

Maitland Gaol

On 22 June we returned to Maitland Gaol for our second visit. This time we were fortunate enough to be accompanied by the kids from Ghosts of Oz, Brett Watson from S.I.N Australia, Don Meers from The Spirit Level and a few other wonderful people.

What started out as a fun night quickly turned intense. At one point during the night, we slipped into role-playing without even realising it. One person was dressed in a Corrective Services jacket, and was acting as the guard. The rest of us were acting as the prisoners. The profanity was varied and frequent! The mood was aggressive. It is hard to explain without actually being there, but it was quite the experience and to this day we cannot explain where some of the things that came out of our mouths originated!

We also conducted lone vigils in C Block. Essentially, everyone picked a cell and we entered the cell, closing the door, for 45 minutes.

Peet decided to attempt to excite the ghosts by reading Fifty Shades of Grey, but alas, they did not seem to appreciate the graphic sex scenes. Steph put on a slinky night gown and attempted to seduce the spirits, but again, nothing.

Peet, Nic and Alex (from Ghosts of Oz) then entered Satan's Cell (cell 4 in C Block), and although nothing was documented as paranormal, it was again an experience of slipping into a role-playing scenario. The story behind this particular cell is that a prisoner who occupied it was apparently a Satan worshiper. It is said that he made a pact with the devil, and performed many satanic rituals whilst in this cell. He eventually went completely crazy and set fire to himself, which resulted in a very grisly death.

It is also said that the prison guard who was in charge of 'cleaning up' the mess after his death was so traumatized that he went home that night and slit his wrists, using his smashed bathroom mirror.

While in Satan's Cell, we decided to try two different methods. Firstly we tried a bit of provocation, by reading passages from the bible, saying prayers, and berating the spirit for his blasphemous behaviour. We felt completely overwhelmed by feelings of righteousness and this went on for quite some time.

We then took a completely different tact and started speaking the Nine Satanic Statements – being:

1. Satan represents indulgence instead of abstinence!
2. Satan represents vital existence instead of spiritual pipe dreams!
3. Satan represents undefiled wisdom instead of hypocritical self-deceit!
4. Satan represents kindness to those who deserve it [not] love wasted on ingrates!
5. Satan represents vengeance instead of turning the other cheek!
6. Satan represents responsibility to the responsible...!
7. Satan represents man as just another animal...!
8. Satan represents all of the so-called sins...!
9. Satan has been the best friend the Church has ever had...!

Using these principals we attempted to coax a response and again, although no evidence was captured, we were completely caught up in moment and felt a belief in what we were saying.

All in all, this trip was by far our favourite trip to Maitland Gaol. The last time we went, we collected so much evidence it was impressive. This time, we did not collect one single visual or audible phenomenon but the personal experiences were intense.

We look forward to returning again in November!

~Peet