Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Fabian LoSchiavo

Interviewer: John Witte Focus of interview:

Date of interview: 9th June, 2012

Place of interview: Fabian's home, Malabar

**Conditions: None** 



Time	Summary	Keywords
0.30	Fabian John Simon Loschiavo, born 15.12.1949 at St Margaret's	
	Hospital and baptised at St. Mary's Cathedral, the third child of six.	
1.05	Lives in family house in Kings Cross, bought by grandparents (ex Sicily) in 1925.	Kings Cross
1.25	Father is a dentist, practising at the family home in Victoria St., mother a nurse.	Victoria St.
2.12	The family move to Pymble, then to Marsfield in mid-'50s.	Pymble, Marsfield
2·30	Goes to St Anthony's Primary School, then to boarding school in Bathurst at St Stanislaw's run by the Vincentian Fathers.	St Anthony's Primary School, St Stanislaw's, Vincentian Fathers
3.20	Father Murray Wilson gives "sex education" individually to students. Fabian is not sexually abused but strongly dislikes boarding school.	Father Murray Wilson
4.30	Leaves St Stanislaw's after 2 years because father moves family to London to start a dental practice where they remain for a year and a half.	London, England
5·10	Has crushes on older boys and likes to be in fashion re clothes.	
5.30	Returns to Australia in 1965.	
7-40	Is ignorant of sexuality and models behaviour on a religious figure Dominic Savio [sp?] "who never committed a sin", in line with the spiritual teaching of the day.	Dominic Savio
12.56	Awareness of sexuality comes in 1969 when Fabian is in a seminary, the Premonstratensians, the Norbertines [the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré] who are a progressive order with a psychiatrist who comes in to talk to the young people about sexuality.	the Premonstratensians, the Norbertines
14.50	On return from England goes into Marist Brothers, Eastwood, is seated next to Christopher Reynolds and falls in love with him.	Marist Brothers Eastwood, Christopher Reynolds
15.40	Many Marist Bothers schoolmates also go into the seminary except for Bill Lloyd.	Bill Lloyd
18·15	Father Hugh Murray, chaplain at Marist Brothers Eastwood, presses himself up against Fabian in the confessional.	Father Hugh Murray
18·50	Fabian makes a statement to the Deputy Director of Public Prosecution about his experiences. This is in 2012.	Deputy Director of Public Prosecution
19.05	Fabian challenges Father Hugh Murray in the '90s over the sexual approaches.	Father Hugh Murray
22·20	By age fifteen, he is set on the priesthood as a career. He is deeply embarrassed about having to tell his parents.	
24.00	After choosing an Order to join, is sent to Franciscan seminary at Campbelltown as a postulant.	Franciscan Seminary

24.40	After a brief postulancy is sent to Western Australia when the Order	Kerry Downs, York
	he wants to join has a house which is a sheep farm called Kerry Downs,	
26.07	outside a town called York. He is the only novice.	
26.07	Goes to America, to the big abbey in Wisconsin, where he begins his	America,
	training as one of a group of nine. He does a Liberal Arts degree at the college.	Wisconsin
27·13	Amongst studies are Carl Rogers [a humanist psychologist – Wikipedia] and Transactional Analysis	Carl Rogers
27.30	First actual sex occurs with a brother a.k.a. "a Frater", a year ahead of Fabian, who "allows things to go on."	
29.30	He starts to make sexual contacts outside the Abbey.	
31.50	During Vietnam War, he supports the war effort because he sees the	Vietnam War,
31 30	Communists as a huge threat to the Catholic Church.	Catholic Church, Communists
34.00	Writes to [President] Nixon and [Prime Minister] Gorton in support of	[President] Nixon,
	the war, and keeps their replies.	[Prime Minister
		John] Gorton
34.55	Buys a book, "Sexuality and Homosexuality" by Arno Karlen in 1970 while still at the abbey.	Arno Karlen
36.50	After an incident at the abbey in which an elderly woman is injured he	
	becomes depressed and is sent to a psychiatric hospital for treatment.	
40.15	Is sent to very reactionary house of the order in California where he	
	stays for 9 weeks.	
41.40	Resigns from the Order and goes to Minneapolis to a friend's place.	Minneapolis
	Goes to gay bars.	·
43.30	The abbey pays for his fare back to Australia in '72.	
44.00	Works in hotels, lives in Kings Cross, visits The Wall, Capriccio's, the	Kings Cross;
	Barrel [Inn], Castello's, the Rex [Hotel]	Capriccio's;
		Castello's; the Barrel
		Inn; the Rex Hotel
44.25	Meets a gay man with whom he shares a flat – not in a relationship.	
45.00	Goes to the Blue Light Clinic – is told he has been a syphilis contact in	Blue Light Clinic;
	the USA – is referred to a counsellor by the Blue Light clinic who refers	Neil McConaghy
	him to Neil McConaghy, [homosexual aversion therapist]	
47.25	Electric therapy is conducted by McConaghy at St Vincents Hospital	Neil McConaghy; St
		Vincents Hospital
50.02	Starts going to church at Christ Church St. Laurence	Christ Church St.
		Laurence
50·19	Discovers the Enmore parish [church] and begins to go there in 1974	Enmore [parish
	and becomes an Anglican	church]
51.30	Feels that the community at Christ Church St Laurence are exploitative	Christ Church St
	of young gay people	Laurence
52·14	Is seeing a counsellor at The Smith Family in Woolloomooloo who	The Smith Family
	advises him to go out and meet other gay people	
53.30	Goes to Acceptance, the Catholic gay group and attends masses there.	Acceptance
53.50	Meets Peter Bonsall-Boone and Peter De Waal at Enmore church	Peter Bonsall-
		Boone; Peter De
		Waal
54·10	Goes to meetings at Camp. Ken [Davis] remembers him attending.	Camp; Ken Davis

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56.40	In 1972 had come across Gay Liberation in Minneapolis but is	Gay Liberation;
	disturbed by some of the politics appearing to be Communist	Minneapolis;
		Communist
56-55	Meets Ken Davis at Camp. Is concernd by the people in the group not	Ken Davis; Camp
	liking the church	
57.00	At UNSW sees signs advertising "Confidence Building For	UNSW
	Homosexuals" and attends.	
57.20	Ken Davis and others are concerned that this might be McConaghy	Ken Davis; Neil
37 20	trying to recruit for treatment.	McConaghy
1.00.40	Gaysoc forms at UNSW and it is more concerned with coming out than	Gaysoc; UNSW
1.00.40	direct political action.	daysoc, divsvv
1.00.05	·	UNSW
1.00.03	Is doing an Arts degree at UNSW at this time in French, Spanish and	UNSVV
4 00 45	History, then an Honours degree in History, then an Archives diploma.	
1.03.45	Joins Angays and they politicise him. Is on [the Anglican] Synod for 9	Angays; Anglican
	years. Synod passes a motion supporting anti-gay laws in NSW.	Synod
1.04.50	Has not seen the "Encounters" program with Peter Bonsall-Boone and	Encounters [TV
	is not aware of the importance of Bonsall-Boone's coming out in the	program]; Peter
	Anglican church.	Bonsall-Boone
1.05.20	The "Pink Report" suggesting gays should change is put out by the	Pink Report
	Anglican Church.	
1.06.06	Involvement in Synod becomes his means of protesting the treatment	Synod
	of gays but there is no support from gays in Synod nor outside it.	
1.06.18	People in Angays then include David Purchase [sp?], Prudence	Angays; David
	Borthwick, David Englebrecht [sp?], Geoff Scott, Peter Bonsall-Boone	Purchase [sp?];
	and Angays take on political activity around gay rights expressed in	Prudence
	various ways, unlike the Catholic Acceptance group or MCC	Borthwick, David
	[Metropolitan Community Church]	Englebrecht [sp?];
	[men openion community controls	Peter Bonsall-
		Boone; Acceptance;
		MCC [Metropolitan
		Community Church]
1.10.12	Angays is started in '77 with Geoff Scott, Prue Borthwick, David	Angays; Geoff Scott;
1 10 12	Englebrecht [sp?], David Purchase [sp?], Peter Bonsall-Boone to be a	Prue Borthwick;
	support group for gay people in the Anglican Church, to lobby, to	David Englebrecht;
	monitor the behaviour of the diocese, to be a gay voice at synod.	David Englebrecht,  David Purchase;
	Information the behaviour of the diocese, to be a gay voice at syriou.	Peter Bonsall-Boone
1 12 02	Consequetive reveile ethorogenishes de net annuave et Americal visul	
1.13.03	Conservative gays in other parishes do not approve of Angays' work	Angays
4 4 7 6 7	nor of Fabian's work in the parish.	
1.17.34	Angays has a presence in the Gay Ecumenical group.	Angays
1.18.12	In early '90s, Angays makes an effort to wind-up and the group is	Angays; Andrew
	invited to speak on radio by Andrew Olle [ABC journalist]	Olle
1.19.10	Muriel Porter in her book [title? – Wikipedia lists 6 books] says Angays	Muriel Porter;
	were provocactive amd a direct result of the diocesan attitude to gays.	Angays
1.19.50	Angays are unhappy re Fabian's links with the Sisters of Perpetual	Angays; Sisters of
	Indulgence. At Prue Borthwick's, he meets David Urquhart who tells	Perpetual
	him about Gary Schliemann	Indulgence; Prue
		Borthwick; David
		Urquhart; Gary
		Schliemann
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1 21 00	Cabliamana maata with him and talks about the links hat was at the	Com Cobligation
1.21.00	Schliemann meets with him and talks about the links between the	Gary Schliemann;
	Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and the Radical Fairy movement.	Sisters of Perpetual
		Indulgence; Radical Fairies
1.22.11	Sister Sit On My Face (Deter Mitchell) has reconvetions about the	
1.77.11	Sister Sit-On-My-Face (Peter Mitchell) has reservations about the religious side of the movement and asks if Sister Mary Medusa (Gary	Sister Sit-On-My- Face (Peter
	Schliemann) believes all the religious stuff. Schliemann has spent time	Mitchell); Sister
	on San Francisco with Sister Missionary Position who had started the	Mary Medusa (Gary
	order.	Schliemann); San
	order.	Francisco; Sister
		Missionary Position
1.23.10	Fabian provides traditional-style habits for the Sisters.	iviissieriary i esitieri
1.23.30	He visits the mother house in San Francisco in 1983.	San Francisco
1.24.15	Sister Sadie Sadie The Rabbi Lady is a tourist attraction in the Castro.	Sister Sadie Sadie
		The Rabbi Lady;
		Castro St.
1.25.05	Sister Third Secret of Fatima (Ken Davis) and others from the Gay	Sister Third Secret
	Liberation Choir brought a political edge into the order	of Fatima; Ken
		Davis; Gay
		Liberation Choir
1.25.25	The Sisters attend a Jerry Falwell rally at Top Ryde and a photograph	Jerry Falwell; Top
	appears on the front page of the SMHerald.	Ryde
1.27.45	There is some conflict between the left-wing nuns and those more	Radical Fairies
	involved with Radical Fairies.	
1.28.00	Creation of the SOPI reliquary.	Sister Third Secret
		of Fatima; Ken Davis
1.29.35	Vaughan Hinton of ABC Religion Department makes an Encounter	Vaughan Hinton;
	program "Return of the Pink Triangle".	ABC Encounter
		"Return of the Pink
4 22 45	Day Durates / Carry Wieth agences has been agined and Tables agences	Triangle"
1.32.45	Don Dunstan / Garry Wotherspoon book episode and Fabian appears	Don Dunstan; Garry
	in the persona of Monsignor Porcamadonna and a labelled photograph appears in The Australian	Wotherspoon; Monsignor
	photograph appears in the Australian	Porcamadonna; The
		Australian
1.33.38	[Rev] Oral [Richards] was brought into being in the Gay Liberation	Rev.Oral Richards;
1 33 30	Choir as a combination of Oral Roberts and Cliff Richards and he	Gay Liberation
	introduces the Four-Square-Gospel with help from Ken Davis	Choir; Ken Davis
1.34.36	Dean Sheraton Hilton is invented as a response to the homophobic	Dean Sheraton
	Dean Shilton of the Sydney Diocese.	Hilton; Dean Shilton
1.35.30	Patriarch Sphictor Poloras [sp???] a Greek Orthodox character	Patriarch Sphictor
	appears, name supplied by Panos Kouras. He plays "Zorba the Greek"	Poloras [sp??];
	music on his piano accordion.	Panos Kouras
1.36.58	A New Age character is developed and then there is the one-armed	Father Terence
	Father Terence Patrick Francis Xavier O'Flynn parish priest of Nyngan	Patrick Francis
	also invented by Ken Davis	Xavier O'Flynn; Ken
		Davis
1.37.53	There is a SOPI manifestation outside the State Theatre about the film	State Theatre; "Hail
	"Hail Mary" which was being attacked as blasphemous by Christian	Mary" (film); Rev
	groups including the Rev Fred Nile, Maronite Catholics, Falangists	Fred Nile; Sister

	Link and a major of the state o	NA - da - da - da
	which nearly turns into a riot. Sister Mariam Beth Lay'em [sp?] (David	Mariam Beth
	Fagan [sp?] arrives wearing Jewish insignia and carrying bagels. SOPI	Lay'em [sp?]; David
	have to escape down a side passage	Fagan [Fagin?? sp?]
1 ·41·58	The Gay Liberation Choir is already running when Fabian joins after	Gay Liberation
	seeing them at a rally in Belmore Park. He is told about it by Graham	Choir; Belmore
	Chuck [sp?]	Park; Graham Chuck
		[sp?]
1.42.25	(The Rev?) Phillip Stevenson [sp?] writes "Thank You Lord for Gay	Phillip Stevenson
	Liberation" for the choir.	[sp?]
1.43.21	The Gay Liberation Choir performs at the Gay Rights Embassy outside	Gay Liberation
	Neville Wran's house in Woollahra and the SOPI perform an exorcism.	Choir; Neville Wran;
		Gay Rights Embassy;
		Sisters of Perpetual
		Indulgence
1.45.03	Is on the morning march the day of the first Mardi Gras. Is at work	1 <sup>st</sup> Mardi Gras;
	when Mardi Gras arrests occur. Attends meeting to protest the arrests	Taylor Square;
	and decision to march in July. Also attends meeting at the National	National Gay and
	Conference and joins march to Taylor Square but arrives late and is	Lesbian Conference
	not arrested.	[which one?]
1.48.03	"Witches, Faggots, Dykes and Poofters" radicalises him. Sews huge	"Witches, Faggots,
	flags for the National Conference.	Dykes and
		Poofters"; National
		Conference [which
		one?]
1.49.06	Makes banners for various gay organisations including Gay	Gay Information;
	Information and Gaywaves	Gaywaves
1.49.51	Sees the Homosexual Conferences as becoming a battleground	Quentin Buckle;
	between different groups e.g. Quentin Buckle sabotages gay Christian	Homosexual
	session at Conference [which one?].	Conferences
1.53.10	in 1983 Mardi Gras tries to stop an Angays float from being in the	Mardi Gras; Angays;
	parade in particular the use of large statues. Opposition came from	Peter Tully; David
	Peter Tully and perhaps from David "Dot Dingle" Wilkins.	"Dot Dingle" Wilkins
1.58.32	Ken Davis brings SOPI(USA) safe-sex leaflets (which include reference	Ken Davis;
	to GRID, the pre-AIDS nomenclature) back from a trip and the Sisters	,
	here start distributing them and later promoting safe sex.	
1.58.10	SOPI go to Westmead & Werrington university campuses spreading	ACON; Graham
	the safe sex message to health students. The Sisters who worked for	[sp?] Head; David
	ACON are influential in this – Graham [sp?] Head, David Edva [sp?],	Edva [sp?]; Sister
	Sister Urban Faggot Morgan, Sister Kubler-Ross of the Critical Mass of	Urban Faggot
	Unconditional Love.	Morgan [sp?]; Sister
		Kubler-Ross of the
		Critical Mass of
		Unconditional Love
1.59.40	Goes to USA in 1983 and sees many people dying of AIDS including	Sister Florence
1 33 40	Sister Florence Nightmare (Bobby Campbell).	Nightmare; Bobby
	Sister Florence Highlinare (bobby campbelly.	Campbell
2.02.00	There is acceptance and criticism from real nuns around the SOPI	Campbell
2 02 00	involvement with caring for AIDS patients.	
2.03.46	During 1986 Papal visit of John Paul II SOPI and particularly Sister Mary	Pope John Paul II;
2 03 40	Mary Quite Contrary (Peter Collard) put up Pope-Free Zone posters	Sister Mary Mary
	I mary Quite Contrary (reter Conard) put up rope-riee Zone posters	Sister ivially ivially

	and Sister MMQC is arrested. Sister Come Dancing [is this the full name?] is attending. There are several anti-Pope protest activities including being arrested at the Sydney University Academic Greeting for the Pope	Quite Contrary; Sister Come Dancing; Sydney University
2·10·20	Supports gay marriage because it is important for younger people.  However finds the politics of it difficult.	Oniversity