

Sept. 1984, Queensland.

was oldest
daughter

Chris + I ^(BEO) were on holiday with Annette, husband + family at Noosa. Had dinner one night + all had had same alcohol. We were discussing Steffen + then Chris said "Get him out of that school - it stinks". I answered Chris that Steve was doing well + leave him alone, he (Chris) had had his chance but chose not to contribute well. Chris then said he didn't want that. I said "What is wrong with you" + Chris then answered - "oh yes he was good, especially when he had his in my mouth" + exploded + told Chris to go + was broke down + cried. He was 26 + I knew there was something seriously wrong, but because of shock + not knowing what to do nothing else was said until I came home + told + discussed it with Peter. Peter then bid his dinner + I think it out, then he + Chris had counter lunch one day + Peter got Chris to give him the story in full.

Peter then made an appointment to see Bro. Howe & so he passed on what Chris had sold him. Bro. Howe was very concerned, but asked if Chris could speak with him. Peter said Chris wanted he would never set foot on St. Jacy's soil again, but he would ask him. Chris agreed to see Bro. Howe that night & Chris spoke & Bro. Howe took notes. By 9.30 - 10 AM the next morning Bro. Howe rang Peter & told him he had been to Melb. to speak with Bro. Chappell & Bro. Ch. would like Peter to go up to Melb. & see him - which he did the following Friday. Bro. Ch. said he would discuss the situation with their solicitor & be in touch. The following week Bro. Howe rang for Peter to go to see him & he told him (Peter) that their solicitor had warned about defamations of character suits, & also told us that if ~~the~~ allegations could be proven, that Swingler would almost certainly face 5 yr. jail. This was the end of September 1984. The next 2 months went by then it was the last week of Nov. & Peter & I decided it was up to us to do something, otherwise Swingler would be teaching Steve the following year. Peter decided to take things into his

his own hands, so went & met Swingler after school one night & told him (Swingler) that he knew what he'd done so our son. Swingler answered that "he was sorry, it was a long time ago". Peter told him to shut up & that he wanted him out of the school by the following year, so as not to be teaching Bro. Swingler. Two days later Swingler having Peter at our business & told him he had two options — either he could arrange not to teach Stephen or he was pretty sure he could get an appointment somewhere else — Peter told him to accept the latter. The following week was the end of the school year so as we had not heard any more from Bro. Howe or Chappell I Peter decided to ring Bro. Howe & tell him what had happened over the last few weeks or so. Bro. Howe told Peter he was surprised when Swingler had resigned & that it had upset his curriculum for the following year. — that didn't go down too well especially as by this time we had a very sick son on our hands. We did not know where Swingler was going, but didn't really care as long as he wasn't at St. Jary's. At this time I (Ber) was on St. Bernard's Parish Council. At a previous meeting I had confidentially told

Chris could not work for 14 months from May '85 to July '86.

H.

Fr. Fitzpatrick of our problems, but ~~kept~~ did not mention the name of the perpetrator, only a couple of lay names that Chris had suggested he thought had also been victims of Swinger. The week before Christmas the group had their break-up. During supper Fr. Fitz. took me aside & asked me how Chris was going etc. I told him about Peter facing the teacher & that the teacher had rung with two options & how Peter told him not to move. Fr. Fitz. said to me it's Alan Swinger is it? - I said yes & then he told me that Swinger was going to St. Mary's. Chris was really sick - had had a nervous breakdown the following May, was suicidal & generally hard to handle He had been to a ~~the~~ psychologist, who Dase Hause had recommended him to (psychiatric unit, Geelong Hospital.) He saw Dr. Helen Newland Psychiatrist, also Chris Mackey Psychologist, over a period of two months, then wouldn't go any more. Then I persuaded him to go to Rape Crisis Centre & he got on very well there. We now enter 1986. During 1985 - I visited Bro. Dave

3 times, pleading with him
 to do something about Swings,
 searching at St. Marys. He was
 always very cautious & would
 say he'd let Bro. Chappell know
 that I had been to see him,
 Finally in ~~1986~~ April 1986, I could
 sense that Chris was not going
 to get better until something had
 been done. I (Bev) did some
 anonymous inquiries & finally spoke
 with Jim Matthey from Community
 Policing. I went home & told Chris
 about this great bloke whom I was
 sure he would feel comfortable with.
 That afternoon Chris went into
 Jim Matthey & revealed all. The
 next morning he went in again
 & made the statement — then Peter
 & I went in & put in our bid.
 This was mid April 1986. Still
 no word or follow up from Bro. Howe
 or Chappell — not even a covering
 word for as to the health of Chris.
 I was getting mad & so to show
 my anger I decided not to pay
 Stephen's fees until Bro. Howe
 contacted me. This was not until
 the end of Nov. 1986. When I received
 a note asking me to "with respect"
 pay Stephen's fees for the year.
 With cheque book in hand I
 went to see him & told him how
 disillusioned I was with the lack

of caring interest in the welfare of our son, especially as to the fact that he was so sick because of what had happened to him whilst a pupil at St. Jary's. Bro. Howe assured me that Chris was always in their prayers, however I told him that 'prayer' without "good works" meant nothing to me. I paid the fees & did not see Bro. Howe again. The police had accepted Chris' case & so we were now playing a waiting game. Twice the case was brought to court & then adjourned — the third time the case was dropped. This was 12th Aug. 1987. It was a terrible shock to all of us, especially Chris. Two weeks later Chris shot himself through the upper left leg as a sign of protest & frustration. & to draw attention to his flight & fight for justice.

In the beginning Peter & I wanted immediate dismissal of Swingler but we did understand later on that that was not possible without a conviction or other "back up" however once he was charged, he could have been 'stood down' until the outcome was known, especially when the safety of other boys was at risk. Bro. Chappell told me that Swingler had transferred to St. Marys without the lead (Bro. ~~Mack~~? I think) having been notified of the allegations.