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Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Library

Sorry Books

MS 3569

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| ADDITION – April 2008 | |
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COLLECTION SUMMARY

Title: Sorry Books

Collection no: MS 3569

Date range: 1998-2002

Extent: 3.06 metres (20 boxes and 2 folders) +1 folio box

Repository Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

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ACCESS TO COLLECTION

Access and use conditions

Open access reading. Partial copying permitted for private study and research

Copying and quotation

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Preferred citation

Items from this collection should be cited as [Title or description of manuscript item], Sorry books, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 3569, Item [nn]

Inter-Library Loan

Manuscripts are not available on Inter-Library Loan.

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COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and content note

The collection consists mainly of Sorry Books which were made available for all Australians to sign at various locations throughout the country during the Sorry Books campaign. The campaign was organised by Australians for Native Title (ANT) and officially launched in January 1998. The books were later collected and handed back to Indigenous Australians in a ceremony on National Sorry Day, 26 May 1998.

Unfortunately, many of the books do not contain details of the organisation that purchased the book or information on where the books were on display. However, another collection of Sorry Books (MS 3795) contains some of the administrative records relating to the Sorry Books campaign which can provide information on the organisations that purchased books. Item 304 of this collection contains a set of photocopies of request forms arranged numerically from 1-203. Items 297-303 consist of completed order forms arranged alphabetically by organisation. The number assigned to each book is recorded on these forms. Item 307 consists of various lists of locations of books which also gives their number.

Where possible the signatures of prominent Australians and local officials have been listed.

However, it is likely that some have been missed as not every page, of every book, was able to be scanned at the time of the compilation of the finding aid. In general, signatures were most readily identified at the beginning of books where positions or titles had been given along with signatures. In many other cases, the identification of prominent names was reliant upon the knowledge of the compiler of the 'Finding Aid'.

Each book or item has been described in a similar manner with an approximate, geographical location provided. Some books have been on display in more than one location. The retail chain, The Body Shop, ran its own campaign entitled 'Thumbs up for reconciliation' during this period. They attempted to have a book on display in each of their shops (around 65). Where possible, these books have been identified from information contained in the books, usually customer

comments on the shops and a listing found in MS 3795, Item 307.

Many organisations and individuals also made up their own books. These unofficial books have been listed in a similar manner to the official books. There are 166 official books and 49 unofficial books in the collection.

In the Addition – April 2008 there are 5 official and 17 unofficial Sorry Books. There is also a letter regarding effects of the removal of children from their families.

Provenance

The collection was donated to the Institute in September 1998 by the organisers of National Sorry Day held on 26 May, 1998.

In April 2008 an extra 25 manuscripts were donated to the collection by Dr David Hollinsworth, Secretary and Mrs Christine King, Chair, of the Stolen Generations Alliance.

Arrangement of collection

At the time of the compilation of this 'Finding Aid' the collection had already been sorted into archival boxes and each book was numbered. This arrangement has been maintained. As a result the books are listed in random order instead of in an ascending numerical sequence.

The Addition – April 2008 was numbered and added to the collection in a similar random order.

Related material

Important: Before clicking on the link to the catalogue entries below please read our <u>sensitivity</u> <u>message</u>.

Another collection of Sorry Books is held in the Library at MS 3795. This collection consisting of Sorry Books and other related material was donated to the Institute in 2000 by Australians for Native Title.

A third collection of Sorry Books is held at MS 4398. These are additional individual books received from institutions after they became aware of the Sorry Book collections held by the AIATSIS Library.

The J.S. Battye Library of Western Australian History holds 45 Sorry Books from Western Australia at MN 2114. For more information see the State Library of Western Australia <u>catalogue</u> and the <u>collection listing</u>.

The State Library of South Australia holds 26 Sorry Books signed by the South Australia community. More information can be found in the State Library of South Australia <u>Archival Database</u>.

For a complete listing of material about the Sorry books or about Sorry Day, consult <u>Mura®</u>, the <u>AIATSIS catalogue</u>

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BACKGROUND NOTE

The Sorry Books were an initiative of the group, Australians for Native Title (ANT), which was formed in June 1997. They were seen as an opportunity for ordinary Australians who wanted to do something in response to the Federal Government's refusal to make a formal apology to the Stolen

Generations.

The Sorry Books campaign was launched by Hazel Hawke and Bryce Courtenay on Australia Day 1998, in a ceremony at Circular Quay in Sydney, New South Wales. Other prominent Australians who attended the ceremony and signed the books included Jim McLelland, Elizabeth Evatt, Faith Bandler, Robyn Williams, Ruth Cracknell, Anne Deveson, John Bell and Anne Thomson. Organisers estimated that over 5,000 people signed one of four books which were available on the day at the Museum of Contemporary Arts or the Opera House.

