

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q1 This is an electronic record of interview between Shirley Bannister and David Upston, and Senior Constable Upston of the New South Wales Water Police on Wednesday, the 1st of December, 1999. Also present seated directly to my left is Detective Senior Constable Gray of the Bega Detectives, and Steven Bannister. Shirley, for the purpose of the interview, could you please state your full name?

A Shirley Anne Bannister.

Q2 And your date of birth?

A 27 December, 1940.

Q3 And your address?

A Number 8 Edenhulme Street, West Pymble.

Q4 O.K. And Shirley, as we spoke to you earlier, Detective Gray and I are making inquiries into the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race, and we're here to talk to you about Michael and his involvement in the race and also just a little bit of a background, a family background and, and just items of, of that sort of nature. So firstly, can we just go on and, and discuss when you first met Michael and, and your involvement -

- -

A At the Cruising Yacht Club, of course.

Q5 At the Cruising Yacht Club?

A At the Cruising Yacht Club.

Q6 Right.

A In 1976.

Q7 Oh, really.

A Mmm.

Q8 O.K. Just, just, Detective Gray indicated to me that, a formality, that the time on my watch is now 20 past 3.00. O.K. And, and then what happened, sort of, your relationship blossomed from then?

A Just about, yes. I was the first girl, it took me til a Christmas to get home to meet Mum and Dad, though, and that was just before the Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, again - - -

Q9 All right.

A - - - because he was a skiff sailer and he took, you know, sailed, had a very happy time and got married '79, so - - -

Q10 So how long were you married then? You - - -

A 20, well, 19 years, yeah.

Q11 19 years?

A Yes.

Q12 O.K. And where did you live at that time?

A We lived at, I lived in Neutral Bay before we were married but when were married we moved to Woolwich, to 32 The Point Road, Woolwich.

Q13 O.K.

A He lived in the top of a, a lovely house there with a beautiful view of the harbour and, yeah - - -

Q14 All right.

A - - - it was a very happy time.

Q15 And what sort of work was Michael involved in?

A He was, he owned his own concrete truck for Hi Mix Concrete then, and later on he became a manager with, well, when, once we moved to here, after we got married, about a year we moved to West Pymble and then he was driving a concrete truck with Ryde, Hi Mix Concrete, Ryde and then he became a manager, so he went on the other side, until the recession - - -

Q16 All right.

A - - - in 1988 or '89.

MR BANNISTER

Somewhere then.

A '87, I've forgotten.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q17 Mmm.

A But that's when, I cried my eyes out when he was going to be a garbo, just up the road, he just went and got, oh, well, no, he did work for the, for the Sydney - -
-

MR BANNISTER

Sydney Yachting Centre.

A Sydney Yachting Centre, that's right, and then that was, there was another one, there was a yachting one before then too.

MR BANNISTER

The Sydney Sail Boat Centre.

A Sydney Sail Boat Centre, that's right, til the recession, that's right. Yeah, no, they gave him the sack for something, he wasn't a yes man.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q18 Oh, right.

A Yeah. And they wanted a yes man to, for the new boss there, so Michael wasn't like that so he we came back from holiday and they said, You haven't got a job any more, so that was rather wonderful.

Q19 All right.

A Steve was about three or four at the time, I think. You were born in '81.

MR BANNISTER

Yeah.

A Mmm.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q20 O.K.

A So that's got to be later on there. So he worked there til, yes - - -

Q21 Was that the type of person Michael was all the time? He was sort of very headstrong and thought of his - - -

A Not headstrong, headstrong is not the right word, is it?

Q22 Well, how would you describe him?

A I'd say one of nature's gentlemen, he was just a very honest, goodhearted guy.

Q23 Mmm.

A He really was a good bloke.

Q24 All right.

A You know, did everything for the neighbours around here, you know, he, you wouldn't see him, I'd go, Where is he, and he'd be out mowing Elaine, a widow across the road, mowing her lawn or whippersnippering for her or he'd be down the back, because after we had the bush fire, you know, just to keep it in control. I still think he's down there actually, when he's not around.

Q25 Mmm.

