

CAS806S

New South Wales Police Force  
COPSDate : 11/02/  
Time : 14:08:  
Page : 1

Central Hunter

NSWPF (T3) Vol 2/4

## Case Report - C 16128387

Case Title : MAIT04/1 *AH* SEXUAL Case Status : FINALISED  
Case Type : SEXUAL OFFENCE - ASSAULT  
OIC : Not Allocated  
Follow Up Freq.: 28 DAYS  
Security Level : PROTECTED  
Source Reports : E 14348559 SEXUAL OFFENCE - ASSAULT  
Party : *AH* - VICTIM  
FLETCHER, JAMES - PERSON OF INTEREST  
Location :  
Organisation : DUNGOG CATHOLIC PARISH - ORG OF INTEREST

Case Narr : Appeal at CCC dismissed in September. Application C 16128387  
has been made to appeal to High Court & case case  
be re-opened if required if this appeal is  
accepted.

Case Narr : POI was sentenced by Judge Armitage in Sydney DC C 16128387  
on 11/4/05 to 10 years maximum & 7.5 years minimum  
Earliest DOR is 4/6/12 maximum 4/12/14.

Case Narr : matter set for 2 week trial at EMDC commencing C 16128387  
22/11/04

Case Narr : Matter appeared before the Newcastle Local Court E 14348559  
in February 2004 for a 48E application. The  
matter has now been committed ofr trial on a date  
to be fixed.

Case Narr : 48E application was heard at Newcastle District C 16128387  
Court & the case was put over for a date for trial  
to be set. It is anticipated that the Trial may  
be set mid year 2004

Case Narr : In 1985 the defendant, James Patrick FLETCHER E 14348559  
arrived in the Dungog Parish as the new Catholic  
Priest. He worked at both the Dungog & Clarence  
Town churches & there met the victim's family.  
*AH's* family had been heavily involved in  
numerous church activities & functions. Through  
this working relationship the defendant developed  
a close friendship with the family becoming a  
regular visitor to their home for meals & invited  
to family parties & celebrations. Over time he  
became a mentor for this family's children,  
including their eldest son & victim, *AH*  
. *AH* & his other siblings later became  
altar boys within the parish creating an even  
stronger bond.  
The victim aged 12, started at St Peter's High  
Maitland in 1990 & was occasionally driven home  
by Father FLETCHER. Over this period  
conversations occurred between the two in  
relation to sexual education & masturbation with  
*AH* being instructed that these conversations  
were secret & 'This is our special time.'  
During the school holiday period in December -

CAS806S

New South Wales Police Force  
COPSDate : 11/02/  
Time : 14:08:  
Page : 2

## Central Hunter

Case Narr : January 1990-1 whilst travelling between churches E 14348559  
with AM, Father FLETCHER removed his penis & commenced to masturbate. He encouraged AM (Then aged 13) to do likewise. Again it was emphasised that this was to remain a secret & not be discussed with any other person, especially AM's parents.

Further conversation occurred in 1991 when the victim was further spoken to about sexual matters by Father FLETCHER. In March 1991 Father FLETCHER drove AM after school to the Walka Water Works reserve. He removed his penis & encouraged the victim to perform oral sex on him. The victim was told that this was normal behaviour & given on the pretext of sexual education. The victim's head was held in place by Father FLETCHER until he ejaculated in the victim's mouth, at which point the victim began to dry-wretch. Father FLETCHER reinforced that this remain a secret. He said to the victim, "It's normal & its a natural part of life. A lot of people do it but it is to just stay between you & me. No one else should know about this, it is our secret. You won't mention this to your parents or anyone else will you?" & "You know your father probably did exactly the same thing & he still keeps it a secret."

These assaults then began to occur on a regular basis with the victim being forced to perform oral sex on Father FLETCHER a further 4 times in early 1991.

In June 1991 Father FLETCHER again picked the victim up from school but instead of driving to the Walka Water Works he drove to a park on the outskirts of Paterson. He parked in a secluded area near the river where he performed oral sex on the victim. After the victim failed to have an erection he was asked to get out of the car & removed his school pants. Father FLETCHER then forced his penis into AM's anus whilst the child braced himself in pain against the side of the vehicle. After ejaculating Father FLETCHER comforted AM who was sobbing telling him, "That's okay. Its only natural. It will stop." He again emphasised that these incidents should remain a secret. His demeanour changed on the drive back into Maitland when he saw the distress the child was in. He said, "If anyone finds out about this I am a priest. Everyone knows that priests don't lie. They won't believe you. Remember you have three brothers & if you tell anyone I could hurt them too."

