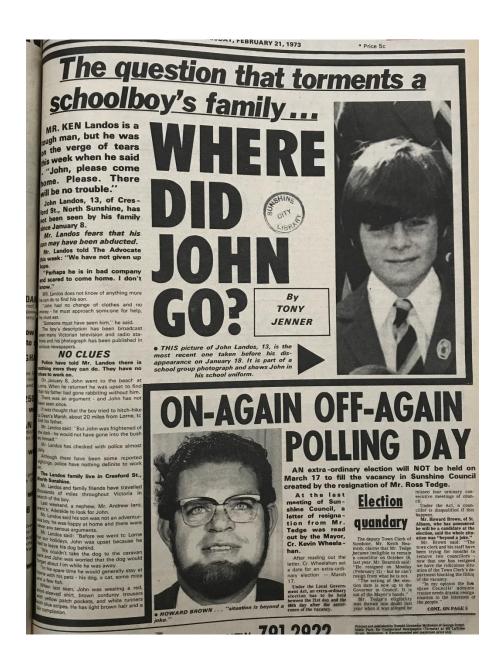
### **Sunshine Advocate**

## Where did John go?

21st February 1973 Page 1



### **Sunshine Advocate**

# **Search for John brings 100**

18th April 1973 Page 1



#### **Facebook**

https://www.facebook.com/509702762472925/posts/the-evening-13-year-old-john-landos-went-missing-the-wheal-family-was-at-the-kit/3023774251065751/

## **Australia Missing Person Register**

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

The evening 13 year old John Landos went missing, the Wheal family was at the kitchen table of their house overlooking the road from Lorne to Deans Marsh in Victoria. Wheals' was the last house before Lorne's outskirts ran into bush. So when they saw a slight teenage boy walking away from town, they wondered why. The sun was setting, shadows were deepening in the Otways and the boy was moving purposefully. "Where's he going?" Peter Wheal would recall one of his parents asking as the small figure walked on. They were the last to see him alive. Earlier that afternoon, John had been playing with friends in another tent. His father Kyriakos had told him he could go shooting with him and the others in the evening if he was ready at 5pm. Kyriakos wasn't a keen shooter he went for the exercise and the company - but his son wanted to be included. The men gathered to go but John hadn't turned up. His father shrugged and said he would take him next time. When John returned to find he'd been left behind, he was angry. "He was crying and his face changed colour," his mother recalls. She tried to calm him but he started to walk off, holding the hand of his little brother Andrew, then 7. His mother said to leave Andrew with her, and he did. She went into the tent to do something. Later, someone asked "Where's John?" and she said "He's outside." But he wasn't. It was more than 20 kilometres to Deans Marsh, too far to walk, but his mother hoped he might have hitched a ride. In fact, he most likely did accept a lift. But the driver suspected of picking him up was a serial paedophile who would rather kill than go back to jail. He was known to police because he'd been offending for 20 years but no one thought to knock on his door until another boy went missing nearly two years later. The homicide squad took Reginald Isaacs from Pentridge Prison to Russell Street and questioned him about John Landos. Isaacs admitted using the Deans Marsh road in early 1973 while cutting tea tree in the area, but denied seeing the boy. That night, he attempted suicide.

Isaacs was committed to stand trial for Greg Cowie's murder in early 1975. He was automatically sentenced to death but the sentence would be commuted to a minimum life sentence. But on April 30, 1975, he was found dead with towelling knotted around

his neck in a cell in Pentridge's D Division. John Landos has never been found. Thanks to Andrew Rule for this account of John's story.