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Hello everybody.... ..

You will find with this newsletter a flyer with a reminder to SEND YOUR STORY TO THE INQUIRY!! They want to hear from YOU. We are also sending it to anybody who has contacted CLAN in the past, or was once a member but has dropped out. This is your LAST CHANCE to send your story to the Inquiry. Closing date is officially July 31 but they will take entries after that - though not for too long afterwards, so now's the time to send it. If you need some help, get in touch with CLAN and we'll try to help you with any questions.

We've been spending all our time the past couple of months encouraging and helping people to write their submissions for the Inquiry, writing CLAN's own submission, and trying to get as much publicity for the Inquiry as possible. Leonie did a talkback hour with Madeleine Randall on the ABC in the early hours of Monday, 9 June and the Inquiry has had some other mentions as well, for example on the NSW *Stateline* program about Parramatta Girls Training School recently (more on this below).

#### **CLAN WORKSHOP IN SYDNEY**

Many, many thanks to Sharon Rundle who came down to Sydney from the Hunter Valley to run a workshop to help CLAN members get their story down on paper. The workshop was held on Saturday May 31 at the Exodus Foundation in Ashfield, Sydney and we had quite a few people attend. Sharon gave us a lot of useful pointers to getting started - which is often the hardest part for many people. If you find it difficult, we can't do better than repeat some of her words:

"It can be difficult to write about yourself under any conditions but you have a much harder task. The important thing is to write down your experiences in your own way and in your own voice. The power of the story is as much in the way that it has affected you as in the events themselves. No-one else can write your story like you can. No-one else can feel the emotions you feel or suffer the pain that you suffer. I know the power of these personal stories and the effect they have on others. What matters isn't your grammar or your spelling but your story and how you feel about what happened to you. Write it in our own words and in our own way. There is no right or wrong way, there is just your way. If you write what you

truly remember from the heart and from the gut, you will have your story. Don't stress about how to do it, just plunge in and start."

Some of the tips Sharon gave us, that could help you:

- draw a timeline of public events in your lifetime, and fit your life into this
- draw a timeline of your own life, starting with your own birth - or maybe even before that, with an important event in your family history (if you know it) - like when you think your parents met.
- using the opposite hand to the hand you usually write with, draw a floor plan of where you were from age 5-8 years, then mentally walk through it, choose a room or a place, and then write about it using your usual hand
- think back to the past using senses - smells, touch, taste, sound, and the memories they bring up

This is just a start.....thank you, Sharon.

#### TIME TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

If you haven't renewed, fill out the form that you'll get with this newsletter. Current subscription to CLAN ran out at the end of June. Fees have not gone up - so it's still only \$5 for Care Leavers. Please rejoin CLAN and help us continue this important work. There's a subscription renewal form in the last newsletter, No. 15.

\*\*\*\*\*THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU DO NOT REJOIN\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*Don't buy a \$5 postal note. send us \$5 or if you don't want to send money through the mail, send us a \$5 book of stamps.

#### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - CLAN SOCIAL IN SYDNEY

**WHEN:** Saturday, 16 August 2003

**WHERE:** Petersham Park, Sydney. Close to the station and Parramatta Rd. buses

**TIME:** 12 noon.

Look for the CLAN banner at the rotunda in the park. It's a lovely spot and we'll hope for some of winter sunshine. If you've been struggling to write your story come along and we'll make a final effort to help you get it down. You can get inspired by looking through some of the books in the CLAN library. Bring your lunch, a friend, family - ALL WELCOME!

**And thanks to committee member Pamela Vernon for organising the following invitation:**

*Come one - Come All  
For Fun, Fellowship & Frivolity  
To CLAN's  
Springtime Mountain Get-Away  
At Kihilla Conference Centre - Lawson  
In the Lower Blue Mountains  
Close to Trains*

*Tentative dates 14/11/03 - 16/11/03 Cost: \$120.00 Full Registration - per person [All Inclusive] Accommodation, Meals & Entertainment*

FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST, PLEASE CALL PAMELLA [02] 9698 8891  
0411878873 email:tpsv@bigpond.com.au

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### DONATION FROM CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES BALLARAT

We have received a donation of \$1,000 towards the CLAN seed grant from Child and Family Services, Ballarat, Victoria. This donation is the result of the visit that Leonie and Joanna made to Melbourne in March, when they addressed the Board of the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria.

We thank this organisation for their donation and we should tell you that this is the *only* Victorian agency that has responded to CLAN's request to follow the example of ACWA, in NSW, and help fund the services which CLAN provides.

We have also had no response from the South Australian government to our request for funding, following our meeting on 6 May with Stephanie Key, the Minister for Social Justice in South Australia. Other states have not shown much interest in meeting with us. This means that NSW and Victoria are subsidising all the other states. Perhaps it will take the Inquiry to get through to all governments and agencies that their responsibility for the state's children lasts a lifetime.

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### NOTICEBOARD

#### ***Clan Has A New Website.....***

Check out CLAN's new website at [www.clan.org.au](http://www.clan.org.au). !!! The site is by Norton Design in Sydney. Our thanks to Kylie Norton who has spent many, many hours making it look so good, and turning it into such a wonderful showcase for CLAN. We really appreciate the time and thought that Kylie has devoted to the site, far beyond what we are paying for. If you have any suggestions about other things that could be on it, please let us know. Reunions, socials..... ????

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#### ***CLAN Badges***

If we forgot to include your CLAN badge with your new membership, contact us and we'll send you one in the mailout for the newsletter after this one, no.17.

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#### ***"Unholy Orders" documentary***

CLAN has just received for the library a new documentary film called "UNHOLY ORDERS", made by Geraldine Gandolfo for Halcyon Films & Red Bag Productions. Here is an outline of the film:

In 1997, after "The News of the World" in the UK exposed the abuse in Scottish orphanages by Catholic nuns, a class action quickly escalated. Cath Yeomans, at 84 years, is the oldest claimant and now lives in Australia. As the class action gained momentum, Cath is haunted by memories of her past and wants to go back to Scotland, but ill health prevents her from travelling. Filmmaker, Geraldine Gandolfo, meets Cath and decides to go back as her go-between and document her story. Cath's personal history is interwoven with other survivors' stories who as children were subjected to brutal treatment in the orphanages of the Sisters of Nazareth and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul. As well as the unfolding developments of the class action, one nun, Sr. Mary Docherty, found

guilty on several abuse charges, leaves the court in the public spotlight. The film raises serious questions about the abuse of human rights within the Catholic Church and the society that condoned this abuse through its ignorance. After documenting these stories in Scotland, Geraldine returns to Australia, and for Cath, some of the pain she feels about the past is resolved.

"Unholy Orders" is a documentary made with a survivor's insight as Geraldine is also a survivor of abuse by a Catholic priest. A unique solidarity occurs between her and the other survivors as they find their voices individually and collectively in the face of a powerful institution.