A launch in London was held on 26 March at Australia House. It was supported by a number of well known Australians living in London including radio personality, Jonathon Coleman; author, Kathy Lette; actor, Mark Little and gay rights activist, Peter Tatchell. Another signing took place in the House of Commons on 7 April where 14 British Members of Parliament signed the book. The books were later available for signing at the Earls Court offices of *Southern Cross* and *TNT*. Here the books were signed by many expatriates as well as locals and tourists from many countries around the world.

The first official books that were produced (around 200) were of A4 size with a hard cover and containing 80 pages. Due to the huge demand for books, they were later replaced by a soft covered, green book consisting of 20 pages. The books were made of archival paper and archival pens were also supplied to ensure the survival of the books for future generations. Australians for Native Title were assisted in the distribution and movement of books by a group with similar aims known as <u>Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR)</u> and a vast network of volunteers. Each official book was numbered when an order was processed. This enabled them to keep track of the location of the books at any given time during the campaign.

Around 650 official Sorry Books were circulated around Australia. They were displayed in a variety of places including local councils, libraries, museums, churches, bookshops, art galleries and schools. Some groups who ordered books had volunteers to take them around to different locations within their areas instead of leaving them in one place. The organising committee asked that books were returned to them after a month so they could be sent to another location for signing. Many organisations and individuals also made up their own books.

Each 'Sorry Book' contains the following apology:

'By signing my name in this book, I record my deep regret for the injustices suffered by Indigenous Australians as a result of European settlement and, in particular, I offer my personal apology for the hurt and harm caused by the forced removal of children from their families and for the effect of government policy on the human dignity and spirit of Indigenous Australians.

I would also like to record my desire for Reconciliation and for a better future for all our peoples. I make a commitment to a united Australia which respects this land of ours, values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage and provides justice and equity for all'

Each 'Sorry Book' is different in its content. Some pages are covered with rows of signatures without any messages, some have simply written 'I am sorry' while others have written extensive apologies, often on behalf of families and previous generations. Many people have expressed disappointment with the Government and the Prime Minister for their lack of apology. Some point out that this failure prompted them to apologise as individuals.

Many migrants and refugees have signed the books and referred to similar problems with Indigenous peoples in their country of origin. Included here are survivors of the 'Holocaust' in WWII who have made similar apologies. Overseas tourists who have signed the books have also expressed similar sentiments.

Other comments have come from women and mothers who have expressed their feelings about

the loss of a child and how they would feel if something similar happened to them. A number of adopted children who have gone through a similar process of displacement and loss of identity have added their comments to the books.

There are a small number of negative statements from those who felt that they could not apologise or saw no reason for an apology. However, their comments are greatly outnumbered by an overwhelming positive response to the books.

The Sorry Books were handed to a delegation of Indigenous Australians by the Governor of New South Wales, Gordon Samuels, in a ceremony at Government House on National Sorry Day, 26 May, 1998. This day was the anniversary of the tabling of the report *Bringing them home* which was the result of the National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families conducted by the Human Rights Commissioner, Sir Roland Wilson. The books were then forwarded to the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), in Canberra, for permanent retention. They now form part of the Library's Manuscript Collection.

Many communities also held their own Sorry Day ceremonies and gave the book, or books which had been on display to their local Indigenous leaders or representatives. These books have then been kept in the local community, in a library, or alternative archival repository.

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ONLINE EXHIBITION

Further information about the Sorry Books, and for selections from the Sorry Books, can be seen on the AIATSIS Library Sorry Books Online Exhibition

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ITEM LIST

BOX 1

Item

1 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages without any addresses, B5 notebook, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

2 **NSW Nurses Association**. Includes signatures of nurses from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales, A4 notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from Cowra, New South Wales, A4 notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

4 **Australian Association of Social Workers, Queensland Branch**. Includes signatures and messages from members, A4 notebook, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and comments from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales. Contains the signatures of Professor Marie Bashir,

currently Governor of New South Wales and her husband, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, a former Lord Mayor of Sydney. A4 notebook, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

6 **Mid North Coast Area Health Service**. Includes signatures and messages from the Mid North Coast area, New South Wales (197 signatures)

Official 'Sorry Book' (452) which has been bound

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BOX 2

Item

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures without addresses, loose leaf pages in a folder which has been covered in gift wrapping paper (9 signatures)

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

2 **Gunnedah Shire Council, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and messages from residents of the shire, A4 loose-leaf pages, later bound

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from Camden and Narellan, New South Wales, three looseleaf A4 pages in a plastic wallet

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

4 **St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood, New South Wales**. Includes signatures of parishioners, A4 looseleaf pages, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures of health care workers without any addresses, A4 looseleaf pages bound into a booklet. Various journal articles on reconciliation have also been included

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages without any addresses, A4, bound, binding sticker indicates that it was bound in Freemantle, Western Australia

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Robin Quarry, Bronte, New South Wales. Includes a letter from Robin Quarry, an American, who came to live in Sydney in 1992 and a drawing by her daughter, Astrid Quarry, three A4 looseleaf pages, spiral bound

