

FORM 37

Rule 60(1)

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

Inquest into the Death of UNKNOWN REMAINS COMPRISING A HUMAN SKULL

Delivered On:	8 June 2011
Delivered At:	Melbourne
Hearing Dates:	8 June 2011
Findings of:	Coroner Parkinson
Location:	Melbourne
SCAU	Leading Senior Constable Amanda Maybury

FORM 37

Rule 60(1)

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008

In the Coroners Court of Victoria at Melbourne

I Kim M. W. Parkinson Coroner having investigated the death of:

Details of deceased:

Unidentified Human UNKNOWN REMAINS COMPRISING A HUMAN SKULL
Remains:

AND having held an inquest on 8 June 2011

At Melbourne

Find: that the identity of the deceased was unknown and that the remains comprising a human skull likely of Australian Aboriginal ancestry

That: the death occurred at an unknown date

At: an unknown location

From: an unknown cause.

In the following circumstances:

1. This matter was listed for inquest this day.
2. On 10 November 2010 Mr John Durie of 76 Mount Street, Wycheproof was ploughing a paddock on the North side of the Boort-Wycheproof Road, approximately 10 kilometres east of the Wycheproof township. At that location he found a partial skull which appeared to have been dug up during the ploughing.

3. Mr Durie attended at the Charlton Police station on 12 November 2010 and handed the skeletal remains to Leading Senior Constable Jablonka. Police took possession of the skull and it was conveyed to the Coroners Court of Victoria at Melbourne.
4. Photographs of the partial skull were examined by Dr Diana Smith, Acting Manager of the Bendigo Office of Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. Dr Smith was of the opinion that the remains were of aboriginal morphology however was unable to express an opinion as to the likely age of the remains.
5. On 29 November 2010 the skull was examined by Dr Soren Blau, Forensic Anthropologist with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine. Dr Blau reported that she examined a dry heavily weathered partial human cranial vault and that there was significant post mortem loss of bone. Dr Blau commented that the morphology of the partial cranium (specifically the long vault, slight keeling, prominent glabella, and occipital 'bun') is typical of that seen in individuals of Australian Aboriginal ancestry. Without the bones of the face she was unable to make a definitive conclusion.
6. Dr Blau reported that the remains were those of an adult. It was not possible to provide a more definitive age range.
7. I am satisfied that no further investigation is required. I find that the bones comprising the partial human cranial vault in this case are human and likely of Australian Aboriginal ancestry. On the available evidence it is not possible to make findings as to identity, where, when or in what circumstances the person died.
8. I order that the remains be released to Museum Victoria to be dealt with in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, Act. No. 16/2006


Coroner Kim M. W. Parkinson

Date: 8 June 2011

