

Picton Ferry Terminal
PICTON
10 January 1998

Anthony Marc KIERNAN states:

That is my full name. I own the ketch rigged motor sailer named "Nugget". I reside on "Nugget" which is normally berthed at Chaffers Marina in Wellington. My telephone number is 025 534 661. I am not currently working. I am 41 years of age with my date of birth being 24 August 1956.

I am making this statement to Detective Sergeant Simon MOORE about being at Furneaux Lodge on New Year's Eve 1997/98.

I left Wellington at 11.30 am on 26 December 1997. There were three of us on board. The other two on board were Shane HUTTON and Brian DUNCAN.

We sailed from Wellington to Furneaux direct, arriving at about 4.30 pm approximately the same day.

When we got to Furneaux we tied up to a mooring directly out from the wharf. We had broken a fuel line. We all went into Furneaux Lodge and had a few drinks.

We are all reasonably well known to staff at Furneaux as we are reasonably frequent visitors there.

We stayed in Endeavour Inlet moored in front of Furneaux Lodge until New Year's Day - 1 January 1998.

We lived on board "Nugget" and went ashore to socialise. Whilst tied up we fixed the fuel line and gave the boat an oil change.

We stayed on the same mooring the whole time we were parked up in front of Furneaux.

Anthony Marc KIERNAN further states:

Usually with regard to the moorings, normally you would ring and let Furneaux know you are about to arrive and tie up to a mooring. You don't have to book but it is a courtesy thing to ring and let them know. On this occasion I didn't ring but instead tied up. There wasn't anyone else around so it wasn't a problem.

Terry GRAY who lives in Wellington had chartered a small 28 foot launch called "Bo De Rell" (Beau Dor Rell) or similar. He had chartered it from Pelorus Charters in Havelock. He arrived a couple of days before New Year's Eve. He would have arrived on about 27 December 1997.

He rafted up to us on our starboard side. He would usually go out day fishing or day tripping but would come back and tie up again to us.

On "Bo De Rell" was Terry, his daughter, her boyfriend and one other guy. The day before New Year's Eve, Terry's girlfriend came down.

The next boat to raft up to us was "Oranui" which rafted on my port side. I have never met the people on board "Oranui" but he introduced himself as Chris and Rebecca was his wife. The boat I believe belonged to Rebecca's father. "Oranui" is an Athol Burns designed sloop rigged motor sailer which was white with a thin blue stripe and no port holes. The "Oranui" arrived between 2.00 and 3.00 pm on 31 December 1997.

Shane, Brian and I went ashore to Furneaux at about 6.00 pm on 31 December 1997. We had gone to the Lodge for the New Year's celebrations.

About one hour after we had gone to Furneaux, Gordon HANNAH, a local from the Sounds, came up to me at the Lodge and said he had rafted up to the "Oranui".

Anthony Marc KIERNAN further states:

I have known Gordon for some time. He is married to Cherie. His boat is unnamed and I don't know the name of it. It is an ex-fishing boat about 30 foot. Blue and yellow are the predominant colours. It is a bit rough.

We stayed in the top bar at Furneaux Lodge until about 4.00 am. Brian went back to the boat before midnight. I can't recall the exact time but he came and said he was going back to the boat.

We had got on shore in the Lodge Naiad.

While in Furneaux Lodge we were drinking in the corner by the dartboard. We stayed in this corner almost all night. This corner is opposite to the one known as "Reg's Corner".

In our crowd was Gordon and Cherie, the entire crew from "Bo De Rell" and a few people who came and went. All were known to me.

I didn't notice anyone in the bar that I would call sleazy. The younger people tended to be in the garden bar which is down on the front lawn.

The main bar at Furneaux where we were got very full from about 9.00 pm onwards. There were lots of people there that I didn't know.

Shane and I left the bar at about 4.00 am. We walked down to the wharf and got the water taxi back to "Nugget". The driver of the Naiad was a guy by the name of Don. He had only just started at Furneaux on Boxing Day.

When we got to the wharf, Don was sitting there having a coffee or something. We got into the Naiad with Don and then another guy got in. I have no idea where he came from. He may have followed us down, I don't know.

Anthony Marc KIERNAN further states:

Don knew where to take Shane and I without us having to tell him. We went straight to "Nugget". On the way I recall Don saying the guy that got in with us, that he refused to take him to the boat as he had told them earlier to get the crew together and he had missed out.

For Don to say that he must have made several trips to this boat and was asserting his authority. He told the guy he wasn't going to take him to his boat and that when he woke up in the morning under a tree he could see Don and he would take him then.

Don took us to the stern of "Nugget" which has a boarding platform at the back. Shane and I got on board. I saw Don go straight back to the wharf.

I didn't notice anyone in any of the boats rafted to us up and awake. The people in "Rowallan" were still up partying and had music going. "Rowallan" was further out to sea than us on the starboard side of the wharf as you look out from the wharf.

Shane and I sat inside "Nugget" and had a talk and a couple of drinks for about half an hour. I went to bed at 4.30 am, as did Shane. Brian was already in bed.

Just after I went to bed I heard the water taxi go past and back again.

I recall the other guy I mentioned on Terry GRAY's boat. His name is Daniel and has the nickname "Splitpin".

At about 5.00 am I heard someone climb aboard my boat. I woke up. Daniel walked in and was muttering to himself something about a fight. I didn't see him but recognised his voice. He fell asleep at my table.

When I spoke to Daniel he reckoned Terry had locked him out but it was more like he couldn't open the door. It didn't worry me that he stayed in my boat.

Anthony Marc KIERNAN further states:

At about 7.00 am on New Year's Day I heard Terry yell out to someone that their anchor was dragging. I also heard someone pull an anchor up.

I got up at about 10.00 am. At about 7.30 am I heard what assumed to be Gordon HANNAH's boat motor idling. When I got up Gordon had gone. The other boats in our raft were still there.

New Year's Eve was a still, calm night.

I have seen and heard the descriptions of the ketch the Police are looking for. I did not see anything like that that night. With the detailed description given someone should have seen it. It would have stuck out.

I saw a vessel named "MEA NZ" (MEA in capitals, NZ in small letters). I first noticed it on New Year's Day when it was leaving. It is a ferro (concrete) boat coloured white with a green stripe. I have subsequently seen it and socialised with the crew around the Sounds. It is not like the boat you have described. For a start it is sloop rigged. The skipper is from Auckland. I can't recall his name.

I can't recall specifically seeing the missing couple.

I have read this statement. It is true and correct and I have nothing to add.

(Sgd) A M Kiernan

Statement taken and signature witnessed by:

Anthony Marc KIERNAN further states:

S A Moore
Detective Sergeant 7883