased** No

Street address 9 Denmark Street

Suburb/town Edmonton State QLD Postcode 4869

Occupation

Phone No.'s (M) 0439743370

Email address

Statement taken No

Précis The witness is the elder daughter of Paul and Lyn LANE. The

reporting / investigating officer spoke with the witness, on 18 August 2020, who was two (2) years old at the time of the deceased person's passing. The witness recalls her parents speaking about the deceased person on occasion; however, could offer no information to assist. A statement has not been obtained to date.

Witness No. 21. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) LANE

Given name(s) Shelley Rosemary Preferred name

Date of birth 29/06/1982 **Deceased** No

Street address 3 Cross Street

Suburb/town Edmonton State QLD Postcode 4869

Occupation

Phone No.'s (M) 0407742506

Email address shelleylane@y7mail.com

Statement taken No

Précis The witness is the younger daughter of Paul and Lyn LANE. The

reporting / investigating officer spoke with the witness, on 30 January 2021, who was only one (1) year old at the time of the deceased person's passing. The witness is familiar with the deceased person's name, however, could offer no information to

assist. A statement has not been obtained to date.

Witness No. 22. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) DOUGLASS formerly SOPER and RUSSELL nee NEIBERDING

Given name(s) Pamela Margaret Mary Preferred name Pam

Date of birth 05/06/1948 Deceased No

Street address Duplex 2, 1 Kris Court

Suburb/town Bli Bli State OLD Postcode 4560

Occupation

Phone No.'s (M) 0416059220

Email address

Statement taken No

Précis The witness is the ex-wife of Ken SOPER. On 6 August 2020, the

investigating / reporting officer attended the witness's residence and personally spoke with the witness in relation to this matter. The witness whilst aware of this matter stated that she has no direct knowledge of it as she had left Cairns prior to the deceased person's death and as such does not want to provide a statement.

Witness No. 23. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) LAWRENCE

Given name(s) Janet Loarni Preferred name

Date of birth 27/02/1944 **Deceased** No

Street address 32 Doyle Street

Suburb/town Mareeba State QLD Postcode 4880

Occupation Nurse

Phone No.'s (H) 0740923985

Email address

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was one of the joint registered Title holders of 26

Rutherford Street, Cairns North on 14 October 1983. The investigating / reporting officer spoke with the witness on 25 January 2021. The witness advised that the property was rented out by her then husband, Bernard LAWRENCE (deceased). The witness was unable to provide any information to assist the

investigation. A statement has not been obtained to date.

Witness No. 24. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) LOCK

Given name(s) Paul Andrew Preferred name

Date of birth 18/05/1962 **Deceased** No

Street address Flat 1, 295 Mills Street

Suburb/town Rockhampton State QLD Postcode 4700

Occupation

Phone No.'s (M) 0427912369

Email address

Statement taken No

Précis The witness is the son of Glen and Nancy LOCK, the joint

registered Title holders of 379 Lake Street, Cairns North on 14 October 1983. The investigating / reporting officer spoke with the witness on 21 January 2021. The witness has no independent recollection of the incident other than to advise that his younger brother, Craig LOCK, may have some information of relevance. A

statement has not been obtained to date.

Witnesses Incapable of Testifying

Witness No. 25. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) RAMSAY

Given name(s) Ian John Charles Preferred name John

Date of birth 03/09/1926 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness performed the autopsy / post-mortem examination of

the deceased person on 17 October 1983 and completed the

Q U E E N S L A N D P O L I C E S E R V I C E

associated Form E, Post-Mortem Examination, Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death dated 17/10/1983 and the Form 10, Post-Mortem Examination Report dated 18/10/1983.

The witness reports that rigor mortis had passed off, that there was hypostasis, i.e., the accumulation of fluid or blood in the lower parts of the body or organs under the influence of gravity, which occurs after death; that the deceased person's skin was pinkish and that there was early decomposition of the abdomen only.

In relation to the entry and exit wounds found on the deceased person's skull, the witness reports them as, "Small, circular wound, with surrounding charring of left temple, compatible with entrance wound of small calibre bullet. Exit wound in high right parietal area. Gross haematoma of scalp... Small radiating fractures around the exit wound. Brain shattered" with the cause of death being "cerebral destruction, due to (or as a consequence of) bullet wound to the head".

The witness reports the cause of death as:

- a) cerebral destruction, due to (or as a consequence of);
- b) bullet wound to the head.

The witness passed away 13 February 1989, prior to the commencement of the CCIT investigative review.

