

Statement from John Daulby, former Assistant Commissioner, Northern Territory Police:

To put things into perspective:

“Peter and Joanne from Huddersfield, England arrived in Sydney on the 16th January 2001, they established a base in that city and obtained work. Joanne in a Dymocks Book Store in the city and Peter with a company that installs office furniture.

In May 2001 the couple purchased an Orange VW Kombi Van as a means to continue their travels through Australia.

Late in June 2001 Joanne and Peter left Sydney some 5 months after their arrival in Australia. This was part of their travel plan.

The couple travelled through Canberra, Victoria and South Australia before heading to the Northern Territory. In South Australia the Kombi was registered in Peter’s name. On the 9th July 2001 Joanne and Peter refuelled at Erldunda in the NT enroute to Ayers Rock. The next day the couple picked up two hitchhikers near Ayres Rock and travelled with them to Kings Canyon. That afternoon the group left for Alice Springs utilising the Mereenie Loop road. The couples sought separate accommodation in Alice Springs.

Joanne and Peter had a chance meeting with the hitchhikers the next day in Alice Springs..

Joanne and Peter stayed in Alice Springs for two days and departed on the 14/07/01. Their movements in Alice Springs are well recorded.

The allegations raised by Mr Susman regarding Peter Falconio are simply outrageous to say the least. There is no information whatsoever that either Peter or Joanne had any connection or prior liaison with Murdoch or any of his associates, including Hepi and or involved in the trafficking of cannabis during their time in Sydney or throughout their travels to the Northern Territory.

Joanne and Peter’s only confrontation with Murdoch was on the 14th July 2001 10kms north of Barrow Creek in the NT which resulted in the murder of Peter and attempted abduction and assaults on Joanne by Murdoch.