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages mainly from Tabulam and Bonalbo, New South Wales and students from Bonalbo Central School, A4, spiral binding,

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

9 **Gordon Uniting Church, Gordon, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and comments from church members, A4 notebook, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

10 **St Paul's Lutheran Church, Box Hill, Victoria**. Mostly signatures of church members, B5 notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

11 **St Theresa's, Toowoomba, Queensland**. Includes signatures and messages of church members, B5 notebook, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Wynnum Manly Alliance Church, Manly, Queensland. Includes a one page, A4 looseleaf sheet containing signatures and addresses of church members and a covering letter from Pastor Bill Armstrong

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Folder containing a letter from the Rector of the Parish of Christ, Belconnen, Australian Capital Territory referring to a book which was passed around five Anglican Parishes on Sorry Day. However, there is no accompanying book

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BOX 3

Item

Place of display unknown. Probably prepared by the Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales. Signatures only, A4 Collins notebook (10 signatures)

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Probably prepared by the Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales. Signatures only, A4 Collins notebook (14 signatures)

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Residential Tenancies Tribunal, Sydney, New South Wales. One of several books prepared by the Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales. Includes signatures and addresses, A4 Collins notebook (31 signatures)

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

4 **Place of display unknown**. Probably prepared by the Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales. Signatures only, A4 Collins notebook (6 signatures)

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Probably prepared by the Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales. Signature only, A4 Collins notebook (1 signature)

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Probably prepared by the Department of Fair Trading, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages, A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

7 Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages without addresses

Official 'Sorry Book' (65)

- Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and comments from suburbs in Canberra, Australian Capital Territory and Melbourne, Victoria (possibly on display in a Body Shop?)Official 'Sorry Book' (78)
- Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and comments from suburbs in Sydney, New South Wales and Perth, Western Australia

Official 'Sorry Book' (192)

10 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from Wollongong, and the Illawarra region, New South Wales. Contains the signature of the Lord Mayor of Wollongong

Official 'Sorry Book' (120)

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BOX 4

Item

1 **St Ursula's College, Kingsgrove, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and messages from students and staff, B5 notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

2 **Marist Sisters' College, Woolwich, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and messages from students and staff, A4 notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

3 **Elizabeth Macarthur High School, Narellan, New South Wales**. Includes signatures of students arranged by class, A4 notebook. Also contains four newspaper articles relating to Sorry Day and associated activities

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

4 **Orange Agricultural College, Orange, New South Wales**. Includes signatures from staff and students of the college and a small number from Calare Public School, A4 notebook, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

- 5 **Chester Hill Public School, Chester Hill, New South Wales**. Mainly signatures arranged by class, A4 looseleaf pages, spiral bindingUnofficial 'Sorry Book'
- St Vincent's College, Potts Point, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages from students, A4 notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

7 **Catholic Education Office, Parramatta, New South Wales**. Mainly signatures of students and staff from schools within the Diocese of Parramatta including Loyola College, A4 looseleaf pages, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Place of display unknown. Mainly signatures of children, A4 looseleaf pages, stapled together (28 signatures)

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

9 **St Mark's, Drummoyne, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and messages from students and teachers, A4 looseleaf pages tied together with ribbon

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

10 **Council of Adult Education, Melbourne, Victoria**. Includes signatures and messages from staff and students, A4 looseleaf pages tied together with ribbon

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Holsworthy High School, Holsworthy, New South Wales. Booklet received from Kendall Newcombe, a Year 12 Aboriginal Studies student. The booklet was compiled by his class and then displayed in the school's library where it received 69 signatures, A4 looseleaf pages tied together with ribbon

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

12 **Chester Hill High School, Chester Hill, New South Wales**. Mostly signatures from staff and students, A4 looseleaf pages, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Strathfield South High School, Strathfield South, New South Wales. Signatures collected by Year 7 Silver History class after giving a presentation on the 'Stolen Generation' at a school assembly, A4 looseleaf pages

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

14 **St Thomas Aquinas Primary School, Springwood, New South Wales**. Mostly signatures of students, A4 looseleaf, spiral binding

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

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BOX 5

Item

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and comments from Tamworth, New South Wales and surrounding areas. The first two signatures are those of Tony Windsor, MP, the Independent Member for New England and the Mayor of Tamworth

Official 'Sorry Book' (52)

- 2 Canberra Montessori School, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory. Includes signatures and messages gathered predominantly on the day of the school's Autumn Fair on 28 March, 1998Official 'Sorry Book' (198)
- Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Perth and country towns in Western Australia (possibly on display in a Body Shop?)