A Yeah, so, but, oh, no, that's right, I mean, I hated the idea of him being a garbo and then I realised that you actually always have to have your garbage picked up, it's pretty recession proof - - -

Q26 Yes.

A - - - and even though he had to work every Christmas, you know, Boxing Day, every day, every public holiday that wasn't a Monday, a Saturday or Sunday, so, but, oh, we got over that - - -

Q27 Mmm.

A - - - you know. No, he, he was bored to tears with it but he did it because it was a job - - -

Q28 Yeah.

A - - - you know, he'd be dreaming maybe something of, not dreaming but just planning things always, you know? Not the different job but maybe certain things around

the house or yachting, I mean, he knew every boat on the harbour. Isn't that right, Steve?

MR BANNISTER

Yeah.

A Yeah, he'd look and say, Oh, that's so and so, you know, just by the look of it.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q29 Mmm.

A He was very much a sailor.

Q30 So he was involved in sailing most of his - - -

A All his life.

Q31 All his life.

A He went to Sunday school and sat by the window so he could see the yachts going up and down the harbour - - -

Q32 Right.

A - - - when he was about 10.

Q33 Right.

A Yeah.

Q34 And that was basically his, his, his entire sporting career, was - - -

A Oh, he was actually quite gifted in a, in a lot of sports. He played squash, he played, he was intuitively, you know, a fairly good golfer, not wonderful but he was good at most sports - - -

Q35 Mmm.

A - - - and he kept himself pretty fit. Yes, he gave up beer and lost, oh, a couple, he was about 12 stone, I think, at the end and he wasn't, you know, he was pretty trim - - -

Q36 Mmm, mmm.

A - - - you know, he was - - -

Q37 All right. And then with the, with the sailing, was it often, how often did he go into the Sydney to Hobart?

A Most of the times he brought boats back.

Q38 Right.

A Excuse me. He did the 50th and did another one or two, but mostly it was bringing boats back so - - -

Q39 O.K. Did he do other, any, any long haul voyages?

A Yes, he did, he did ones to Wollongong. He went up to Southport, you did the Sydney to Southport?

MR BANNISTER

Sydney to Southport.

A That was one Christmas, instead of going to Hobart they went to Southport, didn't you? That was one year.

MR BANNISTER

Yeah.

A So he did a few, and he did a bit of ocean racing.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q40 Yeah.

A He was sort thinking about getting back because he was actually sailing with my son on a skiff, which was

around Hunters Hill, so I mean that was a wonderful time for them together - - -

Q41 Right.

A - - - so I mean, he devoted his time to his family rather than going, you know, for the big ocean racing.

MR BANNISTER

Yeah.

A But he was talking about getting back to it.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q42 And where, and with that sort of, the ocean racing and, and the Sydney to Hobart and, and sort of, we'll lead up to that shortly - - -

A Mmm.

Q42 - - - but was it the fact that he took Steven sailing with him a lot as well or was, you know, was it a very close relationship with Steven?

A Oh, yes.

MR BANNISTER

Yeah.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q43 Yeah.

A You can, you can answer that.

Q44 Yeah.

MR BANNISTER

Yeah, it was a very close relationship.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q45 Yeah, yeah. And, what, you were often sailing with him
 and things like that?

MR BANNISTER

 Most of the time.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q46 Yeah.

MR BANNISTER

 Yeah.

A Well, 90 per cent, well, I mean they sailed a - - -

MR BANNISTER

 Yeah.

A - - - 14 foot skiff together.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q47 Yes.

A For how many seasons? Four?

MR BANNISTER

 Five seasons.

A Five seasons.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q48 Did you make the skiff yourself, was it something that
 you - - -

A No.

MR BANNISTER

 No.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q49 Yeah.

MR BANNISTER

Oh, the last one we had, we bought the hull and repaired all - - -

A I can show you.

MR BANNISTER

- - - the fittings and that and everything.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q50 Right.

A I can show you the pictures on the wall, if you like?

MR BANNISTER

So we sort of - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q51 Oh, we might have a look after the interview.

A Yeah.

MR BANNISTER

- - - put it together together.

A They, they won the, the Hunters Hill - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q52 Right.

A - - - handy - - -

MR BANNISTER

Point score.

