



MAGISTRATES COURT *of* TASMANIA

CORONIAL DIVISION



RECORD OF INVESTIGATION INTO DEATH (WITHOUT INQUEST)

Coroners Act 1995
Coroners Rules 2006
Rule 11

I, Christopher P. Webster, Coroner, having investigated the deaths of

Denis John Santarmis and John Jones (aka Boeschoton)

WITHOUT HOLDING AN INQUEST

FIND THAT:

1. **Denis John Santarmis (Mr Santarmis) is presumed to have died between the 24 and 26 March 1984 in the waters off White Beach, Tasmania.**

Mr Santarmis was born in Olympia, Greece on 27 September 1927 and was aged 56 years at the time of his disappearance. Mr Santarmis had been residing at 127 Warwick Street, West Hobart. Mr Santarmis was single with no children and there is little known information in relation to his background, associates and employment, and there are no known living relatives.

2. **John Jones (AKA Boeschoten) (Mr Jones) is presumed to have died between the 24 and 26 March 1984 in the waters off White Beach, Tasmania.**

Mr Jones was born John Boeschoten in Holland on 11 December 1944 and was aged 39 years at the time of his disappearance. Mr Boeschoten changed his name by deed-poll and resided at 33 Safety Cove Road, Port Arthur, and was married with two children. He was self employed as a builder.

CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DEATHS:

Mr Santarmis and Mr Jones were last seen alive during the late afternoon of 24 March 1984 at the Four Seasons Motel at Port Arthur, Tasmania. They left the motel together to travel to White Beach with the intention to go fishing in a 16ft vessel. Mr Santarmis and Mr Jones were not seen again, and neither has the vessel ever been recovered.

There is no information relating to the boating experience or capabilities of either Mr Santarmis or Mr Jones. Neither is there any information relating to the capabilities and safety equipment of the vessel.

Mr Santarmis and Mr Jones were reported missing at the Nubeena Police Station at 2:30pm on 26 March 1984, at which time a search for the men and their vessel was conducted. Over the next few days police search and rescue services conducted land, sea and air searches of the East Coast with no trace of them or their boat. Police also used the radar of the police 'Vigilant' to sweep for any wreckage, with none located.

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On the morning of 1 July 1985, Mr Dennis Carmichael was running along White Beach at Nubeena when he located pieces of a boat washed onto the shore at high water mark. He observed the pieces to be scattered over a distance of about 100 metres. On 5 July 1985, Mr Carmichael was at the beach again when he located another piece of a boat washed further up the beach at high water mark. Mr Carmichael advised the officer at Nubeena Police Station about the boat pieces.

According to the report of the Nubeena Station officer, Constable Hurst, there had been exceptionally high tides and strong south westerly winds during the first week of July 1985, which may have brought the pieces of the boat to the surface. He observed the pieces of boat located to include the stern, complete bottom of the boat and pieces of the side. He noted the bottom of the boat measured 12 feet in length. The inside pieces were cream in colour, with the outside originally being blue and having several layers of white painted over it.

Since this time Mr Santarmis and Mr Jones have remained 'missing persons' with Tasmania Police as they have not been located. Without evidence suggesting otherwise, it is likely that Mr Santarmis and Mr Jones have gone to sea on 24 March 1984, and due to some unknown boating incident both males have drowned at sea and neither their bodies or vessel ever located.

In 1993 the deaths of both men were registered with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages upon application by the Public Trustee.

Police have exhausted all enquiries in relation to locating the reported missing persons Mr Santarmis and Mr Jones. There have been no records of either man since they were reported missing in 1984.

CONCLUSION:-

I am satisfied that police conducted an extensive and thorough search for and investigation into the disappearance of both persons.

I am satisfied that on the investigation of the disappearance did not identify the involvement of any other person in the circumstances of their disappearance and their deaths were in circumstances of their own creation.

In concluding I extend my sincere sympathy to the families of Mr Santarmis and Mr Jones for their loss.

DATED: 31st August 2011 at Hobart in the State of Tasmania.



**Christopher P Webster
CORONER**