Assaults of both anal & oral intercourse continued in various forms & locations over the next 3 years until March 1994 when the victim

CAS806S

New South Wales Police Force  
COPSDate : 11/02/  
Time : 14:08:  
Page : 3

## Central Hunter

- Case Narr : was old enough to prevent any further occurrence following a major confrontation between Father FLETCHER & himself. Over the four year period a total of 56 offences occurred. E 14348559
- The victim experienced a lot of difficulties in dealing with these offences & in September 1995 after a heavy bout of drinking he attempted to hang himself in a shed on his parents rural property. His mother & young brother located him whilst this was occurring & lifted him down after he had been hanging for a short period. In desperation to find answers the victim's parents (Unaware of their son's reasons for depression) took him to see the family priest who was now located at Branxton. He stayed in the presbytery that night & believes he was raped whilst in a vulnerable state. This was the last occasion he had any contact with Father FLETCHER.
- The victim has led a troubled life since that time until disclosing to his family in late 2000. In June 2002 he was encouraged to approach Police with his allegations & investigations commenced. Police learned that Father FLETCHER had been notified of the Investigation by a member of the Catholic Church & was permitted to continue his duties in the Branxton Parish.
- Investigations continued over the next year & in March 2003 Father FLETCHER was stood down from the Branxton Presbytery.
- Police contacted members of the church & Father FLETCHER presented at the Maitland Police Station on Wednesday the 14th of May 2003 with solicitor Eric LACEY & a support person Father Jim SAUNDERS. FLETCHER emphatically denied the allegations of sexual misconduct & disputed other matters pertaining to the investigation. He was very upset at the allegations & is generally not of the best of health.
- Case Narr : About 1985 the defendant, Father James Patrick FLETCHER arrived in the Dungog Parish as the Catholic Priest. He also took in the Clarence Town church where he met the victim's family. The victim's family were heavily involved & assisted with many of the church's functions within the parish & a friendship was struck between the defendant & AM family. At the time the victim C 16128387
- Case Narr : Following inquiries Police spoke to Arch-Bishop Michael MALONE at 11.30am in his office at Newcastle. He was present with 'father Jim' Police spoke to him regarding the allegation of AM without disclosing detail of the allegation. The Bishop has indicated that he was told that the victim had approached Police & had learnt of this through the victim's father who is C 16128387

CAS806S

New South Wales Police Force  
COPSDate : 11/02/  
Time : 14:08:  
Page : 4

Central Hunter

Case Narr : responsible for the within the C 16128387  
Newcastle Diocese.

The bishop later approached father Jim FLETCHER at Branxton as he was concerned for the priest's wellbeing as he had recently recovered from a heart condition. He told Police that the priest was not well after being told there had been a complaint & strongly denied the matter.

Investigators have told Bishop MALONE that it would have been more desirable to have approached police prior to confronting the priest as it had also forwarned him of an investigation.

The Bishop has also indicated that they would be looking at the possibility of relocating the priest which the investigation is being conducted.

Case Narr : The victim has made an allegation against a catholic priest (POI) that between 1991 & 1995 he was sexually assaulted on numerous occasion. These assaults varied from fondling to both anal & oral intercourse. E 14348559

The victim alleged that threats were made by the priest that he would commit similar offences against the victim's younger brothers should he disclose the offences.

The victim later left to live in Tasmania & over the years has come to terms with these offences, gradually disclosing them to his family and a counsellor.

After watching the 60 minutes programme on 2/6/02 the victim was concerned that others could become victims of the same POI & has decided to report the matter to Police.

It is alleged the offences occurred in the Clarendetown & Dungog areas whilst the victim was an alter-boy.

