

Meeting: Charlie Scudamore and Stefan Janse Van Vuuren.

Date: Tuesday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2007

Time: 12:10pm

Venue: CS Office

Stefan had been accused of 'up-skirting' during the Geography Fieldtrip to Queenscliff Marine Centre on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Girls on the trip had spoken to a Head of House about incidents that had occurred on the trip. These allegations were investigated. As part of the investigation I was asked to interview Stefan to ascertain his version of events. The following notes were recorded during the interview.

Stefan accompanied the Year 10 Fieldtrip to Queenscliff along with two other teachers, Shem Fitzgerald and Stephen Pearce, as well as two assistants Tony Adams and Madeleine Mortimer. The trip departed at 9:00am and returned soon after 2:00pm. Stefan confessed to having taken photographs with his digital camera of girls while they were leaning over a workspace or exhibit. He confessed that he was intentionally taking photographs up the skirts of the girls. He was not targeting any student in particular.

There were two instances of this occurring:

- 1) At the 'Tactile Pond'. Students were allowed to touch the animals in this pond. At that moment an opportunity presented itself and he took two or three photographs (he could not remember) of girls while they were engaging in this activity. He waited a few minutes and then looked at the photographs he had taken. Once Stefan had looked at the 'up-skirt' photographs he claimed that he deleted them. Stefan said that he knew his actions were wrong.
- 2) The second occasion occurred at the 'laboratory'. The students were engaged in experiments with fish. The fish were laid out on a bench. Once again an opportunity to take an 'up-skirt' photograph presented and he took two or three shots (again he could not remember the precise number). As before, he looked at them a few minutes later and then deleted the photographs.

Stefan informed me that he was with Mr Pearce during both activities along with 30 other students. Students were busy and engaged. He deliberately aimed the camera up the skirts of female students. He had no idea that anybody had seen him behave in such a way.

He stated that at no time was he aware that any student had observed his behaviour. He also stated that from the time of the fieldtrip to when the police arrived yesterday evening; 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007 no student had made any reference to his behaviour on the trip.

I asked if he had anything more to add to the statement and he said no. I had no more questions. He did ask for:

- 1) Written confirmation from SDM about his suspension with full pay

## Confidential Letter

Meeting in Charlie's office at 12.15am on Friday November 2, 2007.

Record of interview between Charles Scudamore and students A, B, and C.

Charlie emphasised the need to keep this matter very confidential as it affected people's private and professional lives and the girls re-iterated that they were very aware of this and had not discussed the matter with anyone except a parent and myself.

Charlie read the statement written by the girls.

The incident occurred on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

Charlie explained the timing of receiving the statement and meeting with the girls.

(The girls had given me the statement on Thursday and I had immediately added a couple of notes, sealed it in an envelope marked confidential and placed it discretely on his desk.)

All girls agreed with the content of the statement. Student C explained what she had seen and gave details about seeing the camera placed down beside the staff member's lower leg with the lens facing upward as girls were bending forward to view the dissection of a fish. All girls recalled seeing the camera flash, seeing the staff member look around beforehand and returning the camera to its normal position furtively. They were in no doubt about what was happening as it occurred 5 times within a 10 minute time period. The camera was a digital one, larger than that which Charlie had in his office, with a large lens.

The girls were unsure of what to do in the situation. They considered speaking to the other member of staff, Mr Pearce but were not sure how to do so discretely. Student B and Student A came to speak with me that evening.

The girls refer to the staff member as Mr JVV. None of them has been taught by him before and did not know him.

All girls spoke of being 'sickened' by what they saw and of avoiding Mr JVV for the rest of the excursion.

The meeting concluded at 12.45.

Margaret Bennetts.  
2.11.2007.

CC Copies to: Stephen Meek, Charles Scudamore, Malcolm Leigh Smith and Stefan Janse Van Vuuren