Official 'Sorry Book' (194)

4 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from the Sutherland Shire area, Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (49)

5 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (58)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Shoalhaven Shire, New South Wales: Burrill Lake, Milton, Mollymook and Ulladulla. The book was then returned to Sydney for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (179)

7 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria

Official 'Sorry Book' (63)

Place of display unknown. Signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales including St Martin de Porres Catholic Parish, Davidson and students of Mackellar Girls' High School, Manly Vale (191 signatures)

Official 'Sorry Book' (94)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Lake Macquarie Council area, New South Wales. The book was then transferred to the Lismore area for further signatures (75 signatures)

Official 'Sorry Book' (132)

10 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages mostly from suburbs of Melbourne. Victoria

Official 'Sorry Book' (196)

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BOX 6

Item

Place of display unknown. Signatures and messages from the Shoalhaven Shire, New South Wales including Berry, Bomaderry and Nowra (341 signatures)

Official 'Sorry Book' (180)

Place of display unknown. Mostly signatures from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales.

Official 'Sorry Book' (93)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Sutherland Shire area, Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (47)

4 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (7)

5 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from the Sutherland Shire area, Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (50)

6 **Parliament House, Sydney, New South Wales**. The first five pages of the book contain signatures of members of the New South Wales Parliament including the

Premier, Bob Carr. Other signatures and messages are from staff at Parliament House and visitors

Official 'Sorry Book' (no number)

7 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (116)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from Wollongong and surrounding towns of Dapto, Kiama and Thirroul, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (96)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (119)

10 **Place of origin unknown**. Mostly signatures without any addresses

Official 'Sorry Book' (163)

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BOX 7

Item

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (176)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Blue Mountains area, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (28)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Brisbane, Queensland

Official 'Sorry Book' (69)

4 Berwick, Victoria, Community Aid Abroad - Walk Against Want, 29 March 1998. Mostly signatures without any addresses

Official 'Sorry Book' (43)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Wollongong and Illawarra area, New South Wales. The book was then transferred to Sydney for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (200)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Blue Mountains area, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (74)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from staff and students at the University of Western Sydney, New South Wales and also students from Newtown Public School

Official 'Sorry Book' (161)

8 **City of Dubbo, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and messages from Dubbo, Wellington and Gilgandra, New South Wales. Contains the signatures of the Mayor of Dubbo, Deputy Mayor and some councillors

Official 'Sorry Book' (130)

- Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from women in Sydney, New South Wales. The book was purchased by the Department of Women and displayed at events held by them Official 'Sorry Book' (137)
- 10 Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Western Sydney, New South Wales: Castle Hill, Kellyville, Pennant Hills and surrounding areas.

Official 'Sorry Book' (6)

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BOX 8

Item

1 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from inner suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales: Alexandria, Newtown and Erskineville

Official 'Sorry Book' (105)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory

Official 'Sorry Book' (181)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Adelaide, South Australia. The book was then transferred to Sydney, New South Wales for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (98)

4 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from Tasmania. The book was then transferred to Perth, Western Australia for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (173)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from Wollongong, New South Wales. The final pages contain signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney

Official 'Sorry Book' (201)

- Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales (908 signatures)Official 'Sorry Book' (128)
- 7 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from the Sutherland Shire area, Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (51)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Brisbane, Queensland

Official 'Sorry Book' (36)

- Place of display unknown. Mostly signatures from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales Official 'Sorry Book' (110)
- 10 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales Official 'Sorry Book' (197)

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BOX 9

Item

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales. Contains names of Quakers from a Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, held at Wahroonga (760 signatures)

Official 'Sorry Book' (31)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Adelaide, South Australia. The final pages contain signatures and messages from Forster and Tuncurry, New South Wales and surrounding areas (661 signatures)

Official 'Sorry Book' (37)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from Port Macquarie, Taree and Wauchope, New South Wales and surrounding areas. Contains signatures of staff and students of Wauchope High School and St Joseph's Regional High School, Port Macquarie

Official 'Sorry Book' (13)

4 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from the Lake Macquarie Council area, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (133)

Feminist Bookshop, Lilyfield, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages from staff and patrons

Official 'Sorry Book' (45)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and comments from the Tweed Shire, New South Wales. Contains the signature of the Mayor of the Tweed Shire Council, various youth workers from Murwillumbah and staff from the Daily News. See also Box 10, Item 6

Official 'Sorry Book' (11)

7 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Adelaide, South Australia and many overseas tourists (552 signatures)

Official 'Sorry Book' (98)

Place of display unknown. (Possibly Newtown Library). Includes signatures and messages from suburbs in the South Sydney area, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (109)

9 **Parramatta City Council, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and messages from the Parramatta area, New South Wales. Contains the signature of the Deputy Lord Mayor of Parramatta

Official 'Sorry Book' (67)

10 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from the Lake Macquarie Council area, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (131)

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BOX 10

Item

1 **Collected by the people of Redfern, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and messages from the surrounding area. See also Box 11, Item 5

Official 'Sorry Book' (35)

Place of display unknown. Signatures and messages initially from the Manly area in Sydney, New South Wales. The book was then transferred to Cairns, Queensland. Attached to the rear of the book is a Sorry Day address given by Pastor Barry Tattersall, Secretary, Cairns Christian Ministry Council, 26 May, 1998