Witness No. 26. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) ANSFORD

Given name(s) Anthony Joseph Preferred name

Date of birth 14/04/1970 **Deceased** Yes

Occupation Pathologist

Statement taken No.

Précis The witness is the author of the Form 10, Post-Mortem Examination Report dated 08/11/1983 (Attachment C) located

during the CCIT forensic review.

Dr ANSFORD examines the section of excised skin that was taken from the deceased person's scalp by Dr RAMSAY during the autopsy / post-mortem examination. Report states:

<u>MACROSCOPIC</u>

A rectangle of hairy skin 3.0×2.5 cm. In the centre there is a circular defect 0.4 cm in diameter which is surrounded by a narrow erosion and a zone of blackening 0.4 cm wide. There is haemorrhage into the subcutaneous tissue.

HISTOLOGY

The appearances are those of a bullet entry wound which contains a considerable amount of carbon and powder residue.

COMMENT:

Small calibre bullet entry wound, inflicted with the muzzle in contact or near contact with the skin.

The witness passed away on 22 December 2016, prior to the commencement of the CCIT investigative review.

Witness No. 27. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) WRIGHT formerly RAMSAY nee THOMPSON

Given name(s) Margaret Anne Preferred name

Date of birth 20/12/1939 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was Dr RAMSAY's widow and prior to her death

confirmed that her late, former husband, Dr Ian John Charles RAMSAY was practicing in Cairns in 1983. The witness has no knowledge of the incident and cannot assist further. The witness passed away on 6 November 2020, prior to the commencement of

the CCIT investigative review.

Witness No. 28. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) WESTAWAY

Given name(s) Leslie Preferred name

Date of birth 12/06/1924 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness has been identified as the Dr WESTAWAY listed on

the Form 4 as possibly having previously treated the deceased person. The witness passed away 24 August 2010, prior to the

commencement of the CCIT investigative review.

Witness No. 29. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) PEAKE

Given name(s) Harold Vernon Preferred name

Date of birth 31/07/1907 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness has been identified as the Dr WESTAWAY listed on

the Form 4 as possibly having previously treated the deceased person. The witness passed away 04 February 1993, prior to the

commencement of the CCIT investigative review

Witness No. 30. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) BAILEY

Given name(s) N Preferred name

Date of birth Deceased Unknown

Statement taken No

Précis The witness is the State Analyst that performed the BAC analysis

on the sample of blood taken from the deceased person during her autopsy / post-mortem examination. Given the limited information on the Analysts Certificate, CCIT investigators have

been unable to positively identify N. BAILEY to date.

Witness No. 31. Relationship to deceased Son

Family name(s) GROVER

Given name(s) David Leslie Preferred name

Date of birth 18/12/1970 Deceased Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the deceased person's youngest son.

Unfortunately, the witness committed suicide on or about 22 May 2020, prior to the commencement of the CCIT investigative

review.

Witness No. 32. Relationship to deceased Sister

Family name(s) FOSTER nee HANNAFORD

Given name(s) Lillian Melba Preferred name

Date of birth 20/05/1947 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the elder sister of the deceased person.

Unfortunately, the witness passed away prior to the

commencement of the CCIT investigative review.

Witness No. 33. Relationship to deceased Father

Family name(s) HANNAFORD

Given name(s) Stanley Edward Preferred name

Date of birth 27/09/1921 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the father of the deceased person.

Documentation provided by COLE to the Office of the State Coroner, states that shortly after the deceased person's death, one of her friends called the witness and told him that her death needed to be investigated further. The witness purportedly called the Cairns police but was told there was nothing that warranted further investigation, and both doctors listed in the Coroner's file, i.e. Dr's PEAKE and WESTAWAY, and was told that neither of them had treated the deceased person for depression. Unfortunately, the witness passed away prior to the

commencement of the CCIT investigative review.

Witness No. 34. Relationship to deceased Mother

Family name(s) HANNAFORD nee GREGORY

Given name(s) Lillian May Preferred name

Date of birth 18/04/1928 Deceased Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the mother of the deceased person.

Unfortunately, the witness passed away prior to the commencement of the CCIT investigative review and it is unknown what if any information she could have provided the

investigation.