**The story behind the making of the film is interesting and also inspiring. The director, Geraldine Gandolfo, writes:**

In February 1999, I received a written apology with a compensation payment from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne for sexual assault by a priest. I felt pleased that my experience was being officially acknowledged, however the sum of money I received did not equate with the effects of the abuse on my life. I put the money aside to develop a project which would give a voice to people who had been abused by clergy.

Soon after, I met Cath, an eighty-two year old woman living in Adelaide, who had spent ten years of her childhood in a Scottish orphanage run by nuns. She broke her lifetime silence on her experiences of abuse in the institution by talking to me for seven hours straight. Cath and I felt strongly that her story should be told because of its relevance to the many thousands of people worldwide who had spent time in institutions as children. I decided to dedicate my resources, including the compensation settlement, to making a television documentary of Cath's story. I completed a summer school at the Victorian College of the Arts and graduated from an intensive filmmaking course at Open Channel through the pilot production of Cath's story. In September 2000, I went to Scotland to commence filming on location and returned the following January to Adelaide to show Cath the footage. This provided a "coming home" for Cath with moving results beyond my expectations.

It was time consuming and difficult to find the funds to finish the film but with private contributions and support from SBS the project went into editing at the end of 2002 and was finished earlier this year. It will be screened some time in the future by SBS.

Geraldine Gandolfo, Writer/Director/Co-producer.

*Geraldine has become a member of CLAN and given us a tape of the film for the library. She will wear her CLAN badge at the official opening of the film in Melbourne on July 28. The film will also be screened on SBS some time later this year - look out for it.*

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#### **THANK YOU.....**

To all members who have contributed to this newsletter.

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to Des Arthur who kindly ran our previous website for us at no charge

To Garry Harrison, Victorian member who also did a lot of work towards designing a CLAN website. In the end we had to go with the Sydney quote but we are grateful to Garry for the effort and time he put into his idea.

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To Sydney member Gaye Brown who has done the mailout for this newsletter to our 400 plus members. This is an enormous and time-consuming job!

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To all the generous CLAN members who included a donation with their membership renewal. We really appreciate this so much, not only the welcome \$\$\$s but it also feels like a gesture of support for what CLAN is trying to achieve.

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To several members who have donated items to the CLAN library - see book list.

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To Ivan Cant from ACWA who spent a lot of time helping CLAN set up our tax status with the Australian Taxation Office. We'll keep you posted on our efforts to CLAN registered so that memberships and donations are tax deductible.

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To Karina from Port Macquarie for photos of the Mt Magdalen Home in NZ.

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To new member Debra for her wonderful donation of a micro-cassette tape recorder and tapes to CLAN. This will be so useful for taping people's stories.

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To Lily for sending the historical article for CLAN's library on the Salvation Army "Social Evils the Army has Challenged".

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### TASMANIAN INQUIRY

We've just received news of another Inquiry going on at the moment, this time by the Ombudsman in Tasmania. Thanks to John Murray, NSW member, who sent us these reports, all from the same Tasmanian newspaper.



THE

**MERCURY**

### **Wards of state reveal years of abuse**

By DANNY ROSE 17 July 2003

THE inquiry into Tasmanian children allegedly abused while in state care has received more than a dozen reports since it opened on Monday. State Ombudsman Jan O'Grady yesterday said the reports were fresh claims of emotional, physical and sexual abuse. And they spanned more than 40 years, painting a tragic picture of Tasmania's early wards of the state.

The inquiry was announced by Health Minister David Llewellyn at the weekend. It followed an ABC report of a Hobart man who claimed he was raped repeatedly after being placed into the foster care of a convicted male pedophile in the early 1960s. Ms O'Grady said the inquiry had drawn a "significant" response so far from other Tasmanians with similar stories. And while counselling would be one outcome, the inquiry could also lead to police charges and claims for compensation against the State Government.

"I can say that since Monday we have had a reasonable number of people call us ... more than a dozen," Ms O'Grady said. "I have no reason to doubt that the claims are genuine. And they are not trivial matters to my mind."

Advertisements have featured in the public notices of the state's major newspapers this week, calling for adults who have claims of abuse while in state care to come forward. Ms O'Grady said those people "may have been in families with foster parents or in institutions". "We are inviting claims from any person, aged over 18, who has been in state care," she said. "It is going to be a difficult exercise going back 30 to 40 years."

A hotline has been established and the Ombudsman said those who called it would have their details taken so an interview could be arranged soon. All matters brought to the inquiry would be dealt with confidentially and sensitively by people trained in handling claims of child abuse. "Some people might simply want to unload," Ms O'Grady said. "Some matters could be referred to the police while others may be referred to the Department of Justice and Industrial Relations for compensation."

Ms O'Grady said the inquiry's catalyst -- a report on ABC Television's *Stateline* program -- was "a very sad story". It is the story of Walter Tusyn, who lived on the streets of North Hobart until he was eight. Walter was declared a ward of the state and was moved from a boys home into the care of a convicted pedophile in the early 1960s. The news report said Walter's foster father had used an alias to hide his convictions. "The minister [Mr Llewellyn] has expressed his regret," Ms O'Grady said. "And I think this is a responsible, and pro-active, step that the minister has taken."

\*To make a report to the inquiry call 1800335466 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. After hours, Lifeline will receive calls to the number on the Ombudsman's behalf. Immediate access to counselling is offered for those making reports while their matter is reviewed. The closure date for reports is July 31, but Mrs O'Grady said this was a flexible date.

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### **Wave of claims to abuse inquiry**

By DANNY ROSE 24 July 2003

MORE than 50 Tasmanians have told an independent inquiry they were victims of abuse in state care. The figure was revealed yesterday by State Ombudsman Jan O'Grady as her inquiry entered its tenth day. Each previously un-reported case alleges emotional, physical or sexual abuse inflicted on Tasmanian children in foster care or state institutions. The cases span more than 40 years. Ms O'Grady said the inquiry was still gathering information and the hotline for adults to use to report childhood abuses would be open until July 31. "Reports now number more than 50. Shortly we will be conducting interviews." The inquiry is expected to start a wave of compensation claims, possible police charges and counselling for those involved. Yet many victims will have no avenue to apply for compensation under state law. The cut-off date of the Criminal Compensation Act is for crimes committed after 1976. The State Government yesterday said it was too early to

comment on possible changes to state law to accommodate the likely rush of claims. The only other avenue is the courts.

Health and Human Services Minister David Llewellyn said yesterday: "We will of course act sensitively towards people who are shown to have been abused. "However, it's premature to be making any decisions at this stage. "We will wait until we have had advice from the Ombudsman." At the same time, Mr Llewellyn defended the state's childcare record, and the reputations of Tasmania's current foster carers. Mr Llewellyn said the alleged abuse cases dated back many years and concerned departments and legislation that no longer existed.

