

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
FOR COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 26TH MAY, 2005

We are continuing to consider our response to the news that a former employee from the Highton campus has been arrested by the police and charged with allegations of child abuse. We have continued to help the police with their inquiries. They requested that we did not contact possible victims or their families, so that the investigation could proceed without interruption. For the time being, we are anticipating no further developments until the court hearing on 24th June. Parents appreciated being informed of the news by us, by email, before the Herald Sun broke the story. I followed this up with a further e-mail once an arrest had been made and charges laid.

At the recent meeting of the Principal's Advisory Committee, the Heads of Campus reported that there has been very little reaction to the news of the arrest from the parental body at their campuses.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
FOR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 31ST AUGUST, 2005

On 12th August a former employee from the Highton campus pleaded guilty to 65 charges of sexual abuse subject to the evidence being presented. He is scheduled to appear in the County Court on 19th September for a plea hearing. We issued an agreed statement to the press and emailed all of our current parents with a progress report. The Council sub-group met on 9th August with Gavin Forrest of Blake, Dawson Waldron and with Ross Campbell and Bob Burnett of Ross Campbell Associates to plan our response to the events of 12th August. This was a useful meeting. In the event, the media coverage was very limited. The Herald Sun were allowed, by the Magistrate, to receive the charge sheet, although with the names of the victims deleted. Feedback from our parents is that they continue to believe that the school is handling the matter appropriately.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
FOR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 2005

The Highton Case

We have received no more information about any likely date for a hearing in the County Court. I presume that the Police are still trying to collect all of the witness statements which they need from former students who live interstate or overseas.

We have settled with one former student who alleged abuse, for the sum of \$10,000. We are still in negotiation with another former student, via our lawyers.

It was a surprise to read in the Geelong Advertiser last month that a writ had been issued against the School and against the Head of the Highton campus at the time, John Bugg, and the defendant, Philippe Truttman, by a former student. This was a surprise because we had received no such writ. It transpired that the writ was indeed issued earlier in the year, in the County Court in Melbourne, but was never served. Our presumption is that the former student was wishing to preserve his rights with the court. The writ may, or may not, be served at a later date. The particular former student has had no contact of any sort with the School over the Highton issue.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
FOR COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 25th MAY, 2006

Legal Action

Legal action against the School by a former student, on the grounds that he was abused by a teacher at Bostock House in the 1950s, has not been resolved. Gavin Forrest of Blake, Dawson, Waldron and Andrew Moore met with the claimant and his solicitor at the end of March 2006. The claimant wanted \$70,000 to \$80,000 and the School had initially offered \$10,000, without admitting any liability. At the meeting, Gavin made the point that the claimant had significant time erosion difficulties to surmount and made it clear that the School had no idea of the location of the alleged perpetrator.

To settle the matter Gavin offered \$20,000 on behalf of the School. This was rejected by the claimant, but his solicitor asked if they could have two weeks in which to consider the offer and then to make a response. The offer lapsed on 12th April and we finally heard from the claimant's solicitor rejecting the offer, but not stating, what, if any, further action was being considered. We have heard nothing since that time.

The claimant's solicitor had also previously alleged that the claimant's brother had been even more badly abused by the alleged perpetrator. At the moment, nothing further has been heard from him either.

Trutmann Case

At the beginning of May we were contacted by solicitors representing seven of Trutmann's victims, requesting compensation from the School for failing to provide due duty of care to protect them from Trutmann. Gavin Forrest has been in touch with the solicitors to discuss their approach.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
FOR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 23rd AUGUST, 2006

Legal Action

We have heard nothing more, since my last report to Council, from the former student who alleges that he was abused by a teacher at Bostock in the 1950s. I suspect, with the recent ruling by the Victorian Supreme Court in another case, that we shall hear from his lawyers again. The Supreme Court ruled in July that there should not be a time limitation within which victims must make their claim for compensation. As the claimant's allegations refer back to the 1950s, he was clearly outside the time limitation, as the law was previously interpreted – and Gavin Forrest of Gadens made that point in his discussions with them. However, with the law change and given the fact that the claimant's lawyer was also the lawyer who took the other case to the Supreme Court, I imagine that this claim for compensation will return to us. There will then also be the claim for the claimant's brother, according to the earlier comments from the claimant's lawyer.