Official 'Sorry Book' (32)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (112)

4 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from Tasmania. The book was then transferred to Adelaide, South Australia for further signatures. Contains the signature of author, Mem Fox

Official 'Sorry Book' (89)

5 Aboriginal Health Unit, Hunter Area Health, Wallsend Campus, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages from the surrounding area. See also Box 12, Item 6

Official 'Sorry Book' (41)

6 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and comments from the Tweed Shire, New South Wales. Contains the signature of the Mayor of the Tweed Shire Council, and staff of the Murwillumbah Youth Centre. See also Box 9, Item 6

Official 'Sorry Book' (12)

Federation of Parents and Citizens' Associations, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages

Official 'Sorry Book' (33)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales. The book was then transferred to Brisbane, Queensland for further signatures (possibly on display in a Body Shop?)

Official 'Sorry Book' (193)

9 Body Shop, Melbourne, Victoria. Includes signatures and messages from staff and customers

Official 'Sorry Book' (195)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland: Buderim, Maroochydore and surrounding areas

Official 'Sorry Book' (190)

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BOX 11

Item

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (57)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages of residents of the Knox City Council, Victoria. See also Box 11, Item 6

Official 'Sorry Book' (114)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from Alstonville, Byron Bay, Lismore and Mullumbimby, New South Wales and surrounding areas

Official 'Sorry Book' (156)

4 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages mainly from Whyalla, South Australia

Official 'Sorry Book' (185)

5 **Collected by the people of Redfern, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and messages. See also Box 10, Item 1

Official 'Sorry Book' (34)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages of residents of the Knox City Council, Victoria. Contains signatures from St Joseph's, Boronia. See also Box 11, Item 2

Official 'Sorry Book' (113)

7 **The Manly Book**. Includes signatures and messages from the Manly area. Some of the signatures were gathered at a Reconciliation Concert held on 23 May, 1998 at the Manly Corso as part of Manly Council NAIDOC Committee's Reconciliation Week events

Official 'Sorry Book' (29)

8 **Church of Christ (various).** Includes mainly signatures from members of the Church of Christ in suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria (263 signatures). The book was then transferred to Sydney, New South Wales for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (170)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales around Mosman. Contains signatures from students of Mosman High School

Official 'Sorry Book' (182)

10 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South

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BOX 12

Item

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages mainly from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales. The first three pages contain entries from the Port Macquarie area

Official 'Sorry Book' (183)

Place of display unknown. Initially includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales. The book was then transferred to Victoria where signatures were gathered from rural areas including Albury, Bright, Beechworth and Wodonga before being returned to locations in Sydney again

Official 'Sorry Book' (85)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (14)

4 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs in the South Sydney area, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (107)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales: Elizabeth Bay, King's Cross and Potts Point. Contains the signature of author and historian, Heather Radi

Official 'Sorry Book' (108)

Randwick City Council, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages from the council area: Bondi, Clovelly, Coogee, Maroubra and Randwick. Contains the signature of the Mayor of Randwick City Council

Official 'Sorry Book' (92)

- Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages mainly from suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria (possibly on display in a Body Shop?)Official 'Sorry Book' (204)
- 8 **Body Shop, Brisbane, Queensland**. Includes signatures and messages from staff and customers

Official 'Sorry Book' (79)

9 Randwick City Council, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages

from the council area: Bondi, Clovelly, Coogee, Maroubra and Randwick. Contains the signature of the Deputy Mayor of Randwick City Council

Official 'Sorry Book' (164)

10 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from the Lake Macquarie Council area, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (135)

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BOX 13

Item

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales. The book was then transferred to Northern New South Wales with signatures from the towns of Alstonville, Bangalow, Byron Bay and Lismore

Official 'Sorry Book' (184)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from Tasmania(possibly on display in a Body Shop?)

Official 'Sorry Book' (111)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages mainly without addresses. Where addresses have been given they are from suburbs of Adelaide and other towns in South Australia

Official 'Sorry Book' (91)

4 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory (possibly on display in a Body Shop?)

Official 'Sorry Book' (191)

5 Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from Tasmania

Official 'Sorry Book' (90)

Aboriginal Health Unit, Hunter Area Health, Wallsend Campus, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages from the surrounding areas of Morriset, Muswellbrook, Newcastle and New Lambton. See also Box 10, Item 5

Official 'Sorry Book' (44)

7 **Body Shop, Melbourne, Victoria**. Includes signatures and messages from staff and customers

Official 'Sorry Book' (68)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales. The book was then transferred to Toowoomba, Queensland for signing and then returned to Sydney

Official 'Sorry Book' (59)

9 **Body Shop, Brisbane, Queensland**. Includes signatures and messages from staff and customers

Official 'Sorry Book' (205)

10 Lismore Reconciliation, Lismore, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages from Lismore and surrounding areas

Official 'Sorry Book' (171)