"[And] we now have much stronger safeguards built into the system." He said the modern selection process for carers was "stringent" and included proof of identity, police checks, and a scan of known-pedophile databases for all adults in the household.

The inquiry was sparked by an ABC news report on July 11. It told the story of Hobart man Walter Tusyn who, as a homeless boy in the 1960s, says he was placed into the foster care of a convicted pedophile and raped. Mr Tusyn has lodged a Supreme Court writ in a bid to claim compensation from the State Government. The abuse hotline is 1800 335466.

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Finally, here is a personal story which **The Mercury** ran with these reports. It will press buttons for so many of us. There are no words to describe what happened - 'tragic' only scratches the surface. Remember that story is about a child taken from his parents because they were not considered good enough to care for him!

#### **Abuse hell of Tassie state ward**

By ELLEN WHINNETT 18 July 2003

WHEN Tasmanian authorities placed Stephen Barry Randall into state care, they thought they were acting in his best interests. But instead, the five-year-old was subjected to years of sexual and physical abuse at the hands of the very people who were supposed to be protecting him.

Mr Randall launched a civil court action against the State of Tasmania, claiming the people who made him a ward of the state had failed in their duty of care to protect him. In a final tragedy, he died this year before the court case, which dragged on for five years, could be resolved.

"He just didn't have the strength to see it through to the end," said his lawyer, Brisbane's Stephen Kerin. Mr Randall died in his sleep in Queensland on March 15. He was suffering heart disease, and was frail and unwell due to psychiatric illness and drug use. His Supreme Court of Tasmania case, lodged in Hobart in 1998, will now be discontinued. He leaves behind a partner, Leslie Berry, and a baby. He was 41-years-old. "It's a very, very sad situation," Mr Kerin said. "It was a difficult case because of the extreme psychological damage Stephen suffered."

According to the statement of claim lodged with the Supreme Court Mr Randall was living in Launceston when he was taken from the care of his mother and her de facto husband in 1967. The Launceston Magistrates Court made an order

declaring him a ward of the state, and he remained under the care of the State of Tasmania for the next 11 years.

During that time, Mr Randall alleged he was sexually abused by the teenaged daughters of one of the families into whose care he was placed. He was later physically abused by another couple who took him into care, with the wife forcing him to walk down the street wearing a sign declaring him to be a bed-wetter and a ward of the state.

According to the statement of claim, child welfare authorities later appointed a supervisor to his case, who sexually abused him over a period of years. The supervisor also placed him in the care of a Catholic priest, who committed oral and anal sexual abuse upon him. Both the supervisor and the priest are now dead.

A family in Launceston which took Mr Randall into its care wrote to Mr Kerin, saying they had been told by authorities in the 1970s that Mr Randall had been abused and was suffering behavioural disorders. But no counselling or medical treatment was ever provided. "Stephen's story was that he and other young boys were passed around [to pedophiles] like sport," Mr Kerin said. "There was a self-admitted failure of procedures by the department."

An internal departmental document notes that "mistakes have been made, and this is a big one," over the placement of the traumatised Mr Randall. Mr Kerin said Mr Randall had been extremely unwell and had been in a psychiatrist clinic two weeks before his sudden death. Despite his illness and appalling history of abuse, he had made a happy life with Ms Berry and had received compensation as a result of being stabbed during an incident while he was enlisted in the army. "It was just so very sad that he could not find closure," Mr Kerin said.

If you have something to say to this Inquiry, don't hesitate to ring them on the free hotline - 1800 335 466 or ring Maureen Sheehan (Tassie) + she will ring you back (03) 6233 621

## REUNIONS

### ***St Joseph's Girls' Home Kenmore & St John's Boys' Home Goulburn***

Girls and Boys of St Joseph's Girls' Home Kenmore and St John's Boys' Home Goulburn, along with family and freinds are invited to a picnic in the park Victoria Park Goulburn, on **Saturday 8th November 2003** from 10 am. The former Children's Homes will be open to visitors on the day from 2 -5 pm Contact Gail Rancke on 02 9589 0214 or email [rob\\_gail@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_gail@hotmail.com).

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### ***Parramatta Girls'***

Calling all Parramatta Girls and their families..... A reunion will be held on **2nd November 2003** at the old Parramatta Girls' Home, 1 Fleet Street, Parramatta. Watch for further information in the next CLAN newsletter.

Several of our members were in this notorious institution in Sydney, run by the state government. News of this reunion first surfaced in a program on the ABC's **Stateline**, shown on May 30 in NSW and Canberra. Three women who'd been in



the Parramatta Training School for Girls (as it was called) 40 odd years ago talked about their terrible experiences there and the effect it has had on their lives. **Stateline** had such a huge response to that program - 100 odd calls, more than for any other story they've run - that they then put two more programs to air. In the second one (6 June), Charmaine, a CLAN member and former inmate, was interviewed, along with CLAN, and we spoke about the Federal Inquiry. In the third program (27 June), Charmaine had her own reunion, with a friend from that time called Shirley who she met again after 35 years. CLAN was flooded with calls from this story, and a lot of those women have become members. Many thanks to Charmaine for participating. We are lucky that this story surfaced when it did because it all helps in getting over to people the extent of the horror and abuse that was standard in children's institutions, and why the Inquiry is so essential for bringing this history to light.

You can get transcripts of these programs from the ABC website: [abc.net.au](http://abc.net.au)

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## INFORMATION FOR CARE LEAVERS

### ***More News On "Lynwood"***

Thank you to Dorothy Warwick, from **Friends of Linnwood**, who informed us recently of the death of Miss Daphne Davies, on Wednesday, June 11. She is believed to have been about 97 or 98. Miss Davies was for many years superintendent of **Linnwood**, or **Lynwood Hall** as it was known in her day, when it was an Establishment run by the NSW Child Welfare Department (she was also at **Parramatta Girls'** at one time). Several of our members have memories of Miss Davies, as we have published here in recent newsletters, and she is mentioned in one of our Personal Stories this time. If you have read those accounts, you will have drawn your own conclusions about what it was like living at **Lynwood** with Miss Davies in charge.

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### ***Information For Victorian Members***

The Victorian Department of Human Services has recently informed VANISH (Victorian Adoption Network for Information & Self-Help) that they have access to funds for 12 months which are to be used for Counselling Services for Careleavers who were in institutions within Victoria. Care leavers who were in institutions in Victoria but now live interstate can also access the funds for counselling. The Department has developed some guidelines for the distribution of the funds. VANISH is also running support groups for CareLeavers. The last one was at their Melbourne premises on 19 July, and there will be others.

They also have plans to visit some of the regional areas in July and August - actually, they went to Ballarat on July 23 and will be in the Gippsland area in August. They will be advertising in the local areas closer to the dates. The Department of Human Services is funding the visits and will be travelling with them to provide information about the services available for Care Leavers and accessing information, and to look at ways Care Leavers can get support in regional areas.

