

Graham X & Stuart Highway's letters to Bill\_transcript extracts

Darwin Correctional Centre  
55 days done, 36 more to go!

**Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

Dear Bill

I was going to write back to you before I came in here but I didn't get the chance before getting locked up. I didn't have the address until my friend got the card from my PO Box and left it at the prison.

Thank you for your Seasons Greetings card, which I received just now.

I'll let you know how it is: horrible! That's the idea I suppose. It's not meant to [be] a bloody caravan park!! :)

Hey, I think I received a post card you sent a while ago, but I wasn't allowed to hang on to it. Only 20 letters and cards are allowed to be kept with you – the rest have to go in with your property in the office.

The block I'm in, Medium Security M Block, had a big drug test this morning. It took about 4 hours. Those whose names were called out had to provide a 60ml urine sample.

I refused to provide a sample, which is an offence, so I'm now an IDU (Identified Drug User). I expect a harsh penalty. Perhaps 28 days in the punishment cells 'down the back'.

I've been getting heaps of support and solidarity from outside, which has been terrific. NAP has been doing well, very busy. Both computers have been inexplicably disabled since Wednesday. I wonder whether that's a coincidence.

I'll write to you again when I get out. There are some issues I want to discuss with you.

I'll try to get this posted before lock-up, which is at 3pm.

Regards. All the best for the festive season.

Stuart.

Monday, 10/12/07

Stuart Highway

PO Box 614

Nightcliff NT 0814

ph.0889482547

G'day Bill,

I'll enclose herewith \$20 from the market sales yesterday. A black African woman I've known for years bought a copy of "Bunji" early on, for a friend.

Later on someone else who's been a long time in Darwin bought a copy. He came to enquire about the Graham X issue. Said it was outrageous. He was aggressive, like the Lambe, and I thought he was going to take the girl's side. I braced myself. He asked who you were. I told him you were the author of the book "Bunji" and other works, and an anthropologist. I said you knew the family because Graham's grandfather and you were involved in a political campaign in the 70s.

He told me he knew Graham and his family because he lived in the same street. He'd asked Graham's grandma where Graham was. She'd replied that she'd tell him later. However, before she got a chance to, he heard what had happened to Graham from someone else who'd bought a copy of your article.

I explained that while I wasn't convinced one way or the other [in December 2007] as to Graham's guilt or innocence it seemed to me that he'd had a raw deal, being tried as an adult for an offence allegedly committed as a 15 year old.

It turned out this guy agreed, and reckoned it was a dodgy how they had prosecuted him several years after the fact. He said Graham was no angel. He ended up buying a copy of "Bunji".

All the best

Stuart



Regards

Stuart.

P.S. Bill, I'm at the Nightcliff P.O., having just received your letter, with the new Beer can Regatta laminated poster, the "Discovery of Self" and the Graham X file receipts.

Thanks for all that! Yes, I do think it is worth continuing with the Graham X file. People are buying them – someone bought one yesterday. Of course it's up to the person who's been putting them together.

Sunday, 12.10.08 SALES

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1x A History of Darwin's Bagot Aboriginal community 1938 – 2008 | \$4.00      |
| + owed from last week   | .....\$0.10 |
| Total   | \$4.10      |

I enclose \$4.10 in stamps.

Hi Bill,

As soon as I stuck up the Coconut Grove in 1966 poster on the pole this morning there were people stopping to look at and study it. Not many people buy things from the stall but quite a few check it out and look at the laminated posters. It's impossible to gauge the impact the stall has on people's consciousness.

You never know who is going to stop by: old friends, interesting people from different walks of life.

The Graham X file is the thing people look at most.

Of course the weather is stinking hot build-up fare. By late morning it looked like rain was on its way but that prospect faded.

People who wouldn't otherwise meet make contact at the stall and exchange ideas. I love doing the stall.

Best wishes Stuart.

November 2009

Hi Bill

I sent the DVD to my younger brother and his family in the UK.

As usual a few people looked at Graham X's file. One guy I know from Berrimah said Graham's 'running amuck' in there and is in maximum security. This guy did 5½ years there and got out a few months ago.

Rob busked today. He had some new songs and sounded great. When is his CD coming out, that's what I want to know!

We're looking forward to having you back in Darwin. Emma asked about you, whether you're her in Darwin. She asked about Dulcie too.

Rob said he'll book the two of us to visit NP and out Indonesian friend Syaiful Anam later in the week.

My kitchen wall high above the sink is like Bagot Road at rush hour, only with ants instead of cars!

Take care,

Stuart.

Sydney  
2019

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your long letter and kind compliments. I just read a story online about Leah feeding long grassers. And other related stories, including one about a Sikh guy originally from India doing the same. Amazing. The stories remind me of the feeling of being overwhelmed by the

extent of the problems: poverty, dispossession, racism, violence... How can you possibly do anything that really makes a difference? You don't know what you can do until you manage to have a go.

Lighting one candle is certainly better than just cursing the darkness.

What happened to me in Darwin was nothing compared to what Graham went through. I only did 3 months – he did 28 times that! Is he still staying with you? Good on you for helping him, compiling information. Hope that in the future that documentation will assist in getting him a big compo payout -- \$1 million or \$5 million -- even though mere money can never make up for the injustice they did to him. The racist system had ruined his life. When we visited him in Berrimah he told us he didn't want to think about it because it would drive him crazy, and he ended up saying he didn't want us to visit any more. Fair enough – I understand. We couldn't help him.

I remember his leg going up and down slowly like an oil pump as he talked to us in the visiting area. He asked us to bring in cannabis for him. He reckoned that if things went wrong it wouldn't matter, we wouldn't get into trouble. We gave it some thought, because we wanted to support and help him. It would've helped in a small way to combat the misery and boredom of 7 years in that hell hole. But no, it wasn't worth the risk. We didn't want to end up in there ourselves.

People like Brian Martin have a lot to answer for. Gigantic salaries salve their consciences as they make arbitrary, media-influenced decisions that ruin people's lives. Is his Nana still alive? How is she? I would like to talk with you some time, Bill. Maybe I can ring sometime.

I'll enclose a US anti-racist journal, "Turning the Tide", that I've been subscribing to since an African American guy, Ramon, sent it to me from prison in California. He wrote to me when I was in Berrimah 2005-6. I didn't get the letter till I got out, as he had enclosed a small newsletter (not III, another one) people locked up weren't allowed to receive unauthorised publications.

I don't write to anyone regularly anymore, except political prisoner Thomas Meyer-Falk in Germany sometimes. I reckon this US mob, People Against Racist Terror, inspired the Lambe to form P.A.R.I.A.H. (People Against Racism in Australian Hotels...).

All the best, Bill. Great to hear from you!

Solidarity,

Stuart