

THE SHOOTING OF JANITA MCNAUGHTON

By Ken McNaughton

My 23-year-old cousin Janita McNaughton was in a boat near the *Newhaven Yacht Squadron* on Phillip Island about 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 27 December 1983 when she was shot between the eyes from a small caliber firearm [1-3]. Janita collapsed and did not regain consciousness. She died five hours later in the *Alfred Hospital* after being rushed there by the *Angel of Mercy* helicopter ambulance. Janita was on holiday with a man her own age and three other people. Forensic experts, divers and senior members of the homicide squad arrived on Wednesday and searched for the gun. An autopsy failed to give leads on where the bullet came from. It was not possible to pinpoint the direction of the shot.



Figure 1. Janita McNaughton.

The Truth, a tabloid that specialized in sensational stories, included other details. A detective said that Janita was a very attractive girl with long blonde hair, who spoke well and was always well groomed, well dressed and very pleasant. A senior spokesman for the homicide squad said Janita was awaiting trial on a burglary charge and had convictions for drug-related problems. She was on \$500 bail on condition she report daily to the Box Hill police station. “She was living de facto with a bloke staying in motels all over Melbourne and breaking into houses ... The boyfriend had the same heavy habit.” Two of the three men with whom Janita was arrested in late September were in *Pentridge Prison* and the third was in the *Odyssey House* rehabilitation center.

This article also quoted more favorable background from some family members. Janita’s aunt, Mrs. Helen Gray of Park Orchards, said Janita was a very likeable, outgoing and fun-loving girl with a lot of friends. “She loved sport, snow skiing, skating and that sort of thing, she was a fitness fanatic.” Janita’s grandfather, Louis Cook, said she had been attending night school for her High School Certificate, possibly to pursue a career in medicine. “She used to go and help out voluntarily with the children at the local spastic centre—she loved children.” Janita’s brother Rob, a car salesman, said she had been trying hard to break into the modeling world. “She had been doing work for fashion houses.” Rob said Janita had a bookmaker’s clerk’s license and “pencilled” regularly for a well-known bookie. He added of her death, “They reckon it was murder.” Janita lived in Clyde Street, Box Hill, with her mother, Mrs. Joan Easterby, Rob and her 13 year-old half-sister. Rob said Janita woke early on Tuesday morning and packed for an overnight stay on Phillip Island. A man she had met about two weeks earlier was supposed to pick her up at 6 a.m., but didn’t arrive until about 11, in a blue Mercedes sports car. *The Herald* on December 28th stated “... other people on the boat with the woman told police the shot came from the shore.”

MY COUSIN

I knew Janita's parents. Her father Ronald Auburn McNaughton was brother to my father, Charles Dudley McNaughton, who died of a brain tumor on 7 April 1944 when I was three. I met Ron, who was ten years older than me, quite a few times when I was a boy and met his girlfriend Joan Cook when they were courting. I was aware of their first child, Peter, and heard he died early, apparently while having his tonsils removed at age five. Robert was their second child. My family didn't keep up with Ron, so I doubt I ever saw Janita, who was born in 1960 and would have been only three when I left Australia. Janita's 13-year old sister was from Joan's second marriage, as the marriage of Ron and Joan did not last. Joan's second husband, David Easterby, was killed in a head-on collision between two speed boats on Lake Eildon in January 1977. Ron also married again. I took my son Aurelius to dinner with him and his second wife in August 1988 and we met their two young daughters. Ron must have given me the three newspaper clippings at that time. I don't know if those were his only copies or if he had duplicates. It's possible that his son Robert came by that night and I gave him my business card.

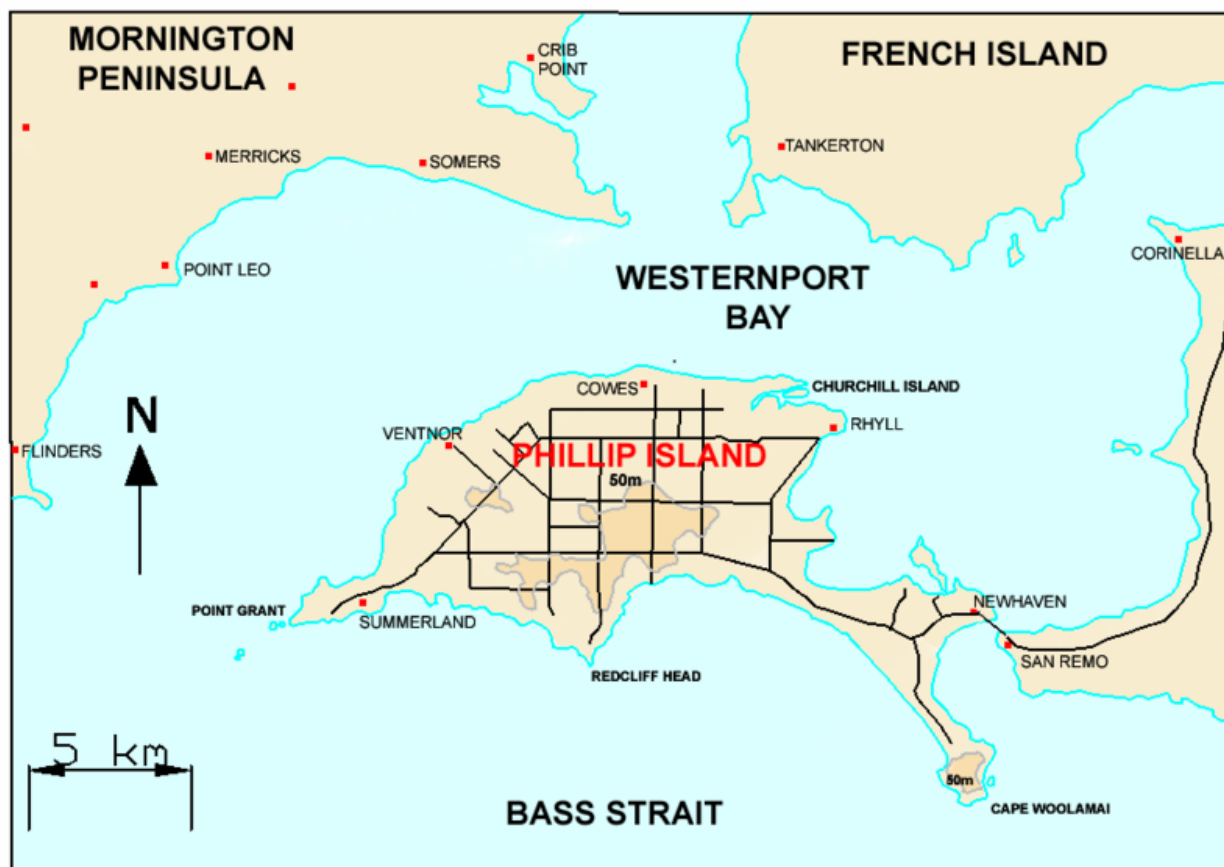
On Friday 21 February 2014 I found a telephone number for Joan. I called her around 7:30 p.m. I said I remembered visiting her family by the beach. She said her parents, the Cooks, had a holiday house at McCrae. Joan's daughter Kim by her second marriage was killed in a car crash in 1992 aged 21.