Contact VANISH for more details on 03 9348 2111 or [vanish@vicnet.net.au](mailto:vanish@vicnet.net.au) or contact Melbourne CLAN members Liz 0419 358 467 or Caroline 03 9899 0417.

We'd love some feedback from any Victorian members who attend any of these meetings, whether in Melbourne or regional centres.

**FEEDBACK - a lot of feedback this time, it's so good to hear from you.....**

I'm so grateful that you are there! Heather, Northern Territory

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Thank you for working on my behalf. You are doing a great job. I hope the inquiry brings out the truth and gains practical help for all the State Wards who have been badly affected by child abuse while in those Religious institutions.  
Sincerely yours, Paul, W.A.

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"Keep up the good work!! You are greatly appreciated" - from Lisa, NSW member who asked us to send some CLAN flyers to place on local community boards. We are thrilled when people offer to do this, so do please get in touch if you would be able to do it in your area, and we'll send you a bunch of flyers.

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The talk we had has been a great help to me. Knowing that there is a group out there somehow makes me feel a sense of comfort. The only thing is that, knowing what people who spent years in these institutions went through makes my experience pale into insignificance. I know it sounds odd but just putting on that badge made me feel good. After Talking to you I did write a letter to my children to give them a little insight to my childhood. Thanks again.  
Warren, NSW member. *We will print Warren's story in a future newsletter.*

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Dear Members of CLAN,

Thank you so much for the newsletters. I was and am deeply moved from reading the experiences of these people, who had the misfortune of being raised in these Homes and institutions. I'm so pleased though that an organisation such as CLAN has finally arrived and I hope and pray it will be with a huge thump of awakening, that is to make aware to the public, government & churches etc. The huge emotional toll that these places have had on these people must be heard and some form of recognition of their distraught lives must be heard and not overlooked. My story is nowhere as tragic as others. I've heard of or know, however what did occur back in the early 60's has left an emptiness or a search for my lost innocence. I have had counselling over many years on and off, but to finally find an organisation such as CLAN is a godsend. I often think about the girls I knew back over 38 years ago and wonder how they have survived or if, they survived the trauma of being institutionalised in these cold cruel harsh unloving places, where their dignity, self worth was stripped from their hearts and minds. I am very interested in finding out more about Parramatta Girls Home in the early 60's also I'm trying to find out about Hay Women's Institution, although I personally were never there, I am well aware of what took place in that place, as I do know young girls that went there from Parramatta.

My story started from an abusive home in which I fled from, when I was 10, the first time and the second time I was placed in Pallister Home (Greenwich), then onto Parramatta and Thornleigh, for being exposed to moral danger, but the moral danger I ran from was where I lived. However, I'm still here, and my heart goes out to all these children and if I can help in anyway that is possible I would like to try.  
Sandra. N.S.W.

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Hello CLAN. In the letter with this one I refrained from putting my feelings down. I felt they might not help. I wish CLAN every success in their endeavours and will help as much as I can. But I can never forgive, at this time in life, the

society and organisations who perpetrated such acts on persons who had no one to defend them. Our worst enemies- our own country-people. Keith, Tasmania.

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Dear Friends,

Enclosed membership and small donations, wish I could add a few more zero's perhaps next year. Congratulations on the work you do on our behalf, you are wonderful. Thanks for the opportunity to attend "**The Magdalene Sisters**" I found it very disturbing, lots of tears and a very emotional week followed, even though it had little relation to my upbringing. Let's hope it has the same effect on the people we need to educate. It was nice to meet some new members and I made a new friend. I am now looking to search my background with the help of my son and his wife, here's hoping I have a bit more success than my previous attempt. Wish me luck!! Seventy Years since placement is a long time to research. Once again, my thanks to all for the great efforts you make. Till we meet again.  
Betty, N.S.W.

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A Queensland member, Mim Dekker (also known as Val), has written to ask us to include in our concern those people who were in Children's Homes in the 1930s and 1940s. She said CLAN only seems to go back to the 1950s and 1960s, or about thirty years ago.

We are really sorry if we have given the impression that we are not concerned about this slightly older group of people. We know that many people suffered hardship and abuse and all the usual sad and difficult times that children experienced in Homes, whatever time they were there throughout the 20th century. If we have seemed to focus on the later period, it may be because there is more written about that time - people who were in Homes in the prewar decades don't seem to talk or write about it as much. It's good to see that the documentary we've mentioned above, *Unholy Orders*, features an 84 year old woman's experiences in a Home. Also, as some of you will know, one of our oldest members, Win Evans, who was in *Lisgar* and *Agincourt* in Sydney in the 1920s and 1930s, has written her own story and published it. It is called *A Rejected Childhood*, and can be borrowed from the CLAN library. Thanks to Mim for bringing this to our attention

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#### **A final word on "The Magdalene Sisters".....**

Thank you to CLAN member Jeanette Barnacle who agreed to be interviewed by THE AGE newspaper when this movie was recently released. The story, by AGE journalist Larry Schwartz, appeared on April 27, 2003, called

#### **"A local spin on the laundries of shame"**

Jeanette Barnacle was just 10 when nuns at the Convent of the Good Shepherd in Oakleigh put her to work in their commercial laundry. "They had to build a stool for me to stand on so I could reach the tables," she says of the start of a four-and-a-half year period in which she ironed linen from that first day, July 13, 1950.

"There was a huge room with long tables and there were pipes going down with rubber hoses," says Mrs Barnacle. "It was a gas iron." By far the youngest held there, she had been adopted at birth but was later placed in several Homes, including an orphanage in Brighton and detained as a runaway at Royal Park. "Uncontrollable they said I was," she says, laughing. "And still am."

From July 1950, Jeanette spent more than four years ironing linen at the laundry, which stood on what is now the site of the Chadstone Shopping Centre. Among the women there was the illegitimate daughter of a prominent Melbourne identity who "put her in (homes) never to be released". She says she worked in a locked room. "The only place I was allowed was in the ironing room because there was no way out..."

At 65, her home is now a flat in a small town in NSW where she lives with her Siamese cat, Gemma. But Mrs Barnacle cannot forget the nights in a Melbourne convent dormitory with a screened area on a platform at one end, where a nun slept. She does not know how many slept there. "At that stage, I could neither read, write, count or nothing," she says. Mrs Barnacle can all but hear the bells that woke the women for prayers at 6am. She gestures to show you the awkward fit of rough calico underwear and screws her face at the memory of lumpy porridge for breakfast.

Toil at the gas iron was interrupted each midday "to do stations of the cross and then bread and dripping and back to work". She has decided not to see a new film about Ireland's infamous Magdalene laundries, in which generations of women were incarcerated for reasons including pregnancy out of wedlock or because a parish priest deemed them to be in moral danger. "I don't want to see my childhood again," she says of director Peter Mullan's controversial and acclaimed movie **The Magdalene Sisters**.

