

Special Inquiry into St Andrew's Hostel

Held at: Courtroom 4, Level 18,
111 St Georges Terrace, Perth

Friday, 4 May 2012 at 12.04pm
(Day 25)

Before: The Hon Peter Blaxell

1 HIS HONOUR: Please be seated. Yes, Mr Urquhart.

2

3 MR URQUHART: Now, thank you sir. There will be two
4 witnesses called today and they are both ex-principals of
5 the Katanning high school, a Mr Young and a Mr Marriott;
6 Graham Young and Gerald Marriott. Mr Young will be called
7 first. He's in the back of the hearing room now. Your
8 Honour, we have been advised by Mr Marriott's lawyer,
9 Ms Reynolds, that she won't be available until about 2.15.

10

11 HIS HONOUR: Right.

12

13 MR URQUHART: That won't cause a problem with the
14 scheduling because we will call Mr Young shortly and by
15 then it will be close to lunchtime and we can adjourn until
16 Ms Reynolds gets here.

17

18 Sir, before I call Mr Young, I just want to clarify or
19 just put on the record about some further investigations
20 that have been undertaken by the Inquiry concerning the
21 evidence of Diane Renton, who was Diane Pascoe at the time,
22 and Kylie Haddow. Both those witnesses, sir, gave evidence
23 on 24 February 2012 and they have both been re-interviewed
24 by investigators with respect to what year it was that they
25 were exchanging a note in class about Dennis McKenna which
26 led to a meeting in the principal's office between Kylie
27 Haddow and Dennis McKenna.

28

29 Sir, typewritten statements have been prepared from
30 those interviews and copies have been provided to
31 Mr Marriott and his lawyer, and copies have also been
32 provided to Mr Young. Now, those statements, sir, will now
33 form, no doubt, part of the material that this Inquiry can
34 take into account.

35

36 By way of summary, sir, in those statements,
37 Mrs Renton accepts that when she first spoke to an Inquiry
38 investigator in January of this year she said that she
39 thought the note passing incident with Kylie Haddow took
40 place when she was boarding at Reidy House. The Inquiry
41 does know that she only boarded at Reidy House in the first
42 few weeks of first term in 1987. Mrs Renton subsequently
43 believed the year was 1986 when this note passing incident
44 took place, after she had checked her copy of the 1986
45 school year book that she had.

46

47 Mrs Renton was also asked by inquiry investigators

1 about her memory of the PA system at the school being used
2 to summons students. She has no recollection of the PA
3 system being used but adds that that doesn't mean it
4 wasn't, it is just that she cannot remember it being used.
5

6 With respect to Kylie Haddow, sir, in her more recent
7 interview with investigators it was brought to her
8 attention that in her original interview earlier this year
9 she recalled the incident regarding the note-passing and
10 subsequent meeting in the principal's office as taking
11 place when Diane Renton was at the hostel. If that was the
12 case, of course, that would be in the first term of 1987.
13

14 Sir, just with respect to what Ms Haddow says about
15 this matter, I'm just going to read three short paragraphs
16 from a statement that has been prepared. This statement
17 has been provided to Mr Young and Mr Marriott and she has
18 been able to confirm, by email to the Inquiry, that the
19 contents of this statement is a correct reflection of her
20 memory of events to the best of her recollection.
21

22 HIS HONOUR: So she is still to sign the statement, is
23 she?
24

25 MR URQUHART: She is still to sign the statement, sir,
26 yes. I will just read paragraph 68:
27

28 It has now been brought to my attention by
29 the Inquiry investigator that in my
30 original audio interview with Don Barratt
31 in my first free narrative when I recalled
32 the incident I describe this incident
33 occurring between Diane and I at a time
34 when she was at the hostel.
35

36 However to the best of my recollection this
37 incident occurred when I was in the hostel
38 and she was a townie.
39

40 I have always believed the note passing
41 incident occurred during a maths class and
42 before I was suspended from the Hostel in
43 Year 10 which was 1986.
44

45 They are paragraphs 68 through to 70, sir. However, in
46 paragraph 75 she says this:
47

1 As I reflect on this incident and knowing
2 what I now know as a teacher, I accept that
3 whilst my memory is that I spoke to Dennis
4 McKenna and the Principal in his office, it
5 may be possible that the Principal was away
6 and I was spoken to by a Deputy Principal
7 but I cannot remember who the Deputy was.

8
9 Having now taken care of those matters, sir, I will now
10 call Graham Hugh - spelt H-U-G-H - Young, "Graham" spelt
11 with an "H", and Mr Young is just in the back of the
12 hearing room, sir.

13
14 HIS HONOUR: Right, very good. Mr Young can come forward.

15
16 <GRAHAM HUGH YOUNG, sworn:

17
18 <EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:

19
20 Q. Now, Mr Young, your full name is Graham Hugh Young.
21 Is that right?

22 A. Correct.

23
24 Q. And how old are you, Mr Young?

25 A. 74.

26
27 Q. You are now retired?

28 A. 18 years.

29
30 Q. But you were a qualified teacher?

31 A. I was.

32
33 Q. How long did you teach for?

34 A. I began teaching in 1958 and retired in 1994.

35
36 Q. And during that time, in particular later on in your
37 career as a teacher, was it the case that you held
38 positions as a principal at various schools?

39 A. Yes, Principal of Katanning 1987, Central Midlands
40 1988 and through to 1994, and Balga Senior High School.

41
42 Q. So Katanning was actually your first appointment as a
43 principal?

44 A. First appointment.

45
46 Q. And was that in the year 1987?

47 A. It was.

1
2 Q. And I'm just trying to do the maths here as to what
3 age you were back then?
4 A. 49.
5
6 Q. 49, okay. And you were only at Katanning for one
7 year?
8 A. Correct.
9
10 Q. Was that always going to be the plan or did something
11 change?
12 A. No, when I was appointed to Katanning it was a group C
13 school, which meant you could stay for one year, two years,
14 three years, whatever. Just after I was appointed they
15 changed it to a group B school, which meant you had to stay
16 for three years before you could move. They would not
17 count my first year as part of the three years, so I left.
18
19 Q. So it was your decision to leave?
20 A. My decision to leave, yes.
21
22 Q. Is that because you didn't want to be there?
23 A. I didn't want to stay for four years.
24
25 Q. You were prepared to stay for --
26 A. Prepared to stay for three.
27
28 Q. Three years but not four?
29 A. No.
30
31 Q. Did you have a family with you
32 A. My wife came down with me, the children stayed in
33 Perth.
34
35 Q. And from there you went to --
36 A. Centre Midlands.
37
38 Q. Central Midlands. You have been provided with some
39 information from the Inquiry --
40 A. I have, yes.
41
42 Q. -- that's pertinent to yourself. And have you read
43 that material?
44 A. I have.
45
46 Q. Have you also read or looked at some transcript
47 yourself?

1 A. I have.
2
3 Q. Now, Mr Bourke, an Andrew Bourke, who was a teacher at
4 Katanning in 1987, I don't know if you can remember him or
5 not?
6 A. Yes, tall man, maths teacher.
7
8 Q. Yes, that's very good, yes. He recalls that you were
9 often away from school attending matters such as excursions
10 and camps. Is that your recollection of it?
11 A. I would have gone with the year 8 camp down to
12 Cowaramup and I would have gone with the school team to
13 Country Week. They would be the only camps I attended, but
14 it was a year when there was significant capital works
15 being undertaken. I was away on matters with that.
16
17 Q. I see.
18 A. It was also the year preparing for unit curriculum in
19 1988 and that involved various meetings outside the school.
20
21 Q. Now, did you live in the Katanning area?
22 A. I did, yes.
23
24 Q. And, when you weren't at school, did you have any
25 interactions with the community. Were you involved in any
26 clubs or anything of that nature?
27 A. I joined the golf club and tennis club. That was sort
28 of the one club, country club. I had relatives in the area
29 so I spent some time with them.
30
31 Q. And did they actually live in Katanning or the
32 surrounding areas?
33 A. No, they lived out of town.
34
35 Q. Where did they live?
36 A. Nyabing, yes.
37
38 Q. Can you recall, on those times that you were away from
39 the school, who would have been in charge?
40 A. There were two deputies. Both of them were their
41 first appointments as deputy at the same time as I was
42 first principal and they would have shared it between them.
43
44 Q. And can you recall who they were?
45 A. Larry Manno and Karen Holdsworthy.
46
47 Q. With respect to them, did they have their own offices

1 as deputy principals?
2 A. They did have their own offices. I didn't really like
3 the office structure at Katanning.
4
5 Q. And why was that?
6 A. To get to the office you had to go past the
7 secretaries, down a corridor, then there was a deputy's
8 office, a Regional office and another deputy's office, and
9 right at the end of the corridor was the principal's
10 office. So anyone who visited the principal was
11 specifically going there. There was no passing traffic, no
12 incidental contact.
13
14 Q. So did you make any changes to that?
15 A. It had just been changed that way as part of the work
16 which had been done.
17
18 Q. When you say the work that had been done --
19 A. It had been worked on in renovating that part but
20 there was more work going on in the school until the end of
21 the school year.
22
23 Q. Did you always have the same office though?
24 A. I did, yes.
25
26 Q. And you may not know this but if you were away and one
27 of the other deputies was placed in charge, do you know if
28 they would come and work from your office or would they
29 remain in theirs, or you don't know?
30 A. I would assume they would remain in theirs but my
31 office wasn't close to them. One of the deputy's office
32 had the PA system in it. I think they would have stayed in
33 their own office.
34
35 Q. You mention they had the PA system. Did you use the
36 PA system yourself?
37 A. I don't recall using the PA at Katanning at all.
38
39 Q. Personally --
40 A. Personally, no.
41
42 Q. Would you make arrangements, though, for messages to
43 be conveyed using the PA?
44 A. Yes, there was a girl out the front desk who used to
45 run messages. The deputy made regular announcements from
46 the PA at lunchtime every day.
47

1 Q. I gather there would be occasions where you were
2 required to see a student in your office?
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. Can you recall, back when you were at Katanning, in
6 order to summons that student, whether you would use a
7 particular method?
8 A. It would be just go to the front office. The girl
9 who was there would go and collect someone.
10
11 Q. Would an announcement, however, be made over the PA?
12 A. No.
13
14 Q. Why do you say that. It seems to be the logical thing
15 to do?
16 A. I've had experience myself of being called over the PA
17 when I was in school. It's a rather shattering
18 experience. I prefer someone just to be called out quietly
19 rather than the whole school know.
20
21 Q. I see. So that was your --
22 A. Yes.
23
24 Q. That was your general rule?
25 A. Yes.
26
27 Q. But did you always put that into effect?
28 A. At Katanning I believe I did. At other schools I
29 didn't. It was a rather shattering experience for other
30 people.
31
32 Q. So why is it that you can recall you didn't do it at
33 Katanning but you had done it in other schools?
34 A. I guess because I was new at Katanning in trying to do
35 what I thought was right and the cases in the other schools
36 were - how can we put it - involving people who had been
37 making life very difficult and I thought it best that the
38 whole school knew that they were being called up.
39
40 Q. However, what about an occasion in Katanning, if you
41 were of the view that a student was being difficult, would
42 you --
43 A. I didn't have that experience in Katanning.
44
45 Q. You never had an experience with a student who was
46 being difficult?
47 A. The deputies generally look after it.

1
2 Q. So there were difficult students?
3 A. There would be difficult students, yes.
4
5 Q. And your recollection is at no time --
6 A. No.
7
8 Q. -- did you have to deal with those?
9 A. No, I didn't.
10
11 Q. I'm assuming, then, that the deputy principals had the
12 matter under control?
13 A. That's correct.
14
15 Q. However, at your other schools, though, it would be a
16 different situation?
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. Mr Young, you are obviously no doubt aware that there
20 was a hostel that formed part of the Katanning high school.
21 Had that been your first post at a school where there was a
22 hostel as part of the school structure?
23 A. No, when I was deputy at Carnarvon Senior High School
24 there was a hostel operating there. It closed down during
25 the time I was there.
26
27 Q. What year was that. Can you recall?
28 A. Carnarvon was 1978 to the end of '84.
29
30 Q. So you were there in 1984, were you?
31 A. Yes.
32
33 Q. Getting back to Katanning, though, I gather that at
34 some stage early on in your role as school principal at
35 Katanning you would have met Dennis McKenna, the warden?
36 A. I did.
37
38 Q. Did you meet him prior to you taking up the
39 appointment?
40 A. Yes. I was appointed in July of 1986 to take up the
41 appointment in '87. I went down to Katanning on two
42 occasions with the architects undertaking the renovation
43 programs and extensions and on one of those occasions I met
44 Dennis McKenna.
45
46 Q. And your first impressions of him. Can you recall?
47 A. I'd been told that he ran a wonderful hostel. He

1 didn't - or how's the best way to put it? I thought he was
2 maybe a little effeminate.
3
4 Q. Can you recall who it was that had told you that he
5 ran a wonderful hostel?
6 A. The hostel board committee, the local town residents
7 generally around the - the story I got, anyone I spoke to
8 said "It's a good hostel".
9
10 Q. Was that before you had taken up your actual position
11 as principal?
12 A. Yes, that was before, yes.
13
14 Q. And once you had taken up the position, was that the
15 same feedback that you were getting?
16 A. That was the feedback I was getting. The hostel
17 students were always in uniform, always very polite, always
18 on time, homework always done.
19
20 Q. So you have told us something about his reputation
21 before you became principal. What about yourself with any
22 personal interaction you had with him. Did your views of
23 him support what others were saying about him?
24 A. He invited us - the two deputies and myself over for
25 afternoon tea one time. Apart from that, I visited the
26 hostel for the regular hostel board meetings and I didn't
27 really have much to do with him.
28
29 Q. I was going to ask you about that. You were a
30 representative of the school for those meetings?
31 A. Ex officio on the board.
32
33 Q. Yes, and the records we have obtained state that there
34 were monthly meetings held there in 1987 --
35 A. Correct.
36
37 Q. -- from February through to December and it seems that
38 you attended a number of those meetings?
39 A. Correct.
40
41 Q. That is your recollection of it. In fact, I do
42 correct myself, you were very diligent. You actually
43 attended them all, according to the minutes?
44 A. That was very good.
45
46 Q. Now, Ms Holdsworthy, one of your deputies, also
47 attended a number of those meetings. I think she attended

1 about two-thirds of them?
2 A. Yes, she was a new deputy female and she expressed an
3 interest in the hostel and the welfare of those students.
4
5 Q. Did she state any reason why she was particularly
6 interested in the hostel?
7 A. I think, looking back on it, that she was a bit
8 worried that she was going to be looked over as a deputy in
9 that she thought the male might get all the jobs around the
10 place and she would just be left to look after the tea and
11 the roses and whatever.
12
13 Q. I see. So that was your impression?
14 A. That was the impression I got from her, yes.
15
16 Q. She never said to you why she wanted to pay
17 particular --
18 A. No, she just wanted to be part of what was going on.
19
20 Q. It wasn't a case of being particularly interested in
21 the hostel students?
22 A. No.
23
24 Q. Your impression was it was just something that she
25 wanted to be able to do?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. With respect to those meetings, do you recall Dennis
29 McKenna being present?
30 A. Yes. I'm not sure on how many occasions he was
31 present but he was certainly present at some of them.
32
33 Q. Our records show he only missed a handful of meetings
34 throughout the entire time that he was warden?
35 A. Yes.
36
37 Q. Can you recall how he conducted himself at those
38 meetings?
39 A. I'm not certain of this but I think that he gave a
40 verbal report of any student problems that had arisen and
41 any other problems that had occurred but I think he was
42 generally in the background, apart from that.
43
44 Q. I was going to ask you about that. Those of us who
45 are familiar with attending meetings such as this, there
46 are some that stay in the background --
47 A. Yes.