Trutmann Case

Legal action against the School by a former student, on the grounds that he was abused by Philippe Trutmann at the Highton Campus in the 1980s, is continuing, but has not yet been resolved. Gavin Forrest and Andrew Moore met with the claimant's lawyer (but not directly with the claimant, who was in an adjacent room) at the beginning of August 2006. The claimant asked for \$200,000 plus legal costs and the cost of any reimbursement to Medicare, while the School had initially offered \$60,000, including all costs, without admitting any liability. The claimant also would not agree to a

confidentiality clause as he is writing a book about his experiences and wants to include the details of the settlement in it. Gavin made it clear that a confidentiality clause was a prerequisite for any agreement.

As the two sides were so far apart, it was agreed that there could be no settlement on the day and that there would be a break for a couple of weeks and then the lawyers would try again. The claimant was pleased that someone from the School was present. We are hopeful that a settlement will be reached before the end of August when the claimant's lawyer is changing firms and we would then have to begin with a different lawyer. Both sides would prefer the matter is resolved with the existing personnel. A subsequent offer of \$90,000, including all costs, has now been made.

We have heard nothing more, as yet, from the lawyers representing the other seven students abused by Trutmann. Our impression is that they will negotiate, at least in the first instance. Following Gavin's first contact with their lawyers, they are gathering medical reports on their clients as the first step in the process.

Our current Insurers, QBE, continue to state that they will not insure us for the students abused by Trutmann on the grounds that they allege that we were aware of his abuse, at the time, (which we deny) and did not inform them. However, QBE did seek a meeting with Gavin Forrest and Andrew Moore in July to discuss this issue and, whilst maintaining their position, did suggest that for commercial reasons they might give us some support. This is mildly encouraging, but not more than that, at this stage.

If this does not eventuate, we have the option of returning to the Insurers, who insured us in the 1980s, to see if they had less stringent requirements for the reporting of possible incidents.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
FOR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER, 2006**

Trutmann Case

We are close to a resolution with the former student who was abused by Philippe Trutmann at the Highton Campus in the 1980s. The agreed sum is \$120,000 and we are also close to finalising the confidentiality clause. He will not be able to say that he approached the School for money, nor be able to say whether or not he was successful. However, we are not able to stop him from writing a book about his experiences.

We still have not heard anything more from the solicitors representing the other seven students abused by Trutmann.

Legal Case

I have spoken with the solicitor representing the former member of staff whom it is alleged abused one of our students in the 1970s. The solicitor was surprised that his details had been given to me by the former staff member, but it did enable us to talk. He confirmed that he expected charges to be laid before Christmas and probably within the next four to eight weeks. (This conversation took place about a week ago as I write.) He also stated that the charges would be in relation to one student. I asked, and he agreed, that he would let me know as and when any charges were laid, so that I could be ready for any approaches from the media.

We have heard no more from the alleged victim about his claim for compensation for the alleged abuse.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
FOR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 26th FEBRUARY, 2007

Legal Matters

In my last report to Council, I said that we were close to resolving the case brought against us by one of the victims of Philippe Trutmann. That matter was resolved at a cost of \$125,000. Our current insurers refused to cover us, so we approached the insurers with whom we were insured at the time of the alleged abuse. These insurers had different criteria in place at that time (as compared to our current insurers) and thus they have agreed to cover the \$125,000 claim.

The six outstanding civil cases arising from the Trutmann case are still being processed with background medical information being collected. I would anticipate the cases being settled during this year. We are hopeful that these cases may also be covered by the company who insured us at the time of the incident.

