

TVNZ
 Sunday 7:30pm
 1 May 2005

**The Monster of Berhampore
 Transcript**

Introduction		
	Kathleen Batchelor	there's one over in Australia who finds it very, very difficult to even come back to New Zealand. Her own country! Because of a creep like that.
	Philip Kitchin:	Wellington police were about to arrest him.
	Glenn Williams:	We had reached the decision that there was sufficient to put him before the court.
	Philip Kitchin:	Now his victims believe the church that protected him must be made accountable. What's your view of the way the church has handled these complaints?
	Kathleen Batchelor:	They need to take the scales off their eyes. Have a good hard look at themselves.
	Trevor Roberts:	The fact that the police have decided to charge doesn't mean that he's guilty.
Programme		
0:03	Garth Bray: with distorted picture of Walter Lake behind	<p>Welcome back, I'm Garth Bray. He was one of the leaders of. Presbyterian Support Services, a church elder, but there was another side to this respected pillar of Wellington society. Walter Lake has been revealed as a sexual monster who terrorised and preyed on the small children in his care.</p> <p>For the past 12 months the TVNZ Investigative Unit has been following the Lake case. For the first time tonight a senior policeman has revealed that Walter Lake was about to be arrested, but an important question remains unanswered: Has the Presbyterian Church done enough to help his victims?</p> <p>Tonight, you decide. This report by Phil Kitchin. Some of the information in this story may be disturbing. Viewer discretion is advised.</p>

00:50	Announcer View of Walter Lake as old man at home in Rintoul street with stick	He looks like he couldn't hurt a fly. A frail old man. But that's not how his victims remember him.
0:57	Spooky music, boy's legs walking up steps	
1:05	Male Voice, boy going into room followed by an adult man	Walter Lake has made a lasting impression on me as the most horrible person that a child could ever have had dealings with.
1:17		[spooky music]
1:23	Announcer background photo of Walter Lake and his death notice	Walter Lake. OBE, Justice of the Peace. World War II veteran. Sunday School teacher. He died five months ago and with him a forty-year-old scandal appeared to have died too. Or did it?
1:37	Scenes of protest with people shouting "Presbyterian Church, we wont go away"	
1:43	Kathleen Batchelor:	I get very angry [gulp] when I see more and more victims coming out of the woodwork.
1:50	Trevor Roberts:	We're not in a position, nor are we going to simply take a soft line - and because there is a possibility of embarrassment, or where the facts are not clear, write cheques in the hope that people will go away.
2:04	Mavis Van Dalen:	I just feel that - dear God, how could this happen? This was my church, and my children.
2:15	Announcer Background pf protest, children, Berhampore home	These people are angry. They feel deprived of justice. Adults now in their sixties and seventies, they were the forgotten children. Abandoned by their parents, their upbringing left to the Social Services Division of the Presbyterian faith.
2:30		[shots of people chanting 'Presbyterian Church, we won't go away! Presbyterian Church, we're here to stay!' and waving placards]
2:38	Announcer Background of	Many of them - possibly dozens - share dark secrets. In sheds, halls and bathrooms at the former Berhampore

	Berhampore home, close up photo of Walter Lake	Orphanage, run by Walter Lake, he sexually abused them as young children. Aged between eight and 14 they were his sexual prisoners. Abused in his home, his car and at the Presbyterian Social Services Offices.
2:59		[dirge-like music]
3:02	Announcer: photo of Kathleen lake as a child, and as an adult	Kathleen Batchelor, one of Lake's victims. She broke the silence ringing the lives of Berhampore Home children. Her cries to authorities were ignored 20 years ago. She tried again and again. Five months before Lake died she was finally heard.
3:20	Kathleen Batchelor	I thought: How dare he die. Now he's gone. We can't bring him to justice. But boy, he will suffer in the next life.
3:30	Announcer:	Walter Lake was in charge of Berhampore Home. He was also head of Wellington's Presbyterian Social Services - that's since morphed into Presbyterian Support Services The church is at pains to point out that they are a separate organisation, but the fact remains they appoint board members to Presbyterian Support Services
3:56	Philip Kitchin	So - where does the buck stop? Tonight we will show you how, 14 years ago, the Presbyterian Church was warned - not once - but three times about Walter Lake by a member of its own clergy. Walter Lake's victims feel betrayed and scorned by their former guardians. Now they feel cheated by this death.
4:20	Announcer	Our story tonight continues our investigation of July last year into what went on at the children's home.
4:26	Unidentified female 1	He's just the devil incarnate. He's evil.
4:32	Unidentified female 2	I just feel that he should pay for what he's done. I'm sorry .
4:37	Announcer, photos of Walter Lake at home, World War 2 aeroplane	That investigation led to police launching an inquiry. Walter Lake - or Wally as he was widely known - served with the New Zealand forces in the Pacific during the war. Presbyterian Support Services saw the war veteran and civil servant as 'uniquely qualified' to run Berhampore Homes, which he ran for 20 years.
4:57		
5:01	Announcer picture of Walter Lake at home	When Walter Lake retired it was to this home in Rintoul Street. A church elder, he helped out at Sunday School. A