1
2 Q. -- and others who can make quite a presence?
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. Was it the case that Mr McKenna was in that latter
6 group, that he would be making a presence?
7 A. I didn't recall it that way, no.
8
9 Q. Do you recall any occasion in which his views or his
10 opinions were challenged by any other members?
11 A. I don't recall any.
12
13 Q. What is your recollection of these meetings?
14 A. Generally a social occasion where the accounts and any
15 problems to do with finance may have come up and sometimes
16 disciplinary problems were mentioned.
17
18 Q. Can you recall any problems existing with respect to
19 financial matters?
20 A. No, I can't.
21
22 Q. No?
23 A. No.
24
25 Q. You can't recall any occasion in which concerns were
26 made by the board regarding the financial status of the
27 hostel?
28 A. I can't recall that, sorry.
29
30 Q. So your relationship with Mr McKenna, I understand,
31 was only a working relationship?
32 A. A working relationship. I just felt that he wasn't
33 part of my staff, he was his own boss running the hostel
34 and I was looking after the high school. So it wasn't
35 really up to me to interfere with his running of the
36 hostel.
37
38 Q. But did you get on well with him. Did you have any
39 problems getting on with him?
40 A. Yes, we got on okay.
41
42 Q. So there were no occasions where --
43 A. No, no verbal altercation, no.
44
45 Q. Or disagreements?
46 A. No.
47

1 Q. Arguments?
2 A. No.
3
4 Q. Nothing of that nature?
5 A. No.
6
7 Q. Now, I appreciate, Mr Young, that you were only there
8 at the school for one year, but we now know that as of that
9 year, 1987, Dennis McKenna had been sexually interfering
10 with hostel students for it seems about 10 years. Did
11 anyone ever raise with you any concerns - I'm not confining
12 it to concerns about his sexual offending but did anyone
13 ever raise with you any concerns that they had about how
14 Dennis McKenna was running the hostel?
15 A. There were concerns raised by people within the school
16 community and outside it about the clashes or conflicts
17 Dennis had with some of the senior girls. It seemed to
18 happen on more than one year that senior girls would leave
19 the hostel after clashing with him.
20
21 Q. So how did you come to know about that?
22 A. One of my relatives had girls and boys go through the
23 hostel and he told me about it.
24
25 Q. Yes, is this one of the relatives at Nyabing?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. Because I was going to ask you about that. And do you
29 know what those clashes were about?
30 A. From what I can gather, it was largely to do with
31 Dennis being very strict in many ways and the girls being
32 young adults, or getting towards being young adults,
33 couldn't put up with it any more.
34
35 Q. So you got that information from your relatives at
36 Nyabing?
37 A. Yes.
38
39 Q. Anywhere else that you heard this sort of thing?
40 A. I'm trying to think who I met in the town who gave me
41 the same information. There is someone else in town gave
42 me the same information.
43
44 Q. Was that just confined to the girls or did it also
45 extend to the boys?
46 A. Just the girls. My cousin's sons went through the
47 hostel and stayed right through the end of year 12 with no

1 complaints at all.
2
3 Q. So what we are hearing were these complaints about the
4 strict way he ran the hostel?
5 A. Yes.
6
7 Q. You can't recall any specific examples?
8 A. Rhonda Goode was having difficulties with him at one
9 stage. What it was about, I don't know exactly. If - put
10 it this way, I looked at Dennis as being a parent with a
11 very large family.
12
13 Q. Certainly.
14 A. If a parent had been very strict on the child at home,
15 it wasn't up to me to interfere. So when Dennis was being
16 strict with the girls and this was his way of doing it, he
17 wasn't breaking the law, I didn't feel I should do
18 anything.
19
20 Q. Right. I hear what you say about him assuming a
21 de facto role as a parent but are you saying that you
22 equated that in the same way as if he was an actual parent
23 of children?
24 A. He didn't have the same way as an actual parent but I
25 felt that he had some - I won't say rights but he did
26 have - I just felt that it wasn't right for me to say
27 "Look, Dennis, you run the hostel this way. You can't tell
28 the girls to go to bed at 8 o'clock because they spoke to a
29 boy outside the school hostel".
30
31 Q. So that is one example that you can recall?
32 A. I believe that there were restrictions put on the way
33 that the people in the hostel could speak to the town
34 children, and if they were caught, someone would report
35 back to Dennis and then penalties were imposed.
36
37 Q. These accounts that you were given, did that also
38 include accounts where the parents would take the rather
39 drastic step of withdrawing their child from the hostel?
40 A. None that I can recall.
41
42 Q. Did you ever think to speak to the board, not
43 necessarily in Dennis McKenna's presence, about what you
44 had been hearing?
45 A. No, I didn't.
46
47 Q. Just on the subject matter of the board, I should

1 clarify this, when you mentioned it a moment ago that there
2 were matters that were discussed regarding students'
3 suspension from the hostel. Is that right?
4 A. Yes.
5
6 Q. Did that also include expulsions from the hostel?
7 A. It may have done but I don't recall.
8
9 Q. Now, with respect to the suspension, can you recall
10 how it was discussed or how it would come about?
11 A. The way that I had it was that Dennis would just come
12 in and say "So and so has been suspended". I don't think
13 it was a board decision.
14
15 Q. I'm going to exactly ask you about that. It just
16 seemed to be --
17 A. Out of the blue this happened.
18
19 Q. The board was told "This had happened" and end of it?
20 A. Yes.
21
22 Q. And can you ever recall a board member saying to
23 Dennis McKenna "Well, wait on. This should have been
24 discussed first"?
25 A. No, I don't recall that.
26
27 Q. This gets back to what I was asking you generally.
28 I'm going to suggest to you, actually, that whenever Dennis
29 McKenna raised something or said that he had done
30 something, there didn't seem to be much argument or dispute
31 about what he had done. Is that your recollection?
32 A. He had very carefully or very cleverly conned all of
33 us. He was doing everything wonderful for the hostel. We
34 don't query it.
35
36 Q. That's looking back now?
37 A. Yes.
38
39 Q. Is that right?
40 A. That's looking back now.
41
42 Q. So, at the time, whatever he did seemed to be --
43 A. At the time I was new in the position, the hostel
44 board had been members for some time, I went along with the
45 way they were going.
46
47 Q. Yes, no criticism of you about that, but the hostel

1 board members seemed to, from what you can recall, just
2 rubber stamp --
3 A. Yes.
4
5 Q. -- actions that had been taken by Dennis McKenna?
6 A. Yes.
7
8 Q. So I gather then, from what feedback you were
9 getting - see, you've mentioned the members of your family
10 or relatives at Nyabing?
11 A. Yes.
12
13 Q. You also recall another occasion when someone
14 mentioned something to you at Katanning. Any others that
15 you can recall. Any other occasions?
16 A. No, not at this time, no.
17
18 Q. Or anything specific about what the concerns were
19 regarding Dennis McKenna?
20 A. No.
21
22 Q. Is it fair to say then that you had some question
23 marks yourself, having heard this information, particularly
24 from your relatives, about how Dennis McKenna was running
25 the hostel?
26 A. Yes, I had question marks but nothing specific to
27 really pin it on.
28
29 Q. Given that, would you do anything yourself just in a
30 very informal way of finding out from hostel students how
31 things were going at the hostel?
32 A. Well, if I thought a hostel student was in conflict
33 with Dennis and I happened to see them, I would probably
34 say "How are things going?" to see if they wanted to
35 enlighten me at all.
36
37 Q. Well, you mentioned a little earlier that Rhonda Goode
38 was having some difficulties with him.
39 A. Yes.
40
41 Q. Now, have you read Rhonda Goode's --
42 A. Yes, I've read her transcript.
43
44 Q. -- transcript. She's now Rhonda Moore. We can refer
45 to as - probably refer to her as Rhonda Goode.
46 A. Yes.
47

1 Q. Okay. So prior to - I know it's difficult, if you can
2 assist us in this regard - prior to reading Rhonda Goode's
3 account, was it the case that you had a recollection prior
4 to that that, in fact, she did have some difficulties with
5 Dennis McKenna?
6 A. She's one of the few students from Katanning that I
7 remember before this Inquiry came up.
8
9 Q. And the reason for that was?
10 A. I think when I went down to Katanning in 1986, it was
11 mentioned then that she was having difficulties, and then
12 it came up again early in 1987, and she said in her
13 transcript she was on this committee we were working on - I
14 don't know if it was for the Prime Minister, or who it was
15 for, there was so much going on leading up to the
16 centennial - bicentennial celebrations, and I don't really
17 recall having said so, but Rhonda said that I asked her how
18 things were going - that would have been out of interest to
19 see if she wanted to speak about it, and then in her
20 transcription then it sort of says that I've written back
21 to - she thinks I went back to Dennis and that's why her
22 life became difficult, but I did not go back to Dennis.
23
24 Q. Okay. I will come to what she has to say about that
25 discussion in the staff room in a moment. But you said
26 that she was one of the few students from Katanning that
27 you can actually remember before this all became --
28 A. Yes.
29
30 Q. -- public with this Inquiry. Can I ask you - and can
31 I ask you why it is that you can recall the other students?
32 A. Erin Shayler as head girl, and she caught up with me a
33 couple of years after I left Katanning.
34
35 Q. Yes.
36 A. Nicole Rooke - she was a very tall girl; Geoffrey
37 Ogden, because of his participation in triathlons. They
38 were still quite firmly in my mind.
39
40 Q. And were any of them hostel students that you can
41 recall?
42 A. Not that I know.
43
44 Q. And your recollection of those three - do they have
45 anything to do with Dennis McKenna?
46 A. Not as far as I know.
47

1 Q. So one was because she was tall?
2 A. Yes.
3
4 Q. One that she's the head girl?
5 A. Head girl.
6
7 Q. And the other because --
8 A. Triathlete.
9
10 Q. -- triathlete. But Rhonda Goode was the difficulty
11 she was having with Dennis McKenna?
12 A. Yes. She was also a school house captain and quite
13 prominent in student affairs.
14
15 Q. Yes. And can you actually recall her as being a
16 rather strong, forthright person?
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. And before I go to the conversation she recalls having
20 with you in the staff room, can I just ask you whether you
21 can recall how it was that you knew in 1986 that she was
22 having difficulties with Dennis McKenna?
23 A. It could have been when I went down to Katanning to
24 see Gerry Marriott before we took over, that something was
25 discussed then.
26
27 Q. I see. But not certain about that?
28 A. Not certain, no.
29
30 Q. Right. So what discussions did you have with people
31 connected to the school or the hostel in 1986? You've
32 mentioned Mr Marriott?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. You've mentioned Dennis McKenna?
36 A. Yes.
37
38 Q. Any others that you can recall? I gather you might
39 well have meant some teachers.
40 A. I would have meant a whole lot of teachers, yes.
41
42 Q. All right then. So before you started teaching there,
43 or becoming principal, you knew - you heard about Rhonda
44 Goode's, or Rhonda Goode's difficulties with Dennis
45 McKenna. That account that she gives, speaking to you in
46 the staff room, she said it was early on in the year.
47 A. Yes.

1
2 Q. And it was to do with this - preparing a submission
3 for the Prime Minister. It seems to be that you have an
4 actual - you have a recollection of that?
5 A. Yes, certainly meetings about preparing submissions.
6 Whether it was the Prime Minister or not, I can't recall.
7
8 Q. I see. And can you recall those meetings taking place
9 in the staff room?
10 A. Yes, I do.
11
12 Q. And you can obviously recall that Rhonda Goode was one
13 of the students involved in that?
14 A. Yes.
15
16 Q. Now, just recapping on what Rhonda Goode's says - and
17 I'll take you to what she says about the meeting in a
18 minute - but she recounted - and no doubt you'll probably
19 be able to recall this - that from the time that she was at
20 the hostel in Year 8, right through to Year 12, she had
21 seen Dennis McKenna acting inappropriately towards young
22 boys, and she gave the examples of boys sitting on his lap,
23 his hand, on one occasion, being on a boys's inner thigh,
24 and also she recalled occasions when she would see him with
25 hands down the front of boys' shirts. I'm sure you would
26 agree with me that even back then that's clearly
27 behaviour --
28 A. That would have triggered alarms (indistinct).
29
30 Q. Yes. Right, so before we have a look at what Rhonda
31 Goode says about her recollection of that conversation, can
32 I just ask you to recount what you can recall of that?
33 Firstly, I suppose, I should ask you can you recall
34 something along these lines --
35 A. I can't recall exactly what happened, but there's a
36 vague recollection that I spoke to Rhonda about having
37 difficulties with Dennis.
38
39 Q. Yes. Yes. Okay. And that vague recollection, is
40 that just conversations you had with her on one occasion or
41 more than one occasion?
42 A. Just one occasion.
43
44 Q. Just the one occasion. Okay. And can you clarify
45 anything further about that?
46 A. I feel that if she had been forthcoming we would have
47 taken things further perhaps, but she sort of brushed it

1 off and that was that.
2
3 Q. So is that your recollection of it?
4 A. Yes. My recollection is that I asked her how things
5 were going, and she more or less said, "Okay", or, "All
6 right", or whatever, and left.
7
8 Q. Okay. As I understand your evidence, your question of
9 how things were going was not just, you know, the sort of
10 question that people might ask of each other, there was --
11 A. It was because she'd been having conflict.
12
13 Q. Yes. And can you recall it being - whether it was in
14 the context of being in the staff room following one of
15 these meetings to discuss this --
16 A. It wasn't part of the context of a meeting, it was
17 just after the meeting had finished, the two of us were in
18 the staff room and I just asked.
19
20 Q. "How are things going?"
21 A. Yes.
22
23 Q. "How are things going with the hostel?", it might have
24 been, if it was to do with Dennis McKenna?
25 A. It could have been, yes.
26
27 Q. And your recollection is that she just --
28 A. Yes.
29
30 Q. -- rushed off and said, "Things are fine"?
31 A. Yes.
32
33 Q. Okay. Well, you've read her account of it.
34 A. I have.
35
36 Q. And it's different to your --
37 A. It is.
38
39 Q. -- vague recollection that you have. All right. So
40 we'll just have a look at this now. I don't want this to
41 be seen as any criticism of you --
42 A. That's fine.
43
44 Q. -- and it might be a compliment, it might not be, but
45 she described you as being quite an austere principal?
46 A. Some people see me differently.
47

1 Q. Yes. Could you see how that might be an impression -
2 whether rightly or wrongly - that a student would get of
3 you, bearing in mind this is your first posting as a
4 principal?
5 A. Yes, could be.
6
7 Q. Yes. And she mentioned, as far as she was concerned,
8 she thought she couldn't - she couldn't go to you for
9 anything regarding --
10 A. Yes.
11
12 Q. -- pastoral care?
13 A. Yes. Just said she couldn't trust me, I think it was.
14
15 Q. Well, I don't know whether she - well, I don't think
16 she's just singling you out for that, but I think her
17 concern was expressing any opinions about Dennis McKenna to
18 anyone that --
19 A. She was worried it would get back to Dennis.
20
21 Q. Yes, yes. And I don't think for a moment she was
22 suggesting that you were pro-Dennis McKenna or anything --
23 A. No.
24
25 Q. -- it was just a general concern that she had, and
26 it's a concern, Mr Young, that has been prevalent amongst
27 the ex-students who have given evidence to this Inquiry.
28 But I'll just recount --
29 A. Yes.
30
31 Q. -- what she has said about this meeting. Sir, I'm
32 starting at page 424. We'll have it up on the screen here
33 in a moment, Mr Young, but I can just read out to you the
34 passage I'm interested in - this is line 39 on page 424,
35 sir:
36
37 I do recall as the meeting broke up he took
38 me aside and asked me how everything - how
39 things were going at the hostel, and how I
40 was being treated by Dennis, and I had a
41 very loose conversation with him about
42 Dennis' behaviour with the boys --
43
44 Yes, you're quite right:
45
46 -- because I had no - I didn't have any
47 trust - like I just didn't trust this guy

1 at all. So as I was saying this stuff, and
2 I did have - I wanted to vent and get this
3 stuff out so that something would happen
4 about it, but as I'm saying it I'm thinking
5 to myself at the back of my brain, "I'm
6 going to be in really deep trouble with
7 this. This is going to get back to Dennis.
8 So I then extricated myself and just went
9 out, and he sort of pushed me out too.
10
11 I don't think she's suggesting you physically pushed her
12 out?
13 A. No hands on girl students.
14
15 Q. No - yes, exactly, yes:
16
17 He really didn't want to know what I was
18 saying.
19
20 And then I asked her if she could recall what words, to the
21 effect that she was saying to you, and at line 17,
22 page 425:
23
24 I would have said something like - that
25 Dennis was touching the boys, something of
26 that nature. That is usually what I would
27 say.
28
29 And then over the page at 426, line 4:
30
31 And once I sort of vented a little bit, he
32 then just sort of shuffled me out. So it
33 was almost like too much information that I
34 was giving him, and he didn't really want
35 to deal with that.
36
37 Okay. So, Mr Young, that doesn't accord with your --
38 A. No.
39
40 Q. -- your vague recollection of the matter?
41 A. During my time at Katanning, I don't recall anyone
42 mentioning that Dennis was interfering with the boys in any
43 way.
44
45 Q. It doesn't appear that she was going precisely into
46 any allegations of sexual misconduct that would --
47 A. No.

