

CONFLICTING DETAILS IN “A LONG ROAD FROM NO GO”

1. The first 24 pages of the book conflict quite markedly with Pam’s memory of her life until she was 18 and left home and her 3 older brother’s and sister’s memories of events living in the bush in the early 1950’s, moving to Longreach then moving to Rockhampton in 1971. There are statements from Pam which categorically did not occur (as she documented them) because the older siblings experienced them quite differently to her. Can this be categorised as her brothers and sisters lying but not Pam because she wrote the book?
2. There are 36 statements as recalled by myself, her older sister. I commenced documentation of the different memories when I started reading the book, and I only got to Page 24.
3. When Pam’s older brother, Kevin, started reading the book he did the same exercise as myself, not realising that I had started documenting my memories. In the first 3 chapters he came up with 29 statements in Chapter 1, 9 statements in Chapter 2 and 10 statements in Chapter 3.
4. The reason Kevin’s memories are more comprehensive than mine is that he does have a photographic memory.
5. Pam’s memories after the first three chapters are when she left home at 18/19 and didn’t really have much to do with the family from that time onwards. However, because Kevin is involved in the aboriginal community, our family have been kept informed regarding her life over the years from various aboriginal people.

The family’s concerns are what has been written in the first three chapters. My brother, Kevin, has already sent his memories in an article titled “A Long Road from No Go the first three chapters”. I won’t attach my document as the comments are very similar.

However, I will state the facts below:

1. In Pam’s Memoir she states that her alleged sexual abuse (by Fr. Grove Johnson & Fr. Mick Hayes) occurred at the Longreach Presbytery in 1964 when she was 6 years old and that our father took her to the Longreach Presbytery and left her there. **Our father was an atheist, why would he go near a presbytery or a Church?**
2. When she notified the police about the alleged sexual abuse in December 2015 she said it occurred in Longreach between 1964 & 1969.
3. The police investigated her claim between December 2015 and July 2017 and conducted a record of interview with Fr. Johnson on the 5th July 2017 with his lawyer in attendance.
4. The investigation concluded when it was proven that Fr. Johnson had never been to Longreach (**thus could not have done what Pam indicated he had done**).
5. The police told Fr. Johnson’s lawyer on the 21st December 2016 that they would need to speak again to Pam before finalising the investigation as her statement indicated that the alleged rape occurred in Longreach.

6. On the 30th August 2018 an article appeared in “The Morning Bulletin” written by an investigative journalist, Christine McKee and the story had changed to the alleged rape occurring in Rockhampton when she was six years old (**contrary to the statement in the book**) & that her father had left her at the Rockhampton Presbytery to be allegedly raped by Fr. Hayes then taken to Fr. Johnson who allegedly raped her as well.
7. In any case, as stated in the article, if the alleged rape occurred in Rockhampton when she was 6, how did she get there as our family never lived in Rockhampton until we moved there in 1971.
8. Unfortunately for Pam, the book had already been published stating that the alleged rape occurred in Longreach when she was 6 years old. The book was due to be launched at the Brisbane Writers Festival on the 9th September 2018 (**how do you justify this anomaly**)
9. On the 31st August another article appeared in “The Morning Bulletin” stating that she was 11 years old & she was attending the Regional Swimming Championships in Rockhampton with her father who took her to the Catholic Presbytery (a sprawling mansion with a heavy, winding staircase). My understanding is that Fr. Hayes lived in the Bishop’s House and this sounds like a description of the Bishop’s House rather than a Presbytery. Problem here is that Pam’s older brother (he was 16 years old at the time) was with her father and they stayed at the People’s Palace in Denison Street (quite a distance from the Bishop’s House) and they walked to the Swimming Pool on the Southside of Rockhampton (which was also quite a distance from the People’s Palace). **Why would her father and her brother be walking all over Rockhampton with her and dropping her to the Bishop’s House for the purposes stated in the book when she was supposed to be swimming at the Regional Titles.**
10. On the 31st August 2018 the Queensland Police Media Unit advised Christine McKee that the investigation concerning Fr. Grove Johnson was filed pending further information due to insufficient evidence to progress the investigation.
11. At this point in time, a Police Commissioner’s Report is being prepared into the process utilised in the investigation and this should be available in the very near future.

Whatever conclusions can be made from the above I’m sure our family and our sister’s conclusion would be markedly different.