



# MAGISTRATES COURT of TASMANIA

## CORONIAL DIVISION



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## Record of Investigation into Death (Without Inquest)

*Coroners Act 1995  
Coroners Rules 2006  
Rule 11*

I, Stephen Carey, Coroner, having investigated the death of Andrea Rivelli

### **Find That:**

- (a) The identity of the deceased is Andrea Rivelli;
- (b) Mr Rivelli died in circumstances described in this finding;
- (c) Mr Rivelli died on 18 November 2014 at 14 Channel Highway, Kingston, Tasmania;
- (d) Mr Rivelli died as a result of self-inflicted wounds;
- (e) Mr Rivelli was born in Cuneo, Italy on 2 May 1987 and was aged 27 years at the time of his death; Mr Rivelli was a single man;
- (f) Mr Rivelli was a citizen of Italy and had visa authority to engage in itinerant work whilst touring Australia.

### **Background:**

Mr Rivelli is described by his father as a person who, after leaving school and becoming involved in the hospitality industry, developed an interest and love of travel. After he turned 20 years of age he began to travel to many countries in Europe, living and working for extended periods in those countries whilst working in the hospitality industry. He would normally travel and work in different countries during their peak tourist summer season and would return home to Italy for the winter.

In 2011 his father reports that during a period whilst he worked in Spain, Mr Rivelli developed an interest in photography and his travels thereafter in Europe were more directed to photography than hospitality.

In 2012 Mr Rivelli met Elenora Fraska and they commenced a relationship. They travelled together to Australia in December 2013 arriving in Perth. They shared rent of a house in Fremantle with four other persons and Mr Rivelli worked in the hospitality industry during this time. Unfortunately their relationship ended in May

2014; however Mr Rivelli's father reports that the couple remained friends and continued to communicate with each other.

Mr Rivelli returned to Italy in May 2014 to attend the wedding of his cousin; he was at home for less than a month before returning to Australia. However, during that time he is described as being happy and full of life. There were no indications of any issues and he was looking forward to returning to Australia.

Having returned to Australia, Mr Rivelli purchased a campervan in July 2014 and set off to tour Australia. He was using as a basis of his travel the organisation of "Willing Workers on Organic Farms". Apparently he would travel from location to location in order to secure itinerant work. During this period his family was sent regular photographs of his activities in Australia and he posted photographs and information via Facebook. His father reports that through his messages and photographs it was apparent that Mr Rivelli was enjoying himself.

Mr Rivelli's sister, Stefania, came to Australia in September 2014. They travelled together in Mr Rivelli's campervan through South Australia and Victoria and then on to Tasmania, arriving in approximately mid-October 2014. They then toured together around Tasmania before Stefania Rivelli returned home to Italy on 18 October 2014. This time together is reported as being "*wonderful*" and no issues were identified in respect of Mr Rivelli.

After his sister left Australia, Mr Rivelli travelled to Smithton to work on a farm for Paul and Belinda Soldo. Mr and Mrs Soldo report very positively upon their time with Mr Rivelli, noting that save for some expressions of sadness concerning the break-up of his relationship with Ms Fraska, he did not appear to have any mental health issues. They both report that during his time with them he appeared happy, bubbly and talkative. In particular, he shared a common interest with Mrs Soldo in photography. It was noted whilst he resided with them that it was a regular occurrence for him to engage in meditation during the afternoon.

At that time he talked with Mr and Mrs Soldo about his future plans and whether or not he would pursue a future photographic business or other options available to him within his family in Italy. Although he may have seemed unsure about his future, there was nothing untoward about his discussions that caused concern to those associated with him.

He made arrangements prior to leaving Mr and Mrs Soldo to attend a mediation centre at Mount Dromedary near Hobart. He attended this course which occurred during the period 6 November 2014 until approximately 16 November 2014. This course is run at a property known as "Vipassana Meditation Centre" in Mount Dromedary; it is funded by donation and runs for approximately 10 days. During this period participants follow a strict regime of silence and the course is designed for both physical and mental purification. Mr Rivelli was out of contact with his family during this period as no outside access is permitted but on 16 November 2014 he

sent a message via his mobile phone to his father which, when translated, stated “*I have missed you enormously. Will speak when we can, kisses, I love you.*” There was then an exchange of text messages between Mr Rivelli and his father which ended with a message to his father which translated to “*Gughii, I am feeling a bit strange.*”

At some time during the morning of 18 November 2014 in Italy, Mr Rivelli’s father woke up and noted he had two missed calls from his son, noting that the time difference meant Tasmania was 10 hours ahead of Italian time. Mr Rivelli’s father attempted to contact his son’s mobile phone but it went to message bank

### **Circumstances Surrounding the Death:**

CCTV footage identifies that at approximately 3:00am on 18 November 2014 Mr Rivelli drove his campervan to the intersection of Channel Highway and Hutchins Street, Kingston, where he parked the vehicle and then left it insecure with his personal possessions inside. He is then noted to have walked away from the vehicle, he has gone to the rear area of Kingston Hotel at 14 Channel Highway, Kingston, to a garden area which contained an open stormwater drain behind that hotel accommodation. On the afternoon of 18 November 2014 at 1:26pm Sheree Wakefield who had joined a friend in the accommodation at Kingston Hotel noted a body located in the open stormwater drain area behind the accommodation unit. She called Emergency Services and, whilst awaiting their arrival, checked on the welfare of the male person located in that area. Police attended the scene at 1:30pm and commenced investigation. Ambulance officers also arrived and following their examination determined that no resuscitation efforts were appropriate given that the person was deceased.

A detailed police investigation then took place given that the male person had significant injuries about his neck and that there was a broken knife found in the vicinity of the body. That police investigation, together with the post-mortem examination, concluded that the injuries suffered by the person, later identified as Mr Rivelli, had been self-inflicted. A note was found near the body which translated read:

*“My name is Andrea Rivelli. I have lost the beautiful gift of life. Chigo Franca, Augusto Rivelli, whom I loved.”*

Mr Rivelli was noted at the scene to have lacerations to his left arm above the elbow, partially around the circumference on the anterior and medial aspects. He also had cut himself with linear cuts to the neck on the right side. However, the most significant injury was a penetrating trauma to the throat. The results of the post-mortem provide more specific details of the wounds suffered by Mr Rivelli and the forensic pathologist concludes:

*“Based on the information I have at present and the appearances of the wounds, I believe these are consistent with being self-inflicted and I do not see any suspicious features..... There are no defensive type wounds.”*

I am satisfied based upon the police investigation that tragically Mr Rivelli has taken his own life by inflicting wounds to himself that have caused his death.

**Comments and Recommendations:**

The circumstances of Mr Rivelli’s death do not require me to make any comments or recommendations pursuant to section 28 of the *Coroners Act* 1995.

Unfortunately the police investigation into this matter has not identified any underlying cause as to why Mr Rivelli has acted to take his own life. There is no indication in the period leading up to his death that he was suffering any significant mental illness. However, given his strong family relationship and also the positive impression he left with people he met in Tasmania, it appears that some significant change has occurred to his mental health in the immediate period leading up to his death. It is unfortunate that at this time of obvious crisis he was without close family or other community support and appropriate steps could not have been taken to help him.

This was indeed a tragic incident for which we may never know the underlying cause or reason.

In conclusion, I convey my sincere condolences to the family of Mr Rivelli.

Dated: 29 July 2015 at Hobart in the State of Tasmania.

**Stephen Carey**  
**Coroner**