1
2 Q. -- constitute a serious offence here. It was no more
3 than Dennis was touching the boys.
4 A. Yes.
5
6 Q. Now, you say you don't recall that. Are you
7 discounting it altogether, that she said that to you?
8 A. I have no recollection of any mention of the boys and
9 Dennis during that year.
10
11 Q. Yes.
12 A. Now, it's 20 something years ago, and my memory's not
13 perfect.
14
15 Q. Yes. Because I think you, yourself, mentioned - or
16 you agreed with me - she's a rather forthright --
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. -- person who, I gather, would be a student who - and
20 there are various types of students that you would know
21 over your years - some have been more forthright than
22 others --
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. -- and she would be in the category, I would suggest
26 to you, in the top - high up there as --
27 A. Correct.
28
29 Q. -- someone being more forthright?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. Yes. So it would - this comment that she's made to
33 you would appear to be consistent with the personality of
34 her, that you knew at the time?
35 A. I feel that if she had said something like that, I
36 would have mentioned it to my deputies. Each day that we
37 were all in the school together, we had at least a 10
38 minute informal meeting about matters which had happened
39 during the day --
40
41 Q. Yes.
42 A. -- and both my deputies have no recollection of me
43 mentioning anything of that nature.
44
45 HIS HONOUR: Q. If she had said, "Dennis was touching
46 boys", what would you have understood that to mean at the
47 time, do you think?

1 A. I would have called the police.
2
3 Q. I mean, it's all very well in hindsight, but if that
4 had been said --
5 A. It would be a police matter.
6
7 Q. -- what would you have thought that to mean?
8 A. Yes.
9
10 Q. What would you have thought that to mean?
11 A. I wouldn't have gone to Dennis.
12
13 Q. No, what I'm asking you, if she said to you, she has
14 said that, "I" --
15
16 MR URQUHART: Dennis was touching.
17
18 HIS HONOUR: --:
19
20 I would have said something like - that
21 Dennis was touching the boys, something of
22 that nature.
23
24 So if she used that expression "touching the boys" --
25 A. Even if she had said that.
26
27 Q. -- what would you have understood that to mean?
28 A. Your Honour, that would be a case of getting to the
29 boys, if possible, and getting them to say, "Yes, this is
30 happening" --
31
32 Q. Yes.
33 A. -- so it wasn't just hearsay.
34
35 Q. Yes, I'm not asking - you know, I'm asking what you
36 would have understood that to mean. Would you have thought
37 that to have sexual connotations?
38 A. It would have sexual connotations for me to read it
39 like that.
40
41 Q. So you would have understood it that way?
42 A. Yes.
43
44 Q. If she said that?
45 A. Yes.
46
47 Q. All right. And are you saying that she couldn't have

1 said that, or are you saying - what are you saying?
2 A. I'm saying that her recollection and mine are
3 different.
4
5 Q. Right. Okay. Now, of course, with your long
6 experience you know that children, when trying to -
7 especially back in those times - when trying to tell a
8 teacher or principal something like this is going on, would
9 have trouble doing so?
10 A. It would be very embarrassing for them, yes.
11
12 Q. And they'd be embarrassed and perhaps wouldn't be very
13 direct in the allegations. So do you think there's any
14 room for that to have happened, for you to have
15 misunderstood what she was saying?
16 A. It is possible.
17
18 HIS HONOUR: Right. All right. Thank you.
19
20 MR URQUHART: Q. But had it been said to you, and had
21 you drawn the conclusion that this was something that was
22 not just inappropriate, but potentially of a sexual nature,
23 you mentioned about speaking to the boys.
24 A. Yes.
25
26 Q. Who would you have believed - who would you have
27 tasked to do that?
28 A. Well, it really would have been getting Rhonda to give
29 me a name that I could then approach.
30
31 Q. Yes.
32 A. Now, whether she would have done that or not, I have
33 doubts.
34
35 Q. Yes. But she says you never did that?
36 A. No.
37
38 Q. In fact, she says that you --
39 A. Brushed it aside.
40
41 Q. -- sort of didn't want to hear about it, and brushed
42 it off. Yes. And if it did happen - if she had mentioned
43 this to you, that could mean one of two things - that you
44 hadn't realised the significance of it, or you had and that
45 you didn't want to know anything about it.
46 A. If she had mentioned that to me, I'm pretty sure I
47 would have recognised the significance.

1
2 Q. And your view is that you would --
3 A. My view is I didn't hear it.
4
5 Q. And your view is if you had heard that, you wouldn't
6 have brushed it off?
7 A. No.
8
9 Q. You would have sought further information from her?
10 A. Yes.
11
12 Q. And from there, if she had provided you with further
13 information, what would have you done? Bearing in mind, I
14 must stress to you this is 19 --
15 A. 1987.
16
17 Q. -- '87, yes, there's no - we don't have the sort of
18 mandatory reporting that exists now, so it might be a
19 difficult exercise for you, but if you can go back to that
20 year.
21 A. The correct procedure probably would have been to
22 contact the parents, then bring the boy in with the
23 parents, and if he made the allegations, go to the police.
24
25 Q. I see. And you mentioned there that you wouldn't have
26 discussed this with Dennis McKenna?
27 A. I wouldn't have discussed it, no.
28
29 Q. Why was that?
30 A. Well, if he's the one under suspicion, let's hear
31 someone make a direct allegation first, before we go to
32 him.
33
34 Q. And what about taking up the matter with the Hostel
35 Board at an early stage? Is that something you would have
36 done?
37 A. Possibly not, because Dennis would have been present.
38
39 Q. Yes. You've obviously heard about two different
40 things regarding Dennis McKenna. One was that he was an
41 outstanding warden, the other is that - well, he was a bit
42 of a strict disciplinarian --
43 A. Yes.
44
45 Q. -- with respect to the girls, but you hadn't heard
46 anything of an unlawful nature --
47 A. No.

1
2 Q. -- towards those girls?
3 A. No, I hadn't.
4
5 Q. If, in fact, this young girl, Rhonda, had said
6 something along the lines of, "Dennis was touching" or
7 words that Dennis was touching boys inappropriately,
8 something along those lines - and given his reputation, do
9 you think you might have had some difficulty believing such
10 an allegation?
11 A. It would have been difficult to believe, certainly.
12
13 Q. Might that have then prevented you from following it
14 up?
15 A. I don't think so. If a boy had actually come forward
16 and said, "This is happening", I don't see any way that I
17 couldn't have followed it up.
18
19 Q. Okay. Well, there's - you hadn't had that at this
20 stage?
21 A. No.
22
23 Q. Might it have been the case that you've heard this
24 hearsay account, "I will only follow it up if, in fact, a
25 boy comes to me"?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. But do you see that - I'm suggesting to you that it
29 might have been the case that you were not going to take a
30 proactive position on this, that you hear what she says,
31 "All right, thank you for that", but then you would just
32 wait for further developments?
33 A. Yes.
34
35 Q. Do you see that that's different to --
36 A. Unless a name is given, it's hard to take it further.
37
38 Q. Sorry, "unless"?
39 A. Unless a name was given, it's hard to take it further.
40
41 Q. Yes. The thing is - the question is whether you would
42 have asked for a name or asked for further information?
43 Bearing in mind who the alleged offender was with respect
44 to this, it's one Dennis McKenna, might that have been a
45 possibility?
46 A. It is possible, yes.
47

1 Q. That you might not have explored the matter further?
2 A. It is possible, yes. It's hard to think back what I
3 would have done at this stage.
4
5 Q. Yes, I know that, and this is in the context of if -
6 and I know you don't have any recollection of this, but if,
7 in fact, this young girl had said something along those
8 lines, that Dennis McKenna was touching boys.
9 A. Yes.
10
11 Q. Now, Mr Young, have you been able to read the
12 statements of Kylie Haddow and Diane Renton.
13 A. I have.
14
15 Q. They've been provided to you, I think it was only
16 yesterday. You've had an opportunity of reading those?
17 A. Yes, I read them last night, yes.
18
19 Q. Have you also been able to read the transcript of
20 their evidence?
21 A. I have.
22
23 Q. You have. Right, that's good. Do you appreciate now
24 that at one stage at least both these witnesses had said
25 this had happened in 1987, this incident, where they'd
26 exchanged the notes between each other, notes detailing
27 what Dennis McKenna had been doing to boys, and the
28 contents of those notes is similar to the sort of conduct
29 that Rhonda Goode had observed --
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. -- and that then the note was taken by Diane Pascoe to
33 the principal, the principal then summonsed Kylie Haddow to
34 his office, Dennis McKenna was present at that office, and
35 then the principal proceeded to give a clear impression to
36 Kylie Haddow that he wasn't taking her side in the matter,
37 and that, indeed, the allegations that she was making in
38 the note were false --
39 A. Yes.
40
41 Q. -- and then there was a mention made that she could be
42 taken to the police for this, that she could be expelled
43 from school, and that she could be sued for defamation. So
44 you recall all of that?
45 A. I recall reading that.
46
47 Q. Now, do you remember a Kylie Haddow at all at the

1 school?
2 A. I remember the names Jodie and Kylie Haddow, yes.
3
4 Q. And I gather you can't remember every single
5 student --
6 A. No.
7
8 Q. -- that was at a school that you were a principal of.
9 Can you let us know how it was that you can recall those
10 two names, or was it - is it your recollection, I should
11 ask you --
12 A. After reading the transcript, I remembered the names.
13
14 Q. -- you can only recall it after reading the
15 transcript, yes?
16 A. Yes.
17
18 Q. And did you know in what context or how it was that
19 you could remember those names?
20 A. No.
21
22 Q. All right, then. What about Diane Pascoe?
23 A. No, I don't recall that at all.
24
25 Q. Now, Kylie Haddow says that she was summonsed over the
26 PA, but you've told us that that wasn't a system or means
27 that you used at Katanning; is that right?
28 A. Correct.
29
30 Q. Okay, then. I've given you a summary of what it is
31 that Kylie Haddow had said to this Inquiry and, of course,
32 it's acknowledged that she was saying that this was in
33 1986. Of course, you weren't the principal then, and she
34 did name a principal in her evidence, but given the matters
35 that have come to light upon further investigation, I do
36 need to ask you about this. Was it the case that that was
37 you?
38 A. It was not me.
39
40 Q. And when you say it was not you, is it the case that
41 it's more than just, "I don't recall if it was me", it's an
42 emphatic, "It was not me"?
43 A. I'm certain it was not me.
44
45 Q. And why are you able to say that, Mr Young?
46 A. If it had been me, certainly my deputies would have
47 known about it, and neither of them can recall the

1 incident.
2
3 Q. You've actually spoken to your deputies?
4 A. I'm in regular contact with the deputies. Three or
5 four times a year we have a regular meeting, each
6 three months.
7
8 Q. And, what, your deputies from Katanning?
9 A. Yes.
10
11 Q. And why is that?
12 A. They were new at the school. I was new at the school.
13 The Senior Master of Manual Arts, Joe Wedlock took us under
14 his wing and we met with Joe and those two and myself and
15 our wives each time.
16
17 Q. I see. And you've actually discussed this matter with
18 them --
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. -- since the Inquiry's been announced?
22 A. When the Inquiry came up, we discussed it.
23
24 Q. Okay. And even - and you discussed this particular --
25 A. Yes.
26
27 Q. -- incident --
28 A. Yes.
29
30 Q. -- even though it's only in more recent times there
31 has been a potential question mark about the principal's
32 name?
33 A. Karen Holdsworthy was at my place on Wednesday, and
34 came in and read the paperwork that I had.
35
36 Q. Yes.
37 A. Larry Manno rang me last night, and we had a talk.
38
39 Q. All right. And so why did - you call him "Larry", do
40 you. It's --
41 A. It's Ilario, but his --
42
43 Q. It's Ilario, so his name's Larry, okay.
44 A. Yes.
45
46 Q. And did Larry ring you up because you asked him to
47 or --

1 A. No, no, he was just interested and said, "I believe
2 you're going to the hearing on Friday", and I said, "Yes".
3
4 Q. And you discussed?
5 A. I said, "Well, do you remember any of this?", and he
6 said, "No".
7
8 Q. And why would - see I don't know whether he was a
9 Deputy Principal in 1986, but you're asking him the context
10 of if it happened in 1987, would he remember it?
11 A. Yes.
12
13 Q. And why do you say that if this happened - I know
14 we're talking about "if" - if this had happened with you,
15 why it would be that a deputy principal would necessarily
16 know about it?
17 A. Well, we met regularly, we worked as a team, and we
18 discussed school matters every day that we were all in the
19 school together, and that would certainly not be something
20 you'd brush under the carpet.
21
22 Q. But would it be something that - I know we're talking
23 about hypotheticals here, but it wouldn't necessarily be
24 something a principal would discuss with the - with his
25 deputy principals if, in fact, what the principal had done
26 was not the appropriate action to take?
27 A. I think I would have discussed it with them because
28 when I'm not in the school, they're left - they need to
29 know what's going on.
30
31 Q. Yes. But --
32
33 HIS HONOUR: Q. What if you're away and one of the
34 deputies was in charge - is there some seniority system as
35 to who was in charge or --
36 A. No, they were both equal.
37
38 Q. Both equal. And if you were aware, and I think you
39 say you were aware at times during that year --
40 A. Yes.
41
42 Q. -- and something like this happened with one of them,
43 would they necessarily report it to you when you got back,
44 do you think?
45 A. Certainly.
46
47 HIS HONOUR: Certainly. All right.

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MR URQUHART: Q. But would you expect them to report it to you if, in fact, they had dealt with the manner in which Kylie Haddow alleges?

A. I think so, yes.

Q. But you agree with me at least that the manner in which Kylie Haddow says the principal dealt with the matter, or whoever it was - do you agree with me that's entirely inappropriate?

A. It is very inappropriate. I feel sympathy for the principal concerned, that he got hoodwinked into believing Dennis couldn't have done this, but it shouldn't have been done the way it was done.

Q. Which comes back to that question I asked you about, regarding Rhonda Goode's conversation she said she had with you. You accept that it would be very difficult for you to believe - well, once more, could it not be the case that whoever was involved in this matter would also, like you, find it very difficult to believe, given this warden's outstanding reputation?

A. Certainly, very difficult position for him to be in.

Q. And very difficult also given the fact that I'm going to suggest to you that Mr McKenna - you might not have observed this or you might have heard about it - he could have a rather overbearing presence?

A. I believe so, yes.

Q. Yes. And that he could be - we certainly heard from the students that he was very intimidating, yes.

A. Part of the transcript gives evidence of him blowing up at them quite often.

Q. Yes. And I know we - we know what you know now, but even back then when you were a principal, was that your view that, in fact, he could be quite intimidating, not necessarily towards you, but you heard that he could be intimidating to others?

A. Well, the impression I got was that he ran a very tight ship, and any student who stepped outside his requests or guidelines, look out.