Job Title/  
Status

Job Type/  
Completing Unit Date Due/  
Job Ref N

## Actions

Action Title : MONITORING OF SEXUAL OFFENCES BY MEMBERS OF SEXUAL  
Action Type : DISSEMINATION  
Created By : INSP PETER FOX - SCC POLICE CORRECTION INTELLIGENCE  
Date/Time Created : 03/06/2002 15:46 COMPLETE  
Completed By : INSP PETER FOX - 03/06/2002 15:46

Action Title : SGT PETER FOX  
Action Type : OFFICER IN CHGE  
Created By : INSP PETER FOX - CENTRAL HUNTER COMPLETE  
Date/Time Created : 03/06/2002 15:36  
Completed By : INSP PETER FOX - 03/06/2002 15:36

CAS807S

New South Wales Police Force  
COPSDate : 11/02/  
Time : 14:08:  
Page : 5

Central Hunter

Brief Title	CNI Number/ Offender	Status	Prosecut Due Date
-------------	-------------------------	--------	----------------------

No records found for specified search criteria.

## Case History

Date	Administrative Action	Status	By Person
27/10/2005	FINALISE CASE	AUTHORISED	INSP PETER FOX
16/09/2005	COMMENT CASE	AUTHORISED	DETSSG BRETT GODF
17/04/2005	COMMENT CASE	AUTHORISED	DETSSG BRETT GODF
26/04/2005	FINALISE CASE	REFUSED	INSP PETER FOX
12/03/2004	INVESTIGATION COMPLETE CASE	AUTHORISED	INSP PETER FOX
11/06/2002	ADD POLICE EMPLOYEE ROLE	AUTHORISED	INSP PETER FOX
11/06/2002	REMOVE POLICE EMPLOYEE ROLE	AUTHORISED	INSP PETER FOX
04/06/2002	COMMENT CASE	AUTHORISED	SENSGT PAUL DEACO
04/06/2002	ADD POLICE EMPLOYEE ROLE	AUTHORISED	SENSGT PAUL DEACO
04/06/2002	LINK INITIATE EVENT	AUTHORISED	SENSGT PAUL DEACO

\*\*\*\* END OF LIST \*\*\*\*

EVE026P

New South Wales Police Force  
COPSDate : 11/02/  
Time : 14:08:  
Page : 1

Event Ref No : E 14348559

## General Event Details

Date/Time Reported : 03/06/2002 14:00  
 Event Classification : ACCEPTED  
 Clear Up Status/Date : CLEARED - 22/03/2004  
 Created By : INSP FOX, PETER RAYMOND - CENTRAL HUNTER  
 Updated By : DET MONGAN, JOHN PHILLI - CENTRAL HUNTER

Event Status : VERIFIED

## Narrative Details

Date/Time Created : 03/06/2002 15:35  
 Created By : CENTRAL HUNTER - FOX, PETER RAYMOND

The victim has made an allegation against a catholic priest (POI) that between 1991 & 1995 he was sexually assaulted on numerous occasions. These assaults varied from fondling to both anal & oral intercourse. The victim alleged that threats were made by the priest that he would commit similar offences against the victim's younger brothers should he disclose the offences. The victim later left to live in Tasmania & over the years has come to terms with these offences, gradually disclosing them to his family and a counsellor. After watching the 60 minutes programme on 2/6/02 the victim was concerned that others could become victims of the same POI & has decided to report the matter to Police. It is alleged the offences occurred in the Clarencetown & Dungog areas whilst the victim was an altar-boy.

Date/Time Created : 09/05/2003 08:43  
 Created By : CENTRAL HUNTER - FOX, PETER RAYMOND

In 1985 the defendant, James Patrick FLETCHER arrived in the Dungog Parish as the new Catholic Priest. He worked at both the Dungog & Clarence Town churches & there met the victim's family. <sup>AM'S</sup> family had been heavily involved in numerous church activities & functions. Through this working relationship the defendant developed a close friendship with the family becoming a regular visitor to their home for meals & invited to family parties & celebrations. Over time he became a mentor for this family's children, including their eldest son & victim, <sup>AH</sup> & his other siblings later became altar boys within the parish creating an even stronger bond.

The victim aged 12, started at St Peter's High Maitland in 1990 & was occasionally driven home by Father FLETCHER. Over this period conversations occurred between the two in relation to sexual education & masturbation with <sup>AH</sup> being instructed that these conversations were secret & 'This is our special time.' During the school holiday period in December -

Event Ref No : E 14348559

## Narrative Details

January 1990-1 whilst travelling between churches with *AH*, Father FLETCHER removed his penis & commenced to masturbate. He encouraged *AH* (Then aged 13) to do likewise. Again it was emphasised that this was to remain a secret & not be discussed with any other person, especially *AH*'s parents.

