

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 11 June 2026

Partially
Confidential

I believe that I may have been picked up by about 30-40 Milat in late (Oct-Nov) 1982 when hitch hiking to Wauchope from the north on the Pacific Highway. I had just graduated from Uni (Qld) and had a locum at Wallsend District Hospital for about 6wks, so 21 and by myself. I started taking the bus and arrived in Grafton then thought I might try hitch hiking for a segment, although I had never done this before (all the other travellers were doing this). I was wary. I remember not being that far from Wauchope, my next stop and waiting on the highway with my back pack. Back then, I thought I would be safe if I only took lifts from cockies (older country farmers) and when I Ute with an open back tray like Milat used, pulled over, I thought this was ok. The driver was also dressed like a farmer and older (30-40) and by himself. I only had about 30-45 mins travel to get to the town. I put my pack in the back of the Ute and sat in the front, I was still quite wary. We started chatting and things seemed ok but he started talking about things that rang an alarm and I became very anxious. I cannot remember what exactly but I do remember suddenly have to think quick and I made up a story about my brother being a policeman in Wauchope and he was waiting for me. I even said that we had just talked (phone) before I left and knew that I was on my way and when I would be there. I then made several references to him and how it would be so good to see him and his waiting for me etc. I believe that I was asked about what I was doing and if anyone was waiting etc to see if I would be 'missed'. I know that I felt extremely nervous from that point until he stopped on the outside of Wauchope and dropped me off. I have always remembered this as felt I had a lucky escape, even before I heard of Milat but never reported it as "nothing" happened. I never hitch hiked again! I was only reminded of this when the back packer murders were in the news but because of the location, didn't think my info relevant. This was also the case when Milat was found as it was not near where the bodies were found and much earlier. Only with the recent programs about Milat and talk about the possibility of him committing other crimes in other places and times, did I start to feel guilty about not reporting it to the NSW place but never got around to it and don't trust police. As an avid news watcher, I found out about your enquiry and thought that this would be my last chance and that I may help fill in some tie gaps and locations to help others. I know after all this time that memories fade or you make new false memories, so I have just included what I believe to be true and that I vividly remember. I hope that this helps someone.