I am expecting charges to be laid in the next week to ten days against a former member of staff for alleged abuse of a student in the 1970s. The student's solicitors have also been in touch with us and his claim against the School for damages is also proceeding. This will not be covered by insurance.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 24th MAY, 2007

Legal Action

Council have been briefed on the progress of the court case against a former member of staff for alleged abuse of a student at Corio in the 1970s. There was a first mention in the Magistrates Court in Geelong on 27th April, but there was no mention of the name of the School, nor were the charges read out in court and thus the mention attracted no attention. The case was adjourned until 22nd June at which time I am expecting the defendant to be in court and for the charges to be read out. I would therefore anticipate press interest at that time. At the moment there are 19 charges relating to one student over a two to three year period. The first mention spoke of the adjourned case being a contested hearing, indicating that defence and prosecution had not yet agreed on a set of charges to which the defendant would plead guilty. I do not know if there will be an agreement, and thus no drawn out trial, or not.

We have taken all the preliminary steps which we can to be prepared for the inevitable media interest. I have spoken with Ross Campbell, who gave us assistance with the last case, and he is satisfied with the arrangements which we have put in place. Obviously, we will adjust our approach in the light of developments.

I am aware that the defendant has written to a number of people – former colleagues, former parents etc – outlining his position, so I know that there is discussion of the matter amongst the Common Room and elsewhere. There is a risk that this letter may be leaked to the media at some stage. I have made no public comment and will not so do until the matter is officially in the public domain.

Trutmann Case

We have continued to meet with the solicitors representing victims of Philippe Trutmann. So far we have settled two of the claims in 2006 and have dealt with three more in the last month. Gavin Forrest and Andrew Moore met with the claimant and his solicitor, on each occasion, and we have settled with them. We believe that we will obtain reimbursement of these payments from our insurers at the time of the offences, given that they have already covered an earlier claim. We have three more cases to settle, with the

same solicitor, and we hope to have completed the process by the end of June. There could be one more claimant to come forward, but we have heard nothing from him.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 2007**

Legal Action

Council are aware that court proceedings have begun against a former member of staff for alleged abuse of a student at Corio in the 1970s. At the Geelong Magistrates Court there was a first hearing on Friday 3rd August, at which the defendant pleaded guilty to nine charges of gross indecency "subject to a suitable presentment being presented at the next hearing." Ten other charges were dropped. The charges relate to one student. As with the first mention in the Magistrates Court in Geelong on 27th April, there was no mention of the name of the School, nor of Corio being the place where the alleged offences took place and thus we received no media attention. The case was adjourned until 29th August, when it will be heard in the County Court in Melbourne. I would therefore anticipate press interest at that time.

Although we have statements prepared for distribution to our community, I have not issued them for the time being and will wait until the issue is in the public arena with direct links being made to the School and thus attracts media attention.

Trutmann Case

We have now settled all the civil cases arising from the actions of Philippe Trutmann. Gavin Forrest and Andrew Moore have met with the victims to negotiate appropriate settlements. In each case, we have felt that an equitable solution was reached. Overall, we will have paid out about \$350,000 including legal fees. We are now in negotiation with the various insurance companies which covered us at the time of each particular event for re-imburement of this sum. At the moment it is too early to say how successful we will be.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 2007**

Legal Action

Court proceedings against a former member of staff have still not begun in the Geelong Magistrates Court. I have been expecting them to start at any time for the last few weeks, but proceedings have continued to be postponed. I continue to expect the case to be heard in the very near future and I now believe it will be heard on Tuesday, 20th November. We are led to believe that the member of staff has called upon a number of former students etc to speak on his behalf as character witnesses. This may give the case an even higher profile in the media.

Civil proceedings against the School and against the former member of staff are also continuing and Gavin Forrest continues to act on behalf of the School. I do not sense that the other side is interested in an out of court settlement and I suspect that this will end up in court.

Trutmann Case

The various insurers who were covering the School at the time of the Trutmann offences have agreed to cover the School and to reimburse the School for the monies it has paid out. We are now seeking to have some of our legal fees reimbursed as well. Overall, this has been a very satisfactory financial outcome for the School.