Q. Yes. Can I just ask you then, Mr Young, that if you were placed in this position that this particular principal found himself in, or - I'll say senior teacher or whatever

1 - what do you believe ought to have been done in those
2 circumstances?
3 A. The principal has received a note specifically
4 alleging sexual conduct, I think that should be a police
5 matter.
6
7 Q. Yes. Okay. So if you were placed in that position,
8 bearing in mind it's 25 odd years ago and not now, or
9 since --
10 A. Well, these days we're required by law to put --
11
12 Q. Yes, yes.
13 A. -- to present anything even suspicious.
14
15 Q. So back then if you were placed in this position?
16 A. Back then, I think I would have gone to the police.
17
18 Q. Notwithstanding --
19 A. I don't know what the girls actually wrote in the
20 note, but from what I can pick up, it was fairly specific.
21
22 Q. It was. No, it was the sort of things that Rhonda
23 Goode says she observed?
24 A. Okay.
25
26 Q. The holding hands, sitting on laps, hands down shirts,
27 that sort of thing?
28 A. Yes.
29
30 Q. So not any actual precise allegations of a sexual
31 nature?
32 A. No.
33
34 Q. So it certainly didn't reflect the sort of offending
35 that Dennis McKenna has now been convicted of?
36 A. Right.
37
38 Q. So put it that way. I'm not wishing to play down it
39 all but it was a very serious offence. It is still
40 entirely inappropriate and potentially a criminal offence?
41 A. Yes.
42
43 Q. So you say you would have taken it to the police?
44 A. If it was just the touching of someone rather than any
45 specific sexual allegations, it's hard to say whether I
46 would or wouldn't.
47

1 Q. So you might not have taken it to the police?
2 A. I may not have done it at that stage. If it had been
3 specific allegations of something more serious, definitely,
4 yes.
5
6 Q. Right. And if it had not been to that degree of
7 preciseness --
8 A. If it was still just inappropriately putting his hands
9 down their shirts and so on, it would have raised alarm
10 bells. I probably would have discussed it with my two
11 deputies first and collectively we would have made up our
12 minds whether to go to the police or not.
13
14 Q. And if the decision had been made not to go to the
15 police, would that have been the end of the matter?
16 A. No, Dennis would have to be confronted with it.
17
18 Q. By whom?
19 A. Myself or whoever was --
20
21 Q. Yourself?
22 A. Yes, and then Dennis naturally would have denied it,
23 then we have the impasse situation, but I think temptation
24 then would have been to try and get some evidence from some
25 of the boys that they were uncomfortable with what Dennis
26 was doing.
27
28 Q. Now, just in fairness to you, I will just have a look
29 now at the transcript page in which Kylie Haddow says the
30 sort of things she had written down in this note?
31 A. Okay.
32
33 Q. It is page 367, at line 11:
34
35 ... I wrote a note and in that note I expressed
36 in possibly point form that actually the
37 things he was doing. The boys were sitting
38 on his knee, he was rubbing his hands up
39 their back, he was touching them where he
40 shouldn't be, he was having them in his
41 flat, the secret parties, he was, you know,
42 going on secret holidays and trips with
43 these boys and there is something really
44 bad happening, you know, and I expressed
45 some detail about the things I had seen and
46 gave the note to Diane.
47

1 A. Okay. Hearing that again now, police matter.
2
3 Q. You would have referred that to the police?
4 A. Yes.
5
6 Q. Do you agree with me that would be a bold step to
7 take, for someone who was new in town --
8 A. Yes.
9
10 Q. -- and raise it with police about allegations
11 involving --
12 A. A Citizen of the Year, the hostel warden, whatever,
13 yes. It would be a bold step but --
14
15 Q. Exactly.
16 A. Yes.
17
18 Q. Might it have been a step you would be reluctant to
19 take, given your position?
20 A. I would be reluctant to take it but I'm not scared of
21 doing the hard things.
22
23 Q. Notwithstanding the potential repercussions of it all?
24 A. Yes.
25
26 Q. All right then, thank you. Now, I just want to hark
27 back, Mr Young, before we finish, about that arrangement
28 that you said that existed regarding the principal's
29 office?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. Was it a similar or different set-up to the one that
33 existed the previous year. I should ask you this. When you
34 went the previous year, had you gone to where the principal
35 offices were?
36 A. When I went the previous year, I visited the
37 principal's office probably October/November. It was the
38 same set-up then.
39
40 Q. It was the same set-up then?
41 A. Yes.
42
43 Q. I'm going to ask you, if you don't mind, whether you
44 could just draw a mud map there --
45 A. Yes.
46
47 Q. -- of the set-up with the deputy principal's office

1 and also where the receptionist desk would be. So the
2 principal's office, the deputy principal's office, any
3 other rooms that are in the area and also where the
4 reception desk was?
5 A. (Witness draws map).
6
7 Q. Thank you for that, Mr Young. If you could just
8 indicate for us how many doorways were there to the
9 reception area. Can you recall?
10 A. You have to go past the reception desk to go down to
11 the other offices.
12
13 Q. Yes, and would you have to go left from the reception?
14 A. Looking at the reception, you go down to the left-hand
15 side of the reception desk down to the deputy on the
16 right-hand side, turn left to the Regional office on your
17 right-hand side, the next deputy on your right-hand side
18 and then straight into the principal's office.
19
20 Q. Turn left into the Regional office or maybe turn
21 right?
22 A. Sorry, the Regional office on your right-hand side
23 going down the corridor.
24
25 Q. Yes, that's right. I'm going to ask you if you can
26 just sign that --
27 A. Yes, certainly --
28
29 Q. -- and just initial it and write your name underneath
30 that, and also, if someone had come into the reception area
31 and then had to go to the principal, would you be able to
32 just draw an arrow there as to what route they would take?
33 A. Certainly, yes.
34
35 MR URQUHART: Thank you. Your Honour, did you want to see
36 that?
37
38 HIS HONOUR: I'm all right. I've seen it, thank you. Are
39 you tendering that?
40
41 MR URQUHART: Yes, I will, sir. I will just have another
42 quick look. Thank you. We can get the associate to just
43 get the date on that.
44
45 THE WITNESS: Sorry.
46
47 **EXHIBIT #94 MAP OF OFFICES AT KATANNING HIGH SCHOOL DRAWN**

1 BY MR YOUNG, BARCODED: 0121
2
3 HIS HONOUR: I will just clarify it.
4
5 Q. I think you are saying that that's the structure and
6 the layout when you saw it in October '86?
7 A. Yes.
8
9 Q. And also during the time you were there?
10 A. When I was there in 1987.
11
12 Q. Did you ever see it before it was altered?
13 A. No, I didn't.
14
15 Q. You said there was some work done on it. Do you know
16 when the work was done?
17 A. No idea.
18
19 Q. No idea. Some time prior to --
20 A. It wasn't part of the current - it wasn't part of the
21 current work program so it had been done before that.
22
23 Q. All right, but my understanding from you was it had
24 been done during a previous year. Was that right or not?
25 A. It was reasonably newly renovated. Whether it was the
26 previous year or before that, I'm not sure.
27
28 HIS HONOUR: You don't know, all right. Thank you.
29
30 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir.
31
32 Q. And just finally, Mr Young, had you been the principal
33 who was handed that note by Diane Pascoe and then had a
34 subsequent meeting with Kylie Haddow, and given the
35 contents of that note as I read them out to you that Kylie
36 has recounted, if that happened in your case, you were the
37 principal involved, is that something that you would expect
38 now to recall, notwithstanding the passage of time?
39 A. I would expect to recall it, yes. Be a very traumatic
40 experience.
41
42 Q. Sorry?
43 A. It would be a very traumatic experience.
44
45 Q. For?
46 A. All concerned.
47

1 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir. That's all the questions I
2 have with Mr Young.
3
4 HIS HONOUR: Nothing for you, Mr Jenkin?
5
6 MR JENKIN: No.
7
8 HIS HONOUR: Ms Morgan, anything from you?
9
10 MS MORGAN: Just one question, your Honour.
11
12 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS MORGAN:
13
14 Q. You mentioned that you never had any complaints from
15 teachers and people in authority. Did you hear any rumours
16 around town at all about anything regarding Dennis McKenna?
17 A. No, I didn't.
18
19 MS MORGAN: Nothing at all. Thanks.
20
21 HIS HONOUR: All right, nothing from you?
22
23 MR URQUHART: No, there is not.
24
25 HIS HONOUR: So that completes your evidence. Thank you,
26 you are free to go.
27
28 MR URQUHART: Certainly. Did you want to invite Mr Young
29 whether he would like to say anything further?
30
31 HIS HONOUR: Q. Well, is there anything you wish to say
32 further at all? I should invite you to do that. Is there
33 anything you want to add?
34 A. Possibly at that time I was unaware of the guidelines
35 on how to deal with these sort of instances. As a new
36 principal, I was given no training in how to deal with this
37 or how to counsel people who are found in this position. I
38 believe that now the guidelines are now law about what
39 should take place. About that stage, that didn't happen.
40
41 Q. Now, I think the evidence is that the Education
42 Department promulgated some guidelines. So in 1987, I
43 think that's right, and I think we've been told that they
44 distributed it to all principals. Now, do you remember
45 receiving guidelines from the Education Department in 1987?
46 A. I don't remember receiving them but that doesn't mean
47 that I didn't.

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Q. So it is perhaps not something you necessarily remember?

A. No.

MR URQUHART: That was December 1987, sir, the information we received, yes.

HIS HONOUR: Q. It was December 1987, is that right? So it would have been at the end of your time anyway. Do you remember, at your next posting, seeing these guidelines?

A. I didn't see - I don't remember seeing them there. They could have been there.

Q. When is the first time you remember any sort of guidance or directions from the Department as to how to handle these situations?

A. When I was at Balga.

Q. And when was that?

A. I came - I was appointed in 1989 but I took 12 months leave, so it was 1990 when I fronted up to the school.

Q. Right, and that's the first occasion you remember receiving any directions or guidance from the department as to how to handle these matters?

A. Yes, that's right.

Q. And what happened then, do you remember, in terms informing you. Was there any training or was it just a matter of seeing the document?

A. No training that I can recall. Just a case of "Here it is. This is what you have to do now".

Q. Right, and that was 1990?

A. Yes.

Q. All right, is there anything else you want to add?

A. No, thank you.

Q. All right, well thank you very much. You are free to go?

A. Thank you.

<THE WITNESS WITHDREW

HIS HONOUR: We will adjourn until 2.15.

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MR URQUHART: Yes, thank you sir.

LUNCHEON ADJOURNMENT

UPON RESUMPTION:

HIS HONOUR: Yes, Mr Urquhart.

MR URQUHART: Yes, I thank you, sir. Sorry about that delay. I advised my learned friend, Ms Reynolds, of what happened at 12 o'clock today, because she wasn't able to be present.

HIS HONOUR: That's all right.

MR URQUHART: And we've just had another document photocopied --

HIS HONOUR: Right.

MR URQUHART: -- that I will be showing Mr Marriott. Yes, sir, Mr Marriott is in the back of the hearing room, Gerald Eric Marriott.

HIS HONOUR: Very well.

<GERALD ERIC MARRIOTT, sworn:

<EXAMINATION-IN-CHIEF BY MR URQUHART:

MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Marriott, your full name is Gerald Eric Marriott?

A. Correct.

Q. How old are you, sir?

A. 68.

Q. And are you presently retired?

A. I am.

Q. And you obtained qualifications as a teacher?

A. Yes.

Q. And how long did you end up teaching for?

A. Something like 36 years, I think it was. 1965 I began, and I retired in 2000 - halfway through 2000.

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Q. Yes. And you were a principal at a number of schools during that time?

A. Yes. Two substantially. I was two years at Katanning Senior High School, and then 13 and a half years at Greenwood Senior High School.

Q. And insofar as your work and what you've done, have you got some notes there in front of you that you might like to refer to as you give us a summary of that?

A. Sure. In terms of teaching, my first appointment was at Katanning Senior High School, from there to Armadale Senior High School; then as a Senior Master, now called a Head of Department at Collie Senior High School. Similar position then at Mirrabooka Senior High School, then to Deputy Principal at Cunderdin Agricultural High School, and then Deputy Principal, and for 12 months relieving principal at Governor Stirling Senior High School, and then my first principalship was Katanning, and then on to Greenwood Senior High School.

Q. Greenwood.

A. But I was involved in various other secondments as well --

Q. I see.

A. -- right through the Education Department.

Q. And, Mr Marriott, did I hear you correctly to say that you started off at Katanning?

A. Did I say that? Sorry.

Q. Did you? Yes.

HIS HONOUR: You did say that.

THE WITNESS: I may well have done. I'm sorry. It was Kalamunda.

MR URQUHART: Kalamunda, right.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR URQUHART: Thank you for that.

Q. And that would have been around the mid '60s, would it?

1 A. '65 and '66 I was there.
2
3 Q. All right. And is there anything else you'd like to
4 say insofar as your qualifications are concerned, that
5 you'd need to have a look at those notes or positions?
6 A. Well, I had a series of secondments to the Curriculum
7 Branch to start with for 18 months, to produce social
8 studies materials for the new Achievement Certificate; to
9 the North West Metropolitan District Office as a School
10 Development Officer under the Commonwealth Participation
11 and Equity Scheme, to a Ministerial taskforce on
12 post-compulsory education for six months, interviewing
13 outstanding principals to produce a booklet entitled,
14 'Principals In Pursuit of Excellence' six months as Acting
15 District Superintendent at Armadale, and for 12 months to
16 the Human Resources Branch of head office as a project
17 consultant for Personnel 2000. So I've had a number of
18 different experiences.
19
20 Q. Right. Thank you for that. Now, of course, we are
21 concerned with the Katanning High School with respect to
22 this matter, so it was your first posting as a principal
23 and, as I understand, you were the youngest substantive
24 high school principal at the time?
25 A. I was, I believe, yes. I was 41.
26
27 Q. And how long was your term going to be there at
28 Katanning? Was that determined beforehand?
29 A. No.
30
31 Q. Was it always going to be two years, or was it going
32 to be longer or shorter?
33 A. No, it were - at that stage to what was called - what
34 were called Class B and C high schools. You were there for
35 12 months, and at the end of 12 - during that first
36 12 months you could apply for a transfer to other high
37 schools. I had my two children with me at Katanning Senior
38 High School. Peter was going into Year 9 when I got there,
39 so he was there for Year 9 and 10. My daughter, Michelle,
40 was there for Year 11 and 12, so it suited me very well to
41 be there for two years, so that Michelle could complete her
42 TEE at Katanning, and I didn't apply for transfer after
43 12 months, but I did after two years.
44
45 Q. I see. Thank you for that. And you also had some
46 deputies there; is that right?
47 A. Yes.

