



NSW POLICE FORCE

P190A

Version 4.2 (07/05)

STATEMENT OF A WITNESS

XI
John
DUNN
7.2.13

In the matter of: Strike Force Georgiana
Place: Newcastle Police Station
Date: 17 February 2013

Name: John Oxley DUNN

STATES:

1. This statement made by me accurately sets out the evidence that 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 will be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything that I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.
2. I am 51 years of age.
3. I grew up in Hamilton with my parents REDACTED and REDACTED. I have four younger brothers REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED and REDACTED (deceased).
4. Our family are Catholic and we would attend church once during the week and once on the weekend. I became an altar boy when I was seven and I continued to be an altar boy right up until the end of Year 12.
5. I commenced Primary School in 1966 at the Sacred Heart Primary School, Hamilton. I finished Primary School in 1972. In 1973 I commenced High School at Marist Brothers, Hamilton.
6. In 1974 I commenced second form and I was in Class '8 Red', our class master was Brother ROMUALD. I would describe Brother ROMUALD as a man who was probably six foot tall and was solid. Brother ROMUALD had dark hair and dark eyes which looked sunken. I think Brother ROMUALD was around the same age as my father who was about forty at the time.
7. In High School I was the smallest person in our class. I didn't have a growth spurt until I was in Year 10.

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REDACTED

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8. Some of my classmates from '8 Red' were REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED, REDACTED and REDACTED (deceased).
9. I recall an incident early in the year that occurred at Bar Beach. Brother ROMUALD was running Duke of Edinburgh Awards training and on occasions it involved training before school. I remember it was before school and we were doing a beach swim, it was probably 7:30am when we arrived at Bar Beach. After doing the beach swim we went into the change rooms at Bar Beach. As people started to get their school uniforms out of their bags Brother ROMUALD told us all that we had to have a shower. Some people started to head for the shower in their Speedos and Brother ROMUALD told them to take them off as it was pointless to have a shower with them on. All of us boys then went and got into the shower and we were all naked. The showers were communal showers back then. Brother ROMUALD joined us in the shower and he was naked also. I remember thinking Brother ROMUALD had quite a large penis, in hindsight I would say his penis was semi-erect at the time. We were all showering and Brother ROMUALD came over to me. Brother ROMUALD said 'Wash it properly.' Brother ROMUALD has then rubbed his hand on my penis and testicles. While he was doing this Brother ROMUALD was saying that we had to get all of the salt water and sand off. I froze and Brother ROMUALD did this for about thirty seconds. It felt like he did it for days. When Brother ROMUALD did this all of the other boys had turned around to see who he was picking on. When Brother ROMUALD stopped he moved on to another one of the boys. I kept my head down and faced the wall. I got out of that shower block as soon as I could.
10. That night when I got home I told my mother that Brother ROMUALD had got in the shower with us at Bar Beach. My mother responded by saying that Brother ROMUALD would have had to do that because he was in charge of us. I told my mother that Brother ROMUALD had told me to wash myself properly and showed me how to do it. I can't remember exactly what my mother said but she basically justified what he had done and said that it was appropriate. Having grown up in such a prudish environment I was very confused and I couldn't reconcile it in my mind.
11. Brother ROMUALD organised Father and Son camping trips. At the end of first term Brother ROMUALD organised a Father and Son camp to the Myall Lakes. My father and I went along to this camp. I remember on this trip the Fathers drank two 9 gallon kegs of beer during the

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camping trip, I remember Brother ROMUALD was the only person who didn't drink. As part of the camp we did a lot of water sports. We had a truck tyre tube out in the water that we would duck dive off and would see how many boys we could get onto the tube. I remember being out on the tube playing with some of the boys when Brother ROMUALD swam up into the middle of the tube. I was sitting on the tube with some of the other boys. Brother ROMUALD reorganised us boys so that he could sit up on the tube also. Brother ROMUALD sat up on tube with us. I remember that REDACTED REDACTED and REDACTED were sitting on the tube also. REDACTED may have also been there. After a little while Brother ROMUALD flopped his penis out of his Speedos. Brother ROMUALD pretended like he was surprised but then he started to talk about his penis and tell us boys that one of these days we would be like him. Brother ROMUALD picked up my right hand and put it on his penis, I remember that his penis was firm but not erect at the time. Brother ROMUALD held my hand there and while he did that he was talking about the different texture of his penis, almost like it was a Science lesson. REDACTED then started to rock the tube and the tube flipped and we all fell off. I got out of the water as quickly as I could. I couldn't understand why Brother ROMUALD did that, it just didn't make any sense to me.

