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24 September, 2002

Dear [BYD]

Following is a 'sketch' of how I remember the events surrounding Simon Jacobs / CEBS / and your son [BYC]

I am also enclosing the Police Statement given to the Pymble Police in 1984/1985.

Regrettably dates will not be accurate but the facts are very true and accurate.

- I had been contacted by at least one parent of a Page CEB and had I become increasingly concerned by the unusually close friendship of Simon with at least two of the junior boys
- I reported this to the Branch Governor, Stewart Park, who said that since we were short of leaders 'he was loathe to rock the boat' and he counselled me to not speak anymore about it. Stewart was a primary school teacher at the time.
- Later, on a 'CEBS Bike Camp' to Canberra for Esquires, for which I was the Leader, I was distressed when I observed - as a result of a front tent flap blowing open - that Simon was dressing some of the boys in his tent. That is, Simon was tucking in the shirts of at least two boys. Simon looked up and caught my surprised look and immediately stopped what he was doing.
- Page District Camp at Wannawong (March 1981). This weekend camp was to be in tents but because of extreme rain and wind it was decided to use the permanent accommodation. In the rooms there were double bunks and to accommodate the number of boys it was necessary to double up the boys head to toe in each bed. I attended the camp as a 'spare leader' as we had a large group from St Ives. On my rounds of waking up the boys on the Saturday morning I was horrified to see a boy in Simons bed (not head to toe and under the blanket!). Simon was aware of my observation and later protested that he was 'play wrestling' or some similar remark - me thought he protested too much.

- A concerned mother, who was single, but had (at least) two sons in CEBS approached me, regarding one of her sons who had gone swimming with Simon. The lad (about 9 years old) had come home with a pair of underpants on that were not his. The lad had casually told his mother that Simon had several pairs to choose from in the glove box of his car and what's more "Simon helped me put them on!"
- I again approached the Branch Governor, Stewart Park, who was very unhappy with my re-visiting this problem and inferred that I was trying to stir up trouble.
- Pymble branch of CEBS was about to close through lack of leaders so Simon left St Ives of his own choosing as far as I know and joined Pymble. I was so concerned that I approached the acting Rector Bishop Clive Kerle. He was very gracious however asked me "to be forgiving and give Simon a second chance". Needless to say I was staggered with this reply to my worries
- Shortly after this, the REDA family from Pymble contacted me. They knew my brother, REDA, who was a member of the Pymble congregation and they knew I was involved with CEBS St Ives. Simon had interfered with one of their sons. The lad had innocently told all to his parents, so there was no doubt about it. I asked them to make a statement so I could 'get something done' but the REDAs did not want their son to be subjected to any questions etc. hoping the lad would 'forget about it'.

With this background of complaints and my own personal observations I took several actions.

1. As noted before I spoke several times to my Branch Governor, Stewart Park. As far as I know he took no action.
2. I spoke to Bishop Kerle in his rectory. I was asked to be "forgiving and give Simon a second chance".
3. I sought the advice of Dr Jean Benjamin at East Lindfield a well respected Doctor specialising in the counseling of folk with sexuality problems. She advised a course of action that involved challenging Simon as to what we perceived to be happening and then note his reactions. Points 7 and 8 of the police statement deals with our challenge to Simon and the positive reaction.

4. After this confrontation with Simon I immediately (before 8.30am the next day) contacted Rev Kelvin Tutt, the chairman of CEBS in Sydney. Without delay (within the hour) Kelvin advised the CEBS office that Simon was to have his Leader's Warrant revoked and that he was never to lead or be involved with a CEBS group in the future.
5. I made a statement to Pymble Police - copy enclosed.

Kind regards