1
2 Q. And did you have the same deputies for both years?
3 A. One of them was the same. In 1985 the deputies were
4 Jean Horner and Brian Maddocks, and in 1986 Jean Horner was
5 still there, and Keith Bryant was the other deputy.
6
7 Q. Thank you for that, Mr Marriott. Did you enjoy your
8 time at Katanning?
9 A. I did.
10
11 Q. I'm going to ask you a question. If you can remember,
12 that would be great. Do you remember whether there was any
13 work being done during the years that you were there on the
14 buildings of the school, and specifically where the
15 principal's office was?
16 A. There was none as far as the principal's office was
17 concerned, but while I was there we were able to finalise
18 plans to build a hall-gymnasium --
19
20 Q. I see.
21 A. -- at the school, and I know there was build and
22 alterations being done to the quadrangle; but, no, there
23 was no changes while I was there to the principal's office.
24
25 Q. I'm just going to show you a mudmap that was drawn by
26 a principal who replaced you --
27 A. Yes.
28
29 Q. -- in 1987?
30 A. Yes.
31
32 Q. And it's exhibit number 80 something, I think - no,
33 94. And if you could --
34 A. Thank you.
35
36 Q. -- just have a look at that and see if that accords
37 with your recollection of the layout.
38 A. Very close to it, yes.
39
40 Q. So it would be pretty much the same where the
41 principal's office was, where the deputy principal's
42 offices where --
43 A. Yes, yes.
44
45 Q. -- and where the reception desk is?
46 A. Yes, I would make a slight change to the position of
47 one of the deputies, but a matter of centimetres; so, no,

1 the overall organisation of those offices is as it was when
2 I was there.
3
4 Q. Thank you for that, Mr Marriott. Now, was it the case
5 that you went on somewhat of an orientation of the high
6 school before you started work there in 1985?
7 A. I went down for one day in - at the end of 1984, to
8 have a look over the school with my predecessor there,
9 Charles Johnson, have a look over the house at that stage.
10
11 Q. Right. Yes. And I should have also mentioned this
12 right from the outset. Is it the case that you had been
13 already interviewed by Inquiry Investigators on 17 April
14 2012?
15 A. Yes, that's correct.
16
17 Q. And did you provide the investigators with a number of
18 material for them to copy, to assist us with the - our
19 Inquiry?
20 A. Yes, I did.
21
22 Q. We'll touch on that in a moment. That's something I
23 should have clarified with you right from the outset. Had
24 you ever worked at a school prior to that, where it had had
25 a hostel as part of its arrangement?
26 A. Yes, I did. At Cunderdin Agricultural District High
27 School there was a residential agricultural wing for the
28 Year 11s and 12s. I didn't have much to do with that. And
29 then when I was at Governor Stirling Senior High School,
30 all Swanleigh students - now that's not under the
31 Authority --
32
33 Q. No?
34 A. -- it was independent, but all Swanleigh students came
35 to Governor Stirling, and there was something in the order
36 of 260 of them, so there were quite a lot of hostel
37 students there.
38
39 Q. Again, returning to Katanning --
40 A. Yes.
41
42 Q. -- the hostel warden, Dennis McKenna.
43 A. Yes.
44
45 Q. Can you recall when it was the first time you met him?
46 Was it prior to you commencing as principal, or was it
47 shortly after?

1 A. I can't remember if I met him on the induction visit
2 that I had to the school, or whether I met him after I had
3 taken up my position there; so, no, I can't remember the
4 first meeting.

5

6 Q. Prior to meeting him, were you aware or had you heard
7 anything regarding his reputation?

8 A. I had from my predecessor, who reassured me that the
9 hostel was very well run, and that the - the warden there
10 did a very good job of looking after the kids and keeping
11 them in line.

12

13 Q. No doubt you subsequently met the man, Mr McKenna?

14 A. Yes.

15

16 Q. Your first impressions of him - can you recall?

17 A. No. My memories of him were memories that have
18 developed over a long period, rather than a first
19 impression, so I can't honestly remember a first
20 impression.

21

22 Q. That's okay. Well, your impressions as you got to
23 know him better - what were they?

24 A. Okay. Like my predecessor, it seemed to me that he
25 was a very efficient hostel warden, and that he ran the
26 hostel very well, and he ran what he called a tight ship,
27 and my impression was that I agreed with that. While I was
28 there --

29

30 HIS HONOUR: That's interesting, because that's been the
31 description of just about every witness in your position,
32 that he ran a tight ship.

33

34 Q. So that came from Dennis McKenna himself, did it?

35 A. I think that that came from him.

36

37 Q. Yes.

38 A. Yes. Apart from being the warden of the hostel for
39 the two years that I was there, he was President of the
40 P&C, so with both those roles I had a lot to do with him.
41 There was a lot of professional contact between the two of
42 us, and professionally I had no concerns. I thought that
43 he was doing a good job with the hostel and the work that
44 he did with the P&C was fine as well. So professionally we
45 got on all right. Personally I would say the relationship
46 was rather cool. I don't think either of us liked each
47 other very much.

1
2 MR URQUHART: Q. And how did you make that assessment?
3 A. I thought that Dennis McKenna was wary of me, perhaps
4 being a youngish principal coming in, wanting to make some
5 changes - not that he necessarily thought that the changes
6 that I might want to make would necessarily affect his
7 paedophilia necessarily. I'm looking back, just that
8 people are wary of change, so he might not have been too
9 keen about some of those things. From my point of view, I
10 thought he was rather obsequious and was keen to tell me
11 things that he thought that I might like to hear, "The
12 schoolkids are looking much better dressed this year now
13 that you're principal, Gerry", or, "The hostel kids all
14 respect you, Gerry", and I just didn't feel that he was
15 always as sincere as he could be.

16
17 Q. I see. And you mentioned that he's President of the
18 P&C?

19 A. Yes.

20
21 Q. Normally a position that would be held by a parent?
22 A. Yes.

23
24 Q. Did you find that a little odd or unusual?
25 A. Not really, in that he was in loco parentis for 120
26 students or something like that, and it is a Parent's and
27 Citizens Association, so he - he qualifies being a citizen.
28 I can't remember how he got the job, but I can imagine,
29 like most P&C Associations, at the AGM it would be, "Right,
30 we need a new President, who's prepared to do it?", and
31 Dennis has presumably put up his hand, or someone asked him
32 and he was prepared to do it, but I didn't have qualms with
33 him taking on that role.

34
35 Q. So you mentioned how your relationship with him was -
36 I think you described as cool?

37 A. Yes.

38
39 Q. What about his relationships with others, particularly
40 adults? Did you observe anything about that?

41 A. I know some people have described him as charismatic
42 in some of the transcripts that I've read. I didn't find
43 him so, and I don't think most of my staff did. I thought
44 that they were also a little wary of him. Look, that's -
45 that's a generalisation. I had 55 teachers on the staff,
46 and I certainly didn't ask them, "How do you find Dennis?",
47 or anything like that. So that's a rather vague

1 generalisation.
2
3 Q. His reputation though, within the community - would
4 you make an assessment of that?
5 A. It was very high. They really thought that he was the
6 reason why the hostel numbers have grown from maybe 50 or
7 60 when he first came, up to 120, which was very good for
8 the town, and his reputation was such that people - that
9 there was often a waiting list to get into the hostel, so
10 keen local citizens thought that that was great. He also
11 arranged for the kids to do a lot of public service around
12 the place, which I am sure the Inquiry has heard of.
13
14 Q. We have.
15 A. And that was applauded, and I applauded it as well. I
16 thought that helping to weed pensioners' gardens and clean
17 up the cemetery and all those sorts of things was
18 excellent. I wouldn't knock him for that at all.
19
20 Q. Mr Marriott, we also heard that principals are also
21 involved in Hostel Board matters. That was the case with
22 you?
23 A. It was.
24
25 Q. Yes. Did you - how did you see your role as a member
26 of the Hostel Board?
27 A. I didn't remember that I was a member of the Hostel
28 Board until I got the letter notifying me that I would be
29 mentioned in this Inquiry, and took out my diary and my
30 time manager and had a look at it and noticed in there
31 there's reference to Hostel Board meetings.
32
33 Q. I see.
34 A. So my recollection of Board meetings is not very good
35 at all.
36
37 Q. All right. Can you remember though, whether you had
38 any induction or training as to what your role was to be at
39 the Board?
40 A. I don't believe there was any induction or training at
41 all.
42
43 Q. Now that you've been able to refresh your memory from
44 your notes - and we'll get to that in a moment, about your
45 notetaking - but does that jog your memory as to what your
46 experience was sitting on the Board?
47 A. Not really. My hesitation is that I've read a number

1 of the transcripts and newspaper reports of what went on in
2 Board meetings, and I'm trying to separate in my mind my
3 memory of Board meetings and what I've read within the last
4 few weeks.

5

6 Q. That is a difficulty for witnesses.

7 A. It is.

8

9 Q. I appreciate that.

10 A. Yes. So I haven't really got strong memories of those
11 Board meetings.

12

13 Q. Would there be any point me asking you questions as to
14 how - your recollection of how Dennis McKenna conducted
15 himself in those meetings, and whether you can comment on
16 his power structures that existed within the Board, if any?

17 A. My recollection was --

18

19 Q. Yes, I'm sorry, this is based on your recollection
20 too, yes.

21 A. Yes. I hope this is recollection rather than
22 imagination, but my recollection was that the Board
23 meetings were normally reasonably informal, and most of the
24 things that Dennis wanted were approved by the Board
25 without a great deal of dissension. I'm possibly wrong,
26 but I've got a feeling that most of the Board members,
27 other than myself, were probably invited onto the Board
28 probably by Dennis, maybe outgoing Board members, and it
29 didn't seem to me a combative or an investigative group at
30 all. In fact, to me it seemed more like an Advisory Board,
31 rather than a board of control.

32

33 Q. Right. And I know it's hard to distinguish from your
34 recollection and what you've read, but who seemed - did
35 anyone seem there to have greater authority than the
36 others?

37 A. I have read through the lists of people that were on
38 the Board, and I can't remember any of the members there,
39 other than Dennis.

40

41 Q. Right. We all know about people's participations in
42 meetings - for example, some might be more outspoken than
43 others. What is your recollection of how Dennis McKenna
44 conducted himself at these meetings? Was he someone who
45 didn't say much at all?

46 A. I really can't remember that. I would imagine that he
47 would have been quite happy to say his piece and try and

1 get people to agree with him, but I'm guessing.
2
3 Q. All right. Are you able to say anything about that,
4 about how - it doesn't necessarily have to be in the
5 context of Board meetings - about what his levels of
6 persuasion were like?
7 A. They were probably reasonably good. I think that he
8 was quite a fluent speaker. He knew that his reputation
9 within the town was very high, and I suspect that he used
10 his reputation to be a persuasive speaker, and persuade
11 people to his way of speaking.
12
13 Q. Do you recall him ever mentioning his reputation --
14 A. Yes, he did.
15
16 Q. -- in your presence?
17 A. Yes, he did.
18
19 Q. And can you recall where that was and what context?
20 A. I can remember in my office, probably the first time I
21 met him, he happened to mention in passing that he was
22 Citizen of the Year the previous year, or maybe the one
23 before that. He wasn't slow in letting people know that he
24 was held in high regard.
25
26 Q. Right. And did he say anything to you in your
27 presence about - that the hostel or his position as warden,
28 as to how that rated?
29 A. Yes. He was quick to say that the hostel was regarded
30 now as the best hostel in the State, and he made it clear
31 that that was not an accident, that his wardenship of the
32 hostel was the reason why it had done so well, and I went
33 along with that, I thought he did a great job with the
34 hostel.
35
36 Q. And did you base that upon things like the
37 presentation of the students, the hostel itself, how it was
38 set up, the increase in numbers, those sorts of things?
39 A. Those sorts of things, and also if any of my teachers
40 had a problem with a student with regard - a hostel student
41 with regard to behaviour or not completing homework or
42 something like that, and we let Dennis know, then Dennis
43 got onto it and the behaviour improved, the work standards
44 improved. It seemed to me, and I think to most of my
45 staff, that he was doing his best to make sure that the
46 kids performed academically as well as they possibly could.
47

1 Q. Mr Marriott, I said a moment ago I was going to get to
2 this: was it the case that throughout your career as a
3 schoolteacher, and then as a principal, that you had a
4 habit of keeping meticulous notes about matters?
5 A. Yes. I say that qualitatively in that in 1984 I
6 attended a time manager course for a couple of days and
7 bought a time manager system. So it was only in '84
8 onwards --
9
10 Q. I see.
11 A. -- that I was persuaded that it's a good idea to take
12 detailed notes of everything that goes on, from plan your
13 day and your life, your work life, as much as you possibly
14 can.
15
16 Q. And you've got a booklet there in front of you?
17 A. Yes.
18
19 Q. I gather you have subsequently kept all these diaries?
20 A. I have.
21
22 Q. You refer to it as a planner. Some might think now
23 that's on a computer, but this was all hard copied stuff?
24 A. Yes, it was.
25
26 Q. And so you - how did you divide up matters, and if we
27 can stay with 1985 and 1986, I think that's the relevant
28 time?
29 A. Okay. The subheadings that I have here were "Staff -
30 Teaching Personnel", "Staff - Teaching Meetings", "Staff -
31 Non-Teaching", "Students", "Finance - Buildings, Grounds,
32 Equipment", "P&C", "Parents", "Hostel", "External Relations -
33 Education", "External Relations - Not Education". They are
34 the broad headings that I used.
35
36 Q. And the booklet you have there, that was for 1986, was
37 it?
38 A. Yes.
39
40 Q. And is it the case that you would keep notes, for
41 example, or brief notes of matters that were discussed at
42 the Hostel Board meetings?
43 A. Correct.
44
45 Q. Even though you weren't the official minute taker?
46 A. Yes.
47

1 Q. Again, probably just force of habit by then, was it,
2 or --
3 A. Yes.
4
5 HIS HONOUR: You started two years previously.
6
7 MR URQUHART: Yes.
8
9 THE WITNESS: Yes.
10
11 HIS HONOUR: Q. And do you make the notes at the time or
12 soon afterwards, or what?
13 A. At the time.
14
15 Q. At the time?
16 A. Yes.
17
18 HIS HONOUR: Right.
19
20 MR URQUHART: Q. So this would include, for example,
21 notes of any meetings that you've had with people?
22 A. Yes, they were.
23
24 Q. Yes, yes.
25 A. Meetings in my office particularly. So if a student
26 came to my office with something important, then I would
27 note it down. If they stuck their head in the office to
28 say, "I saw you playing golf on Saturday, Mr Marriott",
29 then that wouldn't go down.
30
31 Q. No.
32 A. Similarly around the yard, my interactions with
33 students wouldn't be recorded unless of a very significant
34 one, although I always carried my time manager with me.
35
36 Q. We've already heard from a teacher in 1986, that he
37 recalls you doing precisely that.
38 A. Right.
39
40 Q. And I should also add, Mr Marriott, that there have
41 been some teachers called, and those that have been asked
42 that were at the school at your time, all speak very highly
43 of you.
44 A. Thank you.
45
46 Q. Now, I'm going to ask you some questions about
47 particular entries that you've written there in your diary,

1 and we'll get to that in due course. Probably what I will
2 show you is just some photocopies that have been made by
3 the Inquiry after you had provided that diary to us.
4 Before I do that, it's the case then that any formal
5 meetings that you would have had with Dennis McKenna would
6 be recorded - you would expect that to be recorded in that
7 diary, if you had those meetings in 1986?

8 A. Yes.

9

10 Q. Any meeting that you had with a student requiring any
11 disciplinary matter, you would expect that to be recorded
12 in there?

13 A. Definitely.

14

15 Q. Together with anybody else who's attended?

16 A. Yes.

17

18 Q. So it's not a case where most of us to note a meeting
19 we would just indicate who's attending and maybe what time
20 it was, you've got the date, who attended, and a brief
21 summary of what was discussed, and any action that should
22 be taken?