A - - - point score - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q53 Mmm.

A - - - most of the, most years - - -

MR BANNISTER

Number of years.

A Number of years, yeah.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q54 Right. So he was very much involved in that with you
and - - -

MR BANNISTER

Yes.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q54 - - - in sailing and what, what yacht club were you,
were you a member of there?

MR BANNISTER

Hunters Hill Sailing Club.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q55 Right. Right. Well, that's good. Now with the, with
the Sydney to Hobart and this year - - -

A Mmm.

Q55 - - - or last, last year's race - - -

A Mmm.

Q55 - - - you mentioned to us earlier that, that he was
very tired. Was he looking forward to going into the
race?

A He was ecstatic. It was the best thing since sliced
bread. He wanted to go with his, with his older mates
and, and they'd sort of said that they're weren't going
to push the boat, it was just going to be gentlemen
sailing, I mean, I told you they had sleeping bags on
board.

Q56 Mmm.

A I mean, Michael wasn't in that. He was too, too much of a competitive person to do that. He wasn't that laid back at all. He, he would, he is an intuitive sailor, you know, I mean I've told that story that, when he was bringing a boat back, it's called Knockout, and there's a lot of English people on board and Michael saw a storm front coming and he said, You'd better get, I've forgotten what, the sail down, and this, the guy said, No, no, no, no, we don't, so Michael actually went and did it himself and suddenly the storm, and they said, Shit, it hits hard, doesn't it?

Q57 Mmm.

A I mean he could see it, he knew. He was just - - -

Q58 Yeah.

A - - - intuitive.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q59 So very experienced sailor?

A Very experienced. Well, we tell the story of when he was younger, that I - - -

Q60 Yes.

A - - - I've only just recently found out, you know, how intuitive he was when he was 16 or 17.

MR BANNISTER

No.

A You know, we learnt at the funeral.

MR BANNISTER

You tell it.

A No, I can't, you'd better tell it.

MR BANNISTER

I don't know what you mean.

A No, when, when he, he designed, he changed the design of the boat.

MR BANNISTER

Oh, he was one of the first people in Australia to sail 12 foot skiffs with two trapezes.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q61 Oh, O.K.

A And he, they weren't going too well and he, he sat on, he was sitting watching them on the beach and he, and I, I've only just learned this since he's gone, and, 'cause we've been told it, you know - - -

Q62 Mmm.

A - - - and they, they said he, he changed the, the design, not design but he - - -

MR BANNISTER

Yes and no.

A - - - he, he adapted the design - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q63 Yes.

A - - - to work better - - -

Q64 Yes.

A - - - and since then, it, you know, it went on - - -

Q65 From there?

A Yeah.

Q66 Oh, O.K.

A Yeah.

Q67 Right.

A So and that, that's the sort of thing he'd sit in his truck thinking about - - -

Q68 Mmm. Yeah. Yeah.

A - - - when he was bored picking up garbage bins.

Q69 Yeah, yeah.

A That's what he was like.

Q70 So he really loved the sport, that's - - -

A Oh - - -

MR BANNISTER

Yeah.

A I married for better or sailing - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q71 Yeah.

A - - - I said that, and that's exactly - - -

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

(DEMONSTRATES AUDIBLY)

A - - - that's exactly right.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q72 Yes.

A I did. I mean if I'd have said to him, You're not sailing. I've always said, I will never stop you sailing - - -

Q73 Yeah.

A - - - you know, that's your life, that's what you're like.

Q74 Yeah.

A And that's why I think we had such a wonderful marriage.

Q75 Mmm.

A You know?

Q76 Oh, well, that's good - - -

A Mmm.

Q76 - - - that's good.

A I had 22 gourmet years - - -

Q77 Right.

A - - - with my beautiful man.

Q78 Now with, with the Sydney to Hobart last year - - -

A Mmm.

Q78 - - - you, you know, he was looking forward to it?

A Very much so.

Q79 But you said he was very tired?

A Only because, as I say, he had to get up at 3.00am, he did a shift at the garbos, came back about 12.00, we went over to my mother-in-law's for, for dinner, for lunch, and we came back about 4.00, now this is Michael, he took the dog across the road for a walk, 'cause I think he'd had lunch but he, you know, but he takes the dog for a walk.