Jeanette Barnacle remembers an institution in which women were known not by name but by number - hers was 52 - and "you weren't allowed to look up or speak to anyone". She says conditions were probably little known outside its walls. "When the government came out you weren't allowed to tell them anything or you'd get belted." Harsh treatment was routine. "They used to belt you with wet towels. They shaved my head..."

Mrs Barnacle welcomes the Senate's vote last month for a national inquiry on the extent and legacy of abuse of up to 80,000 former state wards in government and church orphanages and foster homes between the 1920s and 1970s. Leonie Sheedy, national secretary of the Care Leavers of Australia Network, a support group whose 340 members are former wards of state, says **The Magdalene Sisters** is "very harrowing for anyone who was raised in a children's home or orphanage". Though Jeanette Barnacle won't see it, she hopes it helps others understand. "People should know about it because no one really knows unless you've been in there."

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## PERSONAL STORIES

### Christine's story.

Dear CLAN People,  
Instead of sitting here crying over spilt milk, I thought I would write a few words to you, my Wardy Brothers and Sisters. Why am I crying today? Because I have just received and read the files I sent for from DOCS, and I hurt. Why did I ignore advice and wait until my caring and understanding husband went to work before I read this thing? That is easy, I am embarrassed by tears, my own and anyone else's. Also, hubby's Mum grew up in a Catholic home in Nudgee after her

Mother died when she was only three, and between all the stories he has heard from both of us, I knew it would upset him to. So - I decided to suffer in silence. It is definitely a legacy from my days living at *Lynwood Hall*, when I gave 'the evil one' so much pleasure and enjoyment with my tears. I soon learned to tough it out and bottle it up.

The main reason I am hurting is because I have wasted many years hating my adoptive Father for nothing. Now it is too late to say I am sorry. He died in 1988. A wonderful Grandad to my three children, a much hated man by myself. Today I found out that I should have blamed my adoptive Mother for what happened. I was adopted at 8 weeks old by this couple, and thought my life was pretty normal, even though I was never held or cuddled. I liked my parents but always felt an outsider, as if there was something missing. I did love my Grandmother though, she was wonderful and gave me the affection the others didn't. Yes, I knew Mum was selfish, jealous and self-centred. I have always known all the attention had to be on her, with her imaginary illnesses and her ungrateful daughter. After all, at 87 years old, she is still the same. She still regularly tells me, after all these years about my cruel Father, my cruel Grandma and the terrible life she had to lead because of them. What I didn't know was that she was so jealous of my happy relationship with these two people I loved, that she would go to such lengths to destroy it.

At almost 12 years old, I was taken by her to Bankstown Courthouse, with no explanation whatsoever, and made into a state ward. I was called neglected and in moral danger. I honestly believed her when she told me that Dad had decided it was a mistake to have adopted me and I was no longer wanted by him. That was also the first day I heard that I was adopted. It came as a numbing shock in itself, let alone being taken away and sent to the shelter. Why would a judge simply take a child away like that? Well, of course I must have done something really bad, and yes I did. To begin with, the file said I had screaming nightmares up till I was 4 years old, and that must have been a great disturbance. Then of course, I wanted to be with Grandma and not my strict rigid Mum. The report said Mum told them Grandma mollycoddled me. Yep, nothing like lots of cuddles for a lost little girl eh? At 7 years old, she had me under a psychiatrist and on medication, because I had a bad temper after they moved away and kept me from my Grandma. At 11, she made me join groups at the church when all I wanted to do was join the Girl Guides. She [insisted instead, the church youth group and ballroom dancing. I was also in the Canterbury Swimming Club. They were all mixed groups.

I still to this day remember a lady coming to our house and asking me questions. The one question which got me into so much trouble, was the one where she asked me how many times had I had intercourse. At the age of 11, she should have been asking IF, not how many times. I was quite knowledgeable and answered 'twice'. With the same boy she asked? Oh no, I said, once with a boy from church and once with a boy from ballroom dancing. Yes, I knew intercourse was sex, after all, the girls at school had told me that kissing would get you a baby, and especially kissing in a phone box, so I was very scared and vowed never to do that again. Can I have been that stupid? What I read yesterday hurt so much. All the letters and phone calls my mother had made asking them to take me away from her house because I was disobedient, rude to her, and been with boys since I was 11 years old. She has proof of this she told them, she had been checking my

undies.. This absolutely shocked and disgusted me. What could she have found in my undies? She told them that although she was fond of me, she wanted me out of her house, and that I could be pregnant. All the letters in the file from my Dad were begging them to listen to him, his wife was 'nervy' he said, and needed help looking after a child, but I should be home with them. Been with boys? Of course I had, I was in mixed groups, boys are part of the human race, why shouldn't I have been friends with them.

I couldn't wait to find the Dr's report saying I was a virgin and all the things she said were lies. Yes, I had suffered the forced virginity test like so many others. I can remember my feet tied in stirrups, my face flaming hot from the embarrassment of having no undies on with a man in the room, and then the horrific pain. I screamed and screamed till Matron slapped my face and told me to be quiet because it didn't hurt. Did I find the word virgin in the report like I should have? No, it simply said I was not pregnant - wow, I could have been another virgin Mary. It said I was unlikely to pass on a venereal disease. Unbelievable. It wasn't until a long time afterwards that I knew what it all meant. How dared she put me through all this hell just to get rid of me.

My life at *Bidura* was short, I think I ran away twice, but Lynwood Hall was hell on Earth and I absconded every chance I got. Trouble is, all but the last time, I went back to my Mum who I thought loved me. She always called the Police and back I went. Nothing like putting a child away from the everyday normal life and out of moral danger. What really happened is that I got right into it. Yes, I know, my fault for running away. Once on the way back to *Lynwood Hall*, the Police car pulled up in bushland and the older officer went off for a walk. The younger one tried to rape me. I screamed so loud that the other one came running back and pulled him off me. I was then warned to shut up and say nothing or I would be shot, and they drove me back to Lynwood Hall. I see their report mentioned that I went quietly. The judge in one report said I was lucky to have a person like our supervisor looking after me. He didn't get called a filthy slut. We illegitimate girls copped the worst of it, we were told we were the filthy gutter slime of dirty prostitutes. We were shouted at, sworn at, and pushed into Klink, a tiny dark mosquito infected cell, and left for days with bread and milk. We suffered total humiliation. How she hated us. In March this year, I flew from Brisbane to Sydney to lay some ghosts at *Lynwood*. I met two wonderful friends there amongst a lot of very lovely people, and learned to laugh a bit at what were once terrifying thoughts and years of nightmares.

