

Campbell Newman recalls Hitler salute incident at Duntroon

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FEDERAL Independent MP Andrew Wilkie may not be able to recall forcing Duntroon cadets to salute Hitler's rise to power but LNP leader and fellow military college graduate Campbell Newman can.

Mr Newman attended the Royal Military College at Duntroon from 1981 to 1984 as a cadet, at the same time the alleged incident involving Mr Wilkie ordering junior cadets to salute the 50th anniversary of Hitler's rise to power is said to have taken place.

Mr Newman said he knew Mr Wilkie during his time there but did not know if he was involved in the alleged Nazi incident.

"Like many people who were at Duntroon almost 30 years ago, I can certainly recall hearing about this after the event," Mr Newman said.

"At the time, I recalled feeling that I thought they were being childish and immature."

As a senior cadet at Duntroon in 1983, Wilkie was one of a group that allegedly ordered junior cadets to stand to attention and salute to commemorate Hitler becoming Germany's Chancellor on January 30, 1933.

When one defiant junior cadet refused to stand at attention in honour of Nazis, Mr Wilkie allegedly let other senior cadets to abuse and punish him.

"Let me start by saying I can't remember anything about that specific allegation, but I have never made any secret of the fact that I was one of the many cadets involved in the bastardisation scandal at the Royal Military college Duntroon in 1983," he said.

"If fact I was disciplined for misconduct at the time."

He said he was sorry for his actions and his conduct since showed he was a better person now.

"I am obviously regretful of my behaviour of almost 30 years ago when I was a cadet at Duntroon in my early 20s.

"I think that sort of behaviour at the time was wrong and I regret I was in any way involved in that sort of behaviour."

There are four former army officers in Federal Parliament and two of them say they were spared the indignity and violence of bastardisation when they were cadets.

Labor frontbencher Mike Kelly and Liberal frontbencher Stuart Robert said they both avoided bullying.

"I never saw any bastardisation in my division," Mr Robert said.

Mr Kelly joined the army after he had obtained his degree so he was never a cadet, but he spent 20 years in the service.

He said he never encountered bastardisation or victimisation.

Federal member for Cowan Luke Simpkins was travelling yesterday and was not contactable.

Originally published as [Newman recalls Hitler salute incident](#)

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