

Furneaux Inlet
Saturday, 10 January 1998
3.00 pm

David Robert HARTLEY states:

That is my full name. I reside at 10 Clipper Street, Porirua, telephone 236 6478. I am a sales consultant for superannuation. We work from home. I am 44 years of age, born 11.03.53.

I am the owner of "MEA", a 47 foot ferro sloop. I have owned the boat since 1990. "MEA" normally stays at Mana.

Susan, my wife, and myself travelled from Mana to the Picton/Sounds area on Boxing Day, 26 December 1997. We had Catherine STANAWAY, Colin and Janet SCARD, Tracey JOHNSON, Amber TAMAKA and Caine THOMSON on the boat with us. All these people live in Auckland.

On the Friday, 26 December, we stayed in Oyster Bay. On 27 December we stayed on the boat at Gem Resort. On the 28th we moored at Mistletoe.

On Monday the 29th we travelled to Picton and moored near the ferry terminal. We remained there until departing on 1 January 1998.

We paid mooring fees at Picton of \$10.00 per night. We spent New Year's Eve at the Federal Hotel in Picton. This was the entire group. Susan and I returned to "MEA" at about 12.30 am on 1 January.

On 1 January 1998 we departed from Picton late morning and headed to Torea Bay. We had lunch at The Portage and returned to "MEA" at about 5.00 pm. We spent that night on the boat.

David Robert HARTLEY further states:

On 2 January we returned to Picton and moored in the same area near the ferry terminal.

On that day we were joined by Wayne and Jackie THOMSON and their two sons. There were 12 people on the boat in total.

On 3 January we headed to Furneaux Inlet for the first time. We saw the Police around Furneaux that day. From that and the notices we saw around Furneaux we found out about the missing couple. We were not aware of it until then.

On 4 January 1998 we travelled across to Punga where we remained for the night.

We travelled around Queen Charlotte Sound for several nights and went to Picton again on the night of 7 January.

We are just at Furneaux for the day and will be staying near Punga tonight. We are returning back to Wellington tomorrow and the "MEA" will be moored back at Mana.

During our travels in the Sounds we have not seen any ketch similar to that you are seeking. I think the ketch may even be American design.

We were not in Furneaux Inlet on 31 December 1997.

(Sgd) D R Hartley

Statement taken and signature witnessed by:

K R Yeadon
Detective 7541