

IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT WANGARATTA

Court Reference: 1368 / 2010

FINDING INTO DEATH WITHOUT INQUEST

Form 38 Rule 60(2)

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

I, STELLA MARIA STUTHRIDGE, Coroner having investigated the death of DARREN JAMES CRAIGHEAD

without holding an inquest:

find that the identity of the deceased was DARREN JAMES CRAIGHEAD

born on 10 October 1968

and the death occurred on 11 April 2010

at Intersection of Federation Way and Victoria Street, Wahgunyah, Victoria 3687

from:

1 (a) MULTIPLE INJURIES

Pursuant to section 67(2) of the **Coroners Act 2008**, I make findings with respect to **the following circumstances:**

Darren James Craighead was 41 years old. He lived in Corowa, New South Wales with his partner Stacey Foster. Mr Craighead was an experienced rider and considered both competent and cautious. He owned a Suzuki DRZ motorbike.

On Sunday 11 April 2010, Mr Craighead and Ms Foster decided to go for a ride to Grantham (near the river) near Wahgunyah. At about 4.30pm they left Lake Moodemere to head home.

Mr Craighead and Ms Foster (pillion passenger) were riding along the Rutherglen-Wahgunyah Road and approaching the intersection with Victoria Street.

Mr Rino Bernardi was travelling east on Victoria Street. The approach to the intersection is an S bend where Victoria Street ends at a T intersection. There is a Give Way sign applicable to Mr Bernardi. Investigation of the accident by police suggests Mr Bernardi checked to the left some distance back from the intersection. He then commenced a right hand turn, pulling into the path of the motor cycle with Mr Craighead and Ms Foster.

Mr Craighead immediately braked, causing a brief rear wheel skid before the motorcycle struck the right front of the car being driven by Mr Bernardi. Mr Craighead and Ms Foster were both thrown from the motor cycle. Mr Craighead died at the scene. Ms Foster was transported to hospital with serious injuries.

Mr Bernardi was interviewed, charged and convicted of careless driving and fail to comply with a Give Way sign.

I am satisfied Mr Craighead died as a result of multiple injuries sustained in a motor vehicle collision (motor cycle).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to section 72(2) of the **Coroners Act 2008**, I make the following recommendation(s) connected with the death:

Victoria Police had made a recommendation to VicRoads for a prominent sign saying "Look Right" be installed at the end of the centre island where Victoria St ends in order to draw attention to possible traffic approaching from the south that may have been missed when checking further back in the intersection. Police have noted that realigning the intersection would create other risks.

I adopt this recommendation and ask VicRoads undertake the remedial work as soon as possible.

Signature:



STELIA MARIA STUTHRIDGE

Coroner

Date: 14 November 2011

