

## COMMENTS ON PAM'S BOOK

### Page 5

Jacaranda trees lined the roads between the school and town in Longreach

- They weren't any Jacaranda trees between the school and town in Longreach and as of 2019 there still aren't any there.

We always said grace before meals

- We didn't

Having worked as a cook on cattle stations, mum knew how to .....

- Mum never worked as a cook she worked as a domestic, cleaning, etc.

Friday nights we went down to Haddad's fish'n'chips shop

- Haddad's was a cafe and we never went out to eat because mum and dad couldn't afford to eat out.

Mum made me a pink and white polka dot dress with bow at the back

- It was a polka dot playsuit as shown in a photograph.

### Page 6

We were the only aboriginal family living in Longreach

- There were several other aboriginal families (not Toby's who lived in Mt Morgan), Plummer's, Saffy's, Swain's, Eric Rolfe, Town's and other transients.

One time waiting at a red light with several kids in the back

- There are no lights in Longreach and as of 2019 there still aren't any traffic lights in Longreach.

## Page 7

I discovered George was dark Irish with a sprinkling of Welsh'; his ancestors arrived at Moreton Bay in 1873 on the migrant ship, the *Storm King*. His father, Jenkins Williams, moved to Charters Towers in the gold rush.

- Pam's older sister has the complete Williams family history. George's father is not *Jenkins Williams*, his name is George Williams (our grandfather) and he is Aboriginal. We will not provide extensive (and correct) details of our fathers family because we don't want Pam to have the information. Pam is correct later on in the book indicating that George was 6 months old when his father died.

She was working in a café in Rockhampton, still in her teens, when one day he walked in, ten years her senior, a dashing soldier, just returned from the Second World War.

- We know that Mum left the Bluebird Café when she was 18 and went to Alroy Station (near Longreach) to work as a domestic. George was working on the station as a station hand/ringer and that is where she met him.
- He was in the army, but never went to New Guinea (you can check his army history on the National Website). Her oldest sister has a complete record of his army service.
- George was 12 years Mum's senior as he was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1917 and Mum was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1929.

## Page 7 (cont'd)

She worked as a cleaner at the ANZ Bank.

- She worked at the CBA Bank & the National Bank which were on two opposite corners to the ANZ Bank. She did work at the Mother's/Babycare Clinic opposite the ANZ Bank.

My brother, Peter, was a jazz pianist and our granny, Beatrice, Mum's mother, played too. In the evenings we stood around the piano, playing and singing together.

- This is farcical.
- Peter didn't play the piano as a child, he taught himself later on in life when he joined the Longreach Silver Band, where he initially learnt to play the cornet. He didn't buy a piano until after he started working when he was 19 & Beatrice had died in 1965.
- Beatrice couldn't possibly have had the upbringing where she would have learnt the piano as she came from a very poor family of 8 children who lived on the edges of towns and didn't go to school, let alone learn the piano
- Beatrice never had anything to do with our mother, as Mum had a shocking life with her, in fact my brother's & I remember when she came to the Showgrounds House to visit Mum she was told to leave our family alone as Mum & Dad were trying to give their kids a good education.

## Page 8

He dressed me in white togs and white tracksuits

- I don't ever recall seeing these and none of us had tracksuits.

George lost his father, my grandfather Jenkins, when he was only six months old, probably in the First World War

- As mentioned previously George's father (George Williams **not Jenkins Williams**) died at age 40 (crushed by a bull) when George (our father) was 6 months, our family has a transcript of the Coroner's Report into his death.

George visited an estranged sister who lived in the town of Beaudesert in Queensland's Scenic Rim

- The only time George ever visited a sister was when he went to Wondai with Mum & 2 of his children (Kevin & Sue-Ann). They hadn't seen each other in 50 years and she died 6 months later. Another older daughter took Mum & Dad from Rockhampton to Brisbane and they met up with another sister (Jessie) who reunited with the family when she read the older sister's funeral notice in the Courier Mail.

## Page 9

After graduation he got labouring jobs on properties in the bush and obtained a trade certificate as a machinist.

- George never became qualified his whole life. He had to work his guts out at labouring jobs and do the best he could with his life to support his family – this included building a house with his bare hands so that the family had somewhere to live when they came into town. Because he was such a hard-working

person, when he came to Longreach and worked on the Council, he was identified by the Chairman of the Longreach Shire Council as someone who would be capable of looking after the Showgrounds (and unsupervised at that). The family was also provided with the Showgrounds Cottage to live in and that would have only happened because they were a well-respected family in the town. George's oldest daughter has letters of reference which were written by this well-known person who lived in Longreach.

He was a fabulous dancer

- This is completely untrue as other family members never saw him dance in his whole life – in fact he never went anywhere much and was a homebody.

When they married in 1948 she converted to Catholicism.

- Mum & Dad never got married until they moved to Longreach (and already had two children who were born when Dad was working at No Go station as a fencer). The date of their marriage was 17<sup>th</sup> August 1952. Mum didn't convert to Catholicism when they got married. The oldest sister has a copy of Mum's Baptismal Certificate.

On the secluded banks of the Thomson, Mum sang the songs

- Mum never had time to sit on the river and sing aboriginal songs to anyone and the Thomson river is several miles from Longreach, we didn't have a car then and besides she didn't drive until she came to Rockhampton so how did she get out to the Thompson river with a child. This is just fantasy and make believe by Mad Pam.

## Page 10

Alone together in the bush, we sang *Garin Inna Narmin*. She would forage for mushrooms, possums, goannas.

