

NEWCASTLE HERALD

FRIDAY
October 29, 2010

VOICE OF THE HUNTER

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REPORT: PAGE 5

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SEX COMPLAINTS

Abuser sat on church tribunal

By JOANNE McCARTHY

A NEWCASTLE Anglican priest whose long-term "involvement in the sexual abuse of minors" was revealed last week sat on church panels that investigated child sex abuse allegations for more than a decade, church records show.

Father Peter Rushton, pictured below, was one of five clergy on the Newcastle diocese's board of investigation, similar to today's board of professional standards, from 1987, a diocese yearbook shows.

Yearbooks for 1990, 1993 and 1996 show the priest was repeatedly voted to the board of investigation, or the similar "panel of triers", at synod elections through those years.

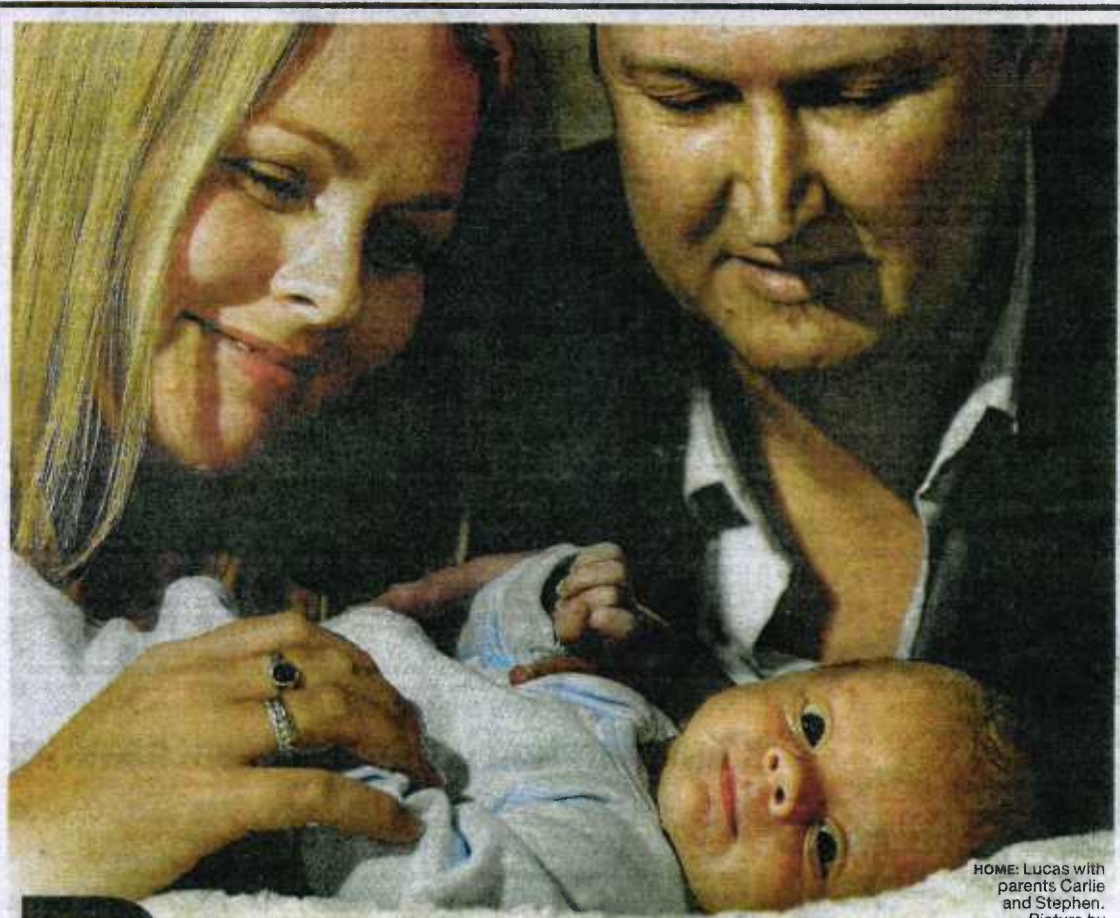
The two diocesan committees were made up of four or five clergy, and the same number of lay representatives, and heard complaints or allegations involving clergy, including child sex abuse allegations involving priests and church workers.

A spokeswoman for the diocese confirmed Father Rushton "sat on historical disciplinary tribunals within the diocese", and the terms of reference for the tribunals "would have been similar to the current professional standards processes".

Father Rushton retired in 2002 and died in 2007. Last week Newcastle Bishop Brian Farran



Continued Page 4



HOME: Lucas with parents Carlie and Stephen.
- Picture by Simone De Peak

Boy wonder

How blood swaps saved little Lucas

IN his first three days of life baby Lucas Lawler had his blood completely exchanged - twice.

The procedure, to correct a blood condition discovered at birth, is a rarity and his parents yesterday were thankful for the "world-class" doctors at the John Hunter Children's Hospital.

FULL REPORT: PAGE 4

JETS FREE TICKETS FOR SUNDAY'S GAME **SPORT**



Classifieds: Page 63



Phone: 131-696

Index: Page 2

Forecast: Fine, 25°



Details: Page 57