Q80 Mmm.

A It's not our dog, it's across the road.

Q81 Yeah.

A And then he says, Oh, I'd better waterproof my wetsuit, Shirl, it's supposed to be dried for 24 hours, but I think it had been raining the day before or something, we couldn't do it - - -

MR BANNISTER

Mmm.

A So there he was with, with his wetsuit on the line, waterproofing the, you know, not that it made any difference in the end but - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q82 Yeah.

A - - - you know, that's, and then he went to bed fairly early, so I mean he'd had a, he'd had a night's sleep but - - -

Q83 Mmm.

A - - - I still say, because it happened so quickly, I don't think his reserves would have been - - -

Q84 Mmm.

A - - - that good.

Q85 Right. Right. Did he take, did he have his own wet weather gear - - -

A Yes.

Q85 - - - like you said - - -

A Yes.

Q85 - - - that wasn't belonging to the boat or - - -

A No.

MR BANNISTER

No.

A No.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q86 Right. Right. And his own harness and, and lanyard and all those sorts of things, did he have?

A I don't know whether, don't think he had an harness.

MR BANNISTER

Not a harness.

A No.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q87 Right. Did he have any other safety equipment with him at all, do you know, like - - -

A He was offered an E.P.I.R.B.

Q88 All right.

A And he said, No, it's gentlemen sailing, we'll be right, we won't need it.

Q89 Mmm.

A And if he'd have had that, well, I, I don't think, it probably wouldn't have helped but - - -

Q90 Yeah.

A - - - he was offered one.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q91 Yeah. Right. This is a personal E.P.I.R.B?

MR BANNISTER

Yeah.

A A personal E.P.I.R.B.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q92 Yeah.

A Yeah.

Q93 Right, right.

A But he, he didn't take it.

Q94 Right.

A Yeah.

Q95 Did he say anything to you just before he left, was there anything that he was, you know, that may have troubled him or anything or, did he mention anything to you?

A No, no.

Q96 All right.

A He was just so looking forward, 'cause he hadn't sailed, well see, the Winnings are actually like family to us.

Q97 Mmm.

A We, Michael sailed with Richard's uncle, Jock Winning, for many years on, on an and John Dean, the three of them sailed together.

Q98 Mmm.

A Jock Winning jumped off the Gap a few years ago.

Q99 Right.

A Remember that?

Q100 Right.

A So I reckon they're all up in Heaven sailing now.

Q101 Sailing. Yeah.

A So, you know, so Richard is, is family - - -

Q102 Mmm.

A - - - you know?

Q103 Yeah.

A So they're, I'm friends with all of them - - -

Q104 Yeah.

A - - - you know?

Q105 Yeah.

A So it, it was like sailing with the family, John Dean, see, Michael and John, I'll show you pictures out there with John and Michael, been sailing for years.

Q106 Mmm.

A So, and, you know, John Dean and my birthday is the same day, 27th of December.

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

Q107 O.K.

A Yeah.

Q108 Yeah.

A And our children were born 3 days apart in the same hospital.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q109 Huh.

A And the boys were all sailing 18 foot skiffs when we became pregnant, the whole three of us - - -

Q110 Mmm.

A - - - and we all had sons. (DEMONSTRATES AUDIBLY)

Q111 Right.

A Yeah, one of them 6 months and then Penny and I had Steve and Nathan 6 months later.

Q112 Right.

A Mmm.

Q113 So Steven's not you're only, only child?

A He is my only child.

Q114 Right.

A Yeah.

Q115 O.K.

A Mmm.

Q116 O.K.

A I was a bit, a bit older than Michael, so - - -

Q117 Oh, O.K.

A - - - it took me a bit longer to get going.

Q118 All right.

A Lots of practice - - -

Q119 Yeah.

A - - - if it was to be - - -

Q120 Yeah, all right.

A Mmm.

Q121 All right. And so, did you take him down to the wharf?

A Yes.

Q122 Yeah.

A Yes.

Q123 Yeah.

