

# ABC NEWS

## 'Jedi Council' ringleader Hastings Fredrickson who shared photos of sex acts facing correction order

By the National Reporting Team's Alex McDonald, staff

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**PHOTO:** [Hastings Fredrickson was one of the so-called Knights of the Jedi Council.](#) (ABC News)

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A Sydney judge says he doubts a former soldier who was the central figure in the so-called Jedi Council sex ring feels genuine remorse for his actions.

Hastings Fredrickson pleaded guilty in August after he secretly filmed himself having sex with a woman and distributed photos of the encounter.

The former commando turned reservist emailed several graphic photos to 12 other members of a group calling itself the Jedi Council in July 2010, the court heard.

Fredrickson has been described as a central figure in the group, which included a lieutenant-colonel and a lance corporal.

In the emails, Fredrickson referred to himself as "the Wolf of Woolloomooloo" and described women he slept with as "sluts" and "moles".

He also bragged that anal sex with a woman was "like you've stolen her soul".

On Monday Judge Paul Lakatos described the captions in the emails as "tasteless" and "belittling", and also described the Jedi Council's name as a "puerile and unimaginative reference" to Star Wars.

During sentencing in the Downing Centre District Court, Judge Lakatos said the offences were more serious than [the so-called Skype scandal of 2011](#), when a Defence Force Academy cadet secretly filmed himself having sex with another cadet.

In August, Fredrickson pleaded guilty to three counts of using a carriage service to cause offence after his lawyer conceded that three of six emails sent by his client were objectively offensive.

Three other counts of the same charge were dropped.

A former special forces signaller, Fredrickson told the court he took full responsibility for his actions and admitted that filming and disseminating the details of his sexual encounters was a clear breach of trust.

He said he had struggled to find a job since the scandal broke and was forced to work part-time packing boxes at night.

But Judge Lakatos said Fredrickson's actions were calculated and doubted he was genuinely remorseful.

Fredrickson will remain on bail ahead of another hearing next month, when he will be assessed for a possible intensive correction order, which means he may not serve a full-time jail sentence.

## **FREDRICKSON'S ACTIONS 'CALCULATING AND PREDATORY'**

Fredrickson's crimes came to light when his former employer, defence contractor Thales Australia, conducted an internal audit and uncovered some of the emails.

He was sacked in September 2010, while six other members of the Jedi Council were also eventually sacked by the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

Fredrickson was arrested and charged in November 2013, despite earlier being cleared of wrongdoing by an ADF investigation.

Two other members of the sex ring faced charges but they were dropped.

The revelations further exposed the dark side of the military's male-dominated culture.

The publicity surrounding the scandal forced army chief David Morrison to declare that those involved had "brought the Australian army into disrepute".

During sentencing submissions in December, two women - the one who was depicted and another who was named in the emails - described how their lives had been turned upside down.

One told the court she suffered from anxiety, depression and described Fredrickson's actions as "calculating and predatory".

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