23 A. Yes.

24

25 Q. Is that right?

26 A. Correct.

27

28 Q. Now, before I take you to some matters that have
29 been - that were raised at this Inquiry back in February, I
30 think what we ought to do now, if we can, is to ask you
31 something about two students that were at the school - and
32 that's Kylie Haddow --

33 A. Yes.

34

35 Q. -- and Diane Pascoe - her married name is now Renton.

36 A. Yes.

37

38 Q. Now, before - you've obviously read their evidence?

39 A. Yes.

40

41 Q. And you've also been provided with material that they
42 have given to the Inquiry as well.

43 A. Yes.

44

45 Q. Now, firstly, prior to hearing those names, or being
46 told by the Inquiry of those people, did you have a
47 recollection of those two? Did they stand out for any

1 reason in your mind?
2 A. No, they didn't.
3
4 Q. And what about after, that you'd been provided with
5 those names - did they ring a bell at all?
6 A. No, they didn't.
7
8 Q. However, have you been able to look at your - how
9 should we describe that booklet you've got there in front
10 of you? Is it a Filofax or --
11 A. It's a time manager, but I don't know what you call
12 it.
13
14 Q. Time - okay. Well, we'll just --
15
16 HIS HONOUR: You can call it the planner.
17
18 MR URQUHART: The planner.
19
20 THE WITNESS: Planner is fine.
21
22 HIS HONOUR: Yes.
23
24 MR URQUHART: We'll call it the planner. Thank you, sir.
25
26 Q. So with respect to that planner for 1986, have you had
27 a look through that and seen whether, in fact, you have
28 noted any meetings that you had either directly with these
29 two students, or maybe with their parents?
30 A. Yes, I have.
31
32 Q. Okay.
33 A. Sorry.
34
35 Q. Yes. So, look, I'll show you some photocopies. It
36 might be easier?
37 A. Yes.
38
39 Q. And if you want to confirm that with what's in your
40 original booklet, you can.
41 A. Yes.
42
43 HIS HONOUR: Q. Just to clarify, for what year or years
44 have you gone and done this exercise, going through looking
45 for their names?
46 A. I've been through 1986 notes.
47

1 HIS HONOUR: Yes, thank you.
2
3 MR URQUHART: Q. The first one we are going to look at
4 is barcode number 0230, and whilst that is being found, it
5 is your recollection that you've looked through the planner
6 and seen that there were some meetings that you had with
7 Diane Pascoe's mother and then also a particular meeting
8 you had with Diane Pascoe?
9 A. Yes.
10
11 Q. Have you been handed a photocopy there that's barcode
12 number 0230?
13 A. Yes.
14
15 Q. Does that actually indicate there the two meetings you
16 had with Sue Pascoe?
17 A. Correct.
18
19 Q. And that's from 1986?
20 A. Yes.
21
22 Q. Because when you hand write the date in, you have just
23 used the day and the month, haven't you?
24 A. That's right.
25
26 Q. And I gather that without looking at this planner, you
27 would not have had any recollection of these meetings or
28 the subject matter. Is that right?
29 A. No recollection.
30
31 Q. Thank you. Regarding Sue Pascoe, the entry there
32 about a quarter of the way down, you have written, under
33 "Subject", "Sue Pascoe", and under that "(Dianne YR 10)",
34 year 10, and then the date and then you've written some
35 notes regarding that meeting.
36 A. Yes.
37
38 Q. 3 November. Can you just read that out for us?
39 A. Yes, "Concern not working in the evenings". That's
40 just obviously a concern from the mother, Sue Pascoe, and
41 then in brackets, "that's my business" - so these are the
42 sorts of comments that Diane is making to her mother and
43 that the mum is concerned about, "That's my business, I'll
44 work next year." And under that I've got an abbreviation
45 for "Proudfoot", one of my teachers, who's commented that
46 her assignments are slapdash. "Haydon", another teacher,
47 "3BB", business principal's assignments, "not done". The

1 maths teacher said her work was improving and, "Requests I
2 see her" was a request from Sue Pascoe that I see Diane
3 about the concerns that the mother had.
4

5 Q. And then, later on down the page, can we see another
6 entry in relation to Sue Pascoe, second from the bottom?

7 A. Yes, on the 24th of the 11th I have contacted Sue
8 Pascoe again, saying that I saw Diane's teachers. In
9 general they were very pleased with the improvement and I
10 reported that to Diane and to the mother, Sue.
11

12 Q. You have used some abbreviations there, haven't you?

13 A. Yes, I have.
14

15 Q. And that's from your search of the planner. They are
16 the only two occasions that you dealt with Sue Pascoe?

17 A. No, in my notes regarding students I've got, on the
18 10th of November 1986, that's between those two
19 conversations with her mother, I've got a note that:
20

21 10/11: Diane Pascoe (yr 10):
22 re little work being done. Saw core
23 teachers and R Hayden. Will see
24 teachers in two wks - expect
25 improvement or will consider non-TEE Yr
26 11 subjects. Phoned mother.
27

28 Q. And you have got those two photocopied pages in
29 relation to those three entries. Have they been given to
30 you?

31 A. I haven't got a photocopy of the one that I just read
32 to you. That's from my own notes.
33

34 Q. Yes, we will just have a quick look at that. That's
35 0229, barcode number?

36 A. Right.
37

38 Q. Is that the one that's there, that photocopy of the
39 third entry you've read out?

40 A. It is.
41

42 MR URQUHART: I will just tender those as a bundle, sir.
43

44 **EXHIBIT #95 BUNDLE OF ENTRIES FROM PLANNER, BARCODED 0230**
45 **AND 0229**
46

47 HIS HONOUR: Q. So you have no other entries in relation

1 to the Pascoes?
2 A. No.
3
4 MR URQUHART: Q. Dealing then now with Kylie Haddow,
5 have you had a search through for any entries in relation
6 to her in your planner?
7 A. Yes, and there was one there in my hostel notes
8 regarding a meeting with Dennis McKenna on the 29th of
9 October 1986 where he informed --
10
11 Q. We will just get everyone to have a copy of that?
12 A. Sure, sure.
13
14 Q. Whilst we are on that --
15 A. Yes.
16
17 Q. -- did you see any entry in your planner regarding a
18 meeting with Kylie Haddow?
19 A. No, none.
20
21 MR URQUHART: Madam Associate, this is 0234, thank you.
22 It's the matter that was just photocopied shortly before we
23 commenced.
24
25 HIS HONOUR: Q. Just something to clarify, your first
26 conversation with Sue Pascoe on 3 November, you said, I
27 understood, you would talk to Diane. Is that right?
28 A. Yes.
29
30 Q. And that note of 10 November under "Students", was
31 that a note of a meeting with her?
32 A. Yes, it was.
33
34 Q. And that was with her on her own?
35 A. Yes, it was.
36
37 MR URQUHART: Q. I think you now will have what you are
38 referring to there. So this was behind your divider. What
39 was this?
40 A. Yes, this was under my notes on hostel matters and
41 Dennis McKenna, yes.
42
43 Q. And this would be for 1986?
44 A. Yes.
45
46 Q. 29 October, yes?
47 A. Yes.

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Q. Could you just read that out for us, please?
A. Yes, it's under "Dennis McKenna" so, presumably, he came to my office to tell me:

Kylie had been suspended for shouting at D McKenna.

So that would be suspended from the hostel, not from the school:

Parents want back Monday. Other board members want permanent exclusion.

And then:

I recommend board meeting after Monday.

And I'm not sure what I meant by "I recommend board meeting after Monday".

MR URQUHART: I will tender that now, thank you sir.

EXHIBIT #96 ENTRY FROM PLANNER, BARCODED 0234

HIS HONOUR: Q. So beyond the note you don't have any recollection what that was about?

A. No.

MR URQUHART: Q. Before I address the matter of Diane Pascoe and Kylie Haddow's evidence, can I just ask you something about what Diane Renton said - I will use her married name, if that's okay. It is not directly related to the note passing incident, if I can call it that, but she recalls a letter that was sent to her parents regarding the fact that she had been suspended for smoking. Her recollection is that you signed that letter. If a student had been suspended --

HIS HONOUR: From the hostel, you mean?

MR URQUHART: No, no, from the school.

HIS HONOUR: I see.

MR URQUHART: From the school.

1 HIS HONOUR: Right.
2
3 MR URQUHART: Yes, from the school.
4
5 Q. Would you be the person who would ordinarily write the
6 letter to that effect to their parents, as principal?
7 A. No, the deputies did the suspending. The deputies
8 would have written the letter, that just - it is possible
9 that the letter went out over my name and, in that case, I
10 would have signed it or initialled it.
11
12 Q. And the sending of that letter, although, you agree, a
13 note taken wouldn't extend to you making a note of that in
14 your planner regarding correspondence?
15 A. That's correct, it wouldn't be there.
16
17 Q. You have mentioned there the deputies had the power or
18 were responsible for suspending?
19 A. Yes.
20
21 Q. Did principals get involved in that at all?
22 A. Normally --
23
24 Q. I'm talking about 1986, or 1985?
25 A. Normally that was delegated to deputies. In all high
26 schools I've worked in that was the case.
27
28 Q. And just while we are talking about suspensions, can
29 we go the next step, expulsions. Did principals have the
30 right to expel a student without any review?
31 A. No. It was, in fact, called "exclusion" rather than
32 "expelling", and if a principal wanted to exclude a
33 student, that had to be referred to the District Office or
34 Central Office as a recommendation and then I think it was
35 the District Office would then undertake a review of the
36 case and decide whether or not to support that exclusion.
37
38 Q. I see. So the decision or the recommendation by the
39 principal could be overruled?
40 A. It frequently was.
41
42 Q. Getting back to when you sat on the hostel board --
43 A. Yes.
44
45 Q. -- do you recall occasions in which matters came up
46 regarding the expulsion of students from the hostel as
47 distinct from the school. Have you got a recollection of

1 that?
2 A. No, I haven't. I've read notes but I don't recall
3 that happening.
4
5 Q. You don't recall that happening?
6 A. No.
7
8 Q. So you can't tell us anything about whether the board
9 would conduct a review of, say, the warden's recommendation
10 that someone be expelled or whether it was just rubber
11 stamped by the board?
12 A. I really can't recall that. I could guess that
13 Dennis's reputation was such that most times it would be
14 endorsed by the board but I'm assuming that rather than
15 remembering.
16
17 Q. But can you make a comment about this: that if a
18 student was expelled from the hostel, it more often than
19 not meant a de facto expulsion from the school because they
20 would no longer have any place to reside and still go to
21 the school?
22 A. That's correct. Unless they could - they could get
23 private board within the town and - or nearby so that they
24 could come in by bus, and I know that happened in some
25 cases, but, yes, it was a very significant step and in some
26 cases expulsion from the hostel meant that they had to
27 leave the school.
28
29 Q. And is that something that you can recall occurring or
30 not?
31 A. No, I can't. I mean I read about it happening in
32 transcripts but I can't remember that happening.
33
34 Q. Mr Marriott, I know we will get to what's been said
35 regarding the note passing incident but before I do that,
36 and leaving aside that matter, because I know what your
37 view is on that, but in the two years that you were
38 principal at the Katanning high school, did you ever
39 receive any negative feedback regarding the manner in which
40 Dennis McKenna ran the hostel. I'm leaving it very broadly
41 like that. I'm not confining it to any allegations of
42 sexual abuse?
43 A. I can't recall anything negative coming to my notice.
44
45 Q. I will extend it now to rumours, gossip, innuendo,
46 anything of that nature?
47 A. No.

1
2 Q. Nothing about the manner in which he conducted the
3 hostel in respect of discipline, other than the fact he ran
4 a tight ship?
5 A. I don't remember any criticism. Compliments, plenty.
6 Criticism, no.
7
8 Q. Nothing to do with the bullying of students?
9 A. No.
10
11 Q. Victimization?
12 A. I've read it since --
13
14 Q. Yes, of course?
15 A. -- but at the time I was there, no, I don't remember
16 any negative comments coming through.
17
18 Q. You have read, obviously, the accounts given by Diane
19 Pascoe and Kylie Haddow - I subsequently used "Diane
20 Renton", I will just use "Pascoe". I can take you through
21 exactly what they were saying by reference to the
22 transcript but would you like me to do that or do you have
23 a clear recollection of what they are saying?
24 A. I have got a pretty clear recollection.
25
26 Q. All right then. Well, what do you say about that, if
27 it was suggested that you were the principal involved in
28 that; that is, that you were the teacher that Diane Renton
29 handed the note to and that you were the teacher involved
30 in that subsequent meeting that Kylie Haddow had with
31 Dennis McKenna present?
32 A. If a note along the lines that this one was had come
33 to my attention, it certainly wouldn't have been swept
34 under the carpet and I would have recorded that in my
35 planner without doubt. So I am in the strong belief that I
36 never saw a note along those lines or anything similar.
37 Because that would definitely be something that I would
38 have recorded and I'm sure that that would have been an
39 item that I would have remembered to this day. So I am
40 absolutely confident that that note didn't come to me. And
41 the meeting subsequently described by Kylie Haddow in my
42 office where I had McKenna in there, allegedly, and then
43 brought the girl in, is quite preposterous. I would never
44 set up a student of mine like that. I've spent my entire
45 career being caring and compassionate to students and I
46 would never slaughter someone like was described by Kylie
47 Haddow, and the sorts of things that she accused me of

1 saying to her about expulsion, which is out of the
2 question, or being reported to the police and the police
3 would gaol her, are bizarre. Nothing like that could
4 possibly happen, while I was principal at that school, with
5 me.

6
7 Q. Kylie Haddow also mentions about the manner in which
8 she was summonsed to attend the principal's office; that
9 is, it was over a PA system. Do you have a comment to make
10 about that?

11 A. Yes, I never used the PA to summon people to my
12 office. That would just disrupt the whole school and be
13 extraordinarily embarrassing to the students. We had year
14 8 students rostered for half a day each to be in the front
15 office, and, when myself or the deputies wanted a student,
16 we would send a message to the appropriate room "Could Joe
17 Blow. Please come to the front office?"

18
19 Q. So was the PA system, at the time that you were there
20 at Katanning, used?

21 A. Yes, it was used for emergencies, it was used just
22 before lunch and just before home time for whole of school
23 announcements, but just before the break so it wasn't going
24 to disrupt the teaching. So it might be something like
25 "Students are reminded that tomorrow is the athletics
26 carnival and we are starting 15 minutes late", or, "The
27 canteen won't be operating on Friday of next week. Make
28 sure that you all bring your lunches", so something of
29 relevance to the whole school the PA would be used for.

30
31 Q. Your policy of not using the PA in order to summons a
32 student to your office, was that a recommendation made, or
33 was that in any guidelines by the Ministry of Education at
34 the time, or was it just your personal practice?

35 A. That was my practice.

36
37 Q. Have you ever done that in your time as principal at
38 Katanning and then, later on, at the other school, make an
39 announcement over the PA for a student to attend your
40 office?

41 A. I don't recall ever doing. In an emergency, I guess
42 it might be the quickest way to get a student, but I can
43 too easily remember my time as a classroom teacher and
44 hating interruptions from the PA system when you are
45 halfway through a lesson. So I resolved that when I became
46 a school administrator that I would minimise its use as
47 much as I possibly could.

1
2 Q. Now, you mentioned there that if Diane Renton had
3 given you a note like that - and do you need reminding as
4 to what the contents of the note were. Because I stress to
5 emphasise that it didn't indicate the sort of sexual
6 offending that Dennis McKenna has since been convicted of.
7 I don't wish to say it was minor because nothing like this
8 is minor, but it was to do with McKenna holding the hands
9 of boys, having his hand touching boys in inappropriate
10 place, for example, a hand down the front of their shirts,
11 and matters of that nature. So bearing that in mind, you
12 have indicated that you would have recorded it in your
13 planner. If that had been, what else would you have done,
14 bearing in mind this is 1986, if it was to happen?

15 A. Yes, yes.

16
17 Q. So just assuming. I'm not saying it did happen but
18 assuming you received a note like that?

19 A. Okay, I would question the girl who gave it to me and
20 say "Who wrote this?", and she would then, presumably, tell
21 me that it was Kylie Haddow. "Can you comment on anything
22 else about it?", presumably not. "Okay, thanks Diane, I
23 will have a talk to Kylie". I would have then - not the
24 next day, something as serious as this, I would have either
25 sent one of the runners to get Kylie or quite possibly had
26 a quick look at her timetable to find where she was at that
27 time and go and get her myself quietly and have a talk to
28 her, and it would be along the lines of, you know, "Did you
29 write this?", "Yes", "And was this fiction or did this
30 really happen?", "It really happened", "Okay, this is
31 serious, Kylie. What we need to do is to contact your
32 parents and get your parents to know what's going on. Are
33 you happy to come back to the office with me? There's a
34 spare office, or you can use my office and I will go out if
35 you like, but I want you to phone your parents and tell
36 your parents what you've indicated within this note", and I
37 would hope that she would agree to that, and if she didn't,
38 then I would have phoned the parents and let them know what
39 was on the note. I would imagine that the parents would be
40 keen to see me about it with the girl. Now, I'm not sure
41 how far away they lived. They might not be able to get in
42 that day, maybe the next day, but I would imagine that they
43 would come in so that there could be a meeting then between
44 the parents, Kylie Haddow and myself so we could discuss
45 the sorts of things that the girl had spoken, and my strong
46 recommendation would be that this would be reported to the
47 police. Now, if the parents couldn't come in, then I would

1 say to the parents and then relate it to Kylie that "What
2 we need to do is to take this police - to the police. Are
3 you comfortable with me taking you? Would you prefer the
4 female deputy to take you, or the school nurse, or a
5 teacher that you have rapport with? Would you like your
6 friend to come with you for support? But we really need to
7 take this to police and get their opinion of what we should
8 do from here".
9

10 Q. Would you have sought - and again if this happened -
11 would you have sought Mr McKenna's viewpoint on this?

12 A. No, I wouldn't, not at this stage.
13

14 Q. No, not at all?

15 A. No. I mean he would obviously deny it and I would
16 have thought - no, I was going to say, and persecute the
17 girl. Am I thinking what I would have thought then or am I
18 thinking what I think now? But no, I wouldn't have taken
19 it up with McKenna at this stage.
20

21 Q. Wouldn't have thought as a matter of fairness you
22 would get his point of view?

23 A. Mr Urquhart, that's a good question and I'm not sure,
24 now that you've put that to me.
25

26 Q. I know we are talking about hypotheticals?

27 A. Yes. I'm not sure.
28

29 Q. But what you say is that you certainly wouldn't have
30 conducted the matter in the manner that's been described by
31 Kylie Haddow?