- When Mum & Dad lived in town she would never have had time to go out to do this. She would be so busy working and looking after the family that I only ever remember once when we went to a sandy creek and I fell out of a tree. I do acknowledge that Mum sang the song & she still remembers it to this day even though she now has dementia. She seems to remember every song she ever sang but the nurses indicate that this is part of dementia. They seem to remember songs more than anything else.
- There were no possums or mushrooms around Longreach

## Page 15

While her name does not appear on official records from the time, she is a revered subject in my family's oral history

- There are a number of official records about Grace and the family have all of them (obviously not Pam). Grace did live on Eidsvold Station and had a child to Fitzpierce Joyce (her name was Frances known as Fanny). Fanny married Alick Little (our great grandfather on our mother's side). Fanny & Alick married on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1924 – he was 44 years old and she was 37 years old. He worked as a labourer and she worked as a domestic on Ban Ban Springs, Gayndah. Fanny died on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 1942 & on her death certificate she registers Fitzpierce Joyce as her father and Grace as her mother (these details also appeared on her Marriage Certificate).

- The other brothers and sisters have heard the story that Grace wasn't an aboriginal woman that rather she came over in the Gold Rush and was an American-Indian woman who was with an American white man. Not sure of the truth of this as no-one has come across any official records of that.

## **Page 15 & 16**

Fitz ran Hawkwood Station, before he bought Eidsvold Station & became involved with an aboriginal woman from the Wulli Wulli tribe: Grace, my maternal ancestor.

- He couldn't have become involved with Grace at this time as she was only a baby. She was married in 1924 & was 37 at that time which means she was born in 1887 – by 1897 she would have been 10.

In the late 1800's a 7 year old aboriginal boy turned up at Eidsvold Station.

- This ties in with Alick marrying in 1924 at the age of 44 so he must have been born around 1880 and it would have been 1887 that he turned up at Ban Ban Springs. His Marriage Certificate does state that he was born on "Boondooma", Wondai & Fanny (his wife) was born at "Hawkwood"
- How could he have supposedly survived a massacre and looked after himself from several months old to age seven. This is just stupid, crazy stuff from Pam.
- There are no known massacres around Eidsvold.

## Page 17

Fitz took him in and named him Alick Little

- .In actual fact he used to call him “Little Alick” because he was short & nuggety but when he got married he put Alick Little on his Marriage Certificate. Her older sister has a copy of this.

Pam doesn't know his Wakka Waklka name.

He fell in love with the stationmaster's aboriginal daughter, Frances, roughly the same age as him.

- As mentioned previously there was a 7 year age gap between the two of them

Alick & Frances spoke the Wakka Wakka & Wulli Wulli language

- Mum lived for a couple of years with Alick and Fanny and she said when they spoke it was Wakka Wakka lingo hence mum's knowledge of the Wakka Wakka language.

## Page 19

During this time, Mum saved money by living in a tent with us first four children on the cattle and sheep station

- Pam never lived on the properties as only Peter, Patsy and Kevin were born in the bush. When Mum & Dad came into town in 1956 so that Peter could start Grade 1, then Patsy started the following year. Pam wasn't even born until 1958 after we moved to Longreachso she never lived in the bush.



That cattle station where I spent my first years still exists...

- As mentioned above, she never lived on the property with Peter, Patsy and Kevin, this is just Pam wanting people to think she did, it's just fantasy and lies.

## **Page 20**

When I was about four we moved into the house that Dad built in Longreach

- As above, Pam wasn't born until 1958 and we moved into town in 1956

## **Page 22**

About a year after we moved to Longreach George got a job at the Showgrounds

- The family didn't move to the Showgrounds Cottage until 1959/1960

The boys sold cans and had paper runs

- This wasn't true, Pam's just making this up.

With his sheep dog Wanni by his side, George would wile away the hours after work and on weekends.

- Wunni (not) Wanni was a Collie.

We had one of those good-looking Fords, then one of those holdens...then a combi van.

- The first two cars are correct but Mum & Dad never had a combi van. In fact Pam's older sister, Patsy & her husband had a combi van.

## **Page 23**

At age 5 – about a year after we'd moved off the station and into town

- Previously she mentioned that she was 4 and besides she never lived on any station at any time of her life.

Around the time I moved to the showgrounds I started developing sleeping problems...rocked and sang myself to sleep

- Her older sister Patsy shared a room with her and doesn't recall Pam rocking and singing herself to sleep, she does say that Pam was weird from when she was born, however when she did start doing this it was when she was a boarder at The Range in 1971 and when she lived in the house in Eton Street.

He would lock me in the outside laundry where I would sleep on the canvas camp bed with Ringo, our black and white kelpie

- She's getting mixed up here as Mum & Dad couldn't cope in the house in Eton Street and they had a station wagon where there was a bed in the back of the car and she used to sleep in there. The reason was that no-one in the house could sleep and Dad had to go to work.....wasn't the best thing to do but they probably didn't know about psychiatrists in those days. Maybe the issue could have been fixed.
- Ringo wasn't a black & white kelpie. He was a plain black dog, bigger than a kelpie.

## **Page 24**

The Presbytery at Longreach was familiar territory for our family. Akin to a community centre, with the kindergarten next door and the primary school down the road

- There were no kindergartens in those days and the primary school wasn't near the Church, it was opposite our house at the Showgrounds.

We could go on and on and on about Pam's lies, delusions and madness but the aforementioned is enough of a start showing her craziness and make believe fantasies in her supposed memoir A Long Road from No Go.