

REFUGE, RESCUE & REFORM

Voices of Suffering & Survival

RHODA SCHUTT was admitted to the Female Refuge in 1897. A month later she was 'safely delivered of a female child named Mary'. When she 'threatened to do herself an injury' and kept 'the whole house disturbed by singing, dancing and at night refusing her food' and her medication, Rhoda was handed over to the police and committed to the insane asylum.

Mary, her baby daughter, was 'arrested' by police in the grounds of the Refuge and committed to the Department of Neglected Children.

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LIZZIE FAIRFAX was arrested by the police in May 1894. Born in Collingwood, 16 years previously, on 6 November 1878, she had been living in poverty in a tent for around two years with her father and her brother, a boy of 18 years of age. She had hardly any clothes. After her father was gaoled for stealing, Lizzie was arrested as a Neglected Child and sent to Brookside.

Lizzie then had a criminal record.

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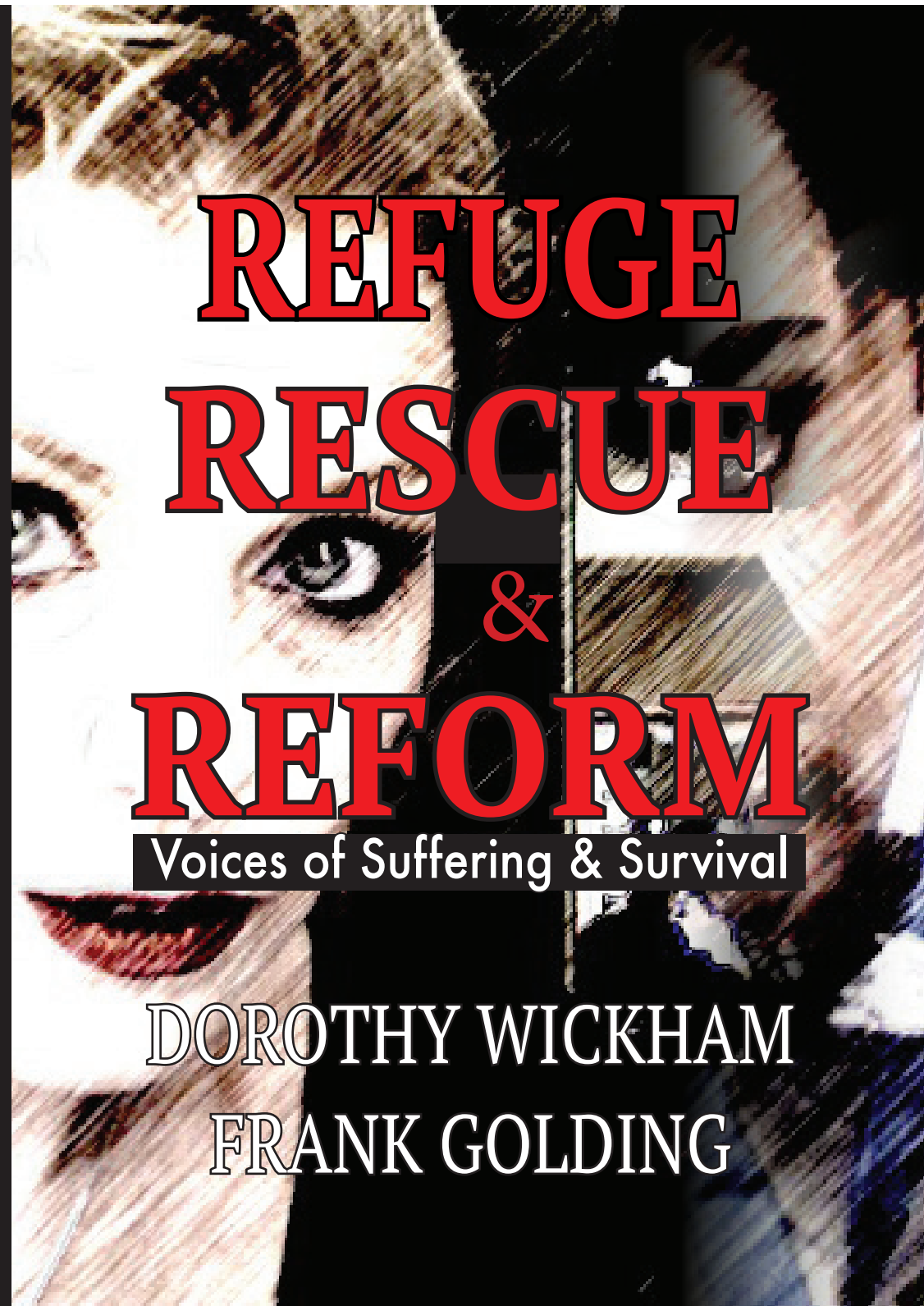
BHS
PUBLISHING

Stories of women and children in the lesser known institutions in and around Ballarat speak of voices of suffering and survival.

How much has changed since the 1850s? History it seems is always with us!

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