



NSW POLICE

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

In the matter of:	Knox Grammar School - STEWART
Place:	Bathurst Police Station
Date:	23 rd April 2009
ADD:	REDACTED Bathurst
Occupation:	Hospital Scientist
Tel No.	REDACTED
Name:	Matthew O'NEAL

STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out evidence which I would be prepared, if necessary, to give in court as a witness. The statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 41 years of age (Dob. **RED** 1967).
3. I first attended Knox Grammar Preparatory (Prep) School located in Billyard Avenue, Wahroonga in 1976. I started in grade three at the school in this year. Miss STOW was my school teacher when I first started. I never had any problems with any teachers during my first year at school.
4. The Prep School is located on a different campus to the Knox Grammar Senior School. The senior school is located in Warrawee which is a short distance away from the Prep School.
5. I lived with my mum and dad in Wahroonga when I first started at the school. I have two younger brothers, named **RED** and **REDAC** and one younger sister named **RED**. My brother **RE** attended Knox Grammar school when I had already left Knox. I remember going to his first day at the school when I was at work. As far as I know there are no problems that **REDAC** had with the school.
6. There was a teacher at the Prep school named Barrie STEWART and he taught tennis amongst other things at the school. I knew of STEWART at the school during my earlier days at the school but became more involved with him during grade six when he became my class teacher. I wasn't initially in his class but got transferred into his grade six class after a few weeks. I do not recall why this occurred. My involvement with him prior to grade six would be seeing STEWART around the school during recess and lunch. I had no direct contact with him prior to grade six.

Witness:



Simon GILLARD
D/S/C
23rd April 2009

Signature:

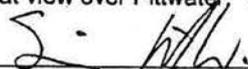


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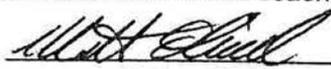
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7. When I was in STEWART'S class I felt as though he singled me out as the teachers pet. In grade six (1979) we had a school musical and he picked me out to sing when I wasn't the best singer in the class. I would have been around twelve years of age in grade six. I remember in this year STEWART took me in his car in this year after school to the RTA at Waitara to get his new car registered. The car was a yellow two door Corolla Registration No. **REDACTED** I don't know why I went or why he asked me to go with him. I have no recollection if my parents knew he was taking me out after school. Nothing happened on this occasion. I found out at this time when I saw his licence details that his middle name was Tiffany. I remember thinking this was strange as it was a girl's name. I recently discovered from the media it was actually Tiffin.
8. There was also another occasion that I went with STEWART during this year out with only him. He took me to a restaurant in the city called 'Big ALS Sandwich Bar'. It was on the corner of George and King Street in the city. It is not there anymore. I think we went here during the day for just lunch. It was only STEWART and I who attended. He paid for the lunch. I recall wondering why he was doing this type of thing for me and as far as I knew not with other students. He never touched me inappropriately on this occasion at the restaurant.
9. I also remember receiving some bubble gum from STEWART after he went to Hawaii. This was a big deal for me as I had never been overseas. I think he only gave the bubblegum or other lollies to a select few students.
10. In grade six I remember I sat towards the front of the class. I don't recall getting any special treatment in the class itself. I have a very good friend by the name of David RENTOUL and David I think sat with me in class. David used to live in **REDACTED** and this was on the way to STEWART'S house which was at Whale Beach. David's father worked at the senior school and he had some form of friendship with STEWART. I noticed David and STEWART had some form of connection in grade six but I do not know to what extent but I presumed due to David's father working at Knox and their close proximity to where they live.
11. I recall David and I having conversations about STEWART owning a 'brown pouch'. He never brought it to class and I saw it when I went to the RTA with STEWART and I presumed David had seen it outside of class too. We used to have jokes in regards to the brown pouch that STEWART had.
12. Sometime during the year in grade six, I would say at some stage later in the year, STEWART arranged with my mum for me to go to his house either on the weekend or during holidays. It was not a school day. My mum agreed after speaking to STEWART. At the time of agreeing I am aware she believed another student was attending STEWART'S house. His name was **REDACTED**. He never actually went to STEWART'S house on this day and it was only me who went. I recall the reason I was going to his house was so he could take me to the beach.
13. He came on this day I think in the morning and picked me up from mum and dads. He came in his new Corolla. I think he came to the front door and collected me. He came by himself and I sat in the front passenger seat. I had my swimmers with me in a bag and also my towel. He picked me up from Wairoona and we drove to his house at Whale Beach. I recall his house had a great view over Pittwater. The house faced west. The house was on Whale Beach Road

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and the house was lower than the road. The driveway leads downwards to the house. Upon entering the house there was a bedroom on the right. I think towards the back of the house was the kitchen with the views over Pittwater. I think there was also a back deck.