Further conversation occurred in 1991 when the victim was further spoken to about sexual matters by Father FLETCHER. In March 1991 Father FLETCHER drove *AH*'s after school to the Walka Water Works reserve. He removed his penis & encouraged the victim to perform oral sex on him. The victim was told that this was normal behaviour & given on the pretext of sexual education. The victim's head was held in place by Father FLETCHER until he ejaculated in the victim's mouth, at which point the victim began to dry-wretch. Father FLETCHER reinforced that this remain a secret. He said to the victim, "It's normal & its a natural part of life. A lot of people do it but it is to just stay between you & me. No one else should know about this, it is our secret. You won't mention this to your parents or anyone else will you?" & "You know your father probably did exactly the same thing & he still keeps it a secret." These assaults then began to occur on a regular basis with the victim being forced to perform oral sex on Father FLETCHER a further 4 times in early 1991.

In June 1991 Father FLETCHER again picked the victim up from school but instead of driving to the Walka Water Works he drove to a park on the outskirts of Paterson. He parked in a secluded area near the river where he performed oral sex on the victim. After the victim failed to have an erection he was asked to get out of the car & removed his school pants. Father FLETCHER then forced his penis into *AH*'s anus whilst the child braced himself in pain against the side of the vehicle. After ejaculating Father FLETCHER comforted *AH* who was sobbing telling him, "That's okay. Its only natural. It will stop." He again emphasised that these incidents should remain a secret. His demeanour changed on the drive back into Maitland when he saw the distress the child was in. He said, "If anyone finds out about this I am a priest. Everyone knows that priests don't lie. They won't believe you. Remember you have three brothers & if you tell anyone I could hurt them too." Assaults of both anal & oral intercourse continued in various forms & locations over the

Event Ref No : E 14348559

## Narrative Details

next 3 years until March 1994 when the victim was old enough to prevent any further occurrence following a major confrontation between Father FLETCHER & himself. Over the four year period a total of 56 offences occurred. The victim experienced a lot of difficulties in dealing with these offences & in September 1995 after a heavy bout of drinking he attempted to hang himself in a shed on his parents rural property. His mother & young brother located him whilst this was occurring & lifted him down after he had been hanging for a short period. In desperation to find answers the victim's parents took him to see the family priest who was now located at Branxton. He stayed in the presbytery that night & believes he was raped whilst in a vulnerable state. This was the last occasion he had any contact with Father FLETCHER. The victim has led a troubled life since that time until disclosing to his family in late 2000. In June 2002 he was encouraged to approach Police with his allegations & investigations commenced. Police learned that Father FLETCHER had been notified of the Investigation by a member of the Catholic Church & was permitted to continue his duties in the Branxton Parish. Investigations continued over the next year & in March 2003 Father FLETCHER was stood down from the Branxton Presbytery. Police contacted members of the church & Father FLETCHER presented at the Maitland Police Station on Wednesday the 14th of May 2003 with solicitor Eric LACEY & a support person Father Jim SAUNDERS. FLETCHER emphatically denied the allegations of sexual misconduct & disputed other matters pertaining to the investigation. He was very upset at the allegations & is generally not of the best of health.

Date/Time Created  
Created By

: 18/03/2004 19:19  
: CENTRAL HUNTER - FOX, PETER RAYMOND  
Matter appeared before the Newcastle Local Court in February 2004 for a 48E application. The matter has now been committed ofr trial on a date to be fixed.

Police Involved  
Police in Charge  
Created By  
Date/Time Created

: INSP FOX, PETER RAYMOND - CENTRAL HUNTER  
: INSP FOX, PETER RAYMOND - CENTRAL HUNTER  
: 03/06/2002 15:36

Event Ref No : E 14348559

Disseminations  
For the Attention Of : ROBUFFO, LINDA KATHERINE - SCC POLICE CORRECTION INT  
Dissemination Reason : MONITORING OF SEXUAL OFFENCES BY MEMBERS OF  
SEXUAL ASSAULT TEAM.  
Created By : INSP FOX, PETER RAYMOND - SCC POLICE CORRECTION INTE  
Date/Time Created : 03/06/2002 15:46  
Completed By : INSP FOX, PETER RAYMOND - 03/06/2002 15:46

