

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 16 July 2026

Partially
Confidential

Travelling with Ivan Milat in 1980.

So just before Easter 1980 , when I was 18 yrs old, I hitchhiked from Liverpool NSW to the Riverland in SA with my dog Jake (a small Australian Terrier.)

In Picton as I walked under the old railway bridge , Ivan Milat had his car parked on the side of the road standing at the back with the boot open. He told me to put my backpack in there , so I did.

When I got into his car , I put my hand out and we introduced ourselves , then he told me to keep my dog in the front because he had guns in the back seat and they were loaded, I turned to look into the back and they were covered with a sheet.

I remember that after a few minutes I felt very wary and a little bit intimidated by him but really grateful to have a lift.

He had a stainless steel Mack Truck Bulldog hood ornament bolted on the bonnet of the car. I remember commenting on that , I reckon I was in the car with him for about an hour and a half and I still remember in detail most of the conversations we had in that time.

He asked where i was going , I told him SA , I asked him how far he was going , and he said Canberra, I remember saying " I've never been there before," straight away he offered to bring me there , said that he would show me around ,that I could sleep on the couch then he would drop me off to the highway in the morning, I said no it's ok , and that I had a girlfriend in SA who i was keen to get back to. (that's when I started feeling wary, who would offer that to a hitchhiker?)

After about 15 minutes he started to suggest that we stop somewhere and let my dog out for a piss , I told him that my dog gets agitated and annoys me when it wants to go, so no need to stop,

I noticed for the next 15 or 20 minutes Ivan was getting more persistent about wanting to pull up (unusually persistent.) He even insisted that we should turn off to a nice little rest area, He knew that it had a little creek where we could stretch our legs and that I would really like it there.

I remember feeling a bit uneasy . My instincts made me feel that Ivan had alternate motives, I remember feeling pretty uncomfortable at this point. I said if you want to go there just drop me off on the highway at the turn off. I remember that it was near the Moss vale turn off , and later realised that it was near Belanglo forest .

We didn't stop, but he got very aggressive and said something like , "Your Dog better not shit in my car. If it does, I'll make sure that you fucken clean it up." Things got pretty uncomfortable after that , when I would say something to start a conversation , he would look across at me and say nothing, when we talked after that it was when he wanted to talk , and about what he wanted to talk about.

About 10 minutes before Goulburn, Ivan hit the brakes really hard then turned sharply into a little layby area and stopped the car and told me "get your dog out"

I said ok , and that i will go for a piss too while we are here , I followed my dog around the front of the car to the bushes on the highway side of the car, when I was in the bushes , I suddenly heard a gun firing , when I turned around , I could see Ivan with the drivers door open he had the rifle

barrel across the top of the door and shooting into the bush in front of the car, (the gun was going off like a machine gun for what seemed like a dozen shots),

That made me really jumpy , I said " you could have told me you were going to do that , you scared shit out of me." Then he just said " you're not allowed to have loaded firearms in the ACT ".

He put that Gun back into the back seat, then he brought the other gun out and fired 2 shots from it. That one was a bolt action and sounded more powerful.

(Even though the new Hume Hwy has since been built , that layby still looks untouched, I still remember where that is , and I believe that those bullet shells would probably still be around there somewhere , and may be found with a metal detector)

After that I got back into the car , we went through Goulburn and south from town to the overpass turn off to Canberra, then he dropped me off.

I remember talking to a few people just after that lift and saying I was pretty happy to get out of that car.. **(I had done a lot of hitch hiking for a couple of years around that time and I have to say I never had any other lifts like that, Ivan Milat was a standout character)**

I do have other associated memories around this . It was many years later before I realised who Ivan Milat was and that he was the one that gave me that lift. I made a statement in detail at the request of one of the police officers here in Tully around Nov or December in 1999, he assured me that it could be valuable information , and that he was going to forward it to the Police in NSW. He did say I may get a response from them, but nothing.

Well I hope that my information might help with your Inquiry.

Kind Regards

Andrew.