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BOX 14

Item

Department of Fair Trading, Albury, New South Wales. Includes signatures of staff and clients, A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

2 **Department of Fair Trading, Tamworth, New South Wales**. Includes signatures of staff and clients, A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

3 **Department of Fair Trading, Sydney, New South Wales**. Includes signatures of staff and clients from a Sydney office (branch unknown), A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

4 **Department of Fair Trading, Sydney , New South Wales**. Includes signatures of staff and clients from a Sydney office (branch unknown), A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

5. **Department of Fair Trading, Hurstville, New South Wales**. Includes signatures of staff and clients, A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Department of Fair Trading, Sydney, New South Wales. Includes signatures of staff and clients from a Sydney office (branch unknown), A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

7 **Department of Fair Trading, Gosford, New South Wales**. Includes signatures of staff and clients, A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

8 **Department of Fair Trading, Sydney, New South Wales**. Includes signatures of staff and clients from a Sydney office (branch unknown), A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

9 **Department of Fair Trading, Gosford, New South Wales**. Includes signatures of staff and clients, A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Department of Fair Trading, Wollongong, New South Wales. Includes signatures of staff and clients, A4 Collins notebook

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

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BOX 15

Item

1 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (25)

Tandanya, National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, Adelaide. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Adelaide and many visitors to the Institute. The book was then transferred to Queensland, possibly the Queensland Institute of Technology for further signatures(304 signatures)

Official 'Sorry Book' (70)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (24)

4 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from the Lake Macquarie Council area, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (134)

5 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from the Western Suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (8)

Wollondilly Shire Council, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages from residents of the shire. Contains the signature of the Mayor of Wollondilly Shire Council and a child's handprint in green paint. The book was then sent to Sydney for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (168)

7 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from Armidale, New South Wales and surrounding towns

Official 'Sorry Book' (53)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (54)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Central Coast area, New South Wales: Bateau Bay, Umina and Woy Woy

Official 'Sorry Book' (54)

10 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (157)

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BOX 16

Item

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales. The book was then transferred to the Margaret River region of Western Australia for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (77)

2 **South Sydney City Council, New South Wales**. Includes signatures and messages from residents in the Council area. Contains the signature of the Mayor of South Sydney Council.

Official 'Sorry Book' (106)

Sisters of Mercy, New South Wales. Includes signatures and messages from Sisters of Mercy in the South West Slopes and Riverina areas of New South Wales. There are also signatures and messages from the residents of Albury and surrounding towns (196 signatures). The book was then returned to Sydney for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (124)

Australia House, The Strand, London, England, 26 March 1998. Launch of the 'Sorry Book' in the United Kingdom. Includes the signatures of Jonathon Coleman, John Pilger, Rolf Harris, Germaine Greer, Kathy Lette, Mark Little and Peter Tatchell. The book was also on display in the House of Commons on 7 April 1998 where it was signed by many British politicians

Official 'Sorry Book' (139)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from the Sunshine Coast, Queensland (131 signatures). The book was then returned to Sydney for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (203)

Australia House, The Strand, London, England, 26th March 1998. Launch of the 'Sorry Book' in the United Kingdom. Includes signatures and messages of Australians living in, or visiting, London (166 signatures). The book was then returned to Sydney for further signatures

Official 'Sorry Book' (139)

7 **Place of display unknown**. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (9)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from suburbs of Sydney, New South Wales

Official 'Sorry Book' (56)

9 **Earth Elders, Australia**. Includes the signatures of Barbara and Terry Tebo, the founders of Earth Elders and their own company 'Lifespring', along with signatures and messages from other members of the organisation. The book was then transferred to Melbourne and includes the signature of the Lord Mayor of Melbourne

Official 'Sorry Book' (76)

10 **Community Aid Abroad Shop, Brisbane, Queensland**. Includes signatures and messages from staff and customers. The book has then been transferred to Sydney, New South Wales for further signatures

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BOX 17

This box contains A4 looseleaf pages containing signatures and messages from various organisations including schools, churches, shire councils, private organisations and individuals. They include:

- Emanuel School, Woollahra, New South Wales
- Bridgeman Baptist Church, Bridgeman Downs, Queensland
- Kincumber Uniting Church, Kincumber, New South Wales
- Butler Lodge, Burwood, New South Wales
- Cleveland Street Intensive English Centre, Surry Hills, New South Wales
- Narromine Shire Council, Narromine, New South Wales
- Anglicare Adoption Services, Telopea, New South Wales
- Staff of AC Nelson
- St Marys Senior High School, St Marys, New South Wales
- Bethlehem College, Ashfield, New South Wales
- Moss Vale High School, Moss Vale, New South Wales
- Murri Monistry, Woolloongabba, Queensland
- Mt Alvernia College, Kedron, Queensland

The material has been housed in plastic sleeves in a three ring archival binder.