Witness No. 35. Relationship to deceased Associate / Friend

Family name(s) LANE

Given name(s) Paul Douglas Preferred name

Date of birth 18/09/1951 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the husband of Lyn LANE and knew the

deceased person. The statements of witnesses SOPER and Bet GROVER suggest that the witness either purchased 757NXO for or sold it to the deceased person. SOPER also states that the witness and his brother Mick O'SHEA claimed the vehicle from

the Cairns police, cleaned and sold it; however, no official police record of the vehicle being released to the witness has been able to be located. The witness was one of the last people to see the deceased person alive. In her statement, Bet GROVER, says that on the morning of the deceased was located she attended the LANE's home and that the witness was going off saying that the deceased person was a drunken bitch and that she wasn't welcome back there anymore. The witness passed away 21 December 1997, prior to the commencement of the CCIT investigative review

Witness No. 36. Relationship to deceased Associate / friend

Family name(s) LANE

Given name(s) Lynette Faye Preferred name

Date of birth 27/09/1950 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the wife of Paul LANE and knew the deceased

person. The witness is alleged to have spoken with the deceased person on the evening of 13 October 1983, making her one of the last people to see the deceased person alive. The witness passed away 09/10/2012, prior to the commencement of the CCIT

investigative review.

Witness No. 37. Relationship to deceased Unknown

Family name(s) O'SHEA

Given name(s) Wallace Michael Preferred name Mick

Date of birth 08/10/1939 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No.

Précis According to the SOPER's addendum statement dated

17/08/2020, the witness is the brother of Paul LANE and allegedly assisted LANE to clean and sell the deceased person's vehicle some months following her death. The witness passed away on 04/08/2007, prior to the commencement of the CCIT investigative

review.

Witness No. 38. Relationship to deceased Unknown

Family name(s) SMITH formerly O'SHEA nee GRAINGER

Given name(s) Pamela Phyllis Preferred name

Date of birth 24/12/1941 Deceased Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the wife of Mick O'SHEA and mother to Sharon

MACKEDIE and Terri O'SHEA. The witness passed away 11/10/2015, prior to the commencement of the CCIT investigative

review.

Witness No. 39. Relationship to deceased Unknown

Family name(s) LEPORADI @ CAMPBELL

Given name(s) Liviana Preferred name

Date of birth Deceased Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was in a relationship with Mick O'SHEA in October

1983 and is likely the person referred to as "Libby". The reporting / investigating officer has been unable to identify this witness. O'SHEA's daughter, Sharon MACKEDIE advises that the witness passed away in 2015, prior to the commencement of

the CCIT investigative review.

Witness No. 40. Relationship to deceased Associate

Family name(s) SPENCER

Given name(s) Rae Preferred name

Date of birth Deceased Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was married to Robbie GILL and passed away in

2005, prior to the commencement of the CCIT investigative

review.

Witness No. 41. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) LOCK

Given name(s) Glen Wallace Preferred name

Date of birth Deceased Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the joint registered Title holder of 379 Lake

Street, Cairns North on 14/10/1983 with his wife, Nancy LOCK.

The witness passed away 25/03/2010, prior to the commencement of the CCIT investigative review.

Witness No. 42. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) LOCK

Given name(s) Glen Wallace Preferred name

Date of birth Deceased Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the joint registered Title holder of 379 Lake

Street, Cairns North on 14/10/1983 with his wife, Nancy LOCK. The witness passed away 25/03/2010, prior to the commencement

of the CCIT investigative review.

Witness No. 43. Relationship to deceased Nil

Family name(s) LAWRENCE

Given name(s) Bernard Freeman Preferred name

Date of birth 18/01/1930 **Deceased** Yes

Statement taken No

Précis The witness was the joint registered Title holder of 26 Rutherford

Street, Cairns North on 14/10/1983 with his wife Janet LAWRENCE. The witness passed away on 25/11/2008, prior to

the commencement of the CCIT investigative review.

CCIT Forensic Review

14. Aside from the original Ballistics Report (Attachment A7), there was no record of what became of the exhibits within the Coroner's file provided to CCIT.

15. The reporting officer caused a forensic review of this matter to conducted by Sgt Dale FLETCHER, who located the following documents that are suspected to be previously unknown to the Office of the State Coroner and pertain to the analysis of the deceased person's blood sample, examination of the excised entry wound, and the forensic processing of the incident scene:

- Alcohol Content (BAC) Analysis Certificate, completed by State Analyst, N. BAILEY, dated 21/11/1983. The analysis of the deceased person's blood sample returned a BAC of 158mg/100ml (Attachment P);
- Form 10 'Post-Mortem Examination Report' completed by Dr A.J. ANSFORD dated 08/11/1983 (Attachment Q); and
- A series of five (5) incident scene (IS) photographic negatives that were discovered by DSS KINBACHER during the review undertaken by DSS

DEVINE. The IS photographs were taken on 14 October 1983 by Senior Constable Arthur LAW.

