

**Submission
No 21**

**INQUIRY INTO THE RSPCA RAID ON THE WATERWAYS
WILDLIFE PARK**

Name: Ms Teena Sutcliffe

Date received: 21/06/2010

14/6/2010

Summary of Teena Maree Sutcliffe submission to the General Purpose Standing Committee No5 Inquiry into the RSPCA raid on the Waterways Wildlife Park, Gunnedah on the 3rd February 2010.

Page and Contents

Pg 1- Cindy and I arrive, Red Kangaroo, Keith Millerd.

Pg 2- Lizards yard, Koala's yard and Kiosk.

Pg 3 – Kylie, Kiosk, Koala's yard, Matt French discussing seizure.

Pg4 – Matt French, Rebecca Cass, Seizure Notice.

Monday 14th June 2010

Teena Maree Sutcliffe

I known Colin and Nancy Small for 27 years and call them Mum and Dad.

I was in a relationship with their son Terry Small for 11 years. Terry and I were married for 5 years of our 11 years.

3/2/2010- Both verbal and emotional.

The people who turned up that day were Kylie Prowse, Matt French, another male wearing a RSPCA shirt, a sheila wearing a Taronga Zoo shirt, another sheila wearing a Dubbo Zoo shirt and Rebecca Cass from National Parks and Wildlife Service.

At 3:40pm my daughter Cindy and I arrive at the park. I went straight over to the kiosk to see where Mum was. Shirley George was sitting out the front of the kiosk. She broke into tears when she saw me. Shirley said the RSPCA were here. I went to find Mum. She was down near the vet block with a National Parks and Wildlife Service lady called Rebecca Cass.

Mum and I hugged and cried. She told me what was happening. Rebecca and Mum continued on with their discussion and I went to find the RSPCA people. They were over near the eagle's cage attending to a red kangaroo and had a camera crew with them. I returned to the kiosk and Keith Millerd from the local newspaper arrived at the park. He heard there was a problem out at the Wildlife Park. We headed over to the RSPCA people. Keith took some photo's.

Then Cindy, Shaun and I plus RSPCA and crew went over to the Lizard's yard. The RSPCA were going to jump the fence meanwhile Cindy is there rattling keys and saying I can unlock the door. Not sure if someone jumped the fence. They filmed taking 2 lizards. I had to sign a form because Cindy was on the footage. The film crew did not ask for my permission before hand to have Cindy on the footage.

When we were heading back up to the kiosk the sheila wearing a Taronga Zoo shirt was in the koala's yard. Mum was back at the kiosk when she met Keith. Dad arrives from finishing work about 4:45pm. Then Allan George comes up and tells us " they are trying to poison the old koala." When we get to the koala's yard we see them trying to stuff something down the koala's throat. The sheila with the Taronga Zoo shirt on says " I'm not poisoning her I am giving her oral rehydration." The koala was screaming and making distressing noises. Mum, Cindy and I were very distress and in shock at what they were doing. We couldn't believe the way they were handling them! Keith started taking photo's and the film crew tried stopping Keith from taking photo's. We had a heated discussion with Kylie Prowse and Matt French. Matt said " we had to talk to her as she was the co-ordinator of the operation." We were not happy with this. Mum had to go and sit down so we went back to the kiosk. While we were sitting out the front of the kiosk Matt French and the other RSPCA officer who was a man went into town we presumed. One of them returned with a folded up cage and a pet pack. Then the other fellow returned. Kylie went out to the car and as she was walking back past the kiosk Mum

asked, "What are you doing?" She ignored Mum. Then Mum raised her voice and said, "Excuse me! What are you doing?" Kylie said, "we are doing what we said we were doing. We are taking the koala's now." Mum said, "you said you were taking them in the morning." Kylie said, "we are taking them now." She was carrying blue rectangular laundry baskets with no lids. After a while I went back down to the koala's yard. I saw them with the blue rectangular laundry baskets on the ground near the trees. They were shaving a koala's arm and inserting a catheter. I saw fluids in a big bag hanging from the trees and drip lines from them. I was thinking how are they going to take the koala's since they only have open blue rectangular laundry baskets with no lids and drips on the koala's. I returned to the kiosk.