14. When we arrived to STEWART'S house I went inside and he showed me around. I can't recall if we had any conversation. At some stage STEWART spoke to me.

STEWART said, "We better get changed into your cossie, we'll go to the beach."

STEWART indicated for me to get changed into my swimming costume in the room on the right near the front door. I went into the room and pushed the door too. I don't know where he was. I got undressed and began to change into my swimmers and as I was pulling them up, STEWART walked into the room. My swimmers were 'Speedo' type swimmers. STEWART started to tickle me around my waist area.

I said, "Stop."

As far as I can remember this was the first time he has ever tickled me and I felt uncomfortable with him doing it.

He said, "Come on you love it."

He was laughing and playing at the time. He continued to tickle me and I tried to push his hands away. I am extremely ticklish and I hate being tickled.

I said, "No I don't love it, get out."

I felt very embarrassed that he was giving me this type of attention. After he tickled me around the waist for a short time he then stopped. The only place he touched me on this occasion was around my waist and torso area, tickling me. He did not touch my genitals on this occasion. STEWART then left the room and I continued to change. I came out of the room a short time later and we then left to go to the beach.

15. We got back into STEWART'S car and drove down the hill to the beach. It was whale Beach. He parked I think in the car park and we got out (I have drawn and signed a diagram to assist explaining the beach area). After we got out of STEWART'S car we walked over the sand to the south. We walked side by side and I was just following his lead. I don't recall there being anyone at the beach. It was very quiet. We walked around to a rock shelf area that you can cross in low tide. I walked with STEWART to a small sheltered cave at the back of the rock shelf. I remember there being a rock seat inside this small sheltered area. I sat on this seat and he sat next to me on my right. There was conversation at the time walking to the rock shelf and small cave but I can't recall what this conversation was.

16. After a short time STEWART has put his left arm around my shoulders, like a hug. I felt strange by what he was doing. I can't recall if he said anything or if I said anything. After he put his arm

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around me he put his other hand on my right thigh. I was wearing 'Speedos' so his hand was directly on my thigh, palm facing downwards.

I said, "What are you doing?"

He said, "Come on you love it, you love it."

I said, "Get off me."

He didn't get off me so I said, "I'll scream".

At this time he moved his hand up my thigh and under my Speedo leg. He then touched me on my genitals. He touched my scrotum and my penis. Most of his fingers if not all of them were inside my Speedos directly touching my genitals. He moved his fingers around while inside my Speedos. I don't recall him saying anything. I felt numb and didn't know what to do. I was still thinking, as I remember I had read this article that year saying to yell rape rather than murder if you want someone to help you.

I started to yell, "Rape."

I yelled this several times and at the same time tried to move his hand away from inside my Speedos. After a short time he removed his hand and then started to tickle me, making out it was a joke and that he was just playing. Nobody was around and nobody came as the beach and the area were very quiet. From me yelling out rape he eventually stopped touching me all together. From this time I have no recollection of how I got home or what happened next. I have been trying to remember and my mother told me just recently that she actually picked me up from Mona Vale. I think because I was so numb from the experience I just can't remember what happened next.

17. This was the first and only time that STEWART touched me like this. I left grade six and attended the senior school where I did not have any more dealings with STEWART. I do however recall my brother REDAC attending his first day at Knox and I went along with my mother. I saw STEWART there. I would have been around nineteen or twenty years of age and had left school.

I recall my mother talking to STEWART and I recall STEWART saying, "Matthew is better looking than RE"

I felt relieved by him saying this as it made me think I now didn't have to worry about my brother with STEWART.

18. The first person I ever told about what happened to me was my ex-girlfriend, REDACTED. I would say she lives in Sydney somewhere although she married a guy who at some stage lived in Europe. It would have been around 1990 when I was at REDA flat in Wollstonecraft and we had a conversation. I'm not sure how it came up but I said words similar to, "A teacher molested me when I was at school. He touched me."

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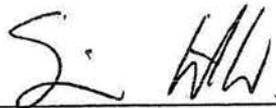
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REDAC consoled me and felt sorry for me. I can't remember exactly what she said. I did say, "I feel the worst for the victim's who came after me. I feel guilty that I haven't told anyone."

I didn't tell anyone earlier than this about what STEWART did to me or at the time due to it being extremely embarrassing. What he did to me knocked all of the confidence out of me for the next ten years. I was living with a secret without the confidence to tell anyone before **REDA**

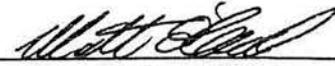
19. Since after telling **REDA** I have told my current partner **RED** in the mid 1990's and have discussed STEWART with my friend David RENTOUL in 1999 at dinner. More recently I have told my mother and a friend.
20. On Wednesday 23rd April 2009 I attended Bathurst Police Station and made this statement to Detective GILLARD.

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