

THIS IS AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN IAN WHITEHEAD OF ARROW INSURANCE ADJUSTING AND BROTHER CHRIS WADE OF THE MARIST BROTHERS, IN RELATION TO CLAIMS ARISING FROM MARIST PEARCE.

- Q. Brother Chris, thanks very much for talking to me today. Just to run through a few things so that I've got things clear, you were the Headmaster of the Senior School at Marist Pearce from the start of the 1993 school year until the end of the 2000 school year?
- A. That's correct with perhaps one technical adjustment that I was in fact I think Headmaster of both, Junior and Senior because it was decided when I went there by the Provincial administration that the previous policy of letting the two halves of the school almost go separate ways to kind of bring them together. So while there was somebody running the Junior School (**IW... yes that would have been Peter Stewart?**) from the start of 1993, yes, he was not technically Headmaster. I was of the whole school. (**IW... So you were the boss?**) yes.
- Q. Did you have a Deputy Headmaster during your years there?
- A. Yes, the Deputy in my first year was Brother Peter Chiswick. Then in 1994, the Deputy was Brother Anthony Boyd and then in 1995, the Deputy was Brother Anthony Galletta, who stayed for about the next 5 years, I think, 4 or 5 years, at which stage the role was taken over by Mr. Chris Morrissey.
- Q. During your time as the Headmaster at Marist Pearce, can you recall ever receiving any complaints from any students or parents regarding what I'll loosely describe as inappropriate activities by either Lay Teachers or religious?
- A. No, I can't really recollect any of that. I've read the reports in the Canberra Times in which Damian De Marco, I think it is, claims that he alerted me to some allegations and some suggestions regarding conduct by Brother Kostka Chute. I have to honestly say that I don't have any recollection of that conversation taking place, which is not to say that Mr. De Marco has necessarily been untruthful, simply that his recollection and my recollection differ but I can't recall his coming to see me but he may have. (**IW... A lot of water has passed under the bridge since then, so that's perfectly understandable**) absolutely.

- Q. If you don't have any recollection of any specific complaints as such, what about rumours, innuendo, suspicions, that sort of thing, was anything ever raised with you about the conduct of any of the staff?
- A. No, not in that way. Kostka had been there a long time by the time I got there and while I may have had my own opinions about his effectiveness in school, he was something of a guru in the place and something of a character, and he had had a key role to play in the development of rugby and he was a character with regard to the pets that he kept, four footed pets I mean, dogs and so on **(IW... of the furry variety)**. He was a character with regard to his running of the vegetable garden. He was a character with regard to his running of the film club. He was a character with regard to his place in R.E. in the school and he was rather a well known kind of, rather a well known kind of Canberra identity, you might almost say in some ways.

After he went at the end of '93, I very rarely heard anybody even refer to him, which is not all that unusual in schools I suppose. Schools being composed of varying clientele, in the sense that new people are always coming in and old people are always leaving, you don't retain your currency in a school for very long and one might almost say that after he had gone, I very rarely heard his name mentioned.

I didn't really have any innuendoes or suggestions or you know, hints or anything like that of anything untoward happening with him.

- Q. Do you have any recollections of a former Lay Teacher, Mr. **REDACTED** ?
- A. No, **REDACTED** was never there in my time and to the best of my knowledge, the first time I ever heard of him was when allegations were raised in the press concerning his conduct at Daramalan. I'd never heard of him.
- Q. So from your prospective during your tenure as Headmaster, you didn't receive any specific complaints from students or parents regarding the behaviour of any of the staff?
- A. I have reason to believe that one senior student, a boy called **REDACTED**, came to see me at one stage. I find it difficult to put a date on it, and that he said to me that he had heard that Brother Kostka had been engaged in some inappropriate behaviour and asked me if I had any knowledge of such behaviour, to which I'm quite concern that I would have said "No" because that was in fact the case. I didn't have any knowledge of, any definite knowledge of inappropriate behaviour on Kostka's part.

And the other thing that I'm sure I would have done because we were very strongly advised to do this anyway, was that if there were any allegations or suggestions or possibilities along those lines, we were encouraged to immediately contact the responsible person in the Province, it would have been Alexis.

So that even though I can't pinpoint the occasion, all I can say is that when **REDACTED** came to see me, I would have listened to him, I would have been receptive and courteous, I had a great admiration for the boy actually because he was a fine young man, although I didn't know a great deal about him, but he had kind of a stature in the place among the students and I would have said to him, No I haven't got any knowledge of what you've been speaking about but I'll take the appropriate action and I would have done that.

Q. So other than one perhaps 'question in passing' regarding the activities of Kostka Chute, you didn't receive any specific complaints regarding anyone's behaviour at Marist Pearce?

A. Not in the sense of conduct regarding possible or actual sexual abuse, No.

IW Well I think we might leave it there, thanks very much Chris.

CW Thanks.