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REPORT

Walk to Lower Portals - 24 May, 1988

We left John Oxley in two cars and arrived at the site at approximately 9.30am.

We set off on our walk and almost immediately broke into two groups, myself and Karen Hersiades (teacher) bringing up the rear with [redacted] and [redacted] (residents) because [redacted] was carrying the video camera. The first group waited for us about half way to the Portals. We met them, set off once again and broke up into two groups. I was once again in the rear group being made up of Karen Hersiades, [redacted], [redacted] and Jeff Manitzky.

Before arriving at the Portals we took the wrong track and was lost with Jeff Manitzky, Karen Hersiades, [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] by this time had an ahead to the first group.

After 2 hours of walking we finally arrived at the Portals. I went off with our group to look at the Lower Portals and then returned to eat lunch. [redacted] went over to the other children while we ate lunch.

I finished my lunch and Jeff asked where the kids had gone. He went to look for them where I had last seen them shortly before. After looking for them he came back and indicated he couldn't find them. Jeff and Gordon then ran up to the top of the Portals and Karen went to the Lower Portals. I stayed put with [redacted]. Jeff, Gordon and the young people came back down the hill shortly after.

A short time later we set off to the first cars. I walked with Karen Hersiades [redacted] and [redacted].

Once again the first group waited for us to catch up. After the meeting I walked with Karen Hersiades, [redacted] and Annette Harding. [redacted] and [redacted] and Jeff Manitzky were with us some of this time.

We arrived back at the cars. [redacted] and [redacted] were apparently in the toilet. At this point Jeff told the group Annette may have been assaulted.

[redacted] and Annette Harding got into one of the cars. Bob O'Hanley went down to hurry the boys and shouted to us they were gone.

Karen and Jeff went down to the toilets and shouted to the boys not to go too far into the bush.

I stayed with Annette, [redacted] and [redacted] at the car. [redacted] started to walk down the the toilet block. I tried to negotiate with him to stay. However he ignored me and I followed him in an attempt to get him back to the car. Jeff and myself organised Bob and Gordon to ring the police and Peter Coyne. When they left with [redacted], [redacted] and Annette, Jeff ran along the track back to the Portals. Karen and I stayed with the car and waited for the police.

Bob and Gordon returned, told us the police were on their way and then took the remaining young people back to John Oxley Youth Centre.

The policeman arrived and Karen and I gave him the details of the missing young people. The police officer then left to look for them. Jeff returned and we waited for the policeman or the young people in the hope they would return because of the cold temperature.

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Date: 21.1.2013

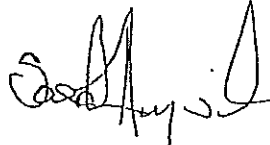
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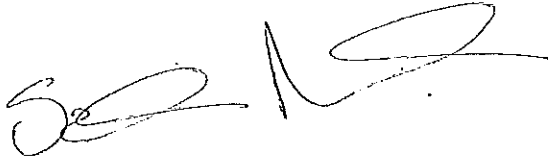
An hour and a half later the policeman arrived with the four young people. We put them in our vehicle and returned to John Oxley Youth Centre.

Mr Coyne, Manager was contacted and a meeting was held shortly after he arrived at the Centre.



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JOHN OXLEY YOUTH CENTRE



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8/10/12