Mum and I went back down near the koala's yard. Mum said to Kylie, "Are you happy with yourself? You said you have closed 2 other places down." Kylie said in Mum's face and laughed, "that's hearsay. You can't prove anything." Then I said, "Agh Agh, I was there when you said that!" Mum and I went back up to the kiosk.

Mum refused to talk to Kylie so Matt French came up to the front of the kiosk to talk to Mum and Dad. They had a discussion about the animals they seized, 8 koala's (6 from the koala's enclosure and 2 rehab) and 2 lizards. He informed them about the seized animals plus costs. Mum still could be charged, go to court, jailed or fined or she can surrender the animals no costs but still be charged, go to court, jailed or fined. Mum and Dad discussed this between themselves and said, "No" to both issues. I felt they were forced to do

something they didn't want to do. Matt asked, " can they take the leaves that you have there to feed the koala's with. Dad and I said " No, go get your bloody own!"But Mum said " you can have them" because she always thinks of the animals first. She wanted the koala's to have their own leaves because over the coast they have different foliage. They took the same foliage that was in the koala's yard on that day. They got their cars and drove to the koala's enclosure.

Rebecca from National Parks and Wildlife Service came up to Mum and said, "they were taking them to David Amos Vet Hospital. That might make you feel better knowing where they are going."

When the cars were parked out the front of the Wildlife Park, Kylie came and presented Mum with a seizure notice. Mum refused to sign it. Kylie said, " you have to sign it." Mum said, " I don't have to sign anything." Cindy and I followed Kylie back outside the gate. I sign the seizure notice. I notice the cars were full of leaves in the back of them. Cindy and I returned back to Mum at the front of the kiosk. I handed Mum the seizure notice and she threw it over the railing. She was deeply upset and stressed to the max!

I was there on both days when Kylie Prowse was present and the weather on 22nd January 2010 was hotter than today was.

I am still baffled as to why this has happen.

I certified that this is a true account of what happen when I arrived at

Waterways Wildlife Park on Wednesday 3rd February 2010.

Teena Sutcliffe



Monday 14th June 2010

Teena Maree Sutcliffe

I have known Colin and Nancy Small for 27 years and call them Mum and Dad. I was in a relationship with their son Terry for 11 years. Terry and I were married for 5 years of our 11 years.

22/1/2010- Both verbal and emotional.

On Friday 22nd January 2010 just before 11am, a woman who was wearing a RSPCA uniform and which she didn't show any identification arrived at Waterways Wildlife Park. I went to meet her at the front of the kiosk. She said she had a complaint about emaciated dingoes, kangaroos, emus, wombats and deers. She asked if I was the owner. I said, "no Mum is in hospital having a hip replacement." She said "who else is in charge. I said, "Dad is at work driving the truck". She said, "who is in charge of the Park". Her tone of voice was becoming aware to me. I said, "Jodie is but she is in town at the moment and I was in charge then." I explained that I was their daughter in-law. Karen Kennedy arrives and as Karen walks past me she whispers to me that she has rung Jodie. Kylie says "Oh was that a secret." We walk into the kiosk. I read the name tag on the woman's shirt as "Kylie Prowse." Judy Mitchell is sitting at the table. Kylie asked questions about OH&S and other stupid questions that had nothing to do with her that I thought. Her attitude was abrupt and overpowering. She asked "where was our designated point for evacuation

