

**INQUIRY INTO UNSOLVED MURDERS AND LONG-TERM
MISSING PERSONS CASES IN NEW SOUTH WALES
BETWEEN 1965 AND 2010**

Name: Name suppressed
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Partially
Confidential

MY STORY:

At the age of 19 years in 1975 (unsure of correct date) I worked at the former Shoeys Food Barn at Bennetts Green where Harvey Norman stands today.

I walked home each day which was across Harold Knight Football oval then a clearing in the bush which lead to Gateshead Football Oval. I walked home each day with a work colleague but if she was not working my mother sent my brothers to walk home with me. On this particular day my work colleague went home sick early so I walked by myself. It was broad daylight.

As I was walking between the two ovals I turned as I heard someone jogging behind me. As I turned to see what was coming behind me I was grabbed around neck and lifted off the ground by the assailant. The assailant had a knife in his hand with a t-shirt pulled across so I was unable to see his face. I was told if I screamed he would stab me, strangle me or drown me. I was then dragged into the bush and sexually assaulted. I can still remember as he was assaulting me that he was speaking in a foreign language. I was asked did I understand and my exact words were "I am not a wog I am Australian". Once he had "finished" he then took my handbag and a bag that had a banana cake in it and threw them further into the bush. After the sexual assault I was made lie face down in the dirt told to count to 50 and if I turned before that I would be stabbed. I did what was I was told to do (counted to 50) and in sheer terror grabbed my shoes and bag and ran for my life (not even game to stop and put my shoes on) screaming towards home where I was intercepted by a neighbour who took me the rest of the way home.

Once home the police were contacted and came to our home to interview me. This is the part that still remains with me also as the way the Police approached the attack as if I did not deserve their time or energy (I grew up in a large strict family and lived in Housing Commission which I feel was a major factor in their approach to the attack). They did not attend where I was attacked as the bag with the banana cake was still in the same spot the next day (retrieved by my brothers). This bag may have held a vital clue but they did not care. A doctor was called where I was given a sedative and that was all the treatment I received. My parents were out of their depth as we came from country NSW and this is something they did not know how to deal with. I attended the Police Station in Newcastle in the proceeding days and gave a formal statement. Nothing ever came from this. My respect for the Police disintegrated after this incident as I feel that they did not care and not interested.

After 50 years this incident still affects the way I live:

Crimsafe on all doors and windows: Ring Doorbells: Security sensors on all doors and even the manhole: Security camera: Security system: Sensor lights

How would the Police who attended my incident like to live like this?

I have learnt to deal with this my own way but the mental anguish this caused me is unfathomable

I have attached the newspaper clipping for your information.

Thankyou for listening.

Knife held against throat— YOUTH ATTACKS GIRL AT GATESHEAD

Wielding a six-inch-long knife, a youth terrorised and indecently assaulted a 19-year-old girl in bushland near her home at Gateshead yesterday afternoon.

The youth pressed the knife against the girl's throat and told her he would stab her if she screamed.

Police believe the youth had hidden in the bush near the Harold Knight Oval and lain in wait for the girl.

She told police she often used a track beside the oval to walk home from her work at Bennetts Green.

The track is only about 100 yards from homes and the Pacific Highway.

The girl told police she was walking along the track about 5.30 pm when the youth attacked her from behind.

He pressed the knife into her throat and forced

her into bush, where the indecent assault took place.

The youth made the girl crouch under a tree and then fled.

The girl ran to her home and told her parents about the attack.

Police made a search of the area but failed to find the girl's assailant.

Detectives said today they did not believe the youth they were looking for was the same person wanted for numerous attacks on women in the lake-side area.

The youth they are seeking is described as about 19 or 20 years old, with wavy, blond hair to shoulder length.

He was dressed in black football shorts and yellow T-shirt, and carried a blue T-shirt.