The IS negatives were converted to digital images, producing a total of five (5) photographs, collectively included with the report as (Attachment R):

<u>IS Image #001:</u> Chrysler Galant, Queensland registration 757NXO, parked on Lake Street, Cairns adjacent to the Cairns Hockey Fields [NB: marked police vehicle, 601ORB, observed parked to the rear];

<u>IS Image #002:</u> Vehicle interior, deceased extricated, handbag and ammunition box on blood-soaked passenger seat;

<u>IS Image #003:</u> Vehicle interior, deceased and rifle in-situ, driver's door closed:

IS Image #004: Vehicle interior, deceased and rifle in-situ [NB: image appears to have been double or triple exposed or has some other photographic anomaly present]; and

IS Image #005: Vehicle interior, deceased and rifle in-situ, driver's door open;

16. No further exhibits or documentation could be located.

Addressing family concerns

17. To provide some clarification in regard concerns identified by the deceased person's family, the reporting officer can provide the following information:

Associated anecdotal evidence of family and friends in relation to the deceased lifestyle:

- 18. Ken SOPER An addendum statement has been obtained from SOPER, the estranged de facto of the deceased person at the time of her death. SOPER states that the deceased person used to drink a fair bit, although not to the point that he'd have called her a drunk. SOPER doesn't believe that the deceased person ever took illicit drugs or had any mental health issues. SOPER doubts she had a regular doctor and presumed that if she'd been ill that she would've just gone to the hospital.
- 19. Duncan GROVER A statement has been obtained from GROVER, the exhusband of the deceased person. GROVER states that deceased person was as a heavy drinker and smoker, although he didn't class her as an alcoholic. To the best of his knowledge, she never sought psychiatric/psychological treatment.
- 20. Bet GROVER A statement has been obtained from GROVER, a former associate / friend of the deceased person. GROVER states that the deceased person drank a lot and that on the weekends she always had a beer in her hand.
- 21. Sharon MACKEDIE A statement has been obtained from MACKEDIE, an associate / friend of the deceased person for approximately ten (10) years prior to her death. MACKEDIE describes the deceased person as a heavy smoker that would only drink on weekends. MACKEDIE states that the deceased person drank NQ

Lager and VB and that it didn't change her demeanour and she could operate normally even after quite a few drinks.

- 22. Robbie GILL The witness was an associate of the deceased person through his late wife Rae SPENCER, and was contacted by CCIT on 2 August 2020. The witness recalled that the deceased person was a party girl who engaged in social drinking although she was always nice and he never saw her lose her patience or be aggressive to anyone.
- 23. Roy GROVER A statement has been obtained from GROVER, the deceased person's son. GROVER recalls his mother being a smoker and drinker, which he doesn't find particularly unusual for the time.
- 24. Sue COLE A statement has been obtained from COLE, the deceased person's sister. COLE recalls that whilst living with the deceased person in NSW between 1980 and 1982, she did not see her have any alcoholic drinks at home. COLE can recall only one time when she and the deceased person went to the local hotel that the deceased person had a shandy or similar. COLE further states that during the time that the deceased person and SOPER visited her in early 1983, she did not see her have any alcoholic drinks and that apart from that one occasion, COLE never saw her drink alcohol.
- 25. Stan HANNAFORD Statements have been obtained from HANNAFORD, the deceased person's brother. HANNAFORD states that he never saw the deceased person consuming any alcohol-based drinks at any time, which included during visits by her to his home, his to hers, and even at his wedding reception and other family get togethers.

Deceased Person's Ante-Mortem Medical and Mental Health Information

26. The two (2) Cairns medical practitioners, Doctors PEAKE and WESTAWAY, that were listed as potentially having previously treated the deceased person in the weeks or months prior to her death passed away in 1993 and 2010 respectively. Attempts to locate medical records pertaining to the deceased person prior to her death have been unsuccessful.

