

My name is Barry Stanley Meekings. I was born on 1st September, 1932. I was made a State Ward in May, 1945 at Yasmar Children's Court and was charged as an uncontrollable child. I came from a family of six sisters and one brother, who was also charged, but not made a State Ward. We went to Mittagong Boy's Home and separated. My brother went to home 11 and I went to 12. I never knew my mother, who had left home when I was three years old.

I was tied in a bag, hung on a fence, had pieces of wood thrown on me, let out and physically and sexually abused. I left Mittagong at 15 years of age to work on a property at Tahmoor, Mixed Farming.

One day, a member of the family was visiting and said "has this kid had a day off?" The answer was no. Days later, the son of my employers (carers), a serving Policeman at the time, took me to a water hole, where I was abused. I absconded from there, also a chicken farm, where I slept in chicken pens. No bath facilities and poor food.

Because of absconding, I went to Berry, Boys Home and absconded Musellbrook where I was physically assaulted by an employee of the State Government Welfare.

I was sent to Gosford Boys Home, now known as Mt. Penang, where I spent three days in cells, bread and water, one meal in three days, 48 hours cells bread and water, 24 hours cells bread and water.

I also had to water a paddock with a billy can and
teaspoon for punishment.

I have now just finished writing my book (Memoirs
of a Roads Scholar).

I have recently been reappointed a Justice of the
Peace.

As I say, the sores have healed, but the scars stay
for ever.


Barry S Meekings, J.P.



ATTACHMENT.

Further to my statement I would like to add that I was also at Royalstone where I was physically assaulted by a relative of an employee and absconded.

Also whilst at Gosford Boys Home I witnessed a cat thrown in the coke boiler and seen it burned to death I will never forget it. I am fair skinned and had to work pick an shovel with blisters on my back. Once released from cells after three days I had to be hospitalized through lack of food. Unprivileged half rations and stand and face the wall to eat with a time limit.

Ablusions were on a time limit doors left open and if not finished pulled out by the hair.

Holy-stoning the deck with a brick no water or other aid on your knees a common punishment .Stand on a marker and not move for 15 minutes to half hour.

An orange which rolled at my feet I bent down to stop it and another officer Mr Johnstone gave me 24 hours bread and water in cells.

I was in Gosford with murderers rapists armed robbers, and had not or ever been convicted of a criminal offence.

I beg the Government to Compensate us for the past even if only a public apology and improve the care and needs of state wards today.


Barry Meekings J.P