I looked up the Cowes Police, who had been mentioned in the press clippings. I sent a brief email to the address given but the delivery was aborted after one second. When I telephoned, Nicholas Carlson answered. He suggested I email him, but I got the same error message. I called three times. He emailed me, saying "I have spoken to our IT department and there are filters in place to stop some emails getting into or [sic] system. If you are unable to reply to this message I can hopefully set up through our security advisor for your emails to get through." I called Nick on Wednesday 25th. He said he had not heard from IT but gave me his private email address. The website of the Victoria Police Museum [4] said they do not hold much historical information relating to individual crimes or prisoners. For such information it is best to use the resources of the Public Records Office of Victoria, the State Library of Victoria (SLV) [5] and the National Library of Australia. I sent an inquiry to the SLV on March 2nd and received a very detailed response on the 3rd, with five hyperlinks. Here is an edited version without the links.

Dear Ken

Thank you for your enquiry concerning the death of Janita Roslyn McNaughton. McNaughton died in the circumstances you describe and as a result there was an inquest held on 27 November 1984. The complete inquest file is held by the Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV) and they have a helpful information sheet concerning inquest records located at A. When making the request you will need to quote the reference number 1985/80. I am unsure whether you will be able to organise to have PROV make copies of the inquest files but their help sheet for this is at B. If they are unable to provide this service then you can engage a search agent to do so. Details of search agents are available on the PROV web site at C. The Melbourne newspaper *The Age* reported on 31 December 1983 that an unnamed man was charged and bailed on his own recognizance on a \$2000 surety. *The Age* is indexed for 1984-85 but I could find no obvious reference to a committal hearing or a trial. The index is by title of article only under the heading

‘Murder’. No Victorian daily newspapers of this era have been digitised or provide keyword searching. All existing Victorian court records are held either by the relevant court or by PROV. A guide to the records is available at D and also the SLV guide *Court cases in Australia* at E. Unless you intend visiting Australia to undertake research you may engage the services of a search agent (see link above). I hope this information is of assistance. If you have any further questions on this matter please contact me as below
Kind regards, David Flegg, 8664 7152, State Library of Victoria.



THE SEARCH

I emailed one of the professional searchers listed and he sent me an estimate for the job. Then I contacted a friend in Melbourne, Alexander Romanov-Hughes, also an experienced searcher. I told him about the current high cost of international monetary transfers. He felt he could obtain the information at no cost.

On March 5th Alexander sent me five more press clippings [6-10]. The first four repeated a lot of information in the other three. Some new angles were that the boat was called a “half cabin cruiser” and that it was “stationary in a mangrove patch” at the time. Detective Inspector Les Walsh said that their information was that Janita “had kicked the habit” and “[s]he seemed to be a fairly ordinary sort of girl, not a Bonnie and Clyde type ...” Two detectives from Wonthaggi had been helping [6]. Walsh said they did not believe Janita “had been involved in selling heroin.” He thought “[t]he possibility that she had been shot to silence her over some drug deal

was remote ...” [7]. *The Age* [8] said “Police last night charged a Melbourne man, 29, with the manslaughter of a woman at Phillip Island on Tuesday. The man was granted bail on his own undertaking with a surety of £2,000. He is due to appear in the City Court on 5 March.” *The Sun* [9] included a headshot of Janita, possibly from her modelling portfolio. There were several quotes from Janita’s mother, who said “We worked together on it and I’m sure she had not touched drugs for at least three months. You could see by the way she looked that she had given them away ...” Walsh said Janita was shot “from close range.” The article said she was on the boat with three men and a woman. *The Herald* [10] took a commercial angle— “Phillip Island traders believe bad publicity about the holiday resort has affected business.” Mr. Vernon Johnson, president of the island’s tourism association, who ran a zoo and wildlife park, said “there are still some vacancies down here in motels and caravan parks, which is most unusual.”

Figure 2. The bridge at San Remo, taken in 1954. Newhaven is on Phillip Island, across Westernport Bay.



On March 14th Alexander sent me another article [11], which attempted to summarize the results of an inquest held on 27 November 1984 by the coroner Mr. Anthony Ellis SM (Stipendiary Magistrate). The reporter quoted Mr. Peter Reardon, who assisted the coroner. The article summarized the events of that fateful day, 27 December 1983, as follows. Janita was on the boat with four people. The three men were Michael Kelly of Lorraine Crescent, Broadmeadows; Mark Adams of Bulleen Road, North Balwyn; and Theodosios Komianos of Tarago Crescent, Oakleigh South. Komianos took two pistols on board because he did not want to leave them in the car. After Janita was shot, one of the men threw the pistols overboard.

Next day they went to a solicitor and consequently changed their statements, saying the death was accidental. In Kelly’s second statement, on December 30th, he said that before his first statement he asked the others to say Janita was shot from shore because it was an accident and he did not want to get his friend in trouble. Adams claimed that both his statements were true but he did not tell police the others were making false statements. The story runs as follows. The group had been drinking when Komianos brought out one of the pistols and fired at a can in the water. Kelly criticized Komianos because the shot missed and Komianos asked him if he could do better. Komianos moved the pistol behind him to pass it to Kelly so he could try firing at the can. Komianos knocked his hand and dropped the gun, which fired, hitting McNaughton between the eyes. The Hawthorn Court inquest of November 27th was adjourned to December 13.

On 17 March 2014 Alexander sent me two more clippings about the inquest [12, 13]. Next day he emailed me seventeen pages from the inquest [14]. James Henry McNamara conducted an autopsy on 28 December 1983 and found a 3/8-in. wound just above the bridge of the nose and slightly to the left of the midline. A bullet was recovered from the right occipital region, one of the four main lobes of the brain. Homicide Detective Glen Hill was in charge of ancillary

investigations. The State Chemistry Laboratory in Flinders Lane determined that the liver contained less than one milligram per kilogram combined of Diazepam (Valium, used to treat anxiety, seizures and muscle relaxation) and Nordiazepam (the major metabolite of Diazepam). There were no common drugs or poisons in the stomach. Narcotics were not detected in the urine or bile. The alcohol content of the blood was 0.009 gm/100 ml. One gram per 100ml would be 1%, so this is 0.009%. The legal limit for a taxi driver in Australia in 2014 is 0.02%. Janita was clean and she had one or two beers. She had every reason to be anxious. Janita's uncle, Adrian Reginald Jackson, a barrister and solicitor of Park Road in Park Orchards identified the body on 30 December 1983.

