

IN THE CORONERS COURT
OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE

Court Reference: 3487/11

FINDING INTO DEATH WITH INQUEST

*Form 37 Rule 60(1)
Section 67 of the Coroners Act 2008*

Inquest into the Death of UNKNOWN REMAINS COMPRISING HUMAN MANDIBLE

Delivered On: 16 March 2012

Delivered At: Coroner's Court of Victoria
Level 11, 222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne Victoria

Hearing Dates: 16 March 2012

Findings of: K. M. W. PARKINSON, CORONER

Police Coronial
Support Unit: Senior Constable Kelly Ramsey]

I, K. M. W. PARKINSON, Coroner having investigated the death of UNKNOWN REMAINS
COMPRISING HUMAN MANDIBLE

AND having held an inquest in relation to this death on 16 March 2012
at Melbourne

find that the identity of the deceased was UNKNOWN REMAINS COMPRISING HUMAN
MANDIBLE

and the death occurred at an unknown date

at an Unknown Location

from:

1a. UNKNOWN CAUSE

in the following circumstances:

1. This matter was listed for inquest this day. On 15 September 2011, at 90 Mile Beach, Seaspray at the mouth of the Merriman Creek, Ms Sally Court located a lower jaw bone which appeared to have been washed up on the beach.
2. The area is one of aboriginal cultural significance and there are known to be aboriginal burial sites at various locations on the 90 mile beach.
3. Police took possession of the remains and conveyed them to the Coroners Court at Melbourne, where an examination was undertaken by Dr Christopher Briggs, Forensic Anthropologist with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.
4. Dr Briggs reported that the mandible is complete. Based upon the size and appearance of the bone, including enamel loss from the molar teeth, the bone is likely to be that of an Australian Aboriginal and having regard to the size of the mandible and the prominence of muscle attachment sites, were those of an adult male, possibly in his mid 20's.
5. It appears that the remains are archaeological in significance. Whilst there is no information available to me as to the aboriginal history specifically connected with the site, I accept that the location is of aboriginal cultural significance and that the remains are likely to be those of a person of aboriginal ancestry.
6. I am satisfied that no further investigation is required. I find that the mandible in this case is human and likely of Australian Aboriginal ancestry. On the available evidence it is not possible to make findings as to identity, where, when or in what circumstances the person died.

7. I order that the remains be released to Museum Victoria to be dealt with in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006, Act. No. 16/2006.

Signature:



K. M. W. PARKINSON
CORONER



16 March 2012