

I ALLAN JAMES LAWRIE OF [REDACTED] WAS IN ST AIDANS ORPHANAGE BENDIGO VIC FROM THE YEARS 1963/64 UNTIL 1967/68. I HAVE REQUESTED EXACT DATES FROM FRASER FAITHFULL AT THE GOOD SHEPHERD SISTERS IN ABBOTSFORD VIC. BUT FEEL THE DATES ARE NOT CORRECT TO MY MEMORY.

my D.O.B IS [REDACTED] 57 AND I KNOW I WAS ~~SEVEN~~ FIVE YEARS OLD WHEN PLACED IN THAT HORRENDOUS ORPHANAGE. THE NEXT SCHOOL ATTENDED WAS ST LIBORIUS PRIMARY WHICH I WAS ENROLLED FOR THE START OF 1968. P.S I HAVE CONFIRMATION ON PAPER FROM ST LIBORIUS. MY BROTHER PAUL, SISTER SUSAN AND I WERE PLACED IN ST. AIDANS WHERE OUR FAMILIES WERE TOLD WE WOULD BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF.

IF ONLY THEY KNEW WHAT WENT ON BEHIND CLOSED DOORS!!! [REDACTED]

WHEN TAKEN THERE BY OUR FATHER FRED (DECEASED) WE WERE GREETED WITH LOVELY SMILES AND PROMISES OF HAPPINESS AND GUARANTEED OUR FATHER WE WOULD BE O.K AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. LIE NO 1 AND THERE ARE PLENTY MORE.

ONCE THE FRONT DOOR WAS ^{LOCKED} ~~CLOSED~~ IT BECAME A NIGHT MARE. SUSAN TAKEN TO ANOTHER BUILDING AND MY BROTHER PAUL AND I SMACKED ACROSS THE EARS AND TOLD TO FOLLOW ANOTHER NUN. WE WERE TAKEN TO THE DORMATORY WHICH MUST HAVE AT LEAST 40 OTHER BOYS. WE WERE SHOWN OUR BEDS WHICH WERE SIDE BY SIDE AND TOLD SOME RULES. ① NO TALKING!! ② NO WETTING THE BEDS!! ③ NO GETTING UP TO GO TO THE TOILET!! IF YOU WET THE BED YOU HAD TO SLEEP IN IT AND TO-MORROW AS US!! WE AL-

BEFORE SCHOOL THE BOYS HAD TO HAVE THEIR HEADS BOWED WHILE THE GIRLS ENTERED CLASS ROOMS. ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASSION I WOULD SPOT MY SISTER SUSAN AND MOVE MY FINGERS TO SAY HELLO. EVERY TIME I WAS CAUGHT I WOULD GET THE "CLITS" FROM A NUN WITH A STEELE RULER. IF I MOVED IT WAS DOUBLE THE PAIN. SHE WOULD SMILE IF YOU CRIED OR HAD BLOOD COMING FROM YOUR KNUCKLES.

I STILL REMBER HER NAME AND WHEN I WAS WORKING AT A SUPERMARKET STORE IN BENDIGO I SAW HER AND SAID "HELLO MOTHER. [REDACTED]"

SHE ASKED "HOW DO I KNOW YOU?"

"I WENT TO ST AIDANS ORPHANAGE" I REPLIED

SHE ASKED ME MY SURNAME AND WHEN I TOLD HER SHE SMILED AND SAID "THAT'S RIGHT THERE WERE THREE OF YOU WASN'T THERE.

YOU, A BROTHER AND A SISTER SUSAN"

IT WAS THE SAME SMILE SHE WOULD GIVE WHEN I WAS CRYING OR HAD BLOOD COMING

FROM MY HANDS. SHE DID THAT AND

COULD NOT REMEMBER MY NAME BUT I

REMEMBERED HERS AFTER SOME 20YRS OR SO.

HOW I WANTED TO PUNCH HER OR GIVE HER A PEICE OF MY MIND BUT SOMEHOW

MANAGED TO CONTROL MYSELF, WALK AWAY AND START CRYING IN THE MANAGERS OFFICE.

MY BROTHER AND I HAD PERFORATED EAR DRUMS WHILST IN THE ORPHANAGE.

PERHAPS IT WAS CAUSED BY SMACKED ACROSS THE FACE BY NUNS.

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WE HAD SURGERY ~~WAS~~ ^{AT} BENDIGO HOSPITAL AND WERE TREATED LIKE LITTLE PRINCES COMPARED TO WHAT ST AIDANS GAVE YOU. UNFORTUNATELY WE HAD TO GO BACK.