Dismissal

Council Members will have seen my emails informing them that I have had to dismiss a member of the teaching staff at Corio for taking inappropriate photographs of some girls while on a recent field trip. The police investigation is still continuing (even though he admitted the offences to them), as they go through the procedure of examining his computer and camera in case there is any more evidence to consider. I presume that any court appearance will therefore not take place until this investigation has been completed. I have spoken to the parents of the students who were involved and Charlie Scudamore has spoken to the three girls, to inform them all of the procedures we have followed and the eventual outcome. Parents have been most supportive and the girls very sensible. I have informed the staff at Corio and the Heads of Campus at the other three campuses. I have now emailed parents with information about the matter, as it was beginning to be discussed by students and I have informed the students at Corio of the basic facts of the matter.

My understanding is that this was an opportunistic event and the member of staff did not know the girls nor was this part of any wider activity with them.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 18th FEBRUARY, 2008**

Legal Matters

Jonathan Harvey was duly sentenced to 32 months in prison. The civil action by the victim against the School and Harvey continues. As a result of the case's publicity, one other old boy has been to see me with allegations about Harvey. In general, parents have been very supportive.

There have been no developments with the courts about the member of staff whom I dismissed for taking improper pictures. I presume that the police are still awaiting the outcomes of their technological investigations. Again, parents have been very supportive.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 22nd MAY, 2008**

Court Cases

The civil case against the School by the victim of abuse by Jonathan Harvey continues very slowly. The claimant's solicitors act slowly and have shown no inclination to meet to try to resolve the dispute between the School and the victim. At the moment, there appears to be a likelihood that the case will proceed to court, rather than be settled before then. I will keep Council informed of any developments.

We have received an allegation of abuse by a member of the staff working at our Bostock campus in Geelong in the 1950s. This first surfaced as a civil court complaint two years ago but went no further. In the interim, I now gather that the police have located the alleged perpetrator and that a criminal case will proceed through the courts. The victim is also beginning to renew his claim for compensation from the School. Our lawyers are handling the matter. I will provide a verbal update on the matter at the meeting.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 28th AUGUST, 2008**

Legal Matters

We reached an agreed settlement with the victim of the Harvey case. That matter is now settled.

The criminal case against a member of staff from the 1950s at the Junior School in Geelong continues slowly, without charges yet having been laid in court. I am expecting that this will happen within the next month. When that does occur, I will send out an email to the School community as I have done with previous cases. The Geelong Advertiser did publish an article at the beginning of August about the civil case which is being brought against the School (and the alleged perpetrator), by the alleged victim. The journalist had somehow managed to see some papers which had been filed in anticipation of a possible court hearing much later in the year. We were not expecting the article, but I have received no comment from anyone about it.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER, 2008**

Court Case

As Council Members will know from my emails to them, the court case against a former member of staff, Graeme Leslie, who taught at the Bostock House campus in Geelong in the 1950s has now been completed. He has been sentenced to two years in prison for acts of gross indecent assault and indecent assault. I sent emails to all parents and guardians after both court hearings, to inform them of events, and have received virtually no comment from anyone about the case.

The Geelong Advertiser has given the case large coverage and it also featured on the Channel 7 and Channel 9 evening news. The media have focused on two aspects of the case: firstly, that the police were not informed of the offences at the time and secondly that Leslie was able to teach in the public system for the next 30 years. The media are, of course, applying the standards of today, to events of 50 years ago, when things were handled differently. Even if there had been a court case at the time, there was no legislation which would have prevented him from continuing to teach. The victims' parents knew of the offences, for it was them that alerted the School, and they could have informed the Police, if they had so desired. At this distance, it is not possible to know what discussions took place between the parents and the School. Sir James Darling, as Headmaster, did require the member of staff to resign. After the first hearing, the Geelong Advertiser did ask me to comment on these two aspects of the case but, after discussion with our consultant, Ross Campbell, I felt it was best not to address these issues in public.

After the second hearing, the Geelong Advertiser reported that Leslie continued to teach for 30 years at this School, after the allegations had surfaced. This, of course, was totally wrong. The Herald Sun took their story from the Advertiser as did Channels 7 and 9. Once alerted to this, we got the Geelong Advertiser and the Herald Sun to change their story on their web sites and alerted Channels 7 and 9 to make sure they had the correct story. Channel 7 amended their story, but Channel 9 did not and therefore broadcast this inaccurate statement on their 6.00pm news bulletin. We contacted our lawyers for advice and then rang Channel 9 to inform them of their mistake and asked them not to repeat it. We also contacted other media outlets to ensure they did not pick up and repeat this inaccurate story.

