

Extract: BOI Submission of Don Owers (Oct 2003)

Robert Brandenburg (RB): Summary Chronology

- 1965 Youth Training Officer, Diocese of Adelaide (The CEBS Story [TCS], 41)
- Visit to Adelaide for leadership training of Louis Victor Daniels (LVD) then aged 17-18yrs (later Archdeacon of Tasmania, convicted in 1999 on multiple child sexual abuse charges)
- 1966 RB visit to Tasmania. Death of John Hennigan at St Mark's on the Hill Rectory, Launceston, while in the care of RB and LVD (TCS, 43)
John Elliot, former Chief Commissioner of CEBS (Qld), (later ordained priest in Brisbane?), returns to Tasmania, elected Secretary of CEBS (Tas). (TCS, 44) (John Litton Elliot gaoled in Queensland, February 2002, on multiple counts of child sexual abuse.)
RB elected National Secretary of CEBS
- 1967(approx) RB CEBS leader at St George's, Magill and CEBS Shop Manager, Adelaide
- At some time after 1967 RB became Commissioner of CEBS (SA)
- 1980 Phillip Aspinall, later Assistant Bishop of Adelaide and Archbishop of Brisbane becomes Secretary and Leader Training Officer of CEBS (Tas) (TCS, 54, 89, 91)
- 1980 The Rev'd Garth Hawkins (in his capacity as ?) commissions the State Executive of CEBS and the new Field Officer (Phillip Aspinall). In May 2002 Garth Hawkins was found guilty by a Tasmanian Church Tribunal of multiple child sexual abuse charges. Criminal charges may be pending.
- 1981 RB replaced as Commissioner (SA) after incidents at the National CEBS Camp (TCS, 87, 91). According Jeff Skein, former CEBS Leader, RB was replaced on a pretext of alcohol abuse. The Rev'd Conrad Patterson (Archdeacon?) Chair of CEBS was a prime mover in RB's replacement. Phillip Aspinall, Assistant Bishop, confirmed he had been present at the Camp. (Handwritten meeting notes, Diocesan Meeting 5/12/00, in attendance: The Archbishop, the Assistant Bishop, The Rev'd Dr Don Owers (DWO), Mr Andrew Luckhurst-Smith [solicitor], The Rev'd Dr John Roffey [Anglicare], Mr Jeff Skein [CEBS], Mr Chris Martin [CEBS])
- Phillip Aspinall Chief Commissioner of CEBS in Tasmania and, later (March 1981?) becomes Diocesan Youth and Education Officer.
- 1994 LVD resigns Parish of Burnie after complaints of sexual abuse
- 1998 (May?) Report of the Diocese of Tasmania, Independent Pastoral Inquiry into Sexual Misconduct by Clergy (The Tasmanian Report). Pages 86 – 126 excised provide details of submissions naming (amongst others) "3 clergy or

officers who live interstate.” These details were provided to the Bishop of Tasmania.

- 1998 (10th October) Brian Hilliard (solicitor, Hobart) writes to Bp Newell with claim by Brett Skipper – alleging abuse by Lou Daniells and Bob Brandenburg
- 1999 (Easter Monday) DWO reports to the Archbishop, by telephone, disclosure of sexual abuse by RB against X. Archbishop states, ‘He was mentioned in that report.’ On being questioned by DWO the Archbishop refers to the Tasmanian Report. No warning concerning RB was passed to the Parish of Magill (where RB had been a CEBS leader from 1967-1994)
- (July) RB arrested and interviewed by Police. Admits offences and offences against other boys. Bailed to appear.
- (August) Immediately before he is to appear in court RB dies by drowning in Stradbroke Park Lake. No Coroner’s Inquest.
- (August) Parish of Magill organises a seminar ‘Understanding Sexual Abuse in the Church.’ Three further victims come forward.
- (September) DWO writes to the Archbishop to advise of the disclosure of further victims, of allegations of abuse beyond the Parish of Magill, and advising of a second seminar to be held in October.
- (12 October) Diocesan meeting (DWO, the bishops, John Roffey, Andrew Luckhurst-Smith), resolves DWO to prepare recommendations for a pastoral response.
- (19, 20th October) Following telephone calls from the Archbishop and Mr Andrew Luckhurst-Smith, management of the response to RB’s abuse is taken over by the Diocese.
- 2002 (May) Complainant testimony at a Diocese of Tasmania Tribunal alleges that abuse by Garth Hawkins was known to or reported to at least two high ranking Diocesan clergy.