

**INQUIRY INTO UNSOLVED MURDERS AND LONG-TERM
MISSING PERSONS CASES IN NEW SOUTH WALES
BETWEEN 1965 AND 2010**

Name: Mr Steven Clark

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Re: Ivan Milat - An encounter with Ivan Milat while Hitchhiking along Shellharbour Road, Warilla in 1974 (or possibly 1975).

In 1974 (or 1975?) myself and my friend James Sharrock we were both aged 14 (or 15). It was on a Friday afternoon when we decided to go to see a movie in Wollongong and we headed off to the bus shelter opposite Warilla Grove to catch a bus to Wollongong and we got there around 6pm and after waiting a short time discovered we must have missed the bus. The next bus wasn't due for another hour or two and my friend decided we should hitchhike to Wollongong to get there in time and not miss the start of the movie.

We had only walked a short distance past the lights at the Queen Street intersection along Shellharbour Road heading north when we saw a speeding sedan change lanes and slam on his brakes and pull over to the side of the road. The driver wound down his window and yelled "Do you want a lift?" in a friendly Aussie sounding voice with a slight Yugoslav accent. As we ran approaching the driver's window he said he would take us to Sydney. I said "No, no, no we only want to go to Wollongong" and then I heard him ask some questions like "Who knows you are hitch hiking?", "Who knows you are going to see a movie in Wollongong" etc in a normal level voice with a stronger Yugoslav accent. My friend was doing most of the talking to him and answering his questions. I couldn't really hear anything else they were saying. I then heard him say get in and he will drop us off in Wollongong. We walked around to the passenger side of the 2 door sedan, after opening his passenger door we had to lift the front seat forward so I could get into the backseat and then my friend James pushed the seat back in to position and got in to the passenger seat and he only just got his feet in the door and he hadn't even closed the door fully and the driver put his foot on the accelerator and sped off doing between 100kms and 110 km per hour in an 80km speed limit zone! He also went completely silent and seemed deep in thought, he didn't say anything and refused to answer our questions and kept fiddling with his 8 track music player like he couldn't find the right tape he wanted to listen to. I was leaning over the top of the front passenger seat and got a very good look at Ivan close up. He had short black hair, a roundish face, beady eyes and a moustache that wasn't drooping down the sides of his mouth like he later would have. I noticed he had top protruding teeth which were at an angle which gave him a lisp when he talked in a normal level. I guessed that his protruding teeth is probably the reason why he grew a moustache to make his teeth less noticeable. He noticed me studying his face and then he quickly looked away and I moved back into my seat.

Soon after we passed the shops at Windang the driver got stopped by roadside police officers with a speed camera and was pulled over. The driver stopped his car at the side of the road and then got out and walked the short distance over to the police officers standing close to their vehicles and talked to them. Me and my friend were very scared by the drivers odd behaviour. We did not know what the driver was up to because he wasn't behaving normal and we were worried he had sinister motives. We discussed between us about getting out of the vehicle and running away while he was talking to the police near their police car but decided we would probably get caught and taken home and get in a lot of trouble from our parents for hitchhiking. So we stayed in the car and were very frightened. I could hear the police officer asking "You seem to be in quite a hurry. What's your hurry?" but I could not hear what the driver was saying to the police officer. They all looked over at us in the car during their conversation and soon the driver walked back to the car and got behind the steering wheel angrily and threw his speeding ticket on the console between the seats in the front seats and he briefly showed it to us. I only had enough time to read that he had been booked for doing 30kms over the speed limit and I was trying to read the name and it began with 'Iv....' and the driver looked at me and snatched the ticket away and put it in the glovebox. He said to my friend "You wanted to know how fast this car could go." And my friend said "I'm sorry man...". We asked the driver if the police officers had asked about us and he said

yes and that he told them we were hitchhikers that he picked up a short distance back there and he was dropping us off at Wollongong. He then started the car and drove normal after that still not saying a word and again seemed to be in deep thought and he dropped us off in Wollongong like he promised.

About 7 years or so ago when I was watching a story on Ivan Milat on tv in the news being transported back into prison and when I was looking at his face I suddenly recognised him as being that driver who had scared us all those years ago!

I could easily prove it was Ivan Milat if someone has access to his driving records from 1974 (Or 1975) and could see that he had been booked for speeding going 30kms over the speed limit while driving through Windang heading north. Back when this happened we had nothing to report to the police about. Ivan was unknown at the time. He did not threaten us. I did not see a gun in the back seat or on the floor. Only his very odd behaviour scared the crap out of us the moment we got into the car.

As teenagers back then me and my friend James were both wearing blue jeans and had very long hair and might appear to be young girls if a driver in a car saw us from behind from a distance.

Even back then without knowing who Ivan was, we thought he might be up to no good and had sinister plans for us when he picked us up because he was finding out information about who knew we were hitchhiking etc and refusing to give us any information about himself, not even his first name.

The only reason I think Ivan decided to continue to take us to Wollongong and drop us off there is because Ivan Milat doesn't take risks and the police officers got a glimpse of us in his car and had asked about us being in his car and if we had gone missing that night it might have jogged a police officer's memory about us being passengers in Ivan's car.

The reason I think Ivan Milat may have been involved in the disappearance of Kay Docherty and Toni Cavanagh is because the chances of 2 serial killers picking up hitchhikers 3 or 4 years apart from around the same spot along Shellharbour Road at Warilla seems very unlikely.