THE EARS WERE CUT FROM BEHIND AND THEN STITCHED BACK. SO, HERE WE ARE BACK IN HELL WITH STITCHES STILL IN OUR EARS WHEN ONE DAY MOTHER [REDACTED] FOR SOME REASON STARTED PULLING PAULS EAR AND ALL YOU COULD HEAR WAS SCREAMING AND BLOOD ALL OVER PAUL. SHE WAS SMILING AGAIN BY NOW. THAT CRUEL BITCH!! HE WAS ONLY ABOUT 7RS OLD. WHEN THE BOYS GOT TO A CERTAIN AGE THEY HAD TO LEAVE, WHETHER IT BE ANOTHER ORPHANAGE OR ADOPTION I THINK THE CATHOLIC CHURCH THOUGHT MALES WERE BEGINNING TO LIKE FEMALES. WE WERE NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO LOOK AT OR TO FEMALES. EVEN OUR OWN SISTER!!! HELLO ARE YOU LISTENING? PAUL WENT TO LIVE OUR UNCLE [REDACTED] AND AUNTIE [REDACTED] IN [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

BEFORE ^{HE} LEFT HE & I HAD TWO MAIN JOBS.

WE HAD TO CLOSE THE CAST IRON ENTRANCE AT NIGHT AND OPEN THEM IN THE MORNING.

THERE WERE PROWLERS BECAUSE OF THE FEMALES, AND ONE PARTICULAR NIGHT WE WERE WALKING TO CLOSE THE ENTRANCE WHEN THERE WAS A NOISE ON THE SIDE FENCE. WE WERE TERRIFIED AND RAN BACK INSIDE WITHOUT CLOSING THE ENTRANCE.

THE NEXT MORNING WE GOT THE "CUTS" FOR NOT DOING IT. OUR SECOND JOB WAS TO TAKE EGGS & BUTTER TO "THE POOR CLAIRE SISTERS" IN EDWARDS RD WHICH WAS JUST A 5 MIN WALK. IF WE WERE NOT BACK WITHIN 10 MINS IT WAS THE "CUTS". YOU GUESSED IT WE GOT THEM PLENTY OF TIMES

PAUL AND I COULD HAVE WALKED OUT THE GATE PLENTY OF TIMES BUT WHEN YOU ARE AS YOUNG AS WERE WHERE DO YOU GO?

WE KNEW THEY WOULD FIND US SOONER OR LATER IF WE DID AND THE PUNISHMENT UNTHINKABLE, OR UNBEARABLE!!!

NOW THE DAY HAD COME FOR PAUL.

I WAS CRYING TEARS OF HAPPINESS AND SADNESS.

SO HAPPY FOR PAUL AS HE WAS NOW MOVING ON TO START A NEW LIFE FROM THE HELL HOLE HE WAS IN.

SAD, BECAUSE I FOUND MYSELF ALL ALONE EVEN

THOUGH SUSAN WAS STILL HERE BUT WE COULD NOT COMMUNICATE.

I BECAME AN ALTAR BOY NOT BY CHOICE BUT WAS FORCED TO BE ONE.

WHEN A NUN PASSED AWAY WE HAD TO WALK AROUND HER BODY ON THE ALTAR AND SAY PRAYERS.

IT WAS VERY HARD WHEN YOU ARE ONLY 7 OR 8 YRS

OF AGE BUT WE WERE FORCED TO DO IT.

TO THIS VERY DAY I DON'T KNOW WHY. DO YOU??

THESE SO CALLED 'SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD'

WOULD NOT GIVE US A PLASTIC FOOTBALL TO PLAY

WITH, SO WE WOULD ROLL UP A PAIR OF SOCKS.

PERHAPS THEY COULD NOT AFFORD ONE.

REMEMBER THIS IS THE WEALTHIEST RELIGION IN THE

WORLD. MAYBE IT WAS ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE

OUR LIVES MORE MISERABLE.

VISITATIONS. ONCE A MONTH OUR FATHER OR

GRANDFATHER WOULD PICK US UP ON A SUNDAY

SO WE COULD GO TO OUR GRANDPARENTS HOUSE

FOR HALF A DAY. ON THE WAY BACK TO ST AIDANS

WE COULD SEE THAT LARGE BUILDING IN THE

DISTANCE AND WE WOULD HUDDLE TOGETHER AND

OUR GRANDPARENTS + FATHER WOULD ALWAYS GIVE US NEW CLOTHES AND A LARGE BAG OF LOLLIES ~~AND~~ ^{AND} TOYS EACH.