A He drove down and we parked and then we, 'cause we were meeting some other friends there so got off, I went on the boat. She was beautiful, with all the little plaques and everything and I'd made some muffins for the guys and - - -

Q124 Mmm.

A Yeah, you know, and he was just, and then we went looking for these friends, didn't we, and left him on board and then - - -

MR BANNISTER

Yeah.

A - - - Michael's cousin, actually, Robyn Royle, she works at the C.Y.C, and we both gave him a big cuddle and then we went up to Michael's mother's and father, who are up at the lighthouse, they're - - -

MR BANNISTER

Vaucluse.

A - - - at Vaucluse and, as we've done for year after year, watched the Sydney Hobart, you know - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q125 Right.

A - - - sandwiches and - - -

Q126 Yeah.

A - - - Shirl makes the sandwiches, and have a glass of champagne and - - -

Q127 Yeah.

A Mmm.

Q128 Right, right.

A So really, I mean it wasn't til later on, and then the 27th's my birthday.

Q129 Oh, right, yeah, yeah. Now with, where, where, was there anything discussed other than, than personal things - - -

A See you in 3 days.

Q129 - - - on the, on the race, yeah - - -

A No.

Q130 On the race day?

A No. He'd been down there a couple of times, hadn't he, just to the boat, but - - -

MR BANNISTER

He'd sailed on it one or two times - - -

A One or two times, but he was, as I say - - -

MR BANNISTER

- - - Friday afternoon and Wednesday

A Yeah, he was such a, yeah, he had such faith in himself and, you know, which I would too - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q131 Mmm.

MR BANNISTER

Mmm.

A I know people would be calm, I, I mean I've seen him the bushfire.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q132 Mmm.

7312 - 99/0138

22

LGT-5489.hg

A His, his, the way Michael operates is he goes calm and he does things, like, you know, like, just, just - - -

MR BANNISTER

.....

A - - - how they should be, yeah, just, just like that, he, he wasn't a, you know - (DEMONSTRATES AUDIBLY) - he's just not like that.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q133 Yeah.

A You know?

Q134 Yeah.

A He was the most calm, always.

Q135 Mmm. Well, after talking to, and I think I mentioned it earlier, to the other guys that were in the life raft with him - - -

A Mmm, mmm.

Q135 - - - that decisions were made in a, in a very methodical, calm - - -

A Yeah.

Q135 - - - way - - -

A Yeah.

MR BANNISTER

Mmm.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q135 - - - and it was a joint decision - - -

A Yes, I, I can - - -

Q135 - - - of what they did at the particular time.

A Time, that's right, yes. I'd, I'd say that would be the way, I mean, I, I don't know Jim Lawler, I didn't really know Bruce Gould, I'd met John Stanley, but that's, but that's just sort of briefly - - -

Q136 Yes.

A - - - I think we met him at the Wooden Boat festival.

MR BANNISTER

Mmm.

A Michael used to take me there. All these exciting things.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q137 Right.

A As long it's with a boat, I got to go, you see - - -

Q138 Yes.

A - - - but I didn't mind that.

Q139 Right.

A 'Cause I'd take him for a quick drink afterwards, you see, and we'd sit and have a nice chat, so that was no problem.

Q140 What are some of your hobbies?

A Keeping the garden up - - -

Q141 Right.

A - - - what do I do? Oh, I like cooking - - -

MR BANNISTER

Organising all your ladies' lunches.

A Oh, I'm a very good organiser, yes - - - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q142 Right.

A - - - I'm a very good organiser, I'm always out.

Q143 Right.

A Yeah.

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

Q144 All right.

A But I work 5 days a fortnight, so by the time you catch with friends and family and this house and - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q145 Mmm.

A - - - there's not a lot, lot of time, I'm not a sports, sports person, they want me, well, I used to be a dancer, I've got my bronze medal for ballroom dancing but - - -

Q146 O.K.

A - - - Michael couldn't dance a brass razoo, so I'm out of practice, so - - -

Q147 There was no balls at the C.Y.C?

A No balls at, no, no, no. No, we have had a couple of good nights at Hunters Hill Sailing Club - - -

Q148 Right.

A - - - yeah, he'd waltz me round the floor there, all right.

Q149 Yeah.

A Yeah. So, no.

