

Notes of Lunch at Scratchleys 13 Jan 2016

12.30 – 2pm

Archbishop Roger Herft rang yesterday to catch up. He was in town for 4 days and had been at the Cathedral on Sunday. He advised that he had contacted Harry Bottriell. (former Chair BTAC)

Our conversation on the phone and at lunch was friendly.

Began to discuss my health and +Allan Ewing in Bunbury WA.

Also he inquired of my experience concerning + Ian Shevill. I reflected on not being conscious of this experience on coming here but having dealt with so many abuse matters it re-emerged in recent months.

We discussed the impact of the Royal commission on our lives. He commented that he had been asked to re-submit his response to the RC concerning CEBS. The RC had contacted his office to advise that he had provided a false statement in relation to the CEBS history. Roger commented that it was hard preparing a response but had employed two full time lawyers to assist him.

He commented that Michael Elliott had written to him to assist us in the preparation of our submission to the Royal Commission. He said that he couldn't because he was occupied by the Royal Commission in his Diocese of Perth.

He recounted on the Parkinson report concerning abuse in the Anglican Church (2008?) and its focus on St Johns Morpeth with a significant number of clergy trained there becoming offenders. He said that our colleagues (ie. Bishops) were very concerned about this becoming known.

He commented on the Alan Kitchingham matter saying he had not known of his presence in the Diocese until advised later. He admitted he hadn't dealt with the matter properly. He spoke of +Richard Appleby appointing him to the Northern Territory as Administrator. He spoke of Bishop Housden earlier dealing with magistrate and sending Kitchingham to Grafton where he was later to offend.

We spoke at length on the current politics of the national Anglican Church and the influence and pressure of Sydney Diocese in Newcastle Diocese and in other contexts.

Our discussion returned to people of concern in Newcastle. I commented that he had told me on coming to Newcastle not to trust Keith Allen. He spoke of this man's opposition to Roger and of other legal people affecting decisions among Trustees and the Diocese. He referred to Greg Hansen and his representation of Archdeacon Peter Rushton when Peter had been found with child pornography.

Roger spoke of his election to Newcastle as Bishop. He recounted that the clergy did not want him and that the Archdeacons had already been appointed by the Administrator Dean Graeme Lawrence. He spoke of the Archdeacons hostility to him in Archdeaconry meetings, so much so that he had a NZ

priest from his previous appointment come as a consultant to attend these meetings and advise him on how to respond to the behaviour of Archdeacons in Newcastle.

Roger asked of how Graeme Lawrence was and I replied he was attending St Stephens Adamstown. I said it wasn't appropriate for me to be in contact with Graeme at this time. He offered no criticism of Graeme Lawrence nor was he surprised of my comment that Graeme was still meeting with significant people in the Newcastle Club and working against the sale of Bishops court. He commented that Graeme at Roger's first Newcastle Synod had sought to sell Bishops court. Roger also advised me that he had met and with Graeme and Gregory Goyette recently. He provided no information concerning them but I left this feeling that there was matters he could have told me but chose not to.

I commented on the culture of intimidation that gave rise to criminal behaviour in this Diocese. He provided no comment on this but we spoke of people knowing one another well and this was not known to us at Board meetings eg Trustees. I spoke of the politicians and public figures who attended my installation in Newcastle (2 Feb 2014) who sat together and now hold no public office because of the ICAC enquiry. I spoke of Keith Allen's connections with people. He spoke of his own legal representative Jim Helman formerly in the practice of Robert Caddies assisting him on personal family matters.

I spoke of bad behaviour by some people on boards and committees and that I have no tolerance for it.

I spoke on leaving of the media attention today on [REDACTED] in Camden Haven who had been interviewed in relation to the [REDACTED]. Roger then spoke of police visiting him when Bishop in Newcastle and interviewing in relation to a paedophile ring. He said he could report that he had no evidence of such. He commented on a [REDACTED] who police were interested in at that time – I suggested the name [REDACTED] and he confirmed this as the person of interest of his day.

We parted on friendly terms.

Bishop Greg Thompson

4.15pm 13 Jan 2016