Identification of Incident Scene (IS)

- 27. The original Form 4 'Report Concerning Death by Member of the Police Force' completed by Const. E.J. KINBACHER on 14 October 1983 reports the IS as the intersection of Lake and Rutherford Streets Cairns North, which border the Cairns Hockey Fields to the south and a small pocket of residential dwellings to the north.
- 28. The review of IS Image #001 in conjunction with scaled historical aerial imagery, requested from QPS Geospatial Solutions. Enquiries conducted on location on 18 August 2020 by the reporting officer and the Cairns Forensic Crash Unit are believed to have accurately identified the IS, which has been determined to be on the outbound, i.e., left-hand when facing North, side of Lake Street, adjacent to the hockey fields, approximately 125 meters South from the middle of the intersection of Lake and Rutherford Streets (Attachments R, S, T, U and V):



Figure 1 - IS Image #001 (14 October 1983) (refer Attachment R)



Figure 2 - IS vicinity circa 1983 (refer Attachment S)



Figure 3 - IS circa 2007 (refer Attachment U)

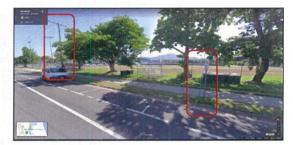
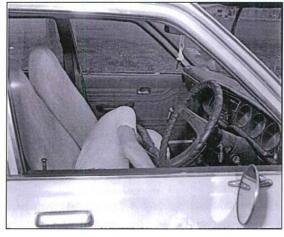


Figure 4 - IS circa 2019 (refer Attachment V)

NB: Figures are indicative only, as the power poles and street signs depicted have been replaced (Map data © 2021 Google).

Incident Scene (IS) Description

- 29. The deceased person's vehicle was found parked, keys in the ignition and the automatic transmission gear selector in 'Park'. To the west of the vehicle was the Cairns Hockey Fields and across Lake Street to the east, mud flats, mangroves, and ocean. The nearest residential home, 369 Lake Street is situated approximately 160 metres to the north and images of people believed to be school children can be observed playing on the hockey fields in the background whilst police were in attendance.
- 30. The deceased person was located in the driver's seat of her vehicle, a green 1975 Valiant Galant sedan Queensland registration number 757 NXO, slumped over to the left towards the front passenger seat. The deceased person's right hand is observed clenching a rifle barrel approximately 5cm short of the muzzle, which is facing in the direction of the driver's side door. The rifle extends across the deceased person's legs, over the centre console with the stock laying across the front passenger seat and butt closest to the passenger side door. The deceased person's bare right foot appears to be on the brake pedal.
- 31. Following the extrication of the deceased person from the vehicle, a photograph was taken that depicts a box of rifle ammunition and a handbag on the front passenger seat along with a substantial amount of blood that appears partially absorbed by the seat cover. Two (2) NQ Lager 375ml beer bottles can be observed in the front centre console area near the hand brake lever whilst cigarette ash and the deceased person's footwear can be observed on the driver's side floor.





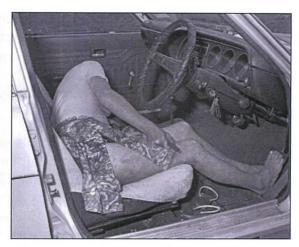


Figure 6 - IS Image #005 (cropped) (refer Attachment R)

Identification of vehicle at Incident Scene (IC)

32. IS Image #001 depicts a Valiant Galant with Queensland registration number 757 NXO. Witness statements provided by Ken SOPER and Bet GROVER suggest that the deceased person purchased 757 NXO from Paul LANE and that he and his brother Mick O'SHEA later took possession of the vehicle from the Cairns police, cleaned and sold it. Enquiries conducted by CCIT investigators with the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads identified 757 NXO as a green 1975 Valiant Galant sedan, which was registered to the deceased person at the time of her death.



Figure 7 - IS Image #001 (cropped) (refer Attachment R)

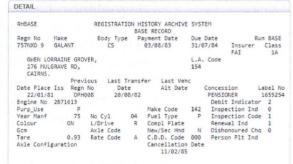


Figure 8 - QDTMR Historical Registration Details

Identification of Firearm Located at Incident Scene (IS)

- 33. The Corner's file provided to CCIT held little to no information about the rifle located with the deceased person on 14 October 1983. In an attempt to identify the firearm the CCIT Forensic Co-ordinator engaged Snr Sgt Bevan MANKTELOW of the QPS Ballistics Unit, Scientific Section to conduct a ballistic review in relation to this matter, which is included with this report as **Attachment E**.
- 34. Snr Sgt MANKTELOW's report is unable to confirm the make and model of the firearm or ammunition depicted in the IS images and could make only extremely limited comments regarding the position of the rifle and the use of the deceased person's non-dominant hand to operate the trigger.

