

I met the Neill family in 1980 when I was about 13, [BCE] was 2 years younger than me. We used to stay at each other's place, they lived at [REDACTED] and I lived on a farm [REDACTED]. Bronwyn treated me like a daughter, so I felt really close to her. I was really skinny then, I remember "Uncle" Bill calling me a stick insect. It used to be fun staying there, they had the first Witness party I remember going to. [BCE] used to have lots of Barbie dolls, which I never had. She played 'Barbies' til she was about 16, Barbie and Ken were often 'having sex'. The Neills were very open with the kids about sex.

When Bronwyn was [REDACTED] (it would have been about 1982) I was having a shower ([BCE] and I always shared the bathroom) when [BCE] said "What's that on your tummy?" I looked down and I had a rash on my stomach. [BCE] said she would get her mum. I didn't want her to but she got her anyway. I had my knickers and singlet on, Bronwyn looked at my tummy and said she hoped it wasn't German Measles because she thought she might be pregnant. She said she wanted to show Uncle Bill but I said I didn't want him to see me. I never even let my Dad see me in my knickers so I was really embarrassed. She said "It's OK, he's done First Aid so he'll know. Just keep your singlet on." So he came in and she pulled up my singlet to show him my tummy. He did seem to be speculating for a while and then said I'd better go to the Doctors to be sure. Bronwyn took me to her Doctor, but I didn't have German Measles.

The Neills always kissed each other on the lips when they said goodnight or goodbye, everyone, parents and kids. I thought it was nice that they were so affectionate as my parents weren't very affectionate, especially my Dad. It was not very long after the Measles incident (I was 15) that I was saying goodnight to Uncle Bill in the hallway that he stuck his tongue in my mouth when he kissed me. I looked at him in shock, but he just gave me this queer smirk, and I found myself half-smiling back, and thus began our "little secret". Every time I stayed there after that, I had to endure the tongue when he said goodnight to me.

One day a few months later, [BCE] must have seen something, because she asked me afterwards "Did my Dad just kiss you for a long time?" I got scared of getting in trouble (Bill always belted his kids with his belt when they were naughty) so I said "Don't worry, it's OK."

About a year later (1983), he must have been feeling guilty or something, we were doing Return Visits in their Combi van, and Bill and I were alone in the van, when he said to me "What shall we do about 'our little secret'?" I said I didn't know. Then he asked me if I wanted him to talk to Brother Jack Shaylor about it, but that if he did my Mum and Dad would find out. I got scared and said no. Then he stopped doing it for while, I may not have been staying there as much as [BCE] and I might have had a bit of a falling out. I think I was 16.

Then when I was about 17 (1984), it started again. I always shared the bathroom with [BCE] (they's moved to [REDACTED]) but if I couldn't I always locked the door. This was in defiance of Bronwyn's orders as she'd told all of us never to lock the bathroom door in case of emergency so they could get in. One day I was having a shower by myself when I heard a noise and looked up. Bill was perving at me over the top of the shower cubicle (he was standing on the basin). I screamed at him to get out, so he did. I don't know if this had happened before or if that was the first time I'd caught him out.

Once when he kissed me in the loungeroom (I was about 18 so it must have been about 1985) I heard Bronwyn say sharply "Bill!", so [REDACTED] I thought there would be trouble, but nothing happened. Another time I was in the pantry (this was quite a large room) when he came in and shut the door and started kissing me. I was a bit older now and didn't want to put up with this anymore, so I tried to resist, but he yelled at me to kiss him back and shoved me up against to wall, which really frightened me, then he told me to pull up my dress so he could see me in my underwear. Thankfully



someone came into the kitchen just then, but I was starting to get really scared. Up until then I thought it was just something unpleasant that I had to put up with so I could have a good time with my friends and the rest of the family, as they always had lots of people over every weekend. I think that's why I became a bit wild with kissing boys, because I kind of had to prove to myself that it could be a nice experience and that there wasn't something wrong with me because I didn't like him doing it.

I was about 18 or 19 (1986) when I was living there, as I was trying to find a job in town, and BCE and I were starting to rub each other up the wrong way. I was never allowed to disagree with anything they said, so I learned to keep my opinions to myself. Bronwyn always blamed me for our disagreements, so I was starting to think I should just move back home.

REDACTED had just moved to Narrogin and asked if I would share a house with her as she was pioneering and living in a caravan. The decision was made easy (despite the Neills arguing that the Society doesn't approve of single sisters living by themselves) when the last night I was at the Neills' I had just got out of the shower when Bill came in. I had locked the door but he opened it with a knife in the lock. I was naked and he told me to sit on the floor and open my legs. Then he started touching me down there, and told me to stand up and then had oral sex with me. Then REDA pushed open the door so Bill pushed him out again. I'm not sure if REDA saw anything, he was quite young. Thankfully Bill left then. The next day I was lying in bed feeling sick, when he came into the room (I shared with BCE but she was at work). He asked me if I liked it. I just looked at him and said nothing. Then he said "It's better with this in", pointing at his crutch. "Would you like to see it?" I said "Go away" so he left. Then I packed my bags and went home to the farm without even saying goodbye to BCE. Just before I married BCC in 1989 I was dreading telling him, so I told him the bare minimum and said that the whole thing stopped ages ago and there's nothing to worry about.

It was about 1991 that I was talking to REDACTED (nee RED) and REDACTED before RED's wedding. REDA said that RED was nervous because she'd been abused by her uncle when she was young. I said that I'd had a similar experience. REDAC said "I thought so, me too and also REDACTED, nee REDA). Someone with lots of kids." I said yes, I was really shocked, but no names were mentioned. When a friend, REDACTED needed to stay somewhere and the Neills offered to have her, I mentioned to her to be careful of Bill. I'm not sure if she really believed me. Then another girl BCF told me about how she tried to commit suicide because of the trauma from her uncle abusing her, I told her what happened to me, but no names. She guessed it was Bill, and I freaked out and asked her not to tell, but she did tell someone. As soon as Max Horley, the young Elder REDACTED heard the rumour he came straight to me to find out. I told him about most of it but I couldn't mention the bathroom incident when he had oral sex with me, I was so ashamed. It was hard talking about it in front of Bill. At the committee meeting Bill said I wore revealing clothing, but the Circuit Overseer, Doug Jackson, made it quite clear to both of us that the Society has never allowed the victim's clothing as an excuse. Bill was asked to say something to me, so he said "I'm sorry." Just after the meeting Bronwyn rang me and confronted me with "What did you say to BCF?" I told her BCF was telling me about how her uncle abused her and so I told her about what happened to me. She said "Bill didn't abuse you." I didn't know what Bill had told her, but he was supposed to tell Bronwyn everything. I got scared so I said "I didn't actually say that". I never actually used the word abuse as I didn't really understand what it meant. Then she asked me about what REDAC had said. When I told her she said "That was her grandfather." I didn't think to question her.

I rang Max straight away to tell him what she said and he said he's sort it out. He rang me back to say that the family had requested that I not tell any more people out of respect for the family. So I didn't tell anyone, not even my then best friend REDACTED but where was the respect for me?

At the next couple of meetings Bronwyn was ignoring me, and I felt bad because I really loved her like a second mother. Then the next meeting she came up behind me and said "Don't worry, I still love you." Like I'd done something wrong.

Over the years of our marriage I occasionally let some detail out to BCC about what happened, but it wasn't until just before my nervous breakdown 10 years ago that I finally confided in REDACTED the first true girl friend I ever had. I also confided in Brother Craig Barton, our group study conductor. It was like opening a can of worms, and I was very very ill, but I got the best help possible from my wonderful Psychiatrist REDACTED Bill Neill is dead now, so I don't have to worry about seeing him at conventions anymore. I still struggle with my thoughts and feelings all the time, but I have an amazing group of Sisters and friends, as well as my lovely husband BCC and my two beautiful daughters, REDACTED

This is my testimony

BCB

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