

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
Remains:

UNKNOWN HUMAN REMAINS COMPRISING A
HUMERUS

AND having held an inquest on 8 June 2011

At Melbourne

Find: that the identity of the deceased was unknown and that the human remains
comprise a humerus

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 16 March 2010, Ms Cathie Binch of Sunset Strip was walking on the foreshore at Seaford Beach when she located a single bone apparently human. Ms Binch handed the bone to Victoria Police. Detective Sergeant Paul Bussutil of Frankston Criminal

Investigation Unit, took possession of the remains and they were conveyed to the Coroners Court of Victoria at Melbourne.

3. On 6 May 2010 the remains were examined by Dr Soren Blau, forensic anthropologist with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.
4. Scientific testing including mitochondrial DNA analysis was undertaken by Molecular Biologist Dr Dadna Hartman and reported on 27 May, 2010, 11 June 2010 and again on 3 June 2011 after samples from relatives of a missing person were obtained. Comparative analysis was undertaken which was negative. No identification of the remains was able to be made.
5. Dr Blau reported that the remains comprised a human left humerus, highly weathered with evidence of green staining on the superior surface. The proximal end (head) of the humerus was absent post-mortem and there was evidence of small shells within the shaft of the bone. Dr Blau reported that without employing scientific dating technology it was not possible to estimate the age of the remains. She was unable to comment upon the ancestry of the individual and provided a tentative opinion that the remains may have been male. The humerus was an adult bone, however a more detailed age range was not available.
6. I am satisfied that no further investigation is required. I find that the bone comprising a left humerus in this case is human. On the available evidence it is not possible to make findings as to identity, where, when or in what circumstances the person died.
7. I order that as that no person makes claim to recovery or return of the remains that the bones be released by the Coroner's Court of Victoria for public burial at an approved facility and location.


Coroner Kim M. W. Parkinson

Date: 8 June 2011