- 35. NB: an addendum to MANKTELOW's cold case ballistic review has been requested by the reporting officer in an attempt to determine whether a comparison can be made between the diameter of a .22 rifle barrel and the entry wound pathology reported by Dr ANSFORD. Pending peer review, preliminary advice is that this additional information will not change the essence of MANKTELOW's or this report.
- 36. An addendum statement has been obtained from SOPER on 17 August 2020. SOPER identifies the weapon found with the deceased as a .22 calibre rifle belonging to Glenn GRAHAM, which he'd been storing for GRAHAM. SOPER states that he was shown the rifle and a box of ammunition that were sitting in a cupboard at the Cairns police station by two (2) detectives. SOPER states that he thought the rifle was returned to GRAHAM by police afterwards as he didn't want anything to do with it.
- 37. A statement has been obtained from Glenn GRAHAM on 21 January 2021. GRAHAM confirms that it was his firearm that was located with the deceased person and that he'd left the rifle in SOPER's shed after a shooting trip. GRAHAM does not know what became of the rifle.
- 38. An addendum statement was obtained from Duncan GROVER on 31 January 2021 in relation to his knowledge of a .22 pistol. He stated that he had never owned a pistol or had possession of one.

Excised Entry Wound Pathology

39. The examination of the deceased person's excised entry wound was conducted by Dr Anthony Joseph ANSFORD who also completed the associated the Form 10 'Post-Mortem Examination Report' dated 08/11/1983. Dr ANSFORD reported that the excised entry wound was a rectangle of hairy skin 3.0cm x 2.5cm with a circular defect 0.4cm in diameter in the centre, surrounded by a narrow erosion and a zone of blackening 0.4cm wide with haemorrhage into the subcutaneous tissue. The appearance being that of a small calibre bullet entry wound, inflicted with the muzzle in contact, or near contact, with the skin and a considerable amount of carbon and powder residue.

Identification of the Deceased Person

- 40. Formal (visual) identification of the deceased person was provided to then Const. E.J. KINBACHER by the deceased person's ex-husband Duncan GROVER, on 14 October 1983.
- 41. There is no mention of the deceased person's date of birth within the original investigative material provided to the CCIT by the Office of the State Coroner. The deceased person was however identified as being 32 at the time of her death. CCIT enquiries with the deceased person's family established that she was born in Narrabri on 28 June 1951.
- 42. A copy of the deceased person's New South Wales (NSW) birth certificate has been obtained from the NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages and accompanies this report as **Attachment W**.

Deceased Person's Post-Mortem Examination

- 43. The autopsy or post-mortem examination of the deceased person was conducted by Dr [Ian] John Charles RAMSAY at midday on Monday 17 October 1983. Dr RAMSAY completed both the Form E 'Post-Mortem Examination, Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death' dated 17/10/1983 and the Form 10 'Post-Mortem Examination Report' dated 18/10/1983.
- 44. Dr RAMSAY recorded the deceased person's height as 167cm. It is general practice prior to the commencement of an autopsy for the pathologist to measure the body and there is no reason to believe that this was not the case in this instance.
- 45. Dr RAMSAY reports that rigor mortis had passed off, that there was hypostasis, i.e., the accumulation of fluid or blood in the lower parts of the body or organs, which occurs after death under the influence of gravity, that the deceased person's skin was pinkish in colour and that there was early decomposition, of the abdomen only.
- 46. The entry and exit wounds found on the deceased person's skull were reported as "... Small, circular wound, with surrounding charring of left temple, compatible with entrance wound of small calibre bullet. Exit wound in high right parietal area. Gross haematoma of scalp... Small radiating fractures around the exit wound. Brain shattered" with the cause of death being "cerebral destruction, due to (or as a consequence of) bullet wound to the head".

Post-Mortem Exhibits

47. A sample of the deceased person's blood, the excised entrance wound, and the distorted bullet located near the exit wound were individually sealed, labelled, and provided to the Queensland Police Officer present throughout the autopsy, S/C Rod HUNKIN, for forwarding to the government analyst, forensic laboratory and scientific section for subsequent examination.

Cremation of the Deceased Person

- 48. The investigative review established that the Office of the State Coroner did not hold documentation pertaining to the deceased person's cremation other than an image of the Certificate of Cremation included with correspondence provided to them by COLE. CCIT engagement with the deceased person's family enabled investigators to obtain a copy of the cremation certificate from her brother Stan HANNAFORD, which is included with his statement within **Attachment O**.
- 49. Stan HANNAFORD states that following his sister's death he contacted her exhusband Duncan GROVER to find out what was happening and to offer to have her body brought to Narrabri to be buried near her grandmother and that GROVER told him that it had been the deceased person's wish to be cremated and that it was already in progress.
- 50. The deceased ex-husband Duncan GROVER states that sometime before they were married, the deceased persons had requested that she be cremated. GROVER further states that he doesn't know who authorised her cremation and that he just presumed that she'd made her wishes known to the family.
- 51. The deceased person was cremated at the Wongarra Crematorium in Townsville on 20 October 1983, for and on behalf of North Queensland Crematorium Limited.