One of the two victims gave interviews to the Geelong Advertiser and Channel 7 about the case and encouraged other victims to come forward. His civil claim against the School will now move forward. It is clear that he has no concern about further publicity, which will not help our negotiations with him.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 28th MAY, 2009**

Legal Matters

The civil claim against the School over the case from the 1950s has now been settled. There is another civil case developing with a former student making further allegations against Philippe Trutmann. We have just received the first report about the matter and that is with our lawyers.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 17th NOVEMBER, 2010**

TOORAK CAMPUS

Court Case

Parents at Toorak were understandably concerned to hear that a former ELC teacher had been convicted of possession of child pornography. Despite the fact that the judge stated that in the opinion of the court he was a fantasist and not a paedophile and that there had been no suggestion of any improper actions on his part at the School, some parents were concerned that their children may have been potential victims. A small number of parents contacted Garry Pierson, the Head of Campus, or me about the issue and we have spoken to them individually about their concerns.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 2011**

Legal Matters

The School was also contacted in the holidays for a second time by another former student who alleges that he was abused while he was at the School. He had previously contacted the School in 2005 and I had asked him to provide more details of the allegation, but he had not got back to me. He now says that was because he had a breakdown from which he has only just recovered. He is seeking financial assistance from the School to cover his medical treatment. As a first step, I have asked him to provide a written report from his counsellor about his condition and treatment. He is going to get the counsellor to contact me.

We are in the process of finalising a settlement with a Truttman victim. This will occur in the week commencing 21st February 2011. Thus, I will be able to provide an update at the Council meeting.

The School's insurers are currently managing this case and it is believed that the full cost of any legal action and remedies are covered by insurance. This cannot be confirmed until the insurer conducts the full investigation. The School has obtained independent legal advice, in the meantime, which advises that there are a number of significant barriers to the application being successful. However, the application has been carefully crafted by the mother, without legal representation, as the action is brought against the School citing breaches in the Fair Trading Act, for which VCAT's jurisdiction is unlimited.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 2011**

Trutman Case

A further case against Phillipe Trutman was heard in the Geelong Magistrate's Court in September. This case referred back to the time when Trutman was a resident Tutor at the Highton Campus in the late 1980s. We did not know that the case was coming before the courts at this time and thus the report in the Geelong Advertiser was a surprise. From a publicity point of view, the case was reported on Grand Final day and thus the news received less media attention, than would otherwise have been the case.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2012**

Legal Matters

In my report for Term 4 2011, I reported that there had been a further case before the courts, in which Phillipe Trutman was found guilty of abusing a student at the Highton Campus, in 1989. We are aware that the victim has filed a writ with the County Court for a civil case against the School, but this has not been served on us.

We believe that we are covered through the School's insurers for both of these claims.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 23RD AUGUST, 2012**

Three Cases

The second case is a civil case where a former student alleges that she was assaulted by a member of staff whilst she was a student at the Highton Campus in 1982. She is thus suing the School for damages. The two sides met last week and an agreement was reached. We are covered by insurance for this case.

The third case relates to another victim of Trutmann at the Highton Campus in 1989. The case came before the courts last year and Trutmann pleaded guilty to this further sexual assault. The victim is now suing the School for damages. We believe that this case will go to court, rather than being settled beforehand. We are not covered by insurance for this case.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 4TH MARCH, 2013**

Legal Matters

Since my last report, we have been approached by three former students alleging inappropriate behaviour by staff.

One former student alleges that he was mistreated by a member of staff at Timbertop in the 1960s. At the moment, he has simply made us aware that he believes there is an issue but it is not clear what it is that he is alleging. We have responded to him and are awaiting further correspondence. A second former student has written to the School to allege that a member of staff approached her in an inappropriate sexual way in the early 1990s. We are in communication with her. Our lawyers have been informed of both approaches. A third former student has alleged he was abused by Phillipe Trutman between 1987 and 1990. The approach

was through his lawyers to our lawyers. It is planned to meet with this former student and his lawyer in the coming months.

