

# 'You've got a network ... preying on altar boys'

# Dioocese sex warning

THE Anglican diocese of Newcastle was repeatedly warned that a "network" of paedophile priests "preyed on servers" for decades but failed to act on those warnings, a former church employee said in the wake of church admissions about paedophile priest Peter Rushton.

"I first told [a retired senior clergy member] in 1984 that 'You've got a network of these bastards preying on altar boys', and I named names," the church employee said yesterday.



**JOANNE MCCARTHY**

"We all knew it. I gave him at least five names but nothing happened."

The man contacted the *Newcastle Herald* after speaking to Anglican diocese professional standards office director Michael Elliott.

The calls came after Newcastle Anglican Bishop Brian Farran released a statement this week confirming the late Peter Rushton's "involvement

in the sexual abuse of minors".

The former church employee, who received a settlement from the diocese relating to his sexual abuse by a Newcastle diocese priest, said he was outraged to see the diocese finally acknowledge Rushton's offences, but only after his death in 2007.

"They knew. They knew for years and years, and how many children were sexually abused by these mongrels after I reported it in 1984?"

"And how many other people reported it, because I wouldn't

have been the only one?"

The *Herald* was contacted by people with information about Rushton and other clergy relating to child sex allegations from the 1970s to the 1990s, or reports of those allegations to various clergy.

Mr Elliott confirmed he had received a number of calls on Wednesday within hours of the *Herald's* front page article about Rushton's offending.

"Some further people have come forward with useful information," Mr Elliott said.

The former church

employee said he wept when he read that the church had finally acknowledged Rushton was a child sex abuser.

"People say to me, let it go. It all happened years ago.

"But you can't let go something that's never been acknowledged.

"You shouldn't be asked to let go when crimes have occurred, and no one's been held accountable either for the acts themselves, or failing to stop those acts.

"I won't let go until there's been justice."



EXPOSED: The *Herald* report on Wednesday.



HANDLE: Bruce Rowley, of Wallalong, yesterday with his restored 1951 Fordson E27N Major tractor. - Picture by Kitty Hill

By **DONNA SHARPE**

A TRACTOR built by Ford and left to rust in an overgrown Hunter paddock for more than 20 years has been restored to its former glory and will be one of the features at this weekend's Cranky Handle Rally at Morpeth.

Bruce Rowley, of Wallalong, will show off his Fordson E27N tractor with pride after a two-year painstaking restoration.

It will be one of scores of tractors from around the world to come to Morpeth for the 25th annual event.

## After years of neglect, no wonder it's Cranky

The rally features four street parades of vintage farm machinery, tractor races and a large display of machinery including old pumps, motors, mowers and stationary engines.

The exhibition will be on the St John's College site opposite Campbell's Store tomorrow and Sunday with the first street parade starting at 11am Saturday.

Admission is free and activities will run all day Saturday and Sunday.

Mr Rowley will exhibit his tractor which was manufactured in Ireland in 1951.

"It was brought to Australia for its massive pulling power and this one was used in the Gresford area," Mr Rowley said. "Unfortunately after about 40

years of constant use it stopped in a paddock one day."

He said it was left in the field for 15 years, then moved after someone spotted it.

Unfortunately the restoration seemed too involved and it was left to sit in another paddock for several more years rusting and covered in native flora.

"When I got it it was a rusted wreck but still had two pretty good rear tyres," Mr Rowley said.

With the help of his mates at Bowthorne Motor Club the tractor was restored over two years.

"Now I can show it with pride," Mr Rowley said.

## Major salt study attacks basis for dietary guide

PUBLIC health advice to reduce salt consumption to lower blood pressure is based on spurious science and does not recognise the complex role of sodium in the body, a study has found. As Australian authorities consider cutting salt recommendations further, the most comprehensive survey ever of salt

intake in the US found salt consumption there had not changed in more than 40 years.

The research, led by Harvard's Walter Willett, re-analysed all studies between 1957 and 2003 that measured sodium levels in urine - a more accurate method than asking people what food they ate.

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