WHEN ARRIVING BACK THE NUNS WOULD SAY LOVELY CHILDREN WE WERE AND THERE WAS STILL NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

ANOTHER LIE

THEN THE DOOR WOULD LOCK. EVERYTHING GIVEN TO US WAS TAKEN AWAY. I NEVER SAW THE NEW CLOTHES AGAIN AND THE TOYS WERE SMASHED RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU.

THE LOLLIES WE DID NOT GET TO EAT ONE BUT I'M SURE THE NUNS HAD A LOVELY FEAST ON THEM.

HOW CRUEL CAN GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES BE??

ON SATURDAY NIGHTS WE WERE ALLOWED TO WATCH THE FOOTBALL REPLAY AT 6 P.M ON THE A.B.C. IF HAWTHORN WON AND THAT MATCH TELEVISED. IT WAS ON A 12 TO 14 INCH BLACK AND WHITE T.V. WE COULD WATCH ONLY IF HAWTHORN WAS ON BECAUSE AN ELDERLY LADY WHO HELPED LOOK AFTER US BARRACKED FOR HAWTHORN.

THE ONLY OTHER SHOW WE WERE ALLOWED TO WATCH WAS ON A SUNDAY 'AFTERNOON "GORDON BOYD COUNTRY MUSIC SHOW". WHAT A MAGNIFICENT PROGRAMME FOR BOYS 9YRS OR UNDER.

HA! HA!

[REDACTED]

ONE DAY THE LADY LOOKING AFTER THE BOYS ASKED ME TO CLEAN HER OFFICE. SHE LATER DISCOVERED THAT A POSTAGE STAMP WAS MISSING. YES I DID TAKE IT. SO, WHEN EVERYONE ELSE WATCHED T.V I WAS SENT TO BED. (THAT HURT)

UNFORTUNATELY FOR ME THE WORST WAS YET TO COME. FOR OUR LUNCH WE ALL SAT IN A LARGE KITCHEN. THE BOYS ON ONE SIDE THE GIRLS THE OTHER. NATURALLY. ON ONE OCCASSION WE WERE SERVED BOWLS OF TRIPE, NO VEGIES OR BREAD AND I HAVE NEVER SEEN SO MANY CHILDREN VOMIT AT THE SAME TIME.

ANOTHER YOUNGER LADY [REDACTED] WHO WE HAD TO CALL MI [REDACTED] ALSO HELPED LOOK AFTER THE BOYS. WHILE TRYING TO EAT THAT HORRIBLE MEAL I CALLED HER BY HER FIRST NAME AND COMPLAINED THAT I COULD NOT EAT IT "IF YOU DONT EAT IT YOU CAN STARVE" SHE SAID I CALLED HER BY HER FIRST NAME AGAIN AND TOLD HER "IT WAS MAKING ME SICK"

WITH THAT SHE GRABBED ME BY THE BACK OF THE HAIR AND SHOVELLED IT IN MY MOUTH WITH A ^{SPOON} ~~SPOON~~. BUT SHE WAS NOT FINISHED WITH ME YET.

AS I SAID WE HAD TO CALL HER MISS AND BECAUSE I DIDNT IT WAS "CUTS" TIME AGAIN WITH THE RULER. HANDS STRAIGHT OUT FACING UPWARDS AND I'M PREPARING MYSELF FOR SIX "CUTS"

BUT I MOVED MY HANDS SO GOT 12. OUCH!!!

THIS SAME PERSON USED TO COME IN THROUGH THE SIDE DOOR ^{AT} NIGHT AND SNUGGLE TO A BOY.

I STILL REMEMBER HIS NAME TO.

WHY WOULD A YOUNG WOMAN HOP INTO BED WITH AN 8 OR 9 YRS OLD BOY? EASY TARGET!!!

NOW COMES THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK I HAVE EVER HAD TO DO

I WAS ABOUT 7½ OR 8 YRS OLD WHEN I WAS GIVEN A VERY YOUNG BOY TO LOOK AFTER.

THIS BOY WAS FOREVER WETTING OR POOING HIS PANTS SO I HAD TO BATH HIM DRESS & LOOK AFTER HIM. IF I DID NOT DO IT TO THEIR SATISFACTION IT WAS CUTS TIME AGAIN. I TRIED SO HARD TO LOOK AFTER HIM THAT I HAD TO CALL MYSELF TO SLEEP AT NIGHT

WHEN SCHOOL CLASSES WERE OVER WE WOULD BE GIVEN A SLICE OF BREAD WITH JAM EACH. IF YOU BEHAVED IT WAS THEN TIME TO PLAY FOOTY WITH A PAIR OF ROLLED UP SOCKS.

