

## Statement from Victor Susman:

We tried for some time to meet Vince Millar. In 2017 he agreed for Fraser and me to visit.

I had read Brad Murdoch's hand-written notes about Vince Millar's typed statement dated 25 July 2001;

*"The was no moon – very dark. Say about 40kms north of Barrow. The was headlights coming towards him about 20kms away. After about 3 or 4kms then another k switched on to high beam like he wasn't getting any closer. He does not believe the lights were moving, more the case he was travelling towards the lights. The saw a blur of lights in the distance which he thought was a car doing a U turn. It seemed as though the light went around. He estimates it about a km after seeing Lees to stopping in the middle of road".*

This prompted Fraser's interview with Vince. We were both astounded to hear his revelations about the little red sedan and the two blokes shoving 'jellyman' into the back before driving off.

Millar then gets back in the truck and starts up and after a few minutes, sees Lees on the road and rescues her. The timing of Lees' rescue and the little red car driving off is uncanny.

My investigation underpinned this series. What astounded me was what was left out. I wonder if Channel 4 (UK) or the Seven Network know what didn't make it into the series?

Vince made another astounding revelation. He said that when he rescued Joanne Lees, she wasn't as concerned about finding Pete as she was to find the Kombi van. Vince asked her why and she replied something along the lines of; because we're taking a package to Darwin for someone who's paying for our fuel for the trip".

That made sense to me because Lees and Falconio kept all their fuel receipts and each time they refuelled they wrote down the mileage from the Kombi's odometer onto the receipt.

An even bigger exclusion from the series was from James Hepi's second statement. Hepi was Murdoch's dope dealing business partner, who was facing serious drug charges in WA, and probably several years in jail. He cleverly negotiated a deal for a lighter sentence by telling police Brad Murdoch was Falconio's killer. Hepi got a slap on the wrist. Two fines of \$600 and a suspended jail sentence. After he got his deal he made three statements. On page 22 of his second statement dated 26 September 2002, Hepi says: *"When Gary [Murdoch] came over I had wood on the back that I had to take over to the pub so I stayed at the pub and got drunk. I know that Gary came over before that Falconio bloke came over".*

Hepi places Falconio at his dope growing farm in Sedan South Australia. He makes no mention of Joanne Lees. If true, this changes everything about the case and yet for reasons never told, police never asked Ms Lees about this statement which was remiss, considering the head of the Falconio investigation, Colleen Gwynne, flew to the UK for Lees' identification of Murdoch about a month after Hepi made his 2<sup>nd</sup> statement.

This ties in with respected English journalist Roger Maynard's comment in the Seven News one hour special 'The Latest: Falconio', that aired immediately after 'Murder in the Outback'. Melissa Doyle asked Maynard for a comment, he said: *Maybe this was a drug deal that went wrong.*

'Murder in the Outback' was presented as a Seven News special. I was central in the production and over the past 12 months I was not aware of any contact or reference with Seven News, that is, until immediately after the show.