Reporting officer enquiries established that North Queensland Crematorium Limited was deregistered as a business in 2011 and records are no longer available.

- 52. Despite GROVER's recollection to the contrary, inquiries with the Woongarra Crematorium by the reporting officer have established that the applicant, i.e., the person who organised the funeral and cremation was Duncan Roy GROVER of 50 Murray Street Cairns and that the crematorium was in possession of documentation pertaining to the cremation of the deceased person.
- 53. On 19 January 2021 the reporting officer submitted a request to the Office of the State Coroner for a requirement for information to be made in relation to the documents held by the Woongarra Crematorium, which have since been provided under section 16(2) of the *Coroners Act 2003* (Qld) and accompany this report as **Attachment X**.

Door Knocks of Incident Site (IS)

53. There was no mention of door knocks having been conducted in the vicinity of the IS within the Coroner's file provided to CCIT. Historic aerial imagery reveals a cluster of housing nearby:



Figure 9 - IS vicinity circa 1983 (refer Attachment S)

Address		Approx. Straight-line Distance to IS		
379	Lake Street	Cairns North	159	m
26	Rutherford Street	Cairns North	165	m
28	Rutherford Street	Cairns North	176	m
381	Lake Street	Cairns North	178	m
30	Rutherford Street	Cairns North	185	m
32	Rutherford Street	Cairns North	191	m

Address	Approx. Straight-line Distance to IS
	approxi straight the Distance to is

383	Lake Street	Cairns North	200	m
385	Lake Street	Cairns North	206	m
34	Rutherford Street	Cairns North	206	m
36	Rutherford Street	Cairns North	215	m
25	Howe Street	Cairns North	218	m
27	Howe Street	Cairns North	224	m
38	Rutherford Street	Cairns North	229	m
29	Howe Street	Cairns North	232	m
31	Howe Street	Cairns North	238	m
33	Howe Street	Cairns North	244	m
35	Howe Street	Cairns North	259	m
37	Howe Street	Cairns North	265	m

- 54. The reporting officer engaged CCIT Intelligence officers to conduct enquiries to identify persons that were residing at the above addresses on or about 14 October 1983. Those enquiries were mostly unsuccessful and subsequent enquiries were conducted by the reporting officer with the Queensland Titles Registry, Lands Division, Department of Resources to identify the contemporaneous registered title holders.
- 55. As a result of those enquiries police identified Craig LOCK who was residing with his parents and brother at 379 Lake Street Cairns North and Janet LAWRENCE, who was a joint title holder of 26 Rutherford Street Cairns North.
- 56. LOCK has been identified as the person that located the deceased person and called Cairns police / 000. A statement has been obtained from LOCK.
- 57. The reporting officer has spoken directly with LAWRENCE who was unable to provide any information of assistance to the investigative review. A précis the conversation is included in this report.

CCIT Review Findings

- 58. There is an undeniable absence of detail within the original investigative documents as presently held by the Office of the State Coroner.
- 59. Despite attempts to locate additional original investigative material such as official police notebooks, patrol logs, property register etc, CCIT investigators were only able to locate the materials provided within this report.
- 60. Documents of significant investigative importance were located during the review, namely the incident scene photographs, the deceased person's BAC analysis

certificate and the additional Form 10 'Post-Mortem Examination Report' completed by Dr ANSFORD dated 08/11/1983 pertaining to the examination of the entry wound excised during the autopsy, the combination of which in conjunction with the witness statements obtained address to every extent presently possibly the family's concerns.

- 61. Crucial witnesses, namely Paul LANE, Lyn LANE, Mick O'SHEA and Liviana LEPORADI, who may have been able to elaborate on the movements of the deceased person the day before her death have passed away and there is now no other avenue available to investigators to elicit that information.
- 62. Due to the absence of forensic evidence the weapon used to inflict the injuries upon the deceased person can never be positively identified; however witness statements obtained from SOPER and GRAHAM suggests that it was GRAHAM's .22 calibre rifle that was found with the deceased on 14 October 1983.

Investigating Officer's Comment

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- 63. Despite the CCIT investigative and forensic review successfully locating previously unknown forensic documentation and identifying and obtaining informative statements from police involved in the original investigation, family members, friends and associates of the deceased person, no evidence or information has been revealed to contradict Under Secretary of the Department of Justice Colin PEARSON determination that the holding of an Inquest was unnecessary.
- 64. Forwarded for the information and consideration of the State Coroner.

