

Mercy Administration Centre

The Range,
263 Agnes Street,
Rockhampton Q. 4700

P.O. Box 1576,
Rockhampton Q. 4700

ABN: 82 123 028 846



Telephone: 07 4927 1866
Facsimile: 07 4922 3040

Email: roksom@a1.com.au

**ROCKHAMPTON CONGREGATION
OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY
OF AUSTRALIA**

11 July 2001

AYN

REDACTED

Dear AYN

I am so sorry that I did not reply to your last letter. Please accept my deepest apologies. I have been away a great deal over the last few months and I either missed reading the letter or it went astray in the mail. I am sorry that you had to go to the extra expense of sending your letter by registered mail.

AYN I apologise for being so slow in responding to your request for the bell from Neerkol. I am sure you can appreciate that we have received many requests from past residents for mementos from their time at the Home. We are trying to be fair to all the past residents because someone could get very upset if they ask for a particular memento and they then find out that we have given it to some other person.

At the moment we have not given any mementos of Neerkol to any former resident. This is not out of any sense of us not being generous or trying to keep everything for the Sisters. We would like to be able to give past residents whatever they ask for because we understand that Neerkol was their home for many years and it is only natural that people would like a keepsake of their childhood years.

Unfortunately, the bell is one of the items that more than one person has requested. We are also conscious that there are ongoing discussions between some former residents and the Stanwell Corporation (the new owners of Neerkol) regarding the possible erection at Neerkol of some form of permanent monument that people may be able to visit in the years ahead. Perhaps some mementos like the bell could form part of such a monument.

AYN, in saying all of this I am very aware that you have never been able to find any photos of your time at Neerkol and that this has been a source of great disappointment to you. I am also conscious that you have been so personally supportive of me and so supportive of our efforts to promote reconciliation with former residents. You can therefore imagine that I am very keen to assist you to obtain some memento of your days at Neerkol.

AYN, could I suggest that we make no firm decisions about what may or may not be possible about you getting the bell or some other memento from Neerkol until you come up in September. You and I and Phillip can go out to Neerkol, have a look around and have a talk about what may be possible. We will have a much better idea at that time as to what may be going where.

I think you know me well enough to know that I will do all I can to see that you obtain a fitting memento of your time at St Joseph's, Neerkol.

Once again my apologies for not replying to your last letter. I feel really bad about that. Phillip and I are both well at the present time and he said to say hello to you and to say that, like me, he will be looking forward to seeing you in September. I hope you too have been keeping well of late.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Di-Anne".

Di-Anne