FIRST STATEMENT

Theo Komianos lived with his mother Effie at 37 Tarago Crescent, South Oakleigh. He moved there four or five months previously from 3 Alvina Street, South Oakleigh. This first statement, dated 27 December 1983, is four pages long and is summarized here; some minor facts have been combined from the second statement. Komianos works as a jeweler with Michael Kelly at T & K Castings, 330 Little Collins Street and is engaged to Shirley-Anne Knight, of Fitzroy Street, Kilmore. On 27 December 1983 he drove late afternoon in his BMW with his mother, Michael Kelly and Shirley Anne Knight to stay at Shirley's holiday place in Corona Drive, Woolamai Waters [close to Newhaven on Phillip Island]. His friend Mark Adams followed in Mark's blue Mercedes with Janita. Shirley, Mark and Jan went to a sandwich shop near Newhaven. Michael and Theo went across the bridge to San Remo, bought some wine and beer, sat around the house and went back to San Remo to buy about two dozen beer cans at the pub and gas up Theo's car at the BP station.

About 5 p.m. they drove in Theo's car to the Newhaven Yacht Club where Shirley's boat was moored. Komianos had put a few dollars into the boat originally. They bought some blue bait. Theo got the boat, picked up Michael, came near shore to pick up a drum from the BP petrol station and, with Shirley, Mark and Jan, he drove the boat under the bridge at San Remo toward the entrance. They drove around and had some drinks. Mark was in the driver's seat and Theo was at the back. Theo showed Mark how to handle the boat. Theo took control again when they came near some bushes [mangroves]. Mark was still in the driver's seat with Theo directing him. They drifted, listened to AM radio and had some drinks for about half an hour. Theo saw some fish and cast a rod from the back of the boat. Jan [Janita] moved next to him. Theo said he heard a bang that sounded like it came from the rear of the boat. Jan fell straight back and was bleeding from her forehead. All four gathered around her. Theo drove the boat onto the beach at the club and told people on the shore to call an ambulance. A nurse and a doctor came and said she needed a hospital. An ambulance and the police came. Theo told a sergeant he had a sick mother at home [Shirley's place] and would come to Cowes police station after to make a statement.

Theo drove to the marina to look for a small chain with a crucifix, switch off the boat lights and close the cabin. Then he went to the police station with his mother, Mark and Shirley [Michael was already there]. Theo said there had not been any arguments that day or on the boat. He said there were no firearms or ammunition on the boat. He said he had not fired any firearms recently. He said no one on the boat was intoxicated and he did not know who shot Jan.

SECOND STATEMENT

New information in Theo's second statement is summarized as follows. He is 29, born on 17 August 1954. Detective Senior Constable B. A. Murphy of the Homicide Squad read him his rights. He came back to the Cowes police on 30 December 1983 to tell the truth about how Janita was shot. Part of his first statement was false. About 5 p.m. Jan asked how much daylight was left and someone said about two hours. Theo had two pistols wrapped in a striped towel under the driver's seat in his car and put them in the top right hand side of the cabin under some blankets. No one else knew about this. One was a black Beretta with 'Czechoslovakia' written under the name. The other was a Bernadita, very small. Both took bullets with 625 M.C. written around the edge of the top [a diameter of 6.25 millimeters is 0.25 inches].

Theo got bored when he couldn't catch any fish so he retrieved the towel from the cabin and put it on a chair on the left hand side at the rear of the boat. He took the Bernadita, which was loaded, cocked it, and from the middle of the back of the boat fired at a beer can twenty meters away. The shot fell short. Michael, who was standing behind him said something like "piss weak." Theo turned to his right with the pistol by his side and told Michael to do better. Theo moved his hand back to pass the gun to Michael. The gun must have slipped from his hand and hit the floor of the boat. Theo heard a loud bang, saw the gun on the floor and Jan falling backwards with blood on her face. Michael said to get the boat back to the pier. Michael and Shirley-Anne were holding Jan. Michael asked for another towel. Theo saw the gun on the chair and threw it overboard. When he picked up the towel he saw the other gun and threw it overboard as well.

Mark asked what happened. Michael said it was an accident. Just before they got back someone suggested they say Jan had been shot from the shore. Theo thought Jan was standing three or four feet behind him. After making statements at the police station everyone was upset. They went back to Melbourne and discussed what had happened. Theo was sick. They went to see a doctor and a solicitor. The solicitor agreed with Theo's suggestion he go back to the police and say what really happened.

Theo had the guns for six to nine months. His father purchased one for himself and the Beretta for Theo. His father became very sick so Theo took his gun as well. He did not have any licenses for the guns. He had them because he was a jeweler and wanted to scare people off from robberies. That fateful day, Tuesday 27 December 1983 was the first time Theo had fired the Bernadita. He had fired the Beretta twice in Central Australia. The guns were always kept with the magazines in and loaded. Theo had never bought ammunition for them and claimed not to be familiar with guns.

Komianos stated that when he dropped the gun he was feeling all right and was not affected by drink. It was the first time he had dropped the gun. He didn't know if it was faulty. He was not aware if any repair or cleaning had been done to it recently. He normally kept the guns with him at all times. Theo had only known Jan for two weeks. He met her at Mark's shop when she inquired about the value of some jewelry. He knew Mark was taking her out but didn't know her well. They returned to Melbourne about 11:30 a.m. next day [Wednesday 28th December] and tried to contact Mr. Allain [of the Cowes police] and left a message for him. At the inquest, a Mr. Lazarus appeared for Komianos and Mr. Jackson appeared as Next of Kin.

CLIPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

While I was in Florida at the end of March 2014, Janita's mother sent me some more news clippings [15-20] and some photographs. An undated clip [20] was headed "Bay girl: Charges dropped." Janita was to appear in Magistrates Court on charges of theft of a car, burglary, theft, handling stolen property and unlicensed driving. When Janita's name was called in court, prosecutor Sergeant Rod Cain sought leave to withdraw all charges because Janita was dead. With this clip, Janita's mother included a personal note to me, "I think Janita was to give evidence here against some drug dealers. Suspicious??" A 23-year-old-girl who wants to be a model goes down the wrong track, gets involved with heroin, is caught and has to defend herself. What is she going to say? A hardened criminal might suppress the names of the people who supplied the drugs. But a 23-year-old girl who is living with her mother, brother and sister and is trying to go straight might reveal the names of some people who didn't want to be named.



Figure 3. Robert McNaughton, Janita's brother, with his three children.

In response to my question, Janita's mother sent me a note: "The man Janita was involved in re the burglaries was Peter Lindsay. He was her boyfriend at the time & ended up in Pentridge. He wrote me a few times & I visited him once at Pentridge to see if he knew anything about the "boat people." He just wanted revenge on them. Last I heard he was being transferred to a gaol at Castlemaine & I lost touch because I moved from Box Hill to Mont Albert."