Adam DENNIEN

A/Det Sgt 11805

Attachments

Items previously known / held by the Office of the State Coroner:

- A Coroners File consisting of:
 - A1. Request from Sue COLE to QLD Attorney-General and Minister for Justice dated 27/5/2019;
 - A2. Request from QLD Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to State Coroner conduct further inquiries and hold an Inquest dated 8/12/2019;
 - A3. Request from State Coroner to QPS for CCIT to review the circumstances of GROVER's death and original police investigation dated 7/4/2020:
 - A4. Form 4 'Report Concerning Death by Member of the Police Force' completed by Const. E.J. KINBACHER dated 14/10/1983;
 - A5. Form E 'Post-Mortem Examination, Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death' completed by Dr J.C. RAMSAY dated 17/10/1983;
 - A6. Form 10 'Post-Mortem Examination Report' completed by Dr J.C. RAMSAY dated 18/10/1983;
 - A7. Queensland Police Scientific Section Ballistic File, Case Reference Number B2361 prepared by QPS Scientific Officer, Glen KANOWSKI dated 26-27/10/1983;
 - A8. Statement of Kenneth Cyril SOPER dated 31/10/1983;
 - A9. Form 5 'Coroner's Recommendation and Notification that the Holding of an Inquest is Unnecessary' completed by Cairns Coroner Bernard James SCANLAN dated 31/01/1984;
 - A10. Form 6 'Decision of and Notification by Under Secretary of the Department of Justice that the Holding of an Inquest is Unnecessary' completed by Colin PEARSON dated 07/03/1984; and
 - A11. Associated correspondence between COLE and the Attorney-General, the Office of the State Coroner and others.

Items not previously known / held by the Office of the State Coroner:

Witness statements:

- B. Edward KINBACHER [Detective Senior Sergeant] [dated 03/09/2020];
- C. Arthur LAW [former police officer] [dated 03/08/2020];
- D. Rodney HUNKIN [former police officer] [dated 03/08/2020];
- E. Glen KANOWSKI [former police officer] [dated 03/08/2020];
- F. Bevan MANKTELOW [police officer] [dated 06/10/20];
- G. Kenneth SOPER [dated 17/08/2020];

- H. Glenn Gary GRAHAM [dated 21/01/2021];
- I. Duncan GROVER [original dated 18/08/2020, addendum dated 31/01/2021];
- J. Elizabeth GROVER [dated 18/08/2020];
- K. Sharon MACKEDIE [dated 24/01/2021];
- L. Roy GROVER [dated 27/07/2020];
- M. Craig LOCK [dated 26/01/2021];
- N. Susanne COLE [dated 02/08/2020]; and
- O. Stanley HANNAFORD [original dated 21/07/2020, addendum dated 01/08/2020];

Other documents/photographs:

- P. Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) Analysis Certificate pertaining to the blood sample taken from deceased person during autopsy / post-mortem, analysed by N. BAILEY [dated 21/11/1983];
- Q. Form 10, Post-Mortem Examination Report completed by Dr ANSFORD [dated 08/11/1983];
- R. Incident Scene Images:
 - R1. IS Image #001: Chrysler Galant, Queensland registration 757NXO, parked on Lake Street, Cairns [NB: marked police vehicle, 601ORB, observed parked to the rear];
 - R2. IS Image #002: Vehicle interior, deceased extricated, handbag and ammunition box on blood-soaked passenger seat;
 - R3. IS Image #003: Vehicle interior, deceased and rifle in-situ, driver's door closed;
 - R4. IS Image #004: Vehicle interior, deceased and rifle in-situ [NB: image appears to have been double exposed or has some other photographic anomaly present]; and
 - R5. IS Image #005: Vehicle interior, deceased and rifle in-situ, driver's door open;
- S. OPS Geospatial Solutions historical aerial imagery of Cairns North IS; and
- T. QPS Geospatial Solutions historical aerial imagery of Cairns North to Westcourt locations of interest;
- U. Google Maps Streetview of IS on Lake Street, Cairns North circa November 2007 (Map data © 2021 Google); and
- V. Google Maps Streetview of IS on Lake Street, Cairns North circa November 2019 (Map data © 2021 Google;

- W. Deceased person's New South Wales birth certificate;
- X. Woongarra Crematorium documents obtained under Coroners requirement (Form 25);