

**NOTES FROM MEETING AT JE MACONACHIE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE IN
CANBERRA ON 12 APRIL 2009**

My full name is John William Chute.

I was born on 13 June 1932.

I commenced at the Juniorate at Mittagong on 26 January 1945 and began my training as a postulant at Mittagong on 2 January 1951.

I am a Member of the Marist Brothers Order.

I am presently incarcerated at the Maconachie Correctional Centre in Canberra where I will remain until July 2010.

Security arrangements preclude any visitor attending upon me with notes, paper, pens or dictation devices.

Background Information

As you know, I joined the Marist Brothers Order at a very young age – 12.

I came from a large Catholic family.

During my family upbringing, there was a sexual assault.

There was a further episode of inappropriate attention-behaviour directed towards me during my training with the Marists.

With the benefit of hindsight, it is clear that I did have a predisposition towards an unhealthy interest in and a wrongful approach to young boys, particularly during periods of stress.

This may have been caused and/or contributed to by my own treatment as a young person.

As with many people in my generation, there was very little discussion or education during our training about psycho-sexual dysfunctionality.

Fundamentally, however, I accept responsibility for my own behaviour and do not blame any previous members of the Marist Leadership Team.

I made wonderful progress in terms of understanding my own weaknesses and problems when I was given the opportunity to get help at Encompass in 2002.

I do believe that it is regrettable that this type of facility wasn't available to religious in my situation prior to the establishment of Encompass.

Whilst I may have tried to talk to my superiors, I don't know how clearly I would have been articulating my issues and certainly in terms of generational change, conversations around this kind of difficulty were very difficult.

Appointments

History

3/7/52-15/8/52 – Marist Brothers High, Maitland.
 16/8/52-31/12/52 – Marist High, Kogarah.
 1/1/53-31/12/57 – Marist Rosalie.
 1/1/58-31/12/58 – Marist Brothers High School, Mosman.
 1/1/59-31/12/60 – Marcellin College, Randwick.
 1/1/61-31/12/62 – St Anne's, Bondi Beach.
 1/1/63-31/12/63 – Marist Primary, Queanbeyan.
 1/1/64-31/12/66 – De La Mary School, Hunters Hill.
 1/1/67-18/7/69 – St Carthages School, Lismore.
 19/7/69-31/12/72 – Marist College, Penshurst.
 1/1/73-31/12/74 – Marcellin Junior, Coogee.
 1/1/75-30/6/75 – Marist Brothers, Parramatta.
 1/7/75-31/1/76 – Sabbatical leave – Fribourg.
 1/2/76-16/8/87 – Marist College, Canberra.
 17/8/87-30/6/88 – Spokane.
 1/7/88-31/12/93 – Marist College, Canberra.
 1/1/94-13/1/97 – Dundas.
 14/1/97-31/12/01 – Mittagong.

History of complaints

1.

I am aware of a complaint made on behalf of a student during my time at St Anne's at Bondi.

Brother Phillips took the complaint and I understand he has a recollection of it and he did speak to me about it.

The matter did not go to the Provincial at the time.

Many years down the track, Mrs REDAC did make an approach to me when I was at Mittagong.

I met her at the RSL Club.

I expressed very deep regret for any harm that I had done.

I wrote out a short acknowledgement-apology on a beer mat.

Thereafter, I have received quite positive correspondence from Mr REDA.

I am aware of the complaint made by AAA from Lismore.

I am also aware of the complaint made by Master ACK in respect of the movie club at Marist Canberra in 1986. I have no memory of any issue or difficulty involving ACK or the movie club or any conversation with the Provincial or any action to close down the movie club.

2. De Marco

3. ACN

In 1994, ACN and Damian De Marco approach Brother Alexis Turton who spoke to me about the issues. I have made certain admissions to Brother Alexis in respect of case at Lismore and one at Peshurst. Brother Alexis made enquiries in relation to the men in question – REDACTE from Lismore and REDAC from Peshurst. Both men appeared to be fine and are unaffected by the abuse.

It was agreed that I would no longer work with children.

History of Seeking Treatment-Help

On a number of occasions, I have raised the problems that I had in a confessional situation and was told to pray.

When I was at Peshurst, I did see an Oblate priest for some assistance and saw him on a number of occasions.

When I was on sabbatical leave in Fribourg, I raised the matter with a psychologist and he made sexual advance to me.

It wasn't until Brother Alexis confronted issues with me in 1993 that I made any disclosure. I was removed from high school situations and ultimately, following the establishment of Encompass, I got some serious help from Encompass in 1992.

Discussions with Provincials

It was never easy for me to talk coherently or clearly about this issue which troubled me.

I do recall on one occasion trying to have a conversation with Brother Weldon who was in the process of leaving prior to leaving for a function. I do remember trying to say something to him but as to what I did actually articulate or successfully convey, it is very hard for me to now know.

I was trying to say something to him about the problem but I don't think I made myself clear.

On a number of occasions in a confessional situation, I raised my behaviour and was told to pray.

I did see a psychologist who was an Oblate Father at Penshurst in the 1970s.

There were a number of sessions.

This did do me quite a lot of good.

I think this came to an end when I changed schools at that time.

Explanation for comments during the criminal hearing in Canberra

This was a very difficult time for all concerned.

There was substantial publicity and maximum humiliation.

I think the sense of what I was saying was that it was a pity that the Church did not have Encompass until 2002.

In other words, I was withdrawn from teaching following the ACN complaint in 1993 but did not get a referral to Encompass until 10 years later, Encompass having been established as a facility in the meantime.

HGH