THE INQUEST

The inquest was conducted by Coroner Anthony R. Ellis at the Hawthorn Court on 27 November and 13 December 1984. Mr. Peter Reardon assisted the Coroner, acting as prosecuting attorney. Mr. Lazarus represented the accused Theo Komianos; Adrian Reginald Jackson represented the next of kin. Supporting documents were presented. The other three people in the boat were questioned by Reardon, Jackson and Lazarus. Ellis interjected for clarity. The questioning was vigorous and at times quite drawn out. Reardon and Jackson were at times aggressive. Lazarus was laid back but very effective. The testimony of the other three people on the boat complemented the statements by Komianos. On December 13th Lazarus summarized, urging clemency for his client. Reardon emphasized three suspicious aspects. The trajectory of the bullet entered between the eyes, took a horizontal path and rested at the back of the skull. The other people in the boat lied in their first statements, casting doubt on their second statements. Reardon thought criminal negligence was indicated and he urged a finding of manslaughter.

The coroner concluded that the investigation was thorough. He thought that, as suspicious as either of the two statement sets were, that under testing in court, the evidence given by the witnesses according to their second statements had not been sufficiently discredited for him to conclude that it was an elaborate fabrication. There were no gunpowder marks near the wound, which would have been detected after an extremely close range shot. No motive for murder had been established. There was a lack of evidence for serious criminal charges, such as criminal

negligence, unlawful or dangerous behavior. The coroner returned an open verdict because he could not decide if this was an accident or otherwise. The exact words, signed and dated 13 December 1984 by A. R. Ellis, S.M., Coroner: “On the evidence adduced I am unable to determine if this death was accidental or otherwise.” There was not sufficient reason to proceed to trial. The charge of manslaughter against Komianos was dropped.

When I revisited this case it was thirty years old. The original cold case unit of the Victoria Police was formed in 1999 but was scrapped in 2008 [21]. The unit was reopened on 4 July 2011 to draw up a list of murders that could be solved. The hit list was topped by murders in which new leads had emerged, no matter how old the case was. Janita’s death was not classified as a murder, but murder had not been ruled out. On 15 April 2014 I called the cold case unit and spoke with Julie Stanes. I said that my first cousin had been shot between the eyes in a boat off Phillip Island on 27 December 1983 and that no one had ever been prosecuted. She asked for the name of the victim but could not find Janita in their database. I said that the inquest had returned an open verdict because the coroner could not decide if death was accidental or otherwise. Julie started to say that this would not qualify as one of their cases. I interrupted and asked if she would respond to an email inquiry. She gave me her email address. I said I would send a one-paragraph summary of the case plus a list of *dramatis personae*. I would like to know if there was any new information on the case. I also asked if there were any filters on their email system to prevent mine getting through from the USA. I said I would call her back if mine bounced, but it didn’t.

I was shocked when I learned in 1988 that my cousin Janita had been shot between the eyes. I never knew her. I lived 12,000 miles away and at the time and I was preoccupied with helping to raise my own family. It wasn’t until early 2014, when I reread the first three press clippings, that I experienced anger. I wanted someone to be responsible for ending this young life. I wanted someone to be punished. I wanted things to be cut and dried. I wanted to be the one who brought down justice. And so I pursued the case, learning all I could and soliciting help. I read the transcript of the inquest, almost 260 pages. I learned that the police investigation had been very thorough. I learned that the two-day inquest had been fair. The coroner kept a tight rein. The prosecutor asked tough questions. Janita’s uncle, Adrian Reginald Jackson, representing next of kin, tested the witnesses. The coroner returned an open verdict. He could not decide if Janita’s death was an accident or otherwise.

If this really was a bizarre accident, when the gun dropped Janita must have leaned forward and looked directly at it, because the bullet entered between her eyes and took a horizontal path to the back of her skull. If this was a bizarre accident, as the four other people on the boat had sworn, those four were victims of cruel fate as well. A Christmastime jaunt turned into a horror story they would have to live with for the rest of their lives. But the coroner returned an open verdict. He could not decide if this was an accident or otherwise. We have an excellent description of how it might have been a tragic accident. But if this was not an accident, what did the coroner have in mind by “otherwise?”

Perhaps the coroner thought this could have been a pre-meditated execution—Theo and Mark conspired to get Janita out on the boat. Either she had compromised their activities by telling tales to the police or else she had threatened some people higher up the drug chain who got the

two young men to eliminate the problem. Theo brought two loaded guns. Mark, Janita's escort, kept away. Theo shot at a can, turned around and shot Janita between the eyes. Theo told Michael, his 20-year-old employee, and Shirley, his fiancé, not to squeal. Theo threw the guns overboard and they told police the shot came from shore. That night, Mark called his real girlfriend, who put them in touch with Alex Lewenberg, who Theo now says is the most expensive criminal defense lawyer. Lewenberg tidied up the story, rehearsed all four and they submitted their second statements three days later. Then he arranged for Lazarus, a trusted associate, but perhaps not a high-profile criminal defense attorney, to represent Theo in court. Or perhaps the coroner suspected a spontaneous twist—Theo took the guns for the reasons in his statement. But in the boat Janita revealed what she had been telling the police and compromised Theo. He got mad and shot her.

You can see the coroner's dilemma. Bizarre accident or planned assassination—both stories seem flawed. We may never know. We do know Janita died way too young. She never had a chance to grow up and show us what she could do.

A TALK WITH THEO KOMIANOS

At 7:35 p.m. on Friday 25 April 2014, I telephoned T. Komianos in Westmeadows. A deep gruff voice answered quite quickly and may have identified himself as Theo. I said "Is this Theo?" and he said it was. I said my name was Ken, I was a writer, calling from America, and thought he may be able to help me with a story. He asked how, and I asked if he had a jewelry store in Melbourne in the 1980s. He said he did, so I told him I was writing a story about my cousin, who may have come into his store. I explained that I was not around at the time because she and I were separated by age. Her father was my father's brother. My father died of a brain tumor when I was three. Her parents divorced when she was young and we did not keep up with her family. Theo asked what her name was and I said "Janita." There was a silence so I said "Janita McNaughton. She died young in a tragic accident at Phillip Island. She was only 23. I didn't even know her. I think you were in the boat at the time." Theo said he couldn't comment on that. I would have to speak to Alex Lewenberg, so I asked if Lewenberg had advised him not to comment. He said he could give me Lewenberg's telephone number, which he did, but not to call now because Lewenberg was Jewish and it was Saturday. I could call him on Monday.

