

HO04094HO S4/LL

FREEMANS AUSTRALIA
RECORD OF INTERVIEW

On 28/10/99 Hugh Robertson telephoned Bishop Ronald Francis Stone ("RFS") in Rockhampton, Queensland. RFS of [REDACTED] 4700 was born [REDACTED] 38. His phone no. is [REDACTED]. His fax no. (private) is [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

In discussions, the following emerged.

1. RFS is the Bishop of Rockhampton and has been since 13/12/96.
2. RFS was Assistant Bishop of Tasmania 11/6/92 - 12/12/96. In this period he also acted as Vicar General of Tasmania from time to time, in the absences of Bishop Newell. Additionally, after Daniels resigned from the Church on 22/11/94, RFS took on the role of Archdeacon of Burnie (formerly Daniels' role) until about 2/96.
3. RFS first heard of Daniels in about the early 1980s. RFS believes that at this stage, Daniels was the Rector of and living in Deloraline.
4. RFS first met Daniels in about the late 1980s or early 1990s. RFS thinks he first met Daniels at a General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia. When RFS first met him, Daniels was Archdeacon of Burnie, living at the Burnie Rectory. From the time RFS first met him until he resigned, Daniels lived in Burnie.
5. In early 1994 RFS received a phone call from Dr Peter Marshall, CEO of Interchurch Trade Industry Mission. Dr Marshall advised RFS that one of his (Marshall's) Chaplains had told him that a nephew of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was in severe personal difficulty, (especially in relating to women), because he had been sexually molested by an Anglican Church priest at a boys' camp at Montgomery Park (Southern Tasmania) in the 1980s. Dr Marshall told RFS he had advised [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to contact RFS.

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6. On 25/3/94 (1.30 pm) REDACTED came to talk to RFS. REDACTED instructions to RFS confirmed Dr Marshall's earlier advices. RFS advised REDACTED that he considered the matter very serious and suggested REDACTED's nephew be encouraged to speak to him, RFS. X
7. On 26/5/94 (1.00 pm) the nephew met RFS and identified the priest who had molested him at Montgomery Park in the mid 1980s as Daniels. The nephew who would have been in about his very early teens in the mid 1980s, told RFS the molestations occurred in the sleeping quarters and the grounds at Montgomery Park.
8. RFS suggested to the nephew that 1) the Anglican Church would regard the allegations as very serious, because of the possible breach of trust on the part of Daniels, 2) that the Anglican Church had a "Clergy Offence Procedure", 3) that RFS would need to take advice on the matter, confront Daniels with the allegations and 4) that RFS would contact the nephew again, after he confronted Daniels.
9. In these discussions the nephew told RFS that he had problems relating to women and that he was not the only boy Daniels had molested at Montgomery Park around the same time that he, the nephew had been molested. X
10. On 26/5/94 RFS spoke to the Diocesan Advocate, David Thorp and then contacted Daniels and required him to return immediately to Tasmania from a mainland meeting. On the same day, RFS also told Bishop Newell of advices from REDACTED and his nephew. At and about this same time, Bishop Newell advised RFS that in the mid 1980s, there had been allegations by other young boys that they had been sexually molested by Daniels.
11. On 27/5/94 RFS spoke to Daniels with David Thorp present. The nephew's allegations were put to Daniels who said "... God, I thought that was all over" or words to this effect. Daniels did not deny the nephew's allegations and went on to say to David Thorp "... I am a homosexual but I am not into boys" or words to this effect.
12. On 27/5/94 RFS contacted the nephew to say he felt there was sufficient proof to support the allegations for a Tribunal to be held and X

to ask if the nephew wished to proceed in this way. The nephew told RFS "... I don't want the Church to deal with the matter. I'll deal with the matter through my own solicitor" or words similar.

13. Soon after the nephew advised RFS he would have his solicitors deal with the matter, RFS gave a written report on the development of the matter to Bishop Newell. The matter then passed from RFS' hands. RFS later heard the suggestion that this matter was settled between Daniels and the nephew by payment of a sum of money in exchange for a Deed of Release.
14. As a result of the matter involving **REDACTED**'s nephew, Bishop Newell wrote a letter of Solemn Monition to Daniels.
15. On 21/11/94 RFS saw Bishop Newell and David Thorp at Bishops Court In Hobart. RFS was told that a woman in Burnie had complained that Daniels had sexually molested her son. RFS was told that he must go to Burnie to confront Daniels with the allegations and that he should suspend/dismiss Daniels ^{OR} and receive his resignation. *Q*
16. After discussions with Bishop Newell and David Thorp, RFS travelled to Burnie and arrived there on 21/11/94. In discussions with Daniels that ^{NIGHT} day, RFS told him of the allegations and that he would be *Q* interviewing the mother and her son.
17. On 22/11/94 RFS interviewed the mother and her son. Details of information they provided are in a Diocese of Tasmania file and in the Statement RFS gave to Police.
18. Subsequent to his interview of the mother and her son, RFS spoke to Daniels and obtained his written resignation.
19. RFS does not know of and neither has he heard any indication of any sexual molestation of other young boys by Daniels, aside from the incidents involving **REDACTED**'s nephew, the son of the woman in Burnie and the young boys who, according to Bishop Newell, alleged they were sexually molested by Daniels at Montgomery Park in the mid 1980s.

HNR

28/10/99

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