

WHO
THEY
ARE

GLENN DUKER: Holds Melbourne University law degree. From wealthy Melbourne family. Joined RCI early and became a disciple of discredited property spruiker Henry Kaye, graduating from Kaye's Financial Mastery Boot Camp. Gold Coast pastor in 2003. Now living in Melbourne.



LORILEA DUKER: Met and married Glenn through RCI. Also graduate of the Henry Kaye school and a director of many Duker companies. Marion Lago, Lorilea's mother, was book-keeper for the Duker paper empire.

ASIC bungle let Duker



SPECIAL REPORT KEN VERNON
vernnonk@goldcoast.com.au

The ongoing Bulletin investigation of Glenn Duker, former Gold Coast pentecostal minister who fleeced members of his Revival Churches International congregation in dubious property schemes, has uncovered that the rogue pastor was once netted by ASIC – but the securities watchdog let him go scot free. Duker went on to scam more members of the Gold Coast congregation and others before his paper empire crashed two years later.

AN amazing slip-up by Australia's companies watchdog allowed rogue Gold Coast pastor Glenn Duker to continue fleecing parishioners and friends to the tune of almost \$30 million.

The on-going Bulletin investigation into Duker's house-of-cards real estate empire has uncovered that the Australian Securities and Investment Commission investigated him in 2006-07 and found his schemes were, in all probability, illegal and that his companies had traded while insolvent.

Duker was the Gold Coast pastor of Revival Churches International, a pentecostal church, but he was also a disciple of a different sort – of discredited property guru Henry Kaye's schemes and drew many into dubious Kaye-style deals.

Most lost a great deal of money and only later have some realised they should have been 'saved', not by their church, but by ASIC.

Following its investigation, ASIC drew up an 'Enforceable Undertaking', a contract demanding the pastor agree not to undertake any further irregular transactions and requiring him to repay victims.

But ASIC never asked Duker to sign the document, leaving him free



Glenn Duker, seen here in Surfers Paradise with his wife Lorilea



to carry on his activities. The revelation has angered and disgusted the victims who question why ASIC left them to their fate.

When first asked why it had let the crooked pastor off the hook, the securities watchdog said the enforceable undertaking was not an 'official' ASIC document.

However the Bulletin uncovered correspondence between ASIC and Duker's lawyers negotiating the terms of the document. Other letters between ASIC and Duker's victims makes it clear ASIC believed he could be prosecuted.

In August 2006, ASIC investigator Kevin Foo wrote to one victim saying: "It is envisaged that an affidavit

will be needed from you once our investigation is complete and the matter moves into litigation phase. We will contact you once the time arrives."

But the time never arrived.

Pressed for an answer, ASIC changed its tune, saying: "We don't comment on operational matters."

Asked if that meant that Duker was still being investigated, the ASIC's Catch-22 type response was simply: "We don't comment on operational matters."

If ASIC is investigating Duker's failed empire it is keeping it to itself, according to the man who is doing its job and pursuing Australia's top conman and trying to help his

victims, former RCI church member Scott Bennison.

According to Mr Bennison, ASIC's fundamental mistake added substantially to the number of Duker's victims and eventual financial cost.

"If ASIC had done its job properly in 2006 it could have prevented so many lives from being destroyed by this man" he said.

"By the same token, if the church had taken action when Duker's activities were brought to its attention in 2002-03, nearly all the damage could have been avoided."

Instead, RCI took action against Mr Bennison, tossing the investigator out of the church in 2010, for 'being a trouble-maker'.

Craig Williams, who worked with Duker before becoming one of his victims, said he had calculated that if ASIC had enforced its action against Duker, the cost of his schemes would have been cut by about 80 per cent, limiting the damage to about \$10 million.

He said he spoke to the head of the church, Simon Longfield, on the Gold Coast about Duker's illegal and unethical schemes in about 2003, but not only received no help, he and his wife had been shunned by RCI for speaking out.

This week, RCI leader Pastor Longfield, told the Bulletin he had never supported Glenn Duker 'or anyone else' in the matter.



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MATTHEW DUKER: Glenn's brother who was drawn into the business, becoming a director. A former RCI pastor – presently 'stood down' – he alleges he lost money in his brother's schemes but still supports him.



SCOTT BENNISON: Chartered accountant and long-time RCI church member who became alarmed at stories of parishioners duped by Duker. He investigated the schemes but this led to him being ex-communicated. He is pursuing Duker through courts and seeking compensation for victims.



SIMON LONGFIELD: Current leader of Revival Centres International, the church founded in 1948 by his father, Lloyd.

off hook

No memory of dealings

THE BOSS

FROM the time the Glenn Duker story broke, one major facet has been missing – his own words.

He has refused to speak and has gone to great lengths to avoid being tracked down by the press.

He has even refused to give his address to authorities, claiming to have received death threats – apparently after at least one of his victims was revealed to be a member of the Melbourne underworld.