I chatted about how hard it must have been for the four other people in the boat. How I had read the inquest and knew that the coroner returned an open verdict. Theo said the verdict was "Accidental misadventure." That might have been the goal of the defense, but it is not recorded in the transcript. The conversation could have ended there, but it didn't. Theo started talking and kept talking. I mostly listened. His voice was deep and a bit slurred, with an accent between Australian and perhaps something European. Sometimes I got confused about which person he was referring to, so I would ask him who it was. Sometimes I wondered if he was getting off the track and I would refer to one of my pre-prepared questions. I didn't understand some words he said. I had decided not to record the call but kept scribbling notes, covering nine pages over the full hour of our conversation. I may have misheard him on some points or I may have misunderstood. Once or twice my mind drifted as he went on. This is my best shot at recalling what he said. It is roughly in chronological order of the call but I have consolidated some sections, since we returned to certain topics.

Theo told me he was on a three-quarters pension [He was 29 in 1983 so he would now be about 60]. He said he had an accident in 2003 [twenty years after the shooting]. He was at Bunnings in Broadmeadows [Bunnings started in the wood business in Western Australia in 1886 and has expanded across Australia and New Zealand, like Home Depot in the U.S. Bunnings was fully acquired by Wesfarmers in 1994]. Theo was walking in Bunnings with a couple of partners, one in front, one behind, when he was hit by a remote-controlled boom gate. There should have been a guard present, but wasn't. He had forty broken bones in his back, including broken discs. He had a seizure and spent eight weeks convalescing. I think management took his bank account and there was an auction of his belongings. By his own confession he is now "stuffed." The other day he tried to walk half a kilometer to the nearest post office but had to take pain killers half way there. He sued Bunnings for half a million dollars. They resisted. He told them he would take the story to a TV show called "Current Affairs." I asked if Lewenberg was able to help. Theo said Lewenberg is the highest paid criminal defense attorney. He wanted \$10,000 down, saying he would have to obtain the Bunnings DVD from security. So even though they "had been mates for thirty years" [since 1983] instead Theo found a law firm in Whitehorse Road, Blackburn, who took \$1,000 down on a win/lose basis. Seven days prior to the case Theo was told he didn't have a leg to stand on. Wesfarmers' Insurers told him to pay his medical expenses and settled for \$20,000, which covered his medical expenses but has not made up for his loss of function. Theo has trouble being out of bed fifteen minutes and couldn't work for three years. He is on 70% disability and gets \$420 a fortnight.

I asked if his family could help. His father died 32 years ago [just before Janita was shot]. His mother [Effie] died four years ago, of cancer. Theo was smoking cigarettes while talking with me and called them "cancer sticks." Then he started in on his sister. He called her a snake. It seems his sister, who lives in Dandenong or Pakenham, sold a block of land and a house that belonged to their mother in Greece without consulting Theo. There was something about a Greek nightclub. She is also supposed to have disposed of Theo's Rolex watch and to have stolen from their father's safe. This may have been in the jewelry store because Theo said there was \$2.1 million of gold [chain?] there that she sold on the black market. Theo was out of pocket with his customers and had to sell his car to pay debts. He seemed to want to impress me with his poverty and said he currently had two 20 cent coins and \$76.

Theo said he studied at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and was a metrologist [a metrologist measures characteristics of objects, substances or phenomena, a training that would be useful for a jeweler]. He worked for the Weather Bureau, doing twelve hour shifts for \$57 a week. His father took him to Coober Pedy, where the temperature in mid-summer reached 60° Centigrade [140° F], although a steady 24° C underground. They paid 45 cents for a gallon of super petrol, which now costs \$1.49 a liter for standard. They bought an old jeep and explored an abandoned mine that they bought for \$300. Eighty feet down Theo decided to take a leak on the wall, and the place lit up. They left with a potato sack of opals. Theo turned off his studies [and perhaps at this point went into the jewelry business with his father].

Theo talked about someone but I didn't understand who. She was a fat lesbian who had a homosexual son and died in Greece two years ago, hit by a motorbike, owing Theo \$10,000. He spoke of Prime Minister John Howard, the bank collapse, and of buying secondhand safes. Theo said his partner had been very sick for eleven years and I asked if that was Shirley. He said no,

he divorced Shirley. They had one child, a daughter, who was now 27 or 28 and six feet tall, but he hadn't seen her for seven years. Theo's partner, his "missus," was 65 and bipolar, taking eleven pills a day. Her brother was a doctor and she had seen all sorts of psychiatrists.

Theo said Janita was a police informer. I asked what she informed about and he said "anybody and everybody." He had it from "the horse's mouth" and then talked about the Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) offices, Russell Street to St. Kilda Road, and the army barracks opposite the Shrine. The headquarters of the Victoria Police was on the corner of Russell and Latrobe Streets before they moved to William Street in 1990. The iconic building was used in the opening titles of the television series *Homicide* (1964-76). In 2014 the Victoria Police Center was at 637 Flinders Street in the Docklands and the Police Complex was at 412 St. Kilda Road, opposite the Shrine and close to the Victoria Barracks. The State Crime Squads, situated in St. Kilda Road, investigate major drug trafficking and homicides. In July 2012 it was announced that a new \$230 million 'super police complex' would be built in Spencer Street at Docklands to consolidate three existing sites—412 St. Kilda Road, 637 Flinders Street and 452 Flinders Street (between King and William Streets). Relocation is planned for mid-2015.

Theo also said Janita was a heavy drinker and could drink a bottle of Scotch like it was water. I asked if anyone wanted her dead. He may have said no, then started talking about Mark Adams. Theo said Mark and Janita were lovers. He said he didn't know Janita's previous boyfriend, Peter Lindsay, who went to jail. Theo said the reason Janita didn't go to jail after they were both arrested was because she turned police informer [This may have been part of her daily requirement to report to the Box Hill police].

Theo said Mark made a big mistake. He ran out of money and lost the lease on a house. Mark spent six years in Theo's shop and got free booze. He stole from Theo and embarrassed him. A sum of \$7,000 was mentioned. But Theo felt sorry for him and let him use a spare room for a year. Theo's partner cooked and cleaned for him. Mark used Theo's car, would become intoxicated and argued with Theo's partner. But Theo's partner "kicked the shit" out of Mark, who used to be a karate instructor, and she kicked Mark out of the house. Mark was caught shop-lifting four years ago; he has a "toilet roll record." Theo started talking about Mark's involvement with drugs. He mentioned Xanax and "ISO" (?), and Mark selling tablets on the black market for \$100 each. Mark mixed "uppers," ordering chemical in his car. Mark was watched and "tapped" for eight months. He and some of his mates from the Sunshine area, "the lowest of the low," tried to dump a truckload in the Werribee River. Mark was caught and sent to jail for three to four years. He cleaned toilets and was given an early release for good behavior, together with a government check for \$1,500.