It is now highly likely that allegations two and three will not be covered by insurance as the HiH Claims Support Scheme has now been wound up by the government. We still have to resolve the claim for damages from a former student at the Highton Campus, who was abused by Phillippe Trutman in 1989. The insurance company and our lawyer are managing the claim.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 2013**

Legal Issue

The Commercial Director has continued to manage a claim against the School by a former student who alleges that he was another Trutmann victim from the 1980s at the Highton Campus. The initial response from the Insurance company was that the School had no insurance for this particular period, but the company has now agreed that we do have insurance. In the range of claims which we have experienced from the Trutmann victims, this case will be at the higher end of the spectrum of claims / settlements. I am hopeful that the matter will be settled by the end of the year.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 2ND MARCH, 2015**

Court Cases

A former teacher at the Toorak Campus in the 1970s and 1980s, has been charged with various offences against students at the campus in the 1980s although we do not know exactly with what he has been charged. The police have sought various pieces of information from the School, via subpoenas, over the last two years. I spoke to a mother of one of the victims who wanted to speak to someone at the School, so that she could express her disappointment that her son was a victim. She said that she was not seeking any kind of commercial settlement. She informed me that the teacher would be pleading guilty to the charges at a court hearing in April.

We are also aware that a former student presented evidence to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse at a private hearing in Ballarat. We believe this relates to a former member of staff at Timbertop in the 1960s. Three days ago, I was rung by a representative of the Anglican Church in Melbourne to say that she had been approached by an OGG from the 1960s who alleged very serious sexual abuse by the same person at Corio and Timbertop.

The School does not have insurance to cover these three cases, should it come to an approach for compensation.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT
GEELONG GRAMMAR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, 21ST MAY, 2015**

Royal Commission of Inquiry into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse

The School received from the Royal Commission at the end of Term 1, 2015 a Notice to Produce. This referred to all information which we have, or our legal teams have, on five named individuals who had worked at the School, plus anything else to do with the sexual abuse of children at the School at any stage back to the 1960s. Andrew Moore, the Commercial Director, worked tirelessly in the Easter holidays, along with a team from Gadens, under the direction of the partner Gavin Forrest, to find and copy all relevant material in order to send it to the Royal Commission. We have sent two batches of material as it has taken so long to find the material and to scan it, so that we could not send it all in one batch.

We have subsequently received two further Notices to Produce. One refers to all our policies and procedures dating back to 1960 about how students should report any inappropriate actions by staff and how the School would manage such allegations, including informing other organisations (such as VIT – the Victorian Institute of Teachers). The Notice also required all policies and procedures relating to the employment of staff, reference checking, working with children checks etc. We have many current policies and procedures to send to the Royal Commission, but we have found few policies dating back in time. I imagine that this is largely due to the fact that once a new policy is introduced, old policies are destroyed, as they no longer apply.

The other Notice to Produce referred to a named student at the School in the late 1960s / early 1970s and asked for all information which we hold about him, from that time.

We have also been asked by the Royal Commission to explain the role of the Anglican Church in the running of the School. We have provided the Royal Commission with our Constitution.

My understanding is that the Royal Commission will examine the evidence over the next three months before hearings take place in Melbourne in late August / early September. We have not yet been officially notified that the School will be required to attend and give evidence at any hearings, but there must, at least, be a possibility of this being required, given the Royal Commission has sought material from the School. I believe that we will be given two weeks' notice of the need for the School to attend. We have been fully co-operative with the requests from the Royal Commission.

Court Case

A court case involving allegations of sexual abuse by a teacher at the Toorak Campus in the 1980s was postponed, with the plea hearing moving from 17th April to 20th July. We were approached by the ABC about this case, just after the case was postponed, but we decided not to make any statement at this time, until the case goes before the courts and the details are made public. The ABC then chose not to air any details about the case.