AS I MENTIONED THE BOY I HAD TO LOOK AFTER DIRTIED HIS UNDER PANTS ETC SO MUCH I HAD TO WASH THEM IN A BUCKET WHILE EVERYONE ELSE PLAYED AROUND ME.

I AM ASHAMED ABOUT ONCE I PUT HIM IN THE BATH AND USED ONLY HOT WATER.

WHEN SOME-ONE HEARD HIS SCREAMS GOT HIM OUT AND PLACED ME IN IT TO SEE HOW I LIKED IT.

I'M SO SORRY ■■■ BUT I WAS ONLY 7 OR 8 YRS OLD. TO THIS VERY DAY I CANNOT REMEMBER ANY OTHER BOY WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY LIKE THAT.

ONE DAY I WAS CAUGHT TALKING TO A MAINTENANCE MAN. MR K. PARKER WHO I KNEW BECAUSE HE USED TO BE A FREIND OF MY UNCLES.

I SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE THAT SO I GOT PUNISHED HERE IS ANOTHER LIE. SOMETIMES THEY WOULD TELL US THAT OUR DAD OR GRANDFATHER WERE TAKING US OUT FOR THE DAY. THEY WOULD DRESS US UP NEATLY AND TELL US TO WAIT ON THE SECOND FLOOR BALCONY. THERE WE WAITED IN ANTICIPATION FOR OUR GRANDFATHERS 1964 HOLDEN WAGON TO ARRIVE.

I HAVE A LONG MEMORY SO CAN TELL YOU THE REGO NO. N.S.W. D.G.Z. 543. THAT CAR DID NOT COME SOME DAYS AND THEY KNEW IT WAS NOT GOING TO. JUST ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE LIFE MISERABLE.

WE WERE SO BRAIN WASHED ABOUT THE CATHOLIC RELIGION AND CHURCH. WHEN I DID MY CONFIRMATION I WAS GIVEN A SILVER CRUCIFIX BY A MR CARPENTER WHO WAS ALSO A MAINTENANCE WORKER.

HOW I CHERISHED THAT CRUCIFIX.

A LITTLE WHILE LATER IT WAS NOW MY TURN TO LEAVE. I DID NOT KNOW WHERE I WAS GOING BUT THANKFULLY THE TWO MOST BEAUTIFUL, LOVING CARING PEOPLE TOOK ME HOME.

MY GRANDPARENTS.

AS YOU CAN SEE I WAS ENROLLED AT ST LIBORIUS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL.

AT NIGHT I WOULD MAKE MYSELF AN ALTAR OUT OF A SHOE BOX, CANDLES THAT CRUCIFIX AND KNEEL DOWN TO SAY MY PRAYERS.

NOT ANYMORE!!!

WHILST AT ST LIBORIUS I WENT TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY AS AN ALTAR BOY.

ONE PARTICULAR DAY THE PRIEST [REDACTED] WAS VERY LATE FOR MASS.

WHEN HE FINALLY ARRIVED I SAID "GOOD MORNING FATHER. DID YOU SLEEP IN THIS MORNING?"

WITH THAT HE HIT ME WITH AN OPEN HAND AND SAID "FOR THAT SMART REMARK YOU WILL NOT BE SERVING AT CHURCH TO-DAY"

I REPLIED "WELL FOR THAT I AM NOT COMING BACK TO YOUR CHURCH AGAIN"

SO I TOOK OFF MY ALTAR BOYS UNIFORM AND WENT HOME.

NOW I ONLY GO TO CHURCH FOR WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS.

I NO LONGER HAVE ANY FAITH.

WHEN PRIMARY SCHOOL FINISHED I ATTENDED EAGLEHAWK HIGH. I FOUND IT VERY HARD TO TALK TO FEMALES AND STILL DO. I THINK IT IS BECAUSE WE WERE NOT ALLOWED TO AT ST ANDANS.

PAUL HAS PASSED AWAY

I HAVE BEEN MARRIED AND DIVORCED.

I ALSO HAVE TWO FANTASTIC CHILDREN AND TWO OF THE MOST HANDSOME GRANDSONS IN THE WORLD.

FOR THAT I AM A PROUD MAN.

MY BIGGEST PROBLEM IS ALCOHOL AS I HAVE BEEN DRINKING SINCE ABOUT AGE $17\frac{1}{2}$ YRS OLD. AT LEAST IT GIVES ME PEACE AND HELPS FORGET THE PAST (ORPHANAGE YEARS).