Theo started talking about another man, perhaps a colleague of Mark's, a Yugoslav with a record. I think his name was Joe. Theo said Joe was very dangerous, shifty and cunning. It seems that some part of his arrest required an officer with three stripes [a sergeant] but in his case it was an officer with only two stripes [leading senior constable]. Joe managed to have his court case postponed and did no jail time. He dealt in finished goods.

Theo said ISO is a very dangerous drug, but can be made in the kitchen. He said it is a real "brain fuck," while apologizing for the expression. He said Hawaii is full of it; the "dark people"

must love it. Hawaii has been the capital of methamphetamine use in the U.S. since the 1980s [22]. Meth first appeared in Hawaii when Chinese drug trafficking organizations began test-marketing ice, a crystalized form of meth in South East Asia. From there it came to Hawaii via the large Asian diaspora communities. In a recent assessment, the National Drug Intelligence Center called ice methamphetamine the greatest drug threat to Hawaii, followed by, in no particular order, cocaine, cannabis, heroin and the abuse of prescription drugs such as opioid pain killers. The writer of this article said he suspected that ice hit the Hawaiian surf community much the same way that heroin did in Australia and Hawaii in the 1980s. In the U.S. this is more often called crystal meth.

Theo said he had heard from the “horse’s mouth,” by “hearsay,” that Mark went to Hong Kong, and mentioned the Director of Public Prosecutions and Interpol Victoria [The Victorian DPP office was set up in 1983]. Mark rented a car and was hit for drugs. Interpol Victoria became involved, but Mark’s address is unknown. Theo said a Chinese jail is a terrible place to be. He mentioned one that is a hundred meters long; concrete cells with no blanket, and harsh laws. I think Theo has been to Hong Kong. He said Michael Kelly was not a partner in his jewelry business, just a manager while Theo was on trips, which could be dangerous. Theo started talking about a Deputy Commissioner who became involved with a Mafia prostitute and was executed with a number of shots. Perhaps it was a case in Hong Kong. I asked if Theo would like a copy of my story. He said yes and I asked where I should send it. He mentioned Lewenberg again. I asked Theo if he would like my telephone number and he said, “No, you’ll call me.”

He asked me only one question. “Where are you calling from?” Again I said I was calling from America and that I lived near Baltimore. He brightened up. “That’s where Scarface’s girlfriend lived,” he said—“He asked her where she was from and she said Baltimore.” I said it was a great movie and he said fondly “Every gangster has a copy.” He referred to ‘good guys’ and lost me until I realized he must have been referring to another mob movie, “Goodfellas.” He started talking about Tony Mokdel, who had a bunch of soldiers and dealt with drug imports, sales and manufacture. He said Tony was the big fella. He had been caught in Greece, wearing a “two bob wig,” having coffee in a diner. He said Tony took a sailing boat to Greece and talked about the repossession of a \$2 million house in his wife’s name. Now Tony was in jail for life. Plus his colleague Carl Williams was bashed to death while in jail. Theo added something about the drug Ecstasy, 3,000 tablets, and the Victorian CIB. I said I was surprised to see *Wikipedia* refer to Melbourne as the crime capital of Australia. He said, yes, there was a very heavy trade.

Theo added that he didn’t think Alex Lewenberg would tell me anything. He referred several times to Interpol, the Victorian and Australian branches. I said I doubted Interpol would want to talk to me. Theo said, “Hmmmnn, you might have to say Mark owes you money, or you owe him.” I realized that this was a complex web, with all sorts of deals going on between criminals, lawyers, police and intelligence agencies. There did not seem to be much protection for a police informant and no one seemed to care if Janita was dead. It’s an uneven battle between a killer and his dead victim. She cannot tell us what happened. I decided to read up on some of the people Theo had mentioned.

MELBOURNE GANGLAND KILLINGS

Between 16 January 1998 and 13 August 2010, thirty-six criminal figures or partners were murdered in Melbourne [23]. These were retribution murders involving various underworld groups who fought for control and influence. The majority of the murders are still unsolved. Most of the figures and incidents can be traced back to the Painter and Dockers Union, which controlled the cut on drugs, primarily heroin and cocaine, passing through the waterfront. The Moran family was prominent in the Union. By 1990 the local manufacture of amphetamines made Melbourne the amphetamine capital of Australia. Five other groups associated with the murders were the Honoured Society, the Carlton Crew (which included “Mick” Gatto), the Radev Gang (led by Nikolai “The Russian” Radev), The Sunshine Crew and the Williams Family (which included Antonios ‘Tony’ Mokbel and Carl Williams).

Some incidents of interest are as follows:

1998

23 November. “Mad Charlie” Hegyalji, who was associated with the amphetamine industry, was killed, probably for drug or debt reasons.

1999

9 January. Vince Manella was killed, perhaps debt-related.

9 September. Businessman Dimitrios Belias was killed with a single shot to the back of the head. He was believed to be heavily in debt.

13 October. Drug dealer Carl Williams was shot in the stomach over a drug dispute. Mark and Jason Moran were present but Williams said he blacked out and couldn’t identify the shooter.

25 November. Police raided an alleged amphetamine factory in Broadmeadows and seized amphetamine tablets, a pill press, a loaded pistol and 7 kg of powders, including pseudoephedrine, with a street value up to \$21 million. Carl Williams and his father George were charged with multiple offences [As I write this my sinuses have been cleared with the help of pseudoephedrine in an over-the-counter drug called Sudafed. I had to show my drivers’ license to check if I was accumulating the pharmaceutical].

2000

16 May. Richard Mladnenich, a criminal associate of Mark Moran, was killed with a single bullet.

15 June. Carl Williams killed Mark Moran with two bullets.

14 October. Dino Dibra was shot and killed in West Sunshine.

2002

10 July. Michael Goldman lured Alexander Kudryavstev, a police informer, to his Hampton flat and shot him in the stomach. Psychotic criminal Nik Radev told Goldman earlier in the day “Give him one in the head and I take care of the body.”

16 October. Drug dealer Paul Kallipolitis was killed with one gunshot to the head in his West Sunshine home.

2003

June. Victoria Police set up Taskforce Purana to investigate Melbourne’s underworld.

25 October. Michael Marshall, who sold Ecstasy on the street, was shot.

2004

8 May. Lewis Caine, a friend of Carl Williams, was killed with a single gunshot to the head.

16 May. Terence Hodson, a police informant, and his wife Christine were executed. Carl Williams and police drug squad detective Paul Dale organized the hit and paid gunman Rodney Collins.

2006

20 March. Businessman Tony Mokbel failed to appear in his trial for importing cocaine from Mexico. He was arrested by Greek police in Athens on 5 June 2007 and was extradited to Australia on 17 May 2008 and jailed. On Friday 25 April 2014 (the day I talked with Theo) Tony Mokbel was jailed for thirty years, having pled guilty to trafficking vast quantities of Ecstasy and Speed.