32 A. Emphatically.
33

34 Q. From the way in which you have responded to those
35 questions, I gather it is your view that taking that sort
36 of action would be totally inappropriate?

37 A. Absolutely.
38

39 Q. I have to ask this question. Would you expect that
40 that conduct could have been carried out by another teacher
41 at the school at that time?

42 A. I would hope not. I have complete faith that both of
43 the deputies I had in that year wouldn't have taken that
44 approach to the matter and I wouldn't think any experienced
45 teacher would have done that. I would hope that none of
46 them would.
47

1 Q. The allegation, though, was being made against someone
2 who was highly respected within the community. You would
3 agree with that, wouldn't you?
4 A. I would.
5
6 Q. And who had, as of 1986, an excellent reputation?
7 A. Yes.
8
9 Q. That being the case, do you think there could be some
10 pressure upon a teacher not to do what they ought to have
11 done with respect to an allegation such as this?
12 A. I can understand what you are saying and I would agree
13 with you, there may well be pressure. They might not have
14 succumbed to pressure but they possibly would have felt
15 pressure to try and do the right thing by such an
16 upstanding citizen.
17
18 Q. Yes, because, say, for example, a teacher - and most
19 of these teachers have come from outside of Katanning to
20 work there, I gather?
21 A. Yes.
22
23 Q. So it would be an outsider coming in and dropping a
24 bombshell, as it were --
25 A. Yes.
26
27 Q. -- upon a community who thought this was one of their
28 most outstanding citizens?
29 A. Yes.
30
31 HIS HONOUR: Q. Just to put another scenario, someone
32 with less experience than you might have thought the
33 fairest thing to do would be to put the accusation to
34 Dennis first?
35 A. It may well have been but no matter how inexperienced,
36 I hope that wouldn't be done with the girl there. Maybe to
37 go and see Dennis privately and say "An accusation has come
38 up, no names mentioned, what have you got to say about
39 it?", that would have been acceptable, but not to bring
40 them together.
41
42 Q. But if the two girls have given a correct version but
43 identified the wrong person, then, clearly, whoever it was
44 went and spoke to Dennis first because he was there when
45 the girl was summonsed?
46 A. Absolutely.
47

1 Q. So if they are correct then that must have happened?
2 A. Yes, if that was correct.
3
4 Q. Yes. Just one other thing I want to ask you. With
5 that hypothetical situation where you say you would have
6 encouraged Kylie or parents to go to the police --
7 A. Yes.
8
9 Q. -- what if they said no, they didn't want to go to the
10 police. What would you have done then?
11 A. What I would have done would be to telephone my
12 superiors in head office, probably speak to the legal
13 officer which the Education Department had to say "Look,
14 this has happened. What advice can you give me about how I
15 handle this?".
16
17 MR URQUHART: Q. Is there anything else you want to say
18 about that particular matter, Mr Marriott?
19 A. I don't think so.
20
21 Q. Is it also a fact that you were questioned about that
22 matter by the investigators last month?
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. Something I was going to ask you. Your two deputies
26 at the time, I know that you were the youngest substantive
27 principal there at the time. Can you recall whether those
28 two had less, or more, or the same experience as you?
29 A. Jean Horner was significantly older than me so she had
30 longer experience. Keith Bryant was four or five years
31 younger than me. He had been in the Education Department
32 all his life. He was very well qualified and very highly
33 respected.
34
35 Q. Now, just with respect to this hypothetical that his
36 Honour himself has asked you about, you do accept, though,
37 from your experience of him, that Dennis McKenna could be a
38 very good speaker, quite persuasive?
39 A. Yes.
40
41 Q. Do you accept that?
42 A. I do.
43
44 Q. And then again hypothetically, if, in fact, you had
45 been aware of this and you decided to speak to him
46 beforehand, are you saying that you would not have been
47 persuaded by what we would anticipate his argument would

1 be, is that this is preposterous?
2 A. I can't answer that, Mr Urquhart, because I don't know
3 what sort of slant McKenna would have put on it. He might
4 have been able to say that it was preposterous and
5 convinced me that it was. I'd like to be able to say
6 categorically that whatever McKenna said I wouldn't believe
7 him, but in all honesty I can't say that.
8
9 Q. But if - am I right in saying though, that if you had
10 spoken to him first, he raised a doubt in your mind, you
11 would still obtain the views from the student who had
12 written the note?
13 A. Definitely.
14
15 Q. Again, it's something I have asked the witnesses. If
16 this - you're saying here that it's not a question of you
17 not recording something like this, it's a case of you being
18 able to categorically state it did not happen. It did not
19 happen in the sense that it involved you?
20 A. I'm prepared to say that categorically, not only
21 because I haven't got a record of it, but the sort of
22 behaviours that were described by Kylie are foreign to me,
23 I would never do that, so I'm prepared to say categorically
24 that it didn't happen.
25
26 Q. And judging by that answer then, if it was to have
27 happened, it would be certainly something you would recall
28 because of the subject matter of it?
29 A. Definitely.
30
31 Q. Had you, prior to 1986 - had you ever been faced with
32 a matter such as this, a student coming forward with
33 allegations of a sexual impropriety against, I suppose, a
34 teacher, although your experience with the other
35 establishment at the hostel, a hostel staff member, had you
36 had that experience prior to 1986?
37 A. Not with someone outside the school such as this one
38 was an allegation against McKenna, who was outside the
39 school, but there were occurrences where I can remember a
40 young student coming to me.
41
42 Q. We don't need to know names.
43 A. No; saying that she felt uncomfortable that a
44 particular teacher - and I can remember his name, but I'm
45 not going to say it.
46
47 Q. No, don't do that. Yes.

1 A. That a particular teacher seemed to be looking down
2 her top when wandering around the school, and made her feel
3 uncomfortable.
4

5 Q. This is prior to your posting at Katanning?
6 A. I think this was at Governor Stirling that it
7 happened, but it may have been at Greenwood, but certainly
8 I can remember that quite clearly.
9

10 Q. And can you recall the action that you took?
11 A. Yes. I had a quiet chat to the teacher concerned, put
12 it to him that the girls were feeling uncomfortable about
13 this. He denied that it happened. I said, "Well, what you
14 need to do is make sure that none of the girls feel
15 uncomfortable that it might be happening, so be careful the
16 way you position yourself around the classroom when you're
17 supervising the girls or the students with their work".
18 And then my recollection was some weeks later I caught up
19 with the student concerned to see how she felt about it,
20 and I think the answer was that things were okay.
21

22 Q. I see. Now, I should ask you this, Mr Marriott: I
23 gather there would be times when you may not be at the
24 school for a reason - you might be on leave or away from
25 the school attending meetings or conferences or something
26 like that - I gather one of the deputies would be delegated
27 to be in charge of the school when that would happen?
28 A. That's correct.
29

30 Q. Do you recall - and if you can't by all means say so,
31 or if you don't know by all means say so - do you know
32 whether at the time when they'd be acting principal,
33 whether they would stay in their own offices or whether
34 they would move to yours?
35 A. The normal practice would be to stay in their own
36 office.
37

38 Q. If they ever wanted to go in the principal's office,
39 they would be able to do that?
40 A. The door would be open, they could do that.
41

42 Q. Just whilst I'm on the question of the principal's
43 office, Mr Marriott, it's not featured there on the diagram
44 but you can clarify this for us - it had a window, this
45 office?
46 A. Yes.
47

1 Q. If you were facing the desk, on the other side, if you
2 had a meeting with the principal, so you were facing the
3 principal and he was behind the desk, where would that
4 window be in relation to the person sitting opposite the
5 principal?
6 A. Directly in front of her, so that the window was
7 behind me.
8
9 Q. Right.
10 A. I was fairly sure with that, but I clarified that with
11 my two children who were at school, who are sitting in the
12 court now, and they both confirmed, yes, the window was
13 directly behind the principal.
14
15 Q. Right. And this might well test your memory - if you
16 can't answer it, by all means say so. Can you remember
17 where the windows were in relation to the deputy
18 principal's offices?
19 A. For the male deputy it would be on the male deputy's
20 left-hand side, so someone talking to the male deputy would
21 have been on the right-hand side; and for Jean Horner, the
22 female deputy - no, I can't remember which way she had her
23 desk, so I can't answer that one.
24
25 MR URQUHART: Thank you for that.
26
27 HIS HONOUR: Q. Just one other question: the fact that
28 your planner doesn't show any meetings with either these
29 two girls as they were then, does that mean that they never
30 had a meeting in your office with you for any reason
31 whatsoever?
32 A. That's correct. If there was a meeting with me, then
33 I would have made a note of it. Unless it was something
34 inconsequential that they stuck their head in to say
35 something in passing --
36
37 Q. Right.
38 A. -- but anything of any moment, I would have made a
39 note of.
40
41 Q. So if they came and sat down and had a meeting for any
42 purpose, that would be recorded?
43 A. It would.
44
45 HIS HONOUR: Yes. All right, thank you.
46
47 MR URQUHART: Okay.

1
2 Q. Now, so notwithstanding the subject matter of a
3 meeting, it would be recorded?
4 A. Yes.
5
6 Q. Okay. Again, I'm just - I won't bother with that. I
7 was going to give you another hypothetical, but I won't.
8 Mr Marriott, before I finish I just need to show you two
9 other entries that the Inquirer would like to question you
10 about and that is the - barcoded number - this is 0117, and
11 it involves an entry for your meetings that you have with
12 either - it's probably to do with the hostel staff.
13 A. Yes.
14
15 Q. A hostel matter - "29/7" of 1986. And we've got a
16 photo - I think you've been given a photocopy there.
17 A. Yes, I have it.
18
19 Q. Okay. And if you would like to - if you have a read
20 there from the photocopy --
21 A. Yes.
22
23 Q. -- about what that reads, the entry there on the 29th
24 of the seventh?
25 A. Yes, it's - Dennis McKenna was talking to me, he would
26 like to see an "I Lockhart", that's Ian Lockhart, one of my
27 physical education teachers "Re advice to students to leave
28 the hostel et cetera (specifically "P" and "S")" then
29 in square brackets - which was my comments for something
30 for me to do - I asked Lock - that is Ian Lockhart - to see
31 him.
32
33 Q. Right. So you obviously have a recollection of Ian
34 Lockhart --
35 A. I do.
36
37 Q. -- is that right? Okay. Now, the question is do you
38 have any recollection as to this particular matter?
39 A. No, I'm sorry, I don't.
40
41 Q. So you can't provide any further information about
42 what that was in relation to, other than what's written
43 there?
44 A. Other than what I've read in transcripts; but, no, I -
45 I can't remember what that is.
46
47 Q. And if, in fact, there was any follow-up to that -

1 either with Mr Lockhart seeing you or Mr McKenna seeing you
2 - there would be another notation in the booklet about
3 that?

4 A. There would.

5

6 Q. Right. Can you recall whether what sort of
7 relationship Ian Lockhart had with Dennis McKenna?

8 A. Ian Lockhart was an excellent phys ed teacher. He was
9 an exuberant teacher, and much more likely to take the
10 initiative in any discussion, than stand back. My feeling
11 is that they weren't the best of friends, that Ian would
12 say what he thought, and maybe Dennis didn't like that
13 sometimes. So I - I also have in the back of my mind that
14 we were using hostel buses. The physical education
15 department were using hostel buses for some of the movement
16 of students to sporting facilities. I - my feeling was
17 that that was a very good arrangement for the school, that
18 we got it at a much cheaper rate than using the commercial
19 buses, but I had a feeling that Ian sometimes felt that
20 some days he was able to get a hostel bus, and some days he
21 wasn't, and felt a little peeved when things didn't go
22 quite his own way.

23

24 Q. I think that's right. Have you actually read Mr
25 Lockhart's evidence to the Inquiry?

26 A. I've read some of it.

27

28 Q. Yes. Okay. But this seems to be in relation to two
29 particular students --

30 A. Yes.

31

32 Q. -- at the hostel, and you've got the surnames there,
33 and they are - our inquiries lead us to believe it's
34 "MP" and "TS". Giving you that additional
35 information, do you know what that might have
36 been about - either from your - from this request or your
37 participation at any Board meetings? If you don't have an
38 independent recollection, that's fine.

39 A. I have no independent recollection. It was - I was
40 shown during my interview --

41

42 Q. Yes.

43 A. -- with the investigators, a couple of letters or
44 Board meeting notes where their names had come up, but
45 independently I have no recollection of the students or
46 what the matter was.

47

1 MR URQUHART: In that case I won't ask you any further
2 about that. I should have said that's already an exhibit,
3 that page. It's exhibit 57. It was tendered through Mr
4 Lockhart.
5
6 HIS HONOUR: Right.
7
8 MR URQUHART: Thank you, sir.
9
10 Q. And the final entry I'd like to show from your planner
11 in 1986, is barcode number 0232, and, Mr Marriott, it deals
12 with your notes you would make of Hostel Board meetings.
13 Have you got that there?
14 A. Yes.
15
16 Q. It's titled "22/10/86". And you have got the entries
17 there for people who attended that meeting.
18 A. Yes.
19
20 Q. I just want to take you to what you've written there,
21 the fourth line down after the date, starting with
22 "Trezise". Do you see that?
23 A. Yes.
24
25 Q. Does that read "Trezise - money still outstanding"?
26 A. Yes.
27
28 Q. Next line, "Allegations against D McKenna defended"?
29 A. Yes.
30
31 Q. Now, once more I understand when you were interviewed
32 last month, the investigators showed you the
33 relevant minutes of that meeting; is that right?
34 A. They did.
35
36 Q. Did that help with your recollection of anything to do
37 with that matter or those matters that appear next to and
38 underneath the name "Trezise"?
39 A. I'm sorry, it didn't ring any bells.
40
41 HIS HONOUR: Q. But in terms of what the notes mean,
42 they probably speak for themselves, but obviously they're
43 in relation to the Trezise matter. There was some
44 allegations being made against Dennis McKenna and he was
45 defending them. Is that what that means? It seems to be
46 self-evident.
47 A. Yes, it does. There were allegations against McKenna,

1 and they were being defended. From what I've learnt within
2 the last few weeks, it seems as though they were defended
3 by both McKenna and by the Board.
4

5 Q. Yes, but you don't remember that independently?

6 A. I don't.

7

8 MR URQUHART: No.

9

10 HIS HONOUR: No, right.

11

12 MR URQUHART: Q. So I was asking you, leaving aside what
13 you've read in the Inquiry transcript - I know it's
14 difficult to do - whether you have any independent
15 recollection of that?

16 A. No, I don't.

17

18 Q. Is it fair to say though, you obviously didn't record
19 every single matter that was discussed at these meetings,
20 or did you?

21 A. No, no. For example, I haven't noted down that
22 correspondence accepted or minutes accepted. I guess I was
23 writing - I wrote down things that I thought that I might
24 need to refer to later.

25

26 Q. Well, you've thought right there, with respect to
27 those entries. I gather you weren't expecting it to be
28 26 years later?