You know, when at 38 years old I met my birth mother, I expected some clapped out old prostitute (no disrespect to anyone here as I know that profession was the only way some girls could make a living) and what I got was a little softly spoken lady who I still love dearly. We had a beautiful relationship for 10 years, and then she had a breakdown from her stored up guilt feelings and the damage the hospital had done to a frightened 16 year old who was pregnant. She decided she could no longer keep seeing me. So there you go, rejection again. Even the DOCS report said they didn't want me either when I was 15, as there was no reason my adoptive parents couldn't have me, but of course Mum simply got too sick to have me back. Living on the streets was so much easier. I slept in derelict cars, peoples backyards, and parks. Cold but peaceful. At 18 I married a local policeman. As well as the black eyes, he gave me three beautiful children, and after over 20 years of not seeing each other, we met up at our daughter's wedding and sort of became

friends again. I was 45 years old when I finally married my hubby, and found that it was OK to trust someone. Yesterday I knew it would cause my birth mother too much pain to phone her. Yesterday I knew it would cause me too much pain to phone Mum after finding out what she had done, so Happy Mothers Day, Mums.

I am just happy to have broken the 'no love' cycle and bought up three lovely young adults, two of whom are good and loving Mums themselves.

*Christine is a Queensland member of CLAN. She wrote this story in May, around the time of Mother's Day.*

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*Our second story is an unusual one, but we wonder how many other families had a similar experience as Trish's family did when they fostered a child.*

### **Trish's story**

Hi my name is Trish, Firstly I would like to say hello to the wonderful people I met at the last CLAN social (May 3). I really enjoyed the day, I felt comfortable, relaxed and I was made very welcome and hope to be able to attend the next social, if you haven't been to a social yet try to get to one soon you'll meet some great people. Thanks CLAN. I also look forward to receiving the CLAN Newsletter; through this my eyes were opened. I was shocked to tears when I read my first news letter, not having experienced life in a home myself I was completely unaware of the brutality that went on in these homes, the fear and loneliness of being an innocent child under the hand of these wicked people. Like so many others I didn't know about the physical or sexual abuse suffered. I can only imagine the pain and helplessness felt in seeing a sibling disciplined under the harsh hand of these so called carers. The distress felt growing up unloved and being made feel like you didn't matter, because you were "only home children". Through CLAN I became aware of your pain and suffering and the stigma you feel as adults, because you grew up under the control of these sadists. My heart goes out to you all I believe each one of you is special with something to offer because you are the survivors. "God bless you all".

### *Why did I join CLAN*

My Father was born in Manly in 1922 to loving parents. His mother died in childbirth with her second child when he was 18 months old. His father suffered continual illness due to the effects of WW1. Life was tough as there was little money, they lived from day to day and moved around a lot. Although dad had family living in and around Sydney, none of them wanted to take in a small child, let-alone help support one. (His Uncle was in the Import-Export business and very well off). Rejected by heartless family they set off to make it on their own. As time past life got tougher and dads fathers health continued to fail and the only option left was for dad to be placed into care while his father got on his feet again. Dad was around eight years old.

After spending a couple of weeks with his grandmother, (who in dads opinion was a tough old bird, but a good cook) he was taken to the "SISTERS OF MERCY" Children's Home, in Armidale. My father can still see the large white house and the Poplar trees as they drove up the drive way, he recalls dozens of children running around the yard. He doesn't remember how long he was there for ( I have applied for a copy of for Dad's file) in fact he has very little memory of this time at



all, he received no visits from his father and the only one act of kindness shown, was when a nun shared some of her breakfast with him. He remembers the hunger, lack of love and never owning a pair of shoes. He tells me he wasn't abused in anyway but doesn't know about the others. That's it! My father's memory ends there! *Did having a father around make any difference, or is he hiding painful memories, I may never know.*

Although dad has many fond memories of his father, and the things they did together when he was young, it was this past that led to my parents fostering a child; they wanted to give a little boy a chance in life. In the early 60's they went to "DALMAR CHILDRENS HOME" in PARRAMATTA where they met a lovely little boy, his name was "Shaun Groomes" they fostered him for a period of time. My parents loved him very much and they decided to apply for adoption. Mum was told the child was placed into care when his mother died giving birth to him. Shaun's father did not want him to be adopted and my Mother was told she couldn't see him any more, because each time he returned from a visit he always became very upset and didn't want to be left; it would take the nuns days to settle him down. To this day mum can still hear him screaming, "Mummy, Mummy please don't leave me I haven't been a naughty boy" as he disappeared from her sight. This haunted mum for years after and to this day she has never forgotten him. Although my parents are now eighty years old and mum's had four minor strokes each one affecting her memory, she still wonders where Shaun is, what he is doing, if he is happy. Mum has always hoped to see him again one day. During my search over the past 18 months the only information I have is: Shaun was in care until 1977. He changed his surname from **Groomes** to **Ellwood**, and in 1983 was living in Saratoga on the Central Coast NSW. I don't know his DOB he was around 5/6 years old when my parents last saw him in 1964. I have recently contacted the Salvation Army Special Search, who I have found very caring and helpful.

If you have any information that may help me find Shaun please contact Leonie at CLAN.      Regards Trish

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### BOOK REVIEWS

Two book reviews this time! Please get in touch with us if you'd like to review one of the CLAN library books - it is very helpful for members to get some idea of what we have, and what the books are about. Thanks to Trish Harley, whose personal story is in this issue, for the following one:

*Suffer The Little Children* By Mary Raftery & Eoin O'Sullivan

The truth behind the cover-ups not only by the church but the Irish Government, are finely revealed. This is the inside story told by the victims who experienced a life of fear and brutality in Ireland's reform schools, Industrial schools, orphanages etc. It tells of the myths behind the view of the community into the thin and ragged appearance of the children in these homes, of child labour, of a complaint made by the Irish Society for the prevention of cruelty to children (ISPCC) of how two boys at Artane Industrial School had been severely beaten all over their bodies by the Christian Brothers for being out of bounds and how The Department of Education did except the fact the boy were only "slapped" as described by a Christian Brother. How continual complaints against a carer only lead to him or her being placed at another home to continue as before. It seemed



these sadistic monsters were unstoppable. Was the Government guilty of at best, serious Gullibility and at worst, a gross dereliction of its duty?

Trish added that "reading this book made me think of our national inquiry and how hard it will be for all members who make their submission, having to relive their childhood. It also breaks my heart to think of CLAN members as beautiful, innocent little children being subjected to such vicious people. I wish you all good luck and success for the inquiry." Your friend in CLAN. Trish Harley

Our next book was reviewed by Dorothy Harrison (nee Byfield), St Joseph Orphanage/Girls' Home 1960-'63:

**The Bean Patch** by Shirley Painter, Flamingo (Harper Collins), Australia 2002

The full horror of this book's title only becomes clear towards the end. Shirley chose to write her memoir to present "the reader with the same gaps, the same clues and the same dilemmas as she had, so the effect would be the same." Shirley succeeded so well in her choice of format, that she received the *Dobbie Award* for a first novel by an Australian woman. (*Sydney Morning Herald*, 6.5.03). Shirley chose to change the names of the characters, so it is Emma that we want to hold, to comfort, to reassure, as most who will read this review, would have longed for in their childhood.