12. On the way home from the trip I told my father what Brother ROMUALD had done. My father's response was that I was lying about it. I remember I tried to tell my mother about what had happened but I did it in a roundabout way because I didn't want my mother to have a conversation with my father about it as he had already called me a liar. My father drank a lot and I thought if mum said anything to him I would cop it.
13. Later in the year I think it was probably at the start of third term Brother ROMUALD had sent a letter home to everyone's parents about building a speed boat with him. My mother had volunteered me to help. I tried to tell her that I didn't want to do it but she thought it was a great idea. This was always on a Saturday afternoon and was at the school outside the woodwork shed.
14. I remember one afternoon arriving on my bicycle and it looked like there wasn't anyone else there. I thought that I would do a u-turn and get out of there because I didn't want to be alone with Brother ROMUALD. As I started to leave Brother ROMUALD appeared and told me that REDACTED was also there. I got off my bike and went and worked on the boat, I think we were sanding that day. After a little while REDACTED left and it was just Brother ROMUALD

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and me. I kept working on the boat and Brother ROMUALD came up behind me. Brother ROMUALD put his hand between my legs and grabbed me around my genitals. Brother ROMUALD lifted me up and asked me to do something that was up higher. I was squirming around trying to get off his hand. When Brother ROMUALD put me down I jumped on my bike and told him that I had to go. I took off on my bike and got out of there.

15. I didn't tell anyone about what had happened on this occasion. After trying to tell my parents on the previous two occasions and being called a liar I didn't tell them again.

16. From then onwards I kept my guard up and stayed away from Brother ROMUALD. The only other time I was alone with Brother ROMUALD was on the day he told us that my best friend REDACTED had died. On this day Brother ROMUALD walked with me to the Principals Office so that I could go home.

17. The following year at the end of Year 9 and start of Year 10 Brother ROMUALD asked my mother if I would feed the Science rats and water the gardens over the six weeks of holidays. My mother agreed to this, I told her that I didn't want to and she told me not to be stupid. In these six weeks I was sick to my stomach every day when I went up to the school. I was terrified that I would be alone with Brother ROMUALD. I tried to go up to the school at different times each day so that I wasn't predictable. I did see Brother ROMUALD on a few occasions where he would just turn up unexpectedly but nothing untoward ever occurred.

18. I finished school at Marist Brothers, Hamilton in 1976. At the end of 1976 things were quite bad at home with my father who was a drunken thug and I got a job as a cadet with the ABC. There was a lot of discussion that I was too smart to finish school and I was offered a scholarship for St Gregory's, Campbelltown. I attended St Gregory's for two years and concluded High School in 1978.

19. In the last few years the only person I keep in touch with from school is REDACTED. From time to time we talk about Brother ROMUALD and what he did. I have never really spoken to anyone else about it.

20. A couple of weeks ago I got a phone call from my father. During this phone conversation my father talked to me about a newspaper article involving Brother ROMUALD. My father said 'the prick has been busted'. My father then scanned a copy of the article and emailed it to me. From

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the conversation with my father and from reading the article it brought it all back and put me into a spin. I thought I had put it all away and I had shut the door on what had happened but it brought it all back.

21. I decided to contact Police and tell them what had occurred. I contacted NSW Police and I spoke with Detective MORRIS and told her what had happened.
22. I think that what Brother ROMUALD did to me has had long lasting effects on me. I think I tried to over compensate in an attempt to prove that what Brother ROMUALD did to me hadn't affected me. I have had relationship troubles and I have three ex-wives. About six or seven years ago I had a break down and I think I can attribute some of this to Brother ROMUALD.
23. Today 17th February 2013 I came to Newcastle Police Station and provided Detective Senior Constable MORRIS with this statement.

Witness: REDACTED
Belinda morris
Detective Senior Constable
17.02.2013

Signature: 

John Oxley DUNN

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Witness: _____

Signature: 

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