area if anything happens. I did not understand what she was talking about. Kylie explained it was a meeting area if something goes wrong. I said, "there was a spot out the front near the tree". Kylie said, "we were suppose to tell all the visitors upon entering the Park where this spot is, if something went wrong." I've never been told where the evacuation area is at any other zoos or places, I thought to myself. Kylie asked, "where is the Evacuation Plan?" We said, "there was one somewhere". Karen, Judy and myself look around on the walls for the plan. Kylie asked, "where is the fire extinguisher". I said, "there is one here". Judy said, "there is a fire blanket over in the BBQ area and extinguisher". Kylie said, "that's not much good over there! I found Kylie's manner during this period of time extremely rude and abrupt and in my face. Jodie's dog began to bark. Kylie walked over to the side door of the Kiosk. Kylie was going to walk to the dog and I said, "that is Jodie's dog it is here because Jodie is staying here. That has nothing to do with the Park, that is private area. Kylie said, "all animals are my responsibility." Meanwhile I have had enough of this crap. I questioned her (Kylie) about all this OH&S questions because we answer to National Parks and Wildlife Service, I thought at the time. Kylie answered, "do you have a problem with THAT! I felt this had nothing to do with the RSPCA. I noticed she was moving around and trying to peak into the office area. I said, "Jodie won't be too long". Kylie said, I only going to be here for an hour. Judy said, " we are here as volunteers". I felt from Kylie's attitude that we knew nothing and volunteers meant nothing to her.

We overheard Kylie on the phone saying no one knows anything and she was saying other stuff that we couldn't understand. Kylie walked over towards the eagles cage. Karen and I were keeping an eye on her to see where she was going because we said wait until Jodie gets here.

Jodie arrived, she walked over to Karen and I near the eagles cage, then Karen left in a distressed state. Jodie introduced herself to Kylie. Kylie asked us, "what our roles were and qualifications?" Jodie responded about herself and I said, "I have done an animal course through TAFE years ago and I have done my first aid course which is current. I have been here for 27 years. Kylie made us feel degraded as we were not certified to run this Park and umpteen dozen years of experience doesn't count. She was talking about Personal Learning Experience PLE's. I got told to shut up by Kylie and these were the exact words and to answer when asked. Kylie told me to go. Jodie said," no". I was going around the park with Jodie no matter what. Jodie asked, "what was the complaint about". Kylie said, "emaciated dingoes, scruffy emus, overstocked deers, kangaroos and wombats". Jodie said, "well we will go and show you". We were not happy with Kylie's manner. Near the bird cages we were talking about the cage sizes and birds. Kylie said, "I'm not here for the birds". At the wombats yard we told her about one of our wombats with a baby. Kylie said, "something about the baby because they wouldn't breed in captivity". Jodie said, " we feed and look after them, why wouldn't they." Kylie went to take a photo of the wombat and baby and that's when she realised her camera wasn't working.

At lizards yard Jodie explained, " that we had a new enclosure built for the lizards to go to and I will show you later". Near the little gate Kylie asked, "do we handle the kangaroos and emus?" We said, "we feed them every day and see them but don't handle them". Kylie wanted to feel their tails to do a fat test. Jodie and I were dumbfounded at her stupidity as we explained the animals don't come near the public but I thought if she wanted to chase the kangaroo go ahead. Jodie was told to shoosh by Kylie. Kylie was reiterating about if an emu escapes, what were the procedures and I said, " we would close the gate near the bird cages and the bottom gate is always closed".

At the big round bird cage Kylie asked, "why are the birds flying out of the cage?". We said, "they are wild finches and they do it all the time". Kylie asked, "why we had a big cage with not enough birds in it?. Jodie said, "they were up in the hollows, which they were". Kylie asked, "why we had pigeons?"

We said, "we have all sorts of birds here." We showed Kylie the signs on the cage. Then we were near some kangaroos and emus near the dam. Kylie wanted to know the sexes and how many of each. We then headed to the deer yard and Jodie mention about the new baby. We said, "we feed them hay, grain and vegies".