BUT WE ALL KNOW THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS IN LIFE YOU NEVER FORGET.

NOTHING, AND I MEAN NOTHING CAN EVER FULLY ERASE THOSE YEARS AND THOSE HORRIBLE PEOPLE AT ST AIDANS ORPHANAGE BENDIGO.

YOURS TRULY
ALLAN JAMES LAWRIE

Allan Lawrie



Education for life!

St. Liborius School
379 Eaglehawk Rd
Eaglehawk 3556

26th June 2008

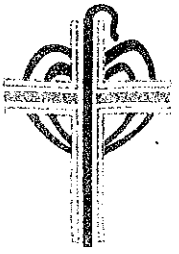
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Enclosed is a copy of the Admission Register for St Liborius Primary School, Eaglehawk for the years 1968 & 1969.

Our records show that Allan Lawrie (DOB [REDACTED] 1958) was enrolled at St Liborius on 6th February 1968. Last school attended St. Aidens. There are no records that show exit date or destination of pupil.

Yours sincerely

Louise O'Connor
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

ACN 005 037 990
ABN 97 005 037 990

14 December 2009

Mr Allan Lawrie
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Allan,

Thank you for forwarding the signed copies of the Deed of Agreement.

I enclose your copy of the document, with the cheque for \$3,000 as arranged.

Allan, I wish you peace and happy times as you begin this next stage of your life journey.

Yours sincerely

Sr Pamela Molony
Province Leader

DEED OF AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT BETWEEN:

Mr Allan Lawrie of [REDACTED]

Sister Pamela Molony of 53 Abbotsford Street, Abbotsford, Victoria in her capacity as Province Leader of the congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, an unincorporated association ("the Sisters of the Good Shepherd").

SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ACN 005 037 990, a duly incorporated company limited by guarantee and having its registered office at 53 Abbotsford Street, Abbotsford, Victoria, Australia

INTRODUCTION:

In the context of Towards Healing a facilitated meeting was held in accordance with the Professional Standards Resource Group guidelines to address issues of concern lodged by Allan Lawrie relating to his time in the care of Good Shepherd Sisters at St Aidan's Orphanage, Bendigo from approximately 1964-1967. The meeting was held at [REDACTED] and was facilitated by Mr Shane Wall. Sisters Pamela Molony and Anne Dalton represented the Good Shepherd Sisters. Allan told his story. Sisters Pamela and Anne listened and issued a verbal acknowledgement/apology for any experiences Allan found distressing and hurtful and offered to commit such sentiments to writing. Allan accepted and appreciated the apology and said that he did not require such in writing. The Good Shepherd Sisters will also provide a sum of money as a gesture of pastoral concern.

PAYMENT OF AGREED SUM:

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Company on an ex gratia basis and with a denial of liability on the part of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Company or any members of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd agree to pay Allan Lawrie a sum of \$3,000 to assist in improving the quality of Allan's life

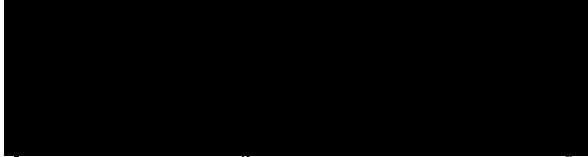
TERMS OF PAYMENT:

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd and the Company shall pay the Agreed Sum within twenty eight working days of the receipt of the duly signed Deed of Agreement.

SATISFACTION AND DISCHARGE:

Mr Allan Lawrie agrees to accept the offer of the Agreed Sum in full satisfaction of any claims he may have against the Good Shepherd Sisters and the Company and/or any members of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

SIGNED by MR ALLAN LAWRIE _____



In the presence of _____



Signature of witness _____



WYNDHAMVALE PHARMACY
TRACY MAREE & ADRIAN MARICCHIA
127 Ballan Road, Wyndhamvale 3024
Tel: 9742 4111 Fax: 9742 4366
NHS - 21246H

Date:

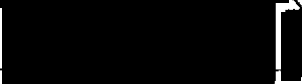
6/12/09

SIGNED by SISTER PAMELA MOLONY _____

In the presence of _____



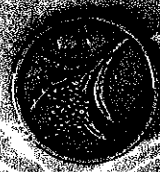
Signature of witness _____



Date:

14-12-2009

This pin commemorates
the Second Anniversary of
the National Apology to
Forgotten Australians and
Former Child Migrants.



Commemorating the
First Anniversary of
the National Apology
to Forgotten
Australians and
former Child Migrants