29 A. I wasn't.

30

31 MR URQUHART: Thank you, Mr Marriott, I tender that page
32 as well, thank you, sir.

33

34 **EXHIBIT #97 PAGE OUT OF THE PLANNER TITLED "22/10/86",**
35 **BARCODED 0232**

36

37 MR URQUHART: Q. Just finally, Mr Marriott, now, I do
38 understand that - and the investigators interviewed you
39 last month, they asked you about and showed you minutes of
40 a Board meetings relating to Westrek --

41 A. Correct.

42

43 Q. -- is that right?

44 A. That's right.

45

46 Q. Once more can I just confirm with you it's the case
47 that you don't have any independent recollection of the

1 Board discussing matters to do with Westrek?
2 A. You're correct, I don't recall that.
3
4 Q. Aside from, yes, what appears in the minutes - well,
5 you don't have an independent recollection of the content
6 of the minutes or, indeed, anything you might have written
7 in your planner?
8 A. No, I have a feeling there is some mention in my
9 planner, but I don't recall what that was about.
10
11 MR URQUHART: All right. Well, thank you very much, Mr
12 Marriott, they are all the questions that I have.
13
14 HIS HONOUR: All right. Mr Jenkin, have you got anything?
15
16 MR JENKIN: No, thanks.
17
18 HIS HONOUR: Ms Morgan?
19
20 MS MORGAN: No, thank you, your Honour.
21
22 HIS HONOUR: Yes, Ms Reynolds.
23
24 MS REYNOLDS: Thank you, sir.
25
26 <CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS REYNOLDS:
27
28 MS REYNOLDS: Q. Mr Marriott, just going back to when
29 you started at Katanning - that was 1985, and you were
30 there through to 1986 --
31 A. Yes.
32
33 Q. -- and you also gave the Inquiry some evidence that
34 you had two deputies. Were there any other roles or
35 positions of staffing a school that had a substantial
36 interaction with the student body as a whole, rather than,
37 say, individual class members?
38 A. Yes. Okay, I can think of three people that that
39 would apply to. That would be the guidance officer, the
40 youth education officer, the school nurse. They - they are
41 the ones that come to mind.
42
43 HIS HONOUR: Q. Now, we know, I think, who the school
44 nurse was - it might have been Shirley Marshall; is that
45 right?
46 A. Correct.
47

1 Q. Now, who was the guidance officer when you were there?
2 A. Guidance Officer was Graham Singleton, Youth Education
3 Officer was Terrey Giles.

4
5 HIS HONOUR: Thank you.
6

7 MS REYNOLDS: Q. Okay. Now, you've had a look at the
8 plan that was given in respect to the office layout, and
9 you've given a description of where the window was in your
10 office. Do you have any recollection of what else was in
11 your office; what the layout was in respect to seating or
12 furniture or anything like that?

13 A. I can remember that on the left-hand side I had a
14 cupboard bookcase, or maybe two. In front of my desk there
15 was a small table, coffee table, maybe a little bit larger
16 than that. And maybe half-a-dozen chairs around it. My
17 office I used for executive meetings - that's myself and
18 the two deputies, and also for senior staff meetings with
19 myself, the two deputies and the six heads of departments.
20 It was a bit of a squeeze, but we all managed to fit in
21 there.

22
23 Q. Okay. And when you did have meetings, were they
24 always in your office with respect to staff members, or
25 would you often have meetings in other members - staff
26 members' offices, or your deputies'?

27 A. Regular scheduled meetings would be in my office, yes.
28 If something came up that I needed to talk to Jean Horner
29 about, for example, I would go into her office and discuss
30 it, or into Keith Bryant's office and discuss it, yes, or
31 any of the staff offices around the school, I would go and
32 talk to people and have informal-type meetings. If there
33 was a special reason - for example, I can remember once or
34 twice, say, the maths department meeting requested me to
35 come along to one of their meetings to explain something,
36 or to hear their grievances or whatever - then I would
37 attend their room and talk to them there.

38
39 Q. And in respect to meetings that you may have had with
40 people that were external to the school, would they always
41 be held in your office?

42 A. They would.

43

44 Q. And so the meetings you had with Dennis McKenna would
45 have been held in your office?

46 A. Yes.

47

1 Q. And do you remember who would initiate those meetings?
2 A. My recollection would be the vast majority of times
3 would be Dennis. Dennis would come across or would phone
4 and say, "Are you available for me to come across?", and he
5 would come across and see me my first opportunity.
6

7 Q. And each time he came to see you, would you make notes
8 in your planner?

9 A. Yes.

10
11 Q. And did you often communicate with parents of the
12 students?

13 A. Yes, I did. Of serious matters. Day-to-day matters
14 would be taken up by a class teacher with a parent, if
15 little Johnny wasn't working in class, or the deputies, if
16 there was discipline matters, but on serious matters, then
17 I would communicate with parents, and parents could always
18 contact me if they needed to, by phone, or they could come
19 to the office. I made it quite clear that staff, students,
20 parents were always welcome to come.

21
22 Q. And so that contact would have also been recorded in
23 your planner?

24 A. Yes, it would.

25
26 Q. Now, in relation to Mrs Pascoe - which
27 is Diane's mother, Sue - you gave evidence that you had some
28 contact with her on 3 November. Do you recall whether that
29 was a meeting in your office, or a contact by some other
30 means?

31 A. I'm fairly sure that was a phone call. Looking
32 through my planner recently, I noticed that Mrs Pascoe was
33 also an office bearer of the school council that I set up
34 in the school in 1986, so that I would have seen her on
35 other occasions other than that.

36
37 Q. So would I be right in saying that when you had
38 face-to-face meetings with people, you would make notes in
39 your diary? If you had a phone call with someone that you
40 considered serious, you would also make notes in your
41 planner?

42 A. That's correct.

43
44 Q. Okay. Now, you gave some evidence that you were aware
45 that Dennis McKenna was the P&C President of the school.
46 Did you - was he in that position when you arrived at the
47 school?

1 A. I'm not sure. I'm sorry, I can't answer that one.
2 No, I don't know who was the previous president, and when
3 he took up that role.
4

5 Q. Okay. So it's possible that he was already in that
6 position as P&C President prior to 1985?

7 A. It is.
8

9 Q. And you were also asked by my learned friend whether
10 you'd received any negative feedback from the teachers in
11 respect to Dennis McKenna. Did you ever receive any
12 negative feedback from the children, from the students, in
13 respect to him?

14 A. No, I didn't. That doesn't mean that there wasn't
15 some negative feedback that might have been passed on to
16 classroom teachers, but none came directly to me, or
17 indirectly to me via teachers.
18

19 Q. And you gave evidence that both your children were
20 attending the school --

21 A. Yes.
22

23 Q. -- at that time. Did they have any feedback to you in
24 regards to teachers or other staff that they had at the
25 school? I mean, was there an open relationship between you
26 and your children?

27 A. There certainly was, and I don't wish to elaborate on
28 their comments about teachers.
29

30 Q. Now, in respect to the hostel, did you ever personally
31 attend the hostel?

32 A. When I had my interview with the investigators, they
33 asked me if I'd ever had a meal at the hostel, and I said,
34 "No, I don't believe I did." I've since checked my diary
35 and I realise that I have had evening meals at the hostel,
36 prior to Board meetings. So that, yes, I have had meals at
37 the hostel with other Board meetings - other Board members
38 at least.
39

40 Q. Would you have attended there for social events?

41 A. I can remember an end-of-year concert put on by the
42 hostel, that I attended; end-of-year graduation from the
43 hostel - I suspect I might have attended as well. Both my
44 children attended other functions at the hotel - at the
45 hostel, such as concerts, discos, film evenings that were
46 made open to town students, and I certainly delivered my
47 son and my daughter to the hostel to attend those. I

1 didn't stay with them, I didn't supervise them and, of
2 course, if I'd known that Dennis McKenna was doing the
3 sorts of things that has - that has come out in - since
4 1990, I would never have let my children go to the hostel
5 where those sorts of the things occurred.
6

7 Q. So did you ever see any inappropriate contact between
8 Dennis McKenna or any students?

9 A. No, I didn't.

10
11 Q. Did you see Mr McKenna on school grounds?

12 A. Yes. For example, at that end of a meeting with him -
13 it might have been at recess time, or we might have walked
14 out together, and the other students would be there and I
15 would escort him to the school boundaries or something like
16 that; so, yes, I have been in the school grounds while
17 Dennis was there.
18

19 Q. But you never saw anything that would raise your
20 suspicion to anything inappropriate?

21 A. Absolutely nothing at all.
22

23 Q. Now, in respect to the allegations that have been
24 made, and obviously Mr McKenna being charged with his
25 dealings with students at the hostel, when did you become
26 aware of these allegations?

27 A. I was aware of it when the media reported that he had
28 been charged, and I think that was 1990, and if I may say,
29 my first reaction was, "Those poor kids that he has
30 interfered with, and what it must have done to their
31 lives." My second thought was, "Was there anything in
32 those two years that I should have picked up, that I should
33 have realised that there was something wrong?", and I
34 couldn't think of anything. I also made contact with my
35 son and my daughter, and said, "Look, do you see what's
36 happened to McKenna? Did you know anything? Did you hear
37 anything? Was there anything at all that you knew that
38 might have been along these lines?" And, no, there was
39 nothing from them either.
40

41 Q. Okay. Now, in respect to the Hostel Board --

42 A. Yes.
43

44 Q. -- were you aware before you became principal that you
45 would be a member of the Board?

46 A. No, I wasn't. But I suspect that on my visit to see
47 Charles Johnson in late 1984, the previous principal, that

1 he would probably have mentioned that to me, or it might
2 have been not until I took up the position in the week
3 before school, when I was at school, possibly then Dennis
4 came across, introduced himself, and said, "Look, one of
5 your jobs is also to be a member of the Board".
6

7 Q. And what did you - what was your view on having to be
8 a member of the Board?

9 A. If that's part of the job, that's fine.
10

11 Q. And would you say that you took that job seriously?

12 A. I took everything that I did as a principal seriously,
13 to do with work. I was very hardworking, but I have to say
14 that the hour a month or so in Board meetings wasn't high
15 on my list of priorities. The most important things to me
16 were, and last night I scribbled down a few of the sorts of
17 things that were high on my list of priorities - student
18 learning, student welfare, pastoral care, discipline, staff
19 deployment, staff welfare, parent involvement in the
20 school, finance, buildings, grounds, reporting, P&C, the
21 school council - the sorts of things that were my direct
22 responsibility. Of course, if I had thought for an instant
23 that the hostel wasn't being well run, then it would have
24 been more prominent in my thoughts, my endeavours, and
25 hopefully in my memory of what went on in Board meetings.
26

27 Q. So your recollection of the Board, or those meetings -
28 you've given evidence that you don't have a lot of
29 recollection, and you only remembered that you were a
30 member once you'd referred to your planner for that year;
31 is that correct?

32 A. Correct.
33

34 Q. Now, do you recall how often the Board actually met?

35 A. I don't recall, but my planner tells me it was
36 monthly.
37

38 Q. And is that also the case with how long each meeting -
39 the duration of each meeting?

40 A. I haven't got a record of that, and I don't recall.
41

42 Q. Okay. Through looking through your planner, did you
43 note there were times that you didn't attend any Board
44 meetings?

45 A. Yes. When I look at my diary I can see that some of
46 the Board meetings coincided with principals' conferences
47 in Perth, and I've noted down there that they coincided, so

1 I wouldn't have attended those. And also I've seen from
2 the minutes of meetings at my interview, that my name was
3 down as an apology for some meetings.
4

5 Q. And in 1986, from your recollection, did you take any
6 periods of leave?

7 A. There were no extended periods. There may have been a
8 day of sick leave here and there, but I can't recall it.
9

10 Q. Okay. Now, my learned friend asked you about the
11 Board dealings with Westrek, which you obviously don't have
12 a recollection of, but did you have - were you aware of
13 Westrek at the time you were in Katanning?

14 A. Yes, I must have been aware of it when I was at
15 Katanning, because I made a note about it in regard to
16 Board meetings, but prior to this Inquiry I hadn't
17 remembered Westrek, I couldn't remember what Westrek did,
18 and I was reminded of that by the investigators.
19

20 Q. So would you have had any interaction with Westrek as
21 your position as principal?

22 A. I don't believe so.
23

24 Q. Okay. Mr Marriott, is there anything further you wish
25 to inform the Inquiry of?

26 A. I don't think there is.
27

28 MS REYNOLDS: Thank you, sir.
29

30 HIS HONOUR: Right. Anything from you?
31

32 MR URQUHART: Just a couple of matters, if I could, sir.
33

34 <RE-EXAMINATION BY MR URQUHART:
35

36 MR URQUHART: Q. Mr Marriott, I won't keep you much
37 longer. You mentioned there that when you found out about
38 Dennis McKenna being charged - which you correctly recall
39 as being 1990 - and you said that your first reaction was
40 regarding the fact that these kids had obviously suffered
41 at his hands, and the second was that anything that you
42 should have picked up and you couldn't think of anything.
43 Do you remember if you looked through your planner for that
44 year, at that time, to see if there was anything there that
45 jogged your memory?

46 A. I can't remember whether I did that or not.
47

1 Q. I see. Okay. And can I ask what - also what your
2 reaction was with respect to these allegations? Did you
3 think there might be any truth to them or --

4 A. I thought that if the police had charged him, they
5 wouldn't have charged him unless there was very strong
6 evidence, so once he was charged - perhaps unfairly to
7 McKenna - I thought he was very likely to be guilty.
8

9 Q. But given the reputation that you were aware that he
10 had at the time you were principal, were you shocked by the
11 fact that he had been charged?

12 A. Absolutely amazed.
13

14 MR URQUHART: Now, sir, this doesn't arise from a question
15 of my learned friend. If my learned friend wishes to ask
16 Mr Marriott about this, I have no objection.
17

18 Q. I just want to ask you something more about the layout
19 of where the Deputy Principal's office was, and the
20 principal's office, and I know we're going back a long
21 time, but can you recall, firstly, whether there were any
22 bookshelves in your office, the principal's office?

23 A. Yes, covered with bookshelves on my right - on my
24 left-hand side.
25

26 Q. On your left-hand side?

27 A. Yes.
28

29 Q. So you indicate - so they weren't behind you?

30 A. No.
31

32 Q. They were to your left-hand side as you --

33 A. Yes.
34

35 Q. -- sat at your desk?

36 A. Yes, window was behind me, large window.
37

38 Q. Window. So did the window go all the way behind you
39 or --

40 A. It was a large window, so if it didn't go the whole
41 way, it was certainly most of the width of the wall was
42 window.
43

44 Q. Right. And the male deputy principal's office --

45 A. Yes.
46

47 Q. -- can you recall where the bookshelf was; or,

1 firstly, was there any bookshelves in that room, and if so,
2 where they were?
3 A. I'm sorry, I can't remember where the bookshelves were
4 there. I am sure that there would have been some shelving,
5 but I can't remember where it was.
6
7 MR URQUHART: Thank you, Mr Marriott, that's all.
8
9 HIS HONOUR: Nothing arising from that?
10
11 MS REYNOLDS: No, thank you, sir.
12
13 HIS HONOUR: All right. Well, thank you. That completes
14 your evidence, Mr Marriott. Your evidence has been very
15 helpful, particularly your notes too. I wish all the
16 witnesses had done what you did.
17
18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
19
20 HIS HONOUR: Thank you.
21
22 <THE WITNESS WITHDREW
23
24 HIS HONOUR: Yes, now we adjourn now until when?
25
26 MR URQUHART: We adjourn, sir, until Monday, and that will
27 be 10 o'clock.
28
29 HIS HONOUR: Monday at 10. Very well. I'll adjourn until
30 Monday at 10.
31
32 MR URQUHART: I'll just clarify that with the person who's
33 got this information at her fingertips - and that's
34 correct, isn't it, Madam Associate? Yes, Monday at 10.
35
36 HIS HONOUR: Very good.
37
38 **AT 4.05PM THE HEARING ADJOURNED TO**
39 **MONDAY, 7 MAY 2012 AT 10AM**
40
41
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47