At the ostrich yard Kylie asked to go in. Jodie said, " the male ostrich is temperamental" Kylie asked, "why are the females in there?" Jodie said, "they are his harem." Kylie still wanted to feel for the fat test and I said, "look at his drumsticks. " Jodie said, "the dingoes are next". Kylie asked, "how many and she proceeded to count them". Kylie discussed ages and Jodie and I

decided about 15 years. Kylie said, they were lean but not as bad as reported and she will get back to us. Kylie answered a phone call from her boss. We showed Kylie the owls and the magpies. Kylie responded with expression, "what are you doing with magpies, don't you think we have enough around here?" We proceeded to the other bird cages. Kylie said, "I am not interested in birds plus I can see they have seed and water." Then we headed to the echidna's yard. They were not out because of the daytime and heat. We showed Kylie the new lizard's yard. Kylie was happy with it. Then we walked towards the rehab area. At the rehab Jodie said, "we have 2 koalas and one rabbit in here". Jodie said, "they were rescued and are soon to be released. Kylie said, "the rabbit is stressed and to get some ice and put it in a sock for the rabbit to lie on". Then we proceeded to the koalas. The koalas were not mentioned on this day at all as one of the animals being reported on. Kylie asked, "are people allowed to go in the koala's yard?" Jodie replied, "yes under supervision and only to pat. This was OK by the National Parks and Wildlife Services. We also have 6 koalas of various ages." We all walked around the back of the trees. Five were in the trees and one near the water dish. We were having general conversation. Kylie asked, "do we have any disease here?" We both said, "NO". Kylie said, "I wish ours were because they are dropping dead out of trees everywhere because of Chlamydia. Jodie responded "is it because you have wet heat and we have dry heat. Kylie said, I would like to take a photo for my granddaughter because she would love this." Kylie took the photo from her personal phone. Kylie took a photo of the koala

near the water dish. We said Dad gets the leaves. As we were leaving the enclosure Jodie explained about the sprinkler system. Jodie went to turn the system on. Kylie came over to feel the different temperature and said "I can feel the difference and this is the best spot to be as it was hot. Kylie said, where can we talk out of the heat. We went over to the picnic table in the shade. Kylie's manner had calm down by this stage. We went back to the Kiosk to write a few things down for mum. This was not an official notification. When we were back in the Kiosk, Judy was present and she noticed her change in attitude. Kylie mention to us about Mum's office and bookwork, fire extinguisher, fire evacuation plan and OHS issues. Kylie then talked about 2 parks in Sydney that she closed down recently and the dead animals. Kylie said, we were not near that level, just a few minor adjustments and paperwork up to 2010. Kylie said, she will be back in 2 weeks to help Mum upgrade and plan things. I wrote down requested information on a piece of paper and attached it to notepad. This was not on an official piece of paper. The information was about diet, weight of food, feeding schedule and male/female ratio. Kylie didn't have a business card on her. As we were heading out of the park some Japanese visitors walked in. Kylie said, "come on in, it's great. You'll love it. At the RSPCA car she found a piece of paper that had RSPCA written on the top left hand corner. Refer to Attachment 1. Kylie wrote her name and phone number on the paper. Kylie said, to ring her if any questions. Jodie asked" where she was going next week?" Kylie replied, going to rescue horses next week. I'm going to be busy.

Kylie apologise to me about her approach at the start of the inspection saying you don't know what you are going to come up against. I still didn't feel comfortable and at ease with her manner and attitude towards me. I was very shaken by her abruptness and overbearing manner. I felt degraded and belittle.

I still haven't got over what she has done to me and the park.

I certified that this is a true account of what happen on Friday 22nd January 2010 to the best of my ability.

Teena Sutcliffe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teena Sutcliffe', written in a cursive style.

Attachment 1.

Attachment 1.



For all creatures great and small.

Law Enforcement Division

201 Rookwood Road
Yagoona 2199
Phone: (02) 9707 1924
Fax: (02) 9796 4346

Date Time

Please contact Inspector

on between am/pm

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Regarding

RSPCA INSPECTOR
KYLE PROUSE

Signed

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