2010

19 April. Carl Williams died while incarcerated in Barwon prison after being bashed by a fellow inmate. Williams had been offered a deal to give information on several unsolved murders potentially involving corrupt police officers. Williams had attended Broadmeadows West Technical School. His older brother Shane died of a heroin overdose in 1997. Carl married convicted drug trafficker Roberta Williams.

Alex Lewenberg was about 38 when he was consulted by Theo and the other three in the boat in 1983. According to *Lawyers Weekly* he was banned from practicing as a solicitor for two years in 1989 after he was found guilty of three unrelated charge of serious professional misconduct. As a prominent criminal lawyer he has represented Boris “the Black Diamond” Beljajev, Tony Mokbel’s brother Horthy Mokbel, and former president of the Outlaws motorcycle gang Brendan Peterson. This appears to be a high risk profession. Mr. Lewenberg has been stabbed, shot at and had his house bombed [24, 25]. On 23 October 2006 Kathleen Torres bluffed her way into his office by posing as the wife of a gangland figure. After Lewenberg told her to leave she took a baseball bat from a backpack and swung it at his head. He held his left arm up and the impact broke the bat in half. He sustained considerable bruising to his wrist. She pled guilty to recklessly causing injury but her sentence was moderated due to a history of mental illness. In 2009 a man broke into Lewenberg’s apartment and hit him with a knuckle duster. They battled on the floor for twenty minutes before the attacker grabbed a sword from a nearby suit of armor and slashed the lawyer, then bit him on the ear. He fled when Lewenberg grabbed his testicles. The same year, on October 1st, Lewenberg was attacked in the elevator of his Lonsdale Street office with a bladed weapon and was admitted to the Alfred Hospital with facial injuries. He is the senior partner at Lewenberg & Lewenberg Solicitors, Melbourne.

MEDIA

Apart from contemporary news reports I did not know of any media coverage of Janita’s case. When I described it to my writer friend Jamie Espiritu he immediately referred me to “Little Fish” (2005). Tracy, played by Cate Blanchett, is trying to start her own business after cleaning up a heroin habit. She lives with her mother Janelle and brother Ray. A former boyfriend Jonny turns up and persuades her to join a weekend drug caper to raise money. They are led to some Speed pill trailers in the bush before the climax. This is set in Little Saigon outside of Sydney. There is drama, desperation and threat, but little violence. These are all “little fish,” except for Sam Neill, who plays a retired criminal boss and even his power is muted. The movie won twelve film awards.

“Animal Kingdom” (2010) is about a crime family in Melbourne in the 1980s. The matriarch, Janine “Smurf” Cody, is played by Jackie Weaver, who was nominated for a best supporting actress Oscar. “Scarface” (1983) is about a Cuban immigrant Tony, played by Al Pacino, who takes over an American drug cartel. It was nominated for three Golden Globe Awards, and has become a cult classic, despite or perhaps because of its extreme violent content.

“Underbelly” is a thirteen-part television series originally aired in 2008 on the Nine Network in Australia. Season One is based on the 1995-2004 gangland war in Melbourne. It is a docudrama that introduces all the main characters by their real names. Despite being banned in Victoria at certain periods over legal issues the series has won 27 awards. It was renewed every year through Season Six in 2013, using different Australian crime themes. In 2014 the sequel to Season One is called “Fat Tony & Co.” based on Tony Mokbel. The series has been aired in many countries around the world. Season One can be viewed episode by episode on You Tube.

UPDATE 2022

After I wrote this article in 2014, the Victoria Police reopened the cold case. Michael Kelly gave sworn evidence at the inquest that he saw the gun drop, land on its butt, and discharge, with the bullet striking Janita. But mathematicians calculated that the probability of a bullet discharged in this manner striking the victim in a spot between the eyes was around 160 billion to one. In 2016, Kelly, 52, was charged with perjury and attempting to pervert the course of justice [26]. In March 2020, the Victoria Police offered a \$1 million reward for information that helps solve the murder of Janita McNaughton [27]. At the time of updating, no one has been convicted of the crime. Janita’s parents were not alive to see justice done for their daughter. Ronald Auburn McNaughton died in 2016; Joan Roslyn (née) Cook died a couple of years later.

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NOTES

I am grateful to all the people who helped me put this story together. I want to thank Janita's father, Ron McNaughton, who gave me the first three press cuttings when I visited him in 1988. I am very grateful to Janita's mother, Joan Easterby, who responded so positively when I renewed contact after sixty years. We emailed, talked on the telephone and she sent me press clippings, photographs and notes. I am also very grateful to David Flegg at the State Library of Victoria, who responded so fully and clearly when I inquired about the inquest into Janita's death. And finally, I could not have produced this story without Alexander Romanov-Hughes, who went to the Public Record Office of Victoria in North Melbourne, copied the inquest proceedings page by page, emailed them to me and daily offered helpful prompts, questions and suggestions. Janita will not be forgotten. This work is copyrighted and may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any medium without written permission from Ken McNaughton, 3778 College Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21043; phone/fax: 410-418-9340; kjmcn@comcast.net (16 April 2014).

PERSONNEL

Unless otherwise stated, ages are at the time of the shooting, 27 December 1983. This information is based on testimony and press clippings and is as accurate as possible but many statements cannot be independently verified. Preference is given to statements given at the inquest and to statements consistent between testimonies.

MARK ADAMS

Mark was born on 23 February 1960, about the same time as Janita. He lived at 81 Bulleen Road, North Balwyn for twelve years. He had a Mercedes blue sports car IYZ 284. He had known Janita seven or eight weeks, after she came into his shop having seen something in the window. She occasionally came into the store and bought a few things. He knew Janita a week and a half on a personal basis and took her on dates about three times. He asked her to Phillip Island a couple of days before, around Christmas Day. Adams knew Komianos as a friend and through business about two or three years, but claimed not to be in business with him. Adams claimed not to have heard any gunshots on the boat. He had an infection in one ear, was up front and listening to music on the radio. Adams has a jewelry business at 219 Russell Street and claimed

not to have heard a gun fired before. Late on December 27th Adams called his girlfriend, Jacqui Billman, who referred a solicitor, Alex Lewenberg. Adams had other female friends. His sister was nearly killed in a car accident three or four days prior, and two or three weeks before, he finished a very lengthy court case. Adams had known Kelly about three years, mainly through business. Adams is a jeweler; he buys and sells, but does not manufacture. A few times he had problems with the police over stolen jewelry. He and his father operate as unlicensed pawnbrokers. Adams, or more likely his girlfriend, called Janita's mother on 28 December and left his telephone number but has not otherwise contacted her. Adams claimed not to know Janita's boyfriend, Peter Lindsay.

LOUIS TERENCE ALLAIN

Detective Sergeant of Criminal Investigation Bureau, Russell Street, Stolen Motor Vehicles Squad, temporarily stationed at Cowes. At 7:10 p.m. he was informed Janita had been transported to the Cowes Bush Nursing Hospital by ambulance. At 7:25 p.m. he went to the Newhaven Yacht Club at the northern end of Seaview Street, met with Sgt. King of Cowes police, examined the boat and talked with Kelly. They obtained an aluminum rescue boat and went with Kelly, Detective Senior Constable McFadden, and Constable Harris from Wonthaggi to the mangroves off McLeod Point where the shooting took place. Allain obtained statements from Kelly and the other three passengers. Allain told them he thought it highly unlikely Janita was shot from shore, or that they would have heard the bang, because of wind and water conditions. All seemed pale and upset but in possession of their faculties. Adams cried. Allain heard around 10:45 p.m. that Janita had died, and told all four. A forensic science member arrived and took paraffin hand tests on all four at 3:30 a.m. The tests were negative (by hearsay), [despite the fact that Komianos claimed to have fired a shot at a beer can]. Senior Sergeant Fry of the Homicide Squad received the statements at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 28th. All four came back on Friday 30 December with new statements. Komianos had a tape recorder.

ANTHONY R. ELLIS

Stipendiary Magistrate, coroner.

ADRIAN REGINALD JACKSON

Janita's uncle, a barrister and solicitor of Park Road in Park Orchards, representing next of kin at the inquest, objected when counsel for Komianos asked about Janita's use of heroin, in terms of relevance. Reardon confirmed no evidence would be called along those lines.

MICHAEL JOHN KELLY

Kelly, aged 20, lived at 33 Lorraine Crescent, Broadmeadows with his parents. He was born on 22 September 1963. He worked with Komianos two or three hours a week for a couple of months before Christmas (and resumed working fulltime a couple of months after the shooting). He had known Theo for two or three years. He had known Janita for about two weeks. He met her in Theo's shop when she came one day to wait for Mark Adams. Kelly had seen her about four times, including a couple of times when the four went to *Billboard* in the city. He also detailed two other social occasions when Janita was in the group. Kelly claimed to have a girlfriend Karen who he only knew by her first name. He heard Komianos had pistols but had not seen them before. Kelly claimed to not have panicked after the shooting as much as Komianos did. Kelly made up the story about the shot coming from shore. He had been rabbit shooting with a

0.22 rifle but had not handled pistols. Kelly drank eight or nine small cans of beer during the day, more than anyone else in the party, but claimed to be unaffected. He had been in the boat before. He lost a gold chain on the boat. After the shooting, the others went back to see Effie, then to the boat for the chain and to check the electricals before going to the police station.

SHIRLEY ANNE (“SAM”) KNIGHT

Shirley, 28, was born 8 March 1955. She was office manager for her parent’s business, Knights Transports of Kilmore. Shirley had known Theo for three years and had been engaged to him for two years. She had not met Janita before the 27th. Shirley lived at Lot 4-5, Fitzroy Street, Kilmore (in 1984 she moved to Unit 1, 20 Kosky, Street, West Sunshine). On 26 December she, Komianos and Mark Adams stayed at Theo’s mother’s house where he lived at 37 Tarago Crescent, South Oakleigh. They got up at 10-11 a.m. on December 27th, called some people and decided to go to Phillip Island. Mark picked up Janita and returned and they waited for Michael Kelly to arrive. Shirley had had a two-story holiday home at Woolamai Waters, Corona Avenue on Phillip Island for twelve months. She didn’t know the number. She said Effie stayed at the house by herself or went to the beach. Shirley kept a 22-foot Savage fiberglass motor boat with marine carpet moored at the Newhaven Yacht Club marina. She owned the boat a year before the shooting until a month before the first inquest date, 27 November 1984. Komianos was more experienced with the boat than she was and they usually used it together. A battery runs the radio and lights, with switches. When they returned to the boat after the shooting, someone had moved it 500 yards from where they brought Janita in, to the boat’s berth. The power has to be turned off in the cabin at a different switch from the ignition key. The Cowes police kept the keys. She knew Komianos had firearms at work. There had been a robbery and a holdup at Theo’ work.

THEODOSIS KOMIANOS

Theo, 29, was born 17 August 1954 and lived with his mother Effie at 37 Tarago Crescent, South Oakleigh. He had a wholesale jewelry business, T&K Castings, 330 Little Collins Street, manufacturing, buying and selling jewelry. He had been engaged to Shirley-Anne Knight of Fitzroy Street, Kilmore, for two years. Theo had closed his business for the Christmas holidays. He had a BMW, registered BWG 473. Theo’s sister Mary and her husband were at Shirley’s house when they arrived. Theo’s father bought a Bernadita pistol for himself and a Beretta for Theo for security in the jewelry business six or nine months earlier. After his father became very sick, Theo kept both pistols. He didn’t want to leave the pistols in the shop over Christmas and didn’t want to leave them in the car.

LAZARUS

Counsel appearing for Komianos.

ALEX LEWENBERG

Solicitor seen on 28 December by Theo, Kelly, Adams and Knight, separately and together.

PETER LINDSAY

Janita had a relationship with Peter Lindsay. Both became dependent on heroin. In conjunction with some others, Janita and Peter burgled homes and she had convictions for drug-related problems. Janita was arrested with three male accomplices in September 1983. Two of the men, including her boyfriend Peter, were sent to Pentridge Prison. Peter wrote to Janita’s mother, Joan

Easterby, a few times and she visited him once at Pentridge to see if he knew anything about the “boat people.” He just wanted revenge on them. The last Joan heard, Peter was being transferred to a gaol at Castlemaine and she lost touch when she moved from Box Hill to Mont Albert.

JANITA ROSLYN MCNAUGHTON

Daughter of Ronald Auburn McNaughton and Joan (née) Cook. Janita was born in 1960. Her older brother Peter was born in 1954 but died during a tonsillitis operation aged five. Her other brother, Robert, was born in 1958. Her father and mother divorced and her mother remarried to David Easterby and they had a daughter Kim in 1970. When Janita was 17, her step-father was killed in a head-on collision between two speed boats on Lake Eildon. Janita had a relationship with Peter Lindsay. Both became dependent on heroin. In conjunction with some others Janita and Peter burgled homes and she had convictions for drug-related problems. Janita was arrested with three male accomplices in September 1983. Two of the men, including her boyfriend Peter, were sent to Pentridge Prison. The third man went to the Odyssey House rehabilitation center. Janita was awaiting trial in February 1984 on charges of theft of a car, burglary, theft, handling stolen property and unlicensed driving. In the meantime she was living with her mother, her young brother Robert and 13-year old half-sister Kim in Clyde Street Box Hill. She was on \$500 bail and reporting daily to the Box Hill police station, studying nights at Kew High School to complete her High School Certificate and had some professional photographs taken to pursue a career in modeling.

PETER REARDON

Assistant to the coroner; examined the witnesses.