Q150 Yeah.

A Yeah.

Q151 So you did go out, there was a lot of social evenings
and things like that - - -

A Oh, yeah.

Q151 - - - and everybody was - - -

A Yeah.

Q151 - - - in good spirits all the time?

A Yeah.

Q152 Yeah.

A Oh, yeah. Our favourite night was a Friday night when
we used to kick Steven out and have a quiet dinner
together.

Q153 Right.

A He used to choose what we'd have for dinner, oh, gosh,
he was a lovely man.

Q154 Yeah.

A And, and we'd sit there, and we'd get a bottle of red
and we'd have our old music, Seventies music, which,
which he's now, Fleetwood Mac and all these wonderful
songs - - -

MR BANNISTER

 Mmm.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q155 Yes.

A - - - Steven, you know, and we just used to sit and
talk and have a, just a fantastic time together.

Q156 That's good, that's good. Stuart?

A That's what I miss.

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

Mmm.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q157 Yes, yeah.

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

Q158 Did he make contact with you on the 26th - - -

A No.

Q158 - - - through the boat or anything?

A No.

MR BANNISTER

No.

A No, I didn't expect to hear from him til, you know - -

-

MR BANNISTER

He got to Hobart.

A Got to, yes, that's right, til they got to Hobart.

DETECTIVE SENIOR CONSTABLE GRAY

Q159 Yeah. Yeah.

A Mmm. 'Cause he hadn't, he didn't have a mobile phone,
so - - -

Q160 Right.

A - - - you know, no.

Q161 Mmm.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q162 Well, do you know if anyone was contacted on that day at all?

A I don't know. I wouldn't - - -

Q163 Yeah. But you've spoken to the ladies about it or anything like that?

A No, I didn't, well, I never asked them. I didn't ask them, I, I don't know.

Q164 Right. That's O.K.

A Yeah.

Q165 Well, Shirley, is there anything else that you'd like to add that you think that you'd like, like to tell us at all?

A Anything you want, Steve?

MR BANNISTER

No.

A No? But he was a great guy.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q166 Yeah.

A Come and see the photographs and then come back, well, I mean, as I say he was an interdominion skiff, skiff sailor - - -

Q167 Yes.

A - - - I mean he was just - - -

Q168 Yeah.

A - - - the sea was in his blood, you know, and I think, from my side of the family, I mean, I'm more sea, but

then you're about Michael, so I think his, his family were - - -

Q169 Yeah.

A - - - his father was a sailor.

Q170 Yeah.

A But he had a hot water boat, not a, he wasn't a, you know? No, he's been sailing really all our married life.

Q171 Mmm. Right.

A Yeah.

Q172 Steven, is there anything you'd like to say about your father that you think might be able to shed some light on this, or his, you know, personal life and time and history that you've had with him?

MR BANNISTER

Not really, just he was sort of a - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q173 He was a good dad?

MR BANNISTER

- - - wonderful father - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q174 Yeah.

MR BANNISTER

- - - and we sort of really had a really close family network, sort of thing.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q175 Great.

A Steven went to - - -

MR BANNISTER

But I think we've covered most

A - - - to cuddle Michael, you know, and Michael originally said, Well, you know, I said, Don't you ever do, repel him - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q176 Mmm.

A - - - I said he wants to do it naturally, there'll come a time in life when he won't, when he's too big - - -

MR BANNISTER

Mmm.

A - - - and they did, they had a wonderful - - -

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q177 Yeah.

A - - - you know, cuddling - - -

Q178 Yeah.

A - - - warm, the, the three of us did - - -

Q179 Yeah.

A - - - the three of us were very close knit.

Q180 That's good.

A We always had a good time together.

MR BANNISTER

Mmm.

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q181 O.K.

A And Steve's been wonderful since Michael's been gone.

Q182 Good. Good. That's good.

A A credit to his dad.

MR BANNISTER

.....

SENIOR CONSTABLE UPSTON

Q183 All right, then, we'll, we'll close the interview and,
and we'd love to have a look at the photos.

A Mmm.

Q184 All right. The, the time on my watch is now 3.37pm.
This interview is now concluded.

INTERVIEW CONCLUDED