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BOX 18

This box contains A4 looseleaf pages containing signatures and messages from various organisations including schools, private organisations and individuals. They include:

- Nambucca Heads High School, Nambucca, New South Wales
- St George Girls High School, Kogarah, New South Wales
- Photocopies of two books from Central Queensland. One of the original books is located at Durrumbul and the second book is at the Worribinda [Woorabinda] Aboriginal Settlement. They both contain signatures and messages from Rockhampton, Yeppoon and surrounding areasLists of names without any addresses

The material has been housed in plastic sleeves in a three ring archival folder

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BOX 19

Item

Sorry Book Launch, Circular Quay, Sydney, New South Wales. One of four books available for signing at the Museum of Contemporary Arts and the Opera House on the day of the launch, 26 January 1998. Contains the signatures of Hazel Hawke, Bryce Courtenay, Robyn Williams, Jim McClelland, Faith Bandler, Elizabeth Evatt, Ruth Cracknell, Anne Deveson, John Bell and Anne Thomson, who were all present at the launch. The books were then sent to various other locations in Sydney for signing. This book was also sent to Adelaide, South Australia and contains signatures of the South Australian Advisory Committee on Reconciliation

Official 'Sorry Book' (no number)

Sorry Book Launch, Circular Quay, Sydney, New South Wales. One of four books available for signing at the Museum of Contemporary Arts and the Opera House on the day of the launch, 26 January 1998. The books were then sent to other locations in Sydney for signing including St Peter's Uniting Church, Harbord; Seaforth Baptist Church and Freshwater High School

Official 'Sorry Book' (no number)

Place of display unknown. Includes signatures and messages from Gladstone, Queensland, oversized folder (elephant folio)

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

BOX 20

Photocopies for digitization. Photocopies of selected pages from the 'Sorry Books'.

ADDITION - April 2008

BOX 21

Item

Canberra Hospital, Garran, Australian Capital Territory? [information supplied by one of the signatories]. Signatures and messages. Addresses are mainly from the Australian Capital Territory. Marbled cover. [One of a number of books bought by John Bond at a newsagent after the Committee had run out of official 'Sorry Books']

Unofficial 'Sorry Book',

2 St. Brigid's Catholic Primary School, Para Road, Evanston South Australia. Covered notebook labelled '25.5.98 National Sorry Day' divided into sections for Reception, Years 1, 2/3, 3/4 4/5, 6/7 and Staff/Parents

Unofficial 'Sorry Book"

3 Lake Tuggeranong College, Tuggeranong, Australian Capital Territory.

Received with envelope with note to John Bond which included 'A number of my students were happy to sign it'. A small number of signatures dated 1998 and two of the signatures on the last used page signed 'Chisholm TAFE 2/12/02'

Official 'Sorry Book' (465)

4 Catholic Ladies College, Diamond Street, Eltham, Victoria. Pages ruled into three columns. Includes signatures only except for a few students who added 'Sorry'

Official 'Sorry Book' (511)

National Sorry Day Committee (ACT), Australian Capital Territory Mainly signatures from Goulburn, with some messages. There are a few single signatures from other places in New South Wales including Hurstville, Taralga, Tallong, Braidwood, Laggan, Bungonia, Queanbeyan and one from Queensland

Official 'Sorry Book" (291)

National Sorry Day Committee (ACT), Australian Capital Territory. Signatures from Gundagai and Nangus, New South Wales. Includes signatures and a few messages

Official 'Sorry Book" (296)

National Sorry Day Committee (ACT), Australian Capital Territory. One page of signatures and one short message only. No addresses.

Official 'Sorry Book" (292)

Bunjilaka Aboriginal Gallery, Melbourne Museum, Victoria. Lined sheets of paper headed 'Apology, Bunjilaka Aboriginal Gallery, Melbourne Museum. We the undersigned people of Australia believe an apology is owed to those of our fellow citizens who were separated from their families as a direct result of government policy. We offer that apology'. The sheets are divided in columns for Name, Signature and Postcode. While most of the postcodes are for Victoria there is a scattering of postcodes from other states

Unofficial 'Sorry Book"

Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College, Leongatha, Victoria. Covered folder with card reading 'Presented to the South Gippsland Shire Council, expressing trhe sorrow for the children and families of the 'Stolen Generation' from Students (304), Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College, Leongatha, Victoria. Dated 22nd June 1998'. Inside there is a bound copy of signed sheets with an introduction mentioning that all year levels had seen the film 'Sorry' and so were aware of what the Aboriginal people have suffered and how they continue to suffer. This is followed by information about the apology that the students were invited to sign. The sheets were then placed by Celebration Committee representatives of each class on a table during assembly.

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Bethlehem College, Ashfield, New South Wales. Cover commences 'Bethlehem College is Sorry ... for the inhumane and utterly unjust treatment of the Indigenous peoples of Australia since white invasion..." Pages prepared by both individuals and groups of students and pages on which individual messages of sorrow have been pasted have been spiral bound. Pages include messages, poems, illustrations and decorations. An accompanying letter to John Bond explains that the College's Faith In Action (FIA) Social Justice Group promoted the signing of the Sorry Book in 2002

and is signed by the SRC Present, the FIA Co-ordinator and the Principal.