Person Reporting  
Name Used : AH  
AH  
AH  
Record Name :  
CNI Number/Summary : 16550875 - OV-WRXTAD-H-----  
Date of Birth/Age Rge : Sex : M  
Contact Address :  
Home Phone :  
Work Phone :

Case File - Table of Contents

No	Title	Type	Brief/ Sensitive	Date Logged	Status
1	ERISP INTERVIEW	AUDIO	IN BRIEF	08/04/2004	CURRENT
2	AH	STATEMENT	IN BRIEF	08/04/2004	CURRENT
3	BJ	STATEMENT	IN BRIEF	08/04/2004	CURRENT
4	I BB	STATEMENT	IN BRIEF	08/04/2004	CURRENT
5	BI	STATEMENT	IN BRIEF	08/04/2004	CURRENT
6	BC	STATEMENT	IN BRIEF	08/04/2004	CURRENT

Event Link Details  
Ref No. Linked Event : E 20846269  
Assoc Type/Status : INVESTIGATION - CONFIRMED  
Reason for Assoc. :  
Ref No. Linked Event : E 22762312  
Assoc Type/Status : CAUSE & EFFECT - CONFIRMED  
Reason for Assoc. :

Event Ref No : E 14348559

Incident Details : 01/01/1991 00:01 to 31/12/1995 23:59  
 Incident Date/Time : ACTUAL SEXUAL OFFENCE - INDECENT ASSAULT  
 Incident Type : CHILD VICTIM REPORTED WHEN ADULT  
 Further Class. : VERIFIED - ACCEPTED  
 Incident Status/Class. : CLEARED - 14/05/2003  
 Clear Up Status/Date : SEXUAL ABUSE RELATED  
 Associated Factor : CHILD ABUSE RELATED

SEXUAL

Incident Location : 83 CLARENCETOWN RD MAITLAND NSW 2320  
 Address : RESIDENTIAL RESIDENTIAL - DWELLING HOUSE - DETACHE  
 Premise Type : CENTRAL HUNTER - MAITLAND - NA - NA  
 L.A.C./Sector/Beat/NHW :

Modus Operandi Details  
 SEXUAL ACT METHOD

SEXUAL INTERCOURSE - ANAL/ORAL

Victim :  
 Name Used/Status : AM  
 Record Name : AM  
 CNI Number/Summary : 16550875 - OV-WRXTAD-H-----  
 Date of Birth/Age Rge : Sex : M  
 Tourist/Visitor State : NSW  
 Tourist/Visitor Cntry : AUSTRALIA  
 Aboriginal : NO  
 Torres Strait Islander : NO  
 Contact Address :  
 Home Phone :  
 Work Phone :  
 Occupation/Skill : MANAGER - LARGE BUSINESS  
 Background :  
 Place of Birth/Naty : NEWCASTLE - AUSTRALIAN

TRAUMA

Org Of Interest :  
 Organisation Name : DUNGOG CATHOLIC PARISH  
 Branch/Outlet Name : DUNGOG  
 Organisation Type : RELIGIOUS SECT  
 CNI Number/Summary : 695177194 -VX-----  
 Contact Address : DUNGOG CATHOLIC PRESBYTERY  
 57 BROWN ST DUNGOG NSW 2420

Person Of Interest :  
 Name Used/Status : FLETCHER, JAMES PATRICK PERSON CHARGED  
 Record Name : FLETCHER, JAMES  
 CNI Number/Summary : 657816910 - OV--RX----H--IDE---  
 Date of Birth/Age Rge : 20/11/1941 Sex : M  
 Drivers Licence/State : 2136PK NSW  
 Tourist/Visitor State : NSW  
 Tourist/Visitor Cntry : AUSTRALIA  
 Aboriginal : NO  
 Torres Strait Islander : NO  
 Contact Address : RECTORY  
 44 STATION ST BRANXTON NSW 2335  
 Home Phone : 02 49381211

CAS803S

New South Wales Police Force  
COPS

Date NSW P 264  
Time : 14:08:  
Page : 6

Event Ref No : E 14348559

Occupation/Skill

: CLERGY

\* \* \* END OF LIST \* \* \*