Abuse of any kind is damaging to the infant, child or young person. Abuse by ones parents is a form of loss that leaves children, completely isolated; no one to love and protect them in the very place where children learn what it is to trust and to love. Children love their parents regardless of the severity of the abuse. What else can a child do but love their parents? Children also believe what their parents say to them. If you join Emma on her journey of confronting her painful memories, you may also feel the anger she felt. In fact, you may be angry long before Emma tells how at last she becomes angry as she searches for the truth, regardless of the consequences.

Emma, like most children, showed great resilience. Flashes of past frightening events, even from an early age, and her intelligence, helped Emma 'to know' there were things she should not mention at home, or to anyone. Prior to this insight, she would make comments to visitors, not realising the magnitude of the events she so innocently spoke about. For this she was isolated from her brothers and sisters, and eventually other relatives. Grandma's was a place of white damask tablecloths, silver cutlery and conversations that made no sense to her as a child. She talks to her grandparents. She hears her Daddy's "Smooth as silk whisky-oiled voice" saying to her grandfather, 'you wouldn't believe the lies she told about me'. Emma did not go back to her grandma's until the day after her mother died.

Everyone, including Emma, loved Emma's Daddy. Emma loved him for the nights he got up and put poultices on her abscesses, for the times he praised her, that he went to work and by his efforts fed her, clothed and put a roof over her head. Her daddy had a way of making women feel important. But when, as an adult, she remembered the things he did to her, she wonders how she could have loved him. He was the Daddy who said, 'Nobody's to help her, talk to her, listen to her or you will get what she got. So Emma does not talk; so they will not get what she got. On another occasion he roars, 'Don't ask her what she wants, tell her what you want.'

As an adult when she mentions her childhood to her husband, his response is disbelief – “Don’t give me that. I know Rex. Rex is a good bloke.

Emma’s mother was the lovely mother she had felt safe and secure with as a baby. She was the beautiful mother in the floral nightdress; the mother who sent for the doctor; fed her delicious food; nursed her back to health, and who bought her the vieux rose dress and admired her in it. She was also the mother who told the matron on the day Emma was born, ‘I don’t want her’. The mother who had said ‘I will kill you both’, when Emma told her what Daddy had done. She was the mother in the long brown dress who had come in the night and taken Emma’s breath away. She was also the mother who did what Daddy told her to do, so Emma ‘cut herself off from her too’.

Emma was the third of five children. Jennie, five years older, Jock one year older, and a sister and brother younger. Jennie and Jock have their stories too. It is when Jennie talks to Emma that her memories increase their demand to be heard. Emma the adult knows she must get help and face the past and all the bad things she has done, even if this means goal. She eventually cried for the three-year-old who did not know what to believe or who to trust. In therapy, it was easier for Emma to believe that she had lied, rather than face the truth that her parents had not wanted her. Emma eventually faces her deep belief that her parents were right, and *she* was the monster; she was the cause of the problems.

For me, Emma’s story is encouraging. She too had blotted out the parts of her childhood that she could not bear to remember, so that she could get on with living. For some of us it is the memories, for others the painful feelings associated with the memories that we must acknowledge to be freed from the past. It was all that I had lost prior to my three years in care, which I want to lay to rest. Like Emma, you and I can say, or will one day be able to say with joy, ‘I am glad to be alive’.

Dorothy added the following quote, from Robert Van Krieken, **Children And The State Social control & the formation of Australian child welfare**. Allen & Unwin, 1991:

“... The Catholic Church in particular, ever fearful of its flock, responded to the closure of its Sydney Orphan School, by opening other, smaller orphanages. Five orphanages had been opened by 1886 – in Manly, Singleton, Bathurst, Goulburn and Albury – and by 1899 another five were opened in or near Sydney (Horsburgh 1982:275). Protestant involvement was to follow later with the Burnside Homes at Parramatta, and the Church of England also opened homes for girls. The church institutions ... were an alternative location for specific categories of children, and Mackellar in particular regarded church homes as ideal for girls, given what he saw as their greater resistance to moral reform once they had ‘fallen’. [P 99]

This book is a short history of child welfare in Australia. In 1991, Robert van Krieken was a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Sydney. The book is divided into three parts:

- 1 outlines the work of writers critical of the operation of power in the welfare state.
- 2 provides a lucid history of the development of child welfare in Australia between 1800 and 1940.

- 3 explains what can be learnt from Australian child welfare history to improve our current understanding of the relation between the state, family life and childhood.

This book belongs to Dorothy Harrison, and can be borrowed via the CLAN Library. Many thanks, Dorothy.

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## LIBRARY



Clare is our librarian, phone number 02 9724 3609. Please ring Clare, or, if outside Sydney, email or write to us at the CLAN address and we will pass on the request.

There are two reference books to help you find the Home or institution you were in, and where its records are kept. They are

**\*\*Connecting Kin Guide to Records**, published by the NSW Department of Community Services to help people separated from their families in NSW to search for their records. This has all NSW Homes and information for state wards. You can also see it online at:

<http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/document/ckguide2.pdf>

**\*\*A Piece of the Story National directory of Records of Catholic Organisations caring for children separated from families**. This covers all Catholic Homes and orphanages in Australia.

We are happy to photocopy pages from these books to help you find your Home or your records. Write to or email CLAN. As a member of CLAN you may borrow any of the books in the library (except reference books) - we send them anywhere in Australia, and you pay postage to return them.

### **New Books in the library.....**

and a **\*\*REMINDER\*\*** to anyone who has overdue library books to please return them as other members are waiting to read them.

**"My Life"** by Mary Keel. Mary, now deceased, was a Child Migrant, she was sent to St Joseph's Home in Neerkol, Rockhampton, Qld. Thank you members Pat and Paul who knew Mary for donating a copy of Mary's book to the CLAN library.

**"Reform or Repression? Industrial and Reformatory Schools for Girls in NSW, 1866 to 1910"** by Noeline Williamson. Noeline sent us this report on Parramatta Girls' when she saw Joanna Penglase on the *Stateline* program. Thank you Noeline.

**Daughters of Nazareth** by Patricia Hughes. A police car delivered Patricia to a Catholic orphanage called **Nazareth House** in Brisbane. she would never see her home - or her mother - again. Thank you to Hazel, of Colyton NSW who has donated a copy of **this book, so that we now have two.**

**60 Ways To Heal Your Life** by Lynda Fields. This book shows you how you can heal your life through simple exercises and practical tips.

"**Child Sexual Abuse and the Churches - Understanding the issues**" by Australian law professor Patrick Parkinson.

