

Ex-cop defends probe by police

By Matt Doran

A FORMER police officer connected to the original investigation of the Mornington child sex abuse scandal has defended the way police handled the inquiry.

The officer, who asked not to be identified, told the *Leader* that details of the case had become distorted over time and that some of the allegations aired in the media were unfounded.

"The case was handled appropriately; there is no question about that. There were a number of official reviews about the way the case was conducted and none of those found there had been anything improper," he said.

The former policeman said there was a clear-cut reason no charges had been laid. "The issue police faced was the availability of admissible evidence.

"There was a very strong indication that the abuse had taken place, a view that was later upheld in the Supreme Court, but there was not enough evidence to indicate who was responsible."

A Department of Human Services inquiry in the early 1990s found that childcare centre owners Norman and



Psychologist Evelyn Field

Alison Shulver had "permitted the abuse to occur or were involved in that abuse".

Mr Shulver unsuccessfully appealed to the Supreme Court. No police charges were laid against the Shulvers, who have always protested their innocence.

Psychologist Evelyn Field, who prepared a report for the Crimes Compensation Tribunal in 1994 on the impact of alleged abuse on the children and their parents, said this week she believed the children's statements had been "absolutely truthful".

"Their parents described behavioural changes in their children, such as nightmares and sexual activity, which is symptomatic of this

type of abuse. And kids of that age don't just change their behaviour that suddenly," she said.

Ms Field said one child had told her: "If I got undressed in the van a man would give me lollies."

But Ms Field said there was a point when victims of sexual assault had to move on with their lives.

"It is so important in these cases that the parents and children receive ongoing psychological treatment, otherwise the damage lies dormant."

The former policeman said he was concerned that unfounded allegations recently made to the Ombudsman had misled the public.

"There is no truth to claims that a house owned or leased by police was connected to the investigation," he said. But he confirmed that police had investigated the owners of a Mornington house where children alleged they had been abused.

He said there was a room in the house containing soft toys and a spa bath, which matched the children's descriptions, but the owners claimed the room belonged to their granddaughter. "The owners were interviewed and subjected to a background check. This showed them to be normal, everyday citizens, who were completely shocked by the allegations," he said.

SINGLE?

Eden Introductions

for discerning people seeking a special long term relationship

9770 6999

by appointment only
www.edenintroductions.com.au

WE WILL BEAT ANY PRICE!!

MTC BLINDS & CURTAINS FACTORY CLEARANCE SALE

- Roman blinds
- Screen blinds
- Venetians • Timber blinds
- Timber look-a-like
- Curtains Swags and tails

6 Princes Hwy Dandenong/Doveton
TEL 9708 5929
MON - SAT 9.00 to 5.30pm
SUN 10.00 to 3.00pm
Website: www.mtcblinds.com.au
Email: mtcblinds@bigpond.com

Everything discounted up to **50% OFF**

39CKV743845S/BB/4

WE WILL BEAT ANY PRICE!!

A&M GARAGES & SHEDS

- Garages - Garaports
- Carports (3 profiles)
- American & Quaker Barns
- Farm Buildings
- Storage Sheds
- Industrial Buildings
- Awnings and Verandahs

All Sheds are NOT Created Equal

• **CARRUM DOWNS 9782 6155**

634 Frankston-Dandenong Rd **CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE OR BROCHURE**

Colorbond or Zinalume in Vertical or Horizontal cladding. Gal. steel construction, bolted main connections. Only quality BHP steel used **NO IMPORTS** Span 3.0m to 30.0m. Any length all heights up to 7.0m

46F5V831850MLG/04

BARGAIN Box FABRICS

Where quality is all sewn up

PRE STOCKTAKE SALE ONE DAY ONLY!

SATURDAY MAY 15TH 9AM UNTIL 3PM

Massive savings store wide including selected Fabric - Haberdashery Patterns - Sewing Machines and overlockers

46MLV843055M/JP/04

BARGAIN Box FABRICS

2A 55 Barkly Street, Mornington 5975 8233

The best place to advertise...

Your Local **Leader**

35PPV787823M/RT/4

LASER TATTOO REMOVAL

Dermatologist Supervised
PHONE 1800 351 975
www.lav.com.au
Laser Associates of Victoria

06CKN750281M/RT/3

GripMaster is your Answer to all Slip/Fall Hazards

Get a grip on all tiled and concrete surfaces - wet, damp or dry.

Our product is an effective anti-slip treatment for ceramic and quarry tiles, terrazzo, marble, cement and other stone surfaces that are slippery when wet.

Please call for **FREE quote** and demonstration
GripMaster - Licensee of PosiGrip Ian Johnston

Phone: 9645 4302 Mobile: 0400 612 442
email: indj@ozemail.com.au

46CKV835379F/KE/04

IMMIGRATION LAWYER

Advice on every type of visa

PETER WEARNE L.L.B.
Solicitor R.M.A77133

Ph: 9783 7700

TAYLOR SPLATT & PARTNERS
454 Nepean Hwy, Frankston
email:peter@taylorsplatt.com.au

46MLV831847M/LAW/4

BLINDS At Everyday Low Prices

David Rice INTERIORS

- Vertical & Venetians ■ Hollands
- Bonded ■ Austrian
- Roman Blinds & Padded Pelmet
- Swags & Tails ■ Drapes & Curtains
- Cedar Venetians & Verticals

BEST PRICES ON THE PENINSULA

SAVE \$\$\$s

For a **FREE** measure and Quote Call Jenny NOW!
5971 5255 0408 554 995

38MLV810399S/KE/04

need an extra room?

clear pvc blinds will turn any outdoor area into a sheltered room with protection from the sun, wind and rain.

pvc blinds available at peninsula curtains for more information or a quote call now on **5975 4665**

www.peninsulacurtains.com.au

46F5V838630S/L/H/4