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

BOX 22

Item

Place of display unknown. Pages divided into columns for name and comments. No addresses given. Spiral bound, mottled red cover. Spine decorated with red, yellow and black ribbons

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Noarlunga TAFE, Noarlunga, South Australia Left hand pages divided into columns for names and addresses, right hand pages for comments. Spiral bound, mottled red cover

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Haydon House, Marist College Canberra, Australian Capital Territory Three mottled pale gold sheets of signatures, with some of the signatures preceded by 'Sorry'. College and Haydon House shields and 'Marist College Canberra Haydon House' printed at the top of sheets.

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Keithcot Farm Primary School, Wynn Vale, South Australia. Typed letters in the words of Year 3/4 children who have been studying Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders for Society and Environment. As explained in an accompanying letter, the class 'looked at the Dreamtime, and what it means, clothing of the ancestors and how the Aboriginals respect their environment' and 'discussed reconciliation and what it means'. The class was 'particularly horrified about the children being taken from their homes'. The half A4 size letters have been illustrated by the children.

Also letter and a piece of artwork by Juliette Kent of East Malvern, Victoria, used as illustration of the stolen generation in a book. Connection to letters unknown but found in same envelope as letters

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Petition in Support of Aboriginal Australia to the Prime Minister of Australia. Saying 'Sorry' to the Aboriginal people is a symbolic gesture to indicate an acknowledgement of grievances as a result of forced removal of children. True reconciliation between the Australian nation and its Indigenous people is not achievable in the absence of acknowledgement by the nation of the wrongfulness of the past dispossession, oppression and degradation of the Aboriginal peoples. As Prime Minister of Australia, people all over the world ask that you say Sorry to the Stolen Generations and the Indigenous people of your country in recognition of past wrongs'. Seven sheets of signatures, nearly all from New South Wales

Unofficial 'Sorry Book"

Place of display unknown. Most pages contain one message and signature only. Messages from a Romany Gypsy, an Irish person, and a Filipina Australian (in her first language). Includes are signatures and messages from Perth, Kallaroo, Burns Beach and Connolly

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Warracknabeal Secondary College, Warracknabeal, Victoria Sheets with illustrated and/or decorated apologies spiral bound with illustrated and decorated cover. Short letter from John Martin accompanying a list of students who signed for Sorry Day on 26 May 1998 and their signatures. Back cover has signatures surrounding '61 Garran P.S. 98' in the centre of the sheet

Unofficial 'Sorry Book"

BOX 23

Item

Alfred Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Melbourne, Victoria. Letter from CAMHS explaining involvement with Koori families and that they have heard repeatedly about the effect that the forced removal of children had on generations of these families and outlining some of the consequences of the loss. CAMHS acknowledges the removals happened and hopes that CAMHS can be part of the healing process through continued involvement with Koori families.

Letter

Sacré Coeur, Glen Iris, Victoria. Two signed sheets headed Sacre Coeur "Sorry Book" and accompanying letter explaining that some students and staff signed the book on the 1999 Sorry Day and outlining the way Reconciliation Week was recognised at the school

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Macquarie University, North Ryde, New South Wales. Sorry Book set up for students to signed at 'Indigenous Celebration Week – Yenma Kaoui Daragha Nora – Walk This Way On Darag Land' with guest speakers, stalls, musical performances, site tours and Indigenous food hosted by the Macquarie University Union. 'Sorry Book' consisting of loose pages accompanied by explanatory letter

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

4 **Place of display unknown.** Two sheets with signatures from New South Wales including Beverly Hills, Wagga Wagga, Mulgoa, Cherrybrook and Springwood. Accompanied by short list of instructions

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

Apology wording and explanation about signing from Australians for Native Title. Photocopied sheet giving the standard words used in many of the 'Sorry Books' and brief explanation and request regarding signing the book. Sheets could by pasted into the front of unofficial 'Sorry books' (12 copies)

Apology

Place of display unknown. The majority of the signatures are from Braidwood, with some from Major's Creek and from Mongarlowe, all in New South Wales. Also a signature from Araluen, New South Wales and one from Mundaring in Western Australia. There are also several messages. Brown paper covered book labelled 'Sorry Book".

Unofficial 'Sorry Book'

7 **St Rita's College, Brisbane, Queensland.** Signatures and some messages. Spiral bound black covered book with College's shield on the front

Unofficial 'Sorry book'

Canberra, Australian Capital Territory. First page contains a handwritten apology dated May 1998, Canberra. Signatures and messages. Collins 3880 account book. Inserted at front is signed sheet headed by an apology with compliments slip from Gill Kane & Brophy, solicitors, Melbourne, Victoria

Unofficial 'Sorry Books'

Finding Aid compiled by J. Bradley, October 2002. J. Churches updated in October 2005 and added Addition – April 2008 in May 2008

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