

Central Police Station
Christchurch
15th January 1998
4.40 pm

David Brian FURNEAUX states:

That is my full name and I live at 54 Achilles Street, Christchurch, Phone 3851661 or 021 361 995. I am a company director and I am married to Helen FURNEAUX, same address.

I am making a statement to Detective Croxson about the missing couple from Blenheim, Olivia and Ben Smart.

I was at Furneaux Lodge for New Year. I went up there with my family on the 30/12/97 and stayed in a chalet until the 7.1.98. The owner, Rick McLEOD, owns the place and I offered to work the garden bar for him and do some security work.

I went down to the foreshore of Endeavour Inlet at about 7.00 pm and I took a few photos of the bay including my two boys. Richard PREBBLE from "Double Trouble" also features in a photo. There are a number of vessels in the background of the photos including a ketch.

I had helped set the garden bar up that day and I worked there that night. In fact, I was between there, the foreshore and the chalet all day. I never went onto the water as such. My wife went out on the "Yolande" though.

From what she has told me, the only thing she saw of interest was the name of a boat which was similar to "Meanza". I haven't seen that name on your boating list in the paper though.

David Brian FURNEAUX further states:

I have thought about the person mentioned on the news who was bothering young women but I cannot recall him. I went up to the top bar at about 4.00 am when a major fight broke out. There were a couple of big boys from Blenheim involved but not the person you are looking for.

I finished up at the same time as Greg TAYLOR which we think was about 5.30 am. That was about the same time that Richard PREBBLE came back after dropping some young people off at Punga Cove. I went off to sleep at the chalet.

I know that Guy WALLACE was definitely in bed at 5.30 am because we got him out of bed at the lodge when Greg was playing the piano in the bar. There was only me, Greg, Chris SHAMY, Rick McLEOD and Christine WHEATLEY, who is the office manager up there, left in the bar.

I have heard a report that Che PHELPS, who was a barman at the top bar, stated that there was a guy making a pest of himself at about 5.00 am. I remember thinking that "how would he know because he wasn't even there at that time". I question that he was still up at 5.00 am. There were not many people around at that time. I was with the last people to leave the bar.

However, I didn't have my watch and I am relying on the sunrise. It was just getting light when I went to bed and I presume that that is about 5.30 am.

The other garden bar staff were Mike CRONIN from Christchurch and Mike's partner, Trisha HOWARD. They went to bed about 2.00 am.

Robyn SCHWASS is a friend of ours and she was operating a Billfisher boat between Punga Cove and Furneaux on New Years Eve. She was up with us until about 4.00 am. She knows all the local boats.

David Brian FURNEAUX further states:

Chris MAIN and Bruce O'MALLEY you already have.

(Signed) D B Furneaux

Statement taken and witnessed:

P J Croxson
Detective 4625
Christchurch
15.1.98