"**Evelyn**" by Evelyn Doyle. Dublin 1953. Abandoned by his wife for another man, and desperate to have his six children looked after while he found work in England, Desmond Doyle trusted the word of the authorities, and put them all into temporarily State care. This is now a major film starring Pierce Brosnan, Aidan Quinn and Alan Bates and directed by Australian filmmaker Bruce Beresford. - watch for it later this year.

"**One of the Lost Generation**" and "**Long Time Coming Home**" both by Marjorie Woodrow. Marjorie is a CLAN member and she spent time in the Cootamundra Girls Home and Parramatta Girls .

"**The Special Dimension of Horror. corporal punishment, severity, criminal assault and sexualised violence in traditional residential care**", by Barry Coldrey, who has kindly donated this to the library. He has also given us:

"**Catholic Orphanages in the 50's and 60's. An Oral History**" by Neil McIntosh. 1985.

#### Videos

Oprah Winfrey Show on "Sexual Abuse and the Catholic Church in the USA", with the author Jason Berry. Jason wrote "**Lead us not in Temptation**" which you can borrow from the library. Thanks to Catherine Brown, from S.A. for this.

### NEERKOL MEMORIAL

contact - (07) 3844 0966

Hannelore Worrall and the Neerkol Committee are pleased to announce that on the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2003 work will commence on the Neerkol Memorial.

**The Opening and Dedication Ceremony will be on Tuesday 5th August 2003 at 2pm at the Neerkol site, Rockhampton.**

Former Residents of Neerkol and their families are invited to attend the ceremony.

This Memorial was opened by Mrs. Leneen Forde AC on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2003, and is dedicated to the Children of Neerkol-St Joseph's Orphanage-Home.

Over 4000 children passed through these gates between 11 April 1885 when the first 11 children arrived, to its closure on 5 March 1978. It is our wish that in creating this Neerkol Memorial not one baby, little child, young adult or Neerkol worker will ever be forgotten.

Dedicated to the English boys and girls, who left the security of their Birmingham and Middlesex Orphanages in 1951 to a brave and unknown future at Neerkol - St Joseph's Orphanage.

They endured many hardships but derived some benefits from their new life, so far removed from that previously experienced. These children moved on to make their contributions to Australian society in diverse ways as parents, workers and citizens.

**Membership Form**

If you would like to become a member of CLAN -

Membership Fees (due June annually) are

Care Leavers \$ 5.00

Professionals/ Friends of CLAN \$20.00

Government Depts./

Past Providers \$50.00

**Donations are greatly appreciated.**

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Tel/email.....

Name(s) of the Institutions you were raised in, and which years.

.....

In what state were you raised? This information helps us meet the needs of our members.

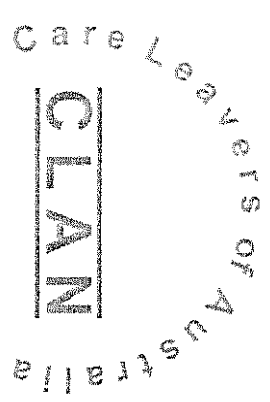
.....

**CONTACT LIST**

We have people who have been in care who are willing to be telephone contacts, someone for you to share your thoughts and feelings with.

Please remember they are volunteers who are not trained counsellors

Leonie	02 9724 1826
Pamella	02 9698 8891
Win	02 9529 7149
Lois	02 96689886
Mary	02 9637 6173
Joy (Tas.)	03 6363 1423
Caroline	03 9899 0417
Kim	07 338 99074
Terry	07 41542610
Terry (SA)	08 8379 9302



- Were You a
- State Ward ?
  - Home Child ?
  - Foster Child?

- Did You Grow Up in an:
- Orphanage ?
  - Institution ?
  - Children's Home ?

*Did your parents grow up in a Home?  
If you answered yes to any of these questions, we can offer support*

**CLAN**  
P.O. Box 164  
Georges Hall  
N.S.W. 2198  
email : careleavers@hotmail.com

As of thousands of children in Australia's recent past were brought up in 'care', as Foster Children or Home Children raised in institutions. Many of these children are now middle-aged or older but still carry the burden of unresolved issues from their past. Many are afraid to tell their parents, even their children, that they were in 'care' system because of the stigma it carried. Many were cut off from all contact with family members, and are still looking for them. Most left the 'care' system without any preparation or assistance for adulthood or parenthood. Many are left with the scars of emotional deprivation and neglect, physical, sexual and psychological abuse.

They are the forgotten survivors of an ageing child welfare system which deprived us of a sense of identity, of self-worth, and of a rightful place in our society.

**We have been silenced because there has been NO recognition or support for people in this situation. Until now.**

Leavers Australia Network Inc. (LAN) is a support group for people from this background. Our aim is to raise community awareness of these issues, and to campaign for government assistance to address them. Being raised without your family has life-long effects which require lifelong support services.

We publish a bi-monthly newsletter sent to all our members and we welcome personal stories. We can help you to obtain your ward file or get information about your Home and you may advertise at no cost in the newsletter to help locate lost family members. Please email or write to us at the address on the flyer. We are a national organization based in Sydney and every three months we get together in Sydney for a social gathering. As a member you can borrow from our library. We have listed here just a few of the books, which you may find useful in helping you deal with issues like abandonment, growing up without your own family and with the effects of institutionalisation.

*A Rejected Childhood.* Win Evans -- a CLAN member tells her inspiring story.  
*Unloved, Unwanted but Undaunted The Story of a NSW State Ward.* Joy Hill. A story of hope against the odds.

*When Innocence Trembles. The Christian Brothers Orphanage Tragedy A Survivor's Story.* Kate Davies.

*The Long Way Home The Story of a Home Kid (Burnside)* Kate Schayler.

*"Please Pass the Jam".* Bonnie Lothian.

Growing up in a Catholic Orphanage in WA in the 1930s.

*The Agony of Desertion.* Melissa Barron.

Story of 5 children raised in Children's Homes in Ireland.

*The Envelope - Growing up in an Australian Home in the 1930s-1950s* Maurice Willis  
*Lost Children of the Empire. The Untold Story of Britain's Child Migrants.* P. Bean & J. Melville.

*Children of Trauma - Rediscovering Your Discarded Self* Jane Middleton-Moz

*Motherless Daughters.* Hope Edelman.

Includes chapters on abandonment.

*On Their Own - Boys Growing Up*

*Unfathered.* Rex McCann

*Dealing with Anger - Self-help Solutions for Men.* Frank Donovan.

#### Reference Books:

**Connecting Kin A Guide to Records.**

Lists almost every govt. and non-govt. Home in NSW and how to gain access to their records. Also download from [www.community.nsw.gov.au/document/ckguide2.pdf](http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/document/ckguide2.pdf)

#### **A Piece of the Story**

National Directory of Records of all Catholic Organisations who cared for children separated from families.

**Missing Pieces Information to help former residents of Queensland Children's Institutions access their records; and The Forde Report (1999)**

*Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions.*

Write or email us for information from these reference books.