		year later he was awarded an OBE for services to Social Welfare.
5:16	Announcer, picture of street address	Presbyterian Support Services even named one of their retirement homes after him.
5:22	Announcer, pictures of girls	Within weeks of our initial investigation being screened, police had heard from many more victims of Lake's. We've spoken to three who didn't want to appear on camera. We've used actresses to tell their stories.
5:37	Millan sister	He was a sexual monster and he tortured and terrorised us.
5:48	Announcer	Karen and Louise Millan and one of their brothers, Kevin, were among them. Here's what they told us about their horrific treatment at the hands of their legal guardian
6:02	Millan sister	There were four of us in our family there - two brothers, two sisters - and he did it to three of us.
6:17	Announcer	Appallingly, one of the family became known as 'Walter Lake's Saturday morning boy'.
6:23	Millan sister	One day I saw the door to the dance hall slightly open. No one went there except for dancing. I looked in and saw Walter Lake sodomising my brother. Mr Lake was raping my brother over a couch. He was crying and saying 'No'. But he was being held down in the middle of his back. He used to take Kevin to the Presbyterian office in town and sodomise him there.
6:57	Philip Kitchin, with photo of Berhampore home	We've obtained a copy of the official statement given by Karen and Louise's brother Kevin to police. It describes the terror of an eight-year-old. A boy who suffered epileptic seizures. A boy so scared others would find out what was being done to him that he buried his underpants, buried them because they were so soiled with blood.
7:23	Announcer	Unusually, Walter Lake's victims were from both sexes
7:25	Philip Kitchin	What did he do to you?
7:26	Kathleen Batchelor	He took my knickers down. He tried to enter me. He couldn't. He said I was not to tell anyone. That it was his

		secret and mine. That if I told anyone I'd be in big trouble
7:38	Announcer	Aged about 13, Kathleen tried to blow the whistle to a matron - one of Walter Lake's staff.
7:45	Kathleen Batchelor	<p>I said to the matron, I said, 'Don't be surprised if I don't run away again, because Mr Lake is being rude.' And I told her what had happened. And she said 'Oh no, I don't believe they'd go to your room.'</p> <p>All the matron had to do was investigate to see if it was true or wasn't true - where things were going. But they chose not to do that.</p> <p>For many, many years I told different ones, trying to get this out into the open to deal with it. I rung a national moderator of the Presbyterian Church, and he said, 'Well it's your word against his.' He wasn't prepared to do anything.</p>
8:21	Philip Kitchin	You've led the charge on this Kathleen. Why?
8:25	Kathleen Batchelor	This did not have to happen. And some of them just cannot move on. In fact there's one over in Australia who finds it very, very difficult to even come back to New Zealand. Her own country! Because of a creep like that.
8:40	Announcer	While Berhampore Home was still standing Kathleen says she told Presbyterian Support Services about Walter Lake. She tried again 15 years ago. And again four years ago. This time backed up by another victim.
8:57	Philip Kitchin	What's your view of the way the church has handled these complaints?
9:01	Kathleen Batchelor	They need to take the scales off their eyes. Have a good hard look at themselves.
9:07	Announcer	Twenty years ago Kathleen formally complained to police. They believed Walter Lake, not her. That all changed last year when we revealed Lake was a serial sex offender, and police started a high-level inquiry. Glenn Williams heads the Wellington Child Abuse Squad.
9:25	Glen Williams	Within about the first week of December we intended to approach Mr Lake. And we'd reached the decision that there was sufficient to put him before the court. Thirteen complainants were spoken to. We're aware of another

		number of people, but at that point in time they hadn't made formal complaints.
9:48	Female Voice	The police told us that Mr Lake was a classic paedophile. And they said that they were sure that there were lots of victims who hadn't come forward. But they said that they had enough, and they couldn't wait to get him to court.
10:06	Female Voice	We were also told by the police that Walter Lake had been in the police system for a long time.
10:11	Female Voice	I rang Presbyterian Support Services last year and they gave me to another former counsellor who knew Walter Lake and she asked if I wanted counselling. And she asked if we'd like to plant a tree. She said if the victims want an apology then we'd have to put it in writing. And their attitude was that if we wanted counselling they'd help. But if we wanted compensation then the door would be shut and we'd have to go to court.
10:48	Announcer	Frustrated at the response from Presbyterian authorities, many of the victims have hired Palmerston North barrister Gordon Paine.
10:56	Gordon Paine	We're talking about a predator here, a paedophile in my view. Somebody that had captive children to prey upon.
11:05	Philip Kitchin	What in your opinion have support services done about these allegations?
11:09	Gordon Paine	They have sat on their hands and steadfastly resisted any attempt to try and bring closure for these people. I believe clearly they know, and have known for some years, what this is about. They've just turned a blind eye. They won't talk to them. They won't try and get round a table. They won't do any of the things that other religious institutions that have been the subject of claims like this have done.
11:36	Philip Kitchin	There's a word for that, isn't there?
11:38	Gordon Paine	Well there's 'stonewalling'. There's little doubt about it. Their whole viewpoint is - if you've got something to say - you know - go to court.
11:45	Announcer	The church and Presbyterian Support were poles apart in responding to the victims' criticism. The church spokeswoman, Josephine Reddy:

11:53	Josephine Reading	We regret that it has taken so long for the complainants to have their issue resolved and worked through, and that the matter could be investigated further by Presbyterian Support.
12:02	Announcer	The church claims the same thing would not happen today.
12:06	Josephine Reading	In 1991 our processes around sexual misconduct and matters of that nature weren't as robust as they are now. We've significantly strengthened our processes in this area in the ensuing 14 or so years.
12:20	Announcer	The Presbyterian Church sheeted home responsibility to the social agency, Presbyterian Support.
12:27	Josephine Reading	It's important to remember that the incidents occurred at a home that was under the control and management of Presbyterian Support.
12:35	Philip Kitchin	Presbyterian Support says it's consistently told the complainants to go to the police. But Walter Lake died before those complainants could get their day in court. Now Presbyterian Support Services spokesman, Trevor Roberts, says, if Lake's victims want to talk to Presbyterian Support, they'll have to do it in a courtroom.
12:57	Trevor Roberts:	There are avenues open to them which they should pursue...
13:01	Philip Kitchin	So are you saying...
13:02	Trevor Roberts:	It's now gone too far to indulge in warm fuzzy meetings.
13:09	Philip Kitchin	So this is about money now, money and lawyers?
13:12	Trevor Roberts:	It's not about money and lawyers. It's about the management of risk and finding the truth of the matter. The fact that the police have decided to charge doesn't mean that he's guilty, and I have to tell you that our own investigations into some of the matters where we have been able to investigate indicate that there are some quite considerable issues of credibility in respect of some of those complaints.

13:38	Philip Kitchin	In terms of what?
13:39	Trevor Roberts:	I'm not going to any further comment than that.
13:41	Announcer	However, the police believed the victims.
13:44	Glenn Williams:	There was certainly enough strong similarities in the complainants to cause the police to believe that he should be put before the court, and believe the allegations of complainants.
14:03	Announcer	Presbyterian Support's Trevor Roberts is unaware of the scale of the police investigation into Walter Lake.
14:10	Philip Kitchin	The police said they had 13 complainants and they all told similar stories.
14:15	Trevor Roberts:	I have to tell you that we are not aware that there are 13 potential complainants. And if there are, we don't even know who they are - some of them certainly have not approached Presbyterian Support. So as far as we're concerned that is not an issue. As far as the complainants we know about, they have embarked on a course of action. They should follow it.
14:35	<i>[strange music], View of street sign</i>	
14:39	Kathleen Batchelor:	That needs to be pulled down. Burnt. Should never be there.
14:44	Announcer	We took Kathleen Batchelor back to the site of the old Berhampore Home, and an ordinary garden shed that still haunts her.
14:53	Kathleen Batchelor:	He'd take you in there and close the door and you'd get your lucky dip, as the same time as he has his hands all over you.
15:00	Philip Kitchin	So it was a way to..?
15:02	Kathleen Batchelor:	Entice you up there.
15:04	<i>[gloomy music]</i>	

15:15	Announcer	<p>Finally, for the victims, a major revelation, and it comes from a member of the Presbyterian clergy. A deaconess who damns the way the Presbyterians are handling the Walter Lake scandal. Mavis Van Dalen worked at Berhampore Home before Walter Lake arrived.</p> <p>In an exclusive interview with Sunday she says that 14 years ago she told the then head of the Presbyterian Church that Lake was a sexual predator.</p>
15:45	Mavis Van Dalen:	I was just horrified. I think it hit me - this is happening in my church?! I know it's happened in others, but this is the church I belong to. I think it's absolutely deplorable that they are in denial.
15:58	Announcer	Mavis was so alarmed she repeatedly phoned Duncan Jamieson, a former head of the church, who said he would pass on her warnings to a Presbyterian committee
16:09	Philip Kitchin:	So three times you told the head of the Presbyterian Church about these allegations?
16:13	Mavis Van Dalen:	That's correct.
16:15	Philip Kitchin:	To your knowledge, was anything done?
16:16	Mavis Van Dalen:	I never heard of anything. Which is why I phoned him so repeatedly. I never heard a thing
	<i>[spooky music].</i>	