

IN THE CORONERS COURT  
OF VICTORIA  
AT MELBOURNE

Court Reference: 3241/11

**FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST**

*Form 37 Rule 60(1)*  
*Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008*

**Inquest into the Death of UNKNOWN HUMAN REMAINS COMPRISING PARTIAL HUMAN  
MANDIBLE**

Delivered On: 16 March 2012

Delivered At: Coroner's Court of Victoria  
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne

Hearing Dates: 16 March 2012

Findings of: K. M. W. PARKINSON, CORONER

Police Coronial  
Support Unit (PCSU): Senior Constable Kelly Ramsey

I, K. M. W. PARKINSON, Coroner having investigated the death of UNKNOWN HUMAN REMAINS COMPRISING PARTIAL HUMAN MANDIBLE

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 16 March 2012 at Melbourne

find that the identity of the deceased was UNKNOWN HUMAN REMAINS COMPRISING PARTIAL HUMAN MANDIBLE

and the death occurred on an Unknown Date

at Fairhaven Beach, Fairhaven, 3231

from:

1a. AN UNKNOWN CAUSE

**in the following circumstances:**

1. This matter was listed for inquest this day. On 27 August 2011, Ms Laura Chapman was walking along the beach between Fairhaven and Moggs Creek. She observed what she thought to be a shell at the high tide mark of the beach, but when she approached realised it to be a human lower jaw bone. Ms Chapman marked the location of the find by reference to the Great Ocean Road and conveyed the remains to Victoria Police at Anglesea on 27 August 2011.
2. Leading Senior Constable Joe Sdraulig attended the location at which the remains were found, photographed and examined the scene. He took possession of the remains and they were conveyed to the Coroner's Court of Victoria at Melbourne.
3. On 30 August 2011, the remains were examined by Dr Soren Blau, Forensic Anthropologist with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.
4. Dr Blau reported that the remains comprised a partial human mandible. The remains were dry and bleached white. Dr Blau was unable to comment upon the ancestry of the individual or the time since death. She commented that the morphology of the mandible was likely of an adult female. Fusing of the third molar roots suggested that the individual was over 25 years of age and whilst relatively young by reference to dental wear, a more detailed age range was not available.
5. A mitochondrial DNA profile was obtained for the purposes of entering the profile onto the missing persons DNA database. There has been no identification arising from this profile. Nor has there been any likely or possible match to any known missing person.
6. Victoria Police have registered the case on their missing persons data base.

7. I am satisfied that no further investigation is possible at this time. I find that the bones comprising a partial human mandible are human.
8. On the available evidence it is not possible to make findings as to identity, where, when or in what circumstances the person died.
9. There is no evidence to suggest that the remains are of aboriginal ancestry.
10. I order that sufficient sample be retained to assist with future scientific identification if required.
11. I further order that as that no person makes claim to recovery or return of the remains that the remains be released by the Coroner's Court of Victoria for public burial at an approved facility and location.

Signature:



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K. M. W. PARKINSON  
CORONER



16 March 2012