

Conversation with mr CRAWLEY

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Brief Description: Attached is a recount of the conversation with Mr CRAWLEY on the 15th of April, 2009.

On the 15th of April, 2009 investigators contacted the ex-head master from Knox Grammar, Mr CRAWLEY. Mr CRAWLEY was the head master from the dates of 1999-2001. CRAWLEY relieved Dr PATERSON from his role as head Master when he resigned.

Mr CRAWLEY spoke at length with police in relation to relationships and friendships within the school at the time. Mr CRAWLEY described these relationships as “weird” and “very odd.” He stated that the boarding masters at the time had intense relationship. These persons included Mr Bob THOMAS and Bruce CARTER and others that were not disclosed at this time. These persons had many secrets and had an intense relationship however never like each other. He found this group hard to penetrate and hard to get information from. He further stated that he could never explain or begin to understand the relationships between the teachers within Knox Grammar.

Mr CRAWLEY stated that he was not surprised by the media release relating to the arrests of certain teachers. CRAWLEY stated that he did everything in his power to get to the bottom of his investigation relating to NISBETT. When Mr CRAWLEY first attended the school, NISBETT was the head of year 12 and an English teacher. Mr CRAWLEY promoted him to the Head or Director of Students. This was due to the rapport that he had with the students. He stated that NISBETT was well liked by the students and felt that he could relate well with the students. On some occasions NISBETT was invited and would attend the parties held by the Year 12 students. He stated that there were several rumours about NISBETT and after this he was “watched like a hawk.” There were no complaints received by students or teachers and no forth coming evidence received by CRAWLEY. In 2003 CRAWLEY did a report and an investigation into sexual related offences involving NISBETT. CRAWLEY is aware that a second report was made in 2004 by Mr WEEKS.

Mr CRAWLEY further stated that a teacher or council member named Ruth MITCHEL also did a report related to a number of teachers and sexual offences occurring at Knox Grammar. In 2007 she submitted a report into reports of buried sexual problems within the school. An unknown group of people attended a meeting in relation to this report. Mr CRAWLEY is aware of a two page document containing minutes from this meeting. Mr CRAWLEY is positive that this document still exists. He believes that this report contains video recordings, tapes and interviews conducted by Ruth MITCHELL. This report allegedly took two years to complete. CRAWLEY spoke to MITCHELL approximately five weeks ago and believes that she would be forth coming with information and would be willing to assist police. CRAWLEY believes that MITCHELL is currently overseas and resides at west Pymble. CRAWLEY will attempt to get her contact details and urge her to approach police. A close friend and ex-staff member from Knox, Kym WALTON is a close friend of MITCHELL's. WALTON currently resides in Germany and would be able to assist also. WALTON has a low trust of the current council at Knox Grammar.

Mr CRAWLEY is of the belief that Bob THOMAS has a lot of information relating to these incidents at Knox Grammar. He will not assist and will not be forthcoming. Mr GOODING will be unsure what to say and believes has the same feelings as CRAWLEY in relation to some of the members of council. This information is only his opinion.

Mr CRAWLEY knows Barrie STEWART and also Craig TRELOAR, however does not have any information in relation to this investigation.

Mr CRAWLEY stated that the below teachers and staff members may be able to assist and will help with the investigation. All teachers were teaching or boarding masters through the 80's. These teachers are: Bruce CARTER, (boarding master) Rex WARD (deputy at time) and John TURNBULL (2nd to Dr PATERSON at time.)

Mr CRAWLEY stated that Dr PATERSON was a very feared man within the school. There were several rumours regarding Dr PATERSON also relating to sexual preference and sexual offences. CRAWLEY never worked with him. Mr CRAWLEY believed or felt that he was bullied to an extent in relation to trying to get information surrounding Dr PATERSON. Mr CRAWLEY believes that there is a red folder that was prepared by Paterson that still exists. This folder contains information relating to "problems that might come up" within the school. This was prepared by Paterson and is contained in a red folder. It was last seen in the office of PATERSON.

Mr CRAWLEY further stated that a Jim MEIN was a member of the council at the time. He is employed by the uniting Church and would be concerned by the name of the Uniting Church. He believes that MEIN would be able to offer information and would be willing to assist. CRAWLEY has not spoken to him in relation to these matters and unsure of his contact details.

At no stage does Mr CRALEY want his name mentioned to any of the staff members named or mentioned that he has spoken to investigators. Mr CRAWLWY is willing to make a statement and in happy to assist with the investigation. CRAWLEY is currently the principal of St Hilda's girl's college situated in South Port, Queensland.