

Paroled killer in court

JESSICA HOWARD

A CONVICTED murderer and rapist who was released from prison on parole last year will likely be paroled again after he was convicted of a series of new offences.

Jamie John Curtis, 63, was sentenced in 1986 for murder, abduction, six counts of rape, aggravated burglary, four counts of causing grievous bodily harm, nine counts of assault, three counts of indecent assault, one count of escape and two counts of burglary. He was paroled in June last

year after 32 years in jail.

Curtis appeared in the Hobart Magistrates Court yesterday on a raft of new charges including breaching a restraint order, failing to comply with a community protection order and attempting to dishonestly acquire a financial advantage.

He had previously pleaded not guilty to all charges, but changed his pleas to guilty on some counts while others were dismissed.

Curtis pleaded guilty to eight counts of failing to comply with a community protection order and the remaining

two counts were dismissed after the police prosecution did not tender any evidence.

Two counts of breaching the restraining order were similarly dismissed and Curtis pleaded guilty to the remaining three counts. No evidence was tendered for making a false report to police or attempting to dishonestly acquire a financial advantage.

Curtis was required to provide details to police such as any internet and phone connections he had plus any cars he was using.

From June to August last

year, he signed up to various dating websites including Zoosk, Plenty of Fish, eHarmony, Be2 and BeNaughty and also signed up to Facebook under the alias Steve Johnson.

The police prosecutor also said he had contacted the woman mentioned in the restraint order and had her stay at his home for five nights in October last year.

Curtis was arrested and has been in custody since October 18 and his parole was suspended.

Curtis's lawyer Fabiano Cangelosi said in relation to

joining the dating websites that Curtis had had "limited use" of computers.

"Upon being paroled, he was setting foot into the 21st century with an understanding of technology that was from the 1980s," he said.

Mr Cangelosi said Curtis intended to continue the relationship with the woman when the restraint order expires later this year and described him as being a "productive member of society" since his release.

He said Curtis had been working at a butcher's shop and had rental accommodation.

Mr Cangelosi said the parole board made the decision to revoke Curtis's parole due to the loss of his accommodation, but he now had an alternative "almost confirmed" and he was "likely" to be granted parole again.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Michael Daly said objectively the charges were serious, but not at the "top end of the scale".

Curtis was sentenced to three months in prison backdated to October 18.

He will now have to reappear before the parole board.



Change is a tale of two classrooms

MANDY SQUIRES

WHAT happens in the classroom may have changed dramatically over the years but it seems what happens in the playground, after the bell rings, has not.

Cartwheels, clapping games, footy and handball have stood the test of time and are still among the most popular playground pastimes, according to a national study of schoolchildren in Grades 3 to 6 and their parents.

But it's a different matter when it comes to classroom learning tools and teaching methods, with most current students not knowing what a library stamp card, overhead projector or floppy disk is, and most parents unable to identify a Sphero (a popular robotics toy), 3D printer or USB microscope.

The Woolworths Earn and Learn Changing Classrooms Report also found:

91 PER CENT of current students believe teachers were stricter in previous generations.
61 PER CENT think school

would have been more boring back then.

FOUR out of five students believe they're smarter than their parents were at the same age.

The study highlights how much classrooms and teaching techniques have changed, with many parents baffled by the technology which is now commonplace.

St Mary's student Mary Clingeffer, 14, said handball was the recreational game of choice all year round.

"We love coming down here and playing some handball at lunch," she said.

Former teacher and associate director of the Learning Environments Applied Research Network Ben Cleveland has studied how Australian schools have changed over the years, particularly in terms of connections to the wider community. He said schools were evolving to become "community hubs", playing an important role in the life of the wider community and doing more than just teaching kids in the classroom.

CLASSIC FUN: St Mary's student Mary Clingeffer, 14, shows that handball is still a popular schoolyard pursuit in 2019. But times have changed inside the classroom. PICTURE: LUKE BOWDEN

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