

15-5-98

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On Wed 22 Jan 97 I arrived at School at about 1000 or 1030 am, having earlier met Dordie Brett at the airport. Shortly after my arrival I was informed by the School Registrar that Kevin Lynch had left the School in the company of some police, advising that he was going with them to assist them with their enquiries.

The police had earlier come to the main administration reception counter and been directed to Kevin's office.

I knew that Kevin had been involved in a traffic accident which had become controversial and assumed that that may have been the matter in hand. When he had not returned by lunchtime I went to his office. There was no indication of the visit, but his 1996 diary open on the desk showed the first of two pages in which he had written up full details of the traffic accident, and this led me to believe this was the case.

Some time later (1430 hours?) Det Craig Morrow and Sgt Greg Pershore from Boondall presented themselves to me and handed me a search warrant. They advised that Kevin was at Boondall police station and that he would shortly be arrested and charged. They indicated that the charge was one of "child exploitation"; the only details they were prepared to provide were that the offence may have included "fondling".

I was not allowed to keep the warrant, but was allowed to read it. It indicated that the complainant was BSE [redacted], a student who had attended from Yr 8 1991 to Yr 10 1993. Det Morrow suggested that he had been expelled. I replied that I did not believe so. My memory in fact is that there was a mutual decision that BSE [redacted] not continue at the School. He had had a history of disciplinary problems, including bullying, damage, lying, etc.

Det Morrow told me that he was aware that towards the end of last year Kevin had told me he was concerned about a client whom he was meeting at his home. This person he feared might assault him. (He has been assaulted by clients at home, and had been cautioned not to place himself in that situation, but continued to do so.) I had been concerned in turn and had rung Kevin during the evening to make sure he was all right. Det Morrow knew that the complainant was the person who had been in Kevin's house when I had rung. Later information indicated he had learnt this either because the complainant had had a concealed tape recorder and/or the telephone had been tapped.

The warrant indicated that it was believed that Kevin's "blue Collins" appointment diary for 1993 would contain evidence to support the complainant's allegations. I therefore accompanied Morrow and Pereshore, and a police photographer (Alan Kennell) and another detective whose name I do not remember. I took them to Kevin's office where they searched the three rooms in my presence. One of them looked in the client card file, but found no card for the complainant. The diaries were found on a shelf in the central room. Although nearly all the diaries were "blue Collins" the two that were found for 1993 were of a different make. These were photographed and taken away. I saw that the date on one of the two diaries was 1993.

(Kevin's method of using the diaries was well-known to be that students wrote their own appointments in the books. I do not think that while they were in the office the police found any page which actually showed the complainant's name.)

## ST PAUL'S SCHOOL

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Det Morrow also instructed the photographer to take some general photos, including of what he called the "relaxation chair", and of a light-switching system which Kevin used to indicate to callers whether he was busy or not. Det Morrow may have thought that it controlled the ability to open the door, but I pointed out that it did not.

The police then advised me to contact the Diocesan Authorities. They explained that Kevin would be arrested, charged and taken to the Watchhouse, and probably released on his own undertaking to appear before the Magistrate at some time in the future. That would happen the same day.

About half an hour after leaving Det Morrow rang. I was unavailable, and he asked to speak to Roz White, who was a former teacher of his in Bundaberg. He mentioned to the switch girl the name of the student about whom he wished to make enquiries. Roz declined to provide information, and as I was still busy he left a message for me to ring back. He wanted to know all the years that BSE [redacted] was at the School. He then said that he would need to come back and get the other diaries for those years.

While I was on the phone I confirmed that Kevin had had access to a solicitor, but I formed the opinion that this had been over the phone and that the solicitor was not necessarily present during the police investigation. I also re-confirmed that Kevin would be released from the watchhouse that night. Det Morrow indicated that they were still typing up the charges (plural) and that they would then take Kevin to the watchhouse.

Later that evening the Bursar advised me that Kevin had returned to the School at about 1700, and that the police had gone with him to his office, presumably to collect the other diaries. Kevin also spoke to Jack King and Fred Danielsen during this time, and indicated there was no problem.

That evening at about 1930 Kevin rang me at home. My wife answered the phone and had a brief conversation with him, but he asked to speak to me. He said in a fairly businesslike manner that he was all right, that he had an appointment with his solicitor first thing on the Thursday morning, and that he would come to see me at about 1100 hours. He indicated that when we met he would hand me his keys, and take leave without pay "until this thing blows over". I pointed out that there were options and that even if he did take leave it would not necessarily have to be without pay, but he did not wish to prolong the conversation. We hung up agreeing to talk through the issues when we met.

When Kevin did not keep the appointment I became concerned, the more so as I had learnt by then that his car was not in its usual place in the carport. I assumed he had gone somewhere else. My increasing concern led to my (a) asking Fr George Henry, who lives close by, to check to see if he was all right when he went home on Thursday; and also (b) to my eventually reporting him as missing. I first approached, as advised by a solicitor, the arresting officer, but he claimed to be powerless to accept my attempted report. I then rang Sandgate Police Station and shortly afterwards Constable (Sergeant?) Gavin Rowe and another officer came to see me and receive the report.

Shortly after they had left me Fr Henry's wife rang to say that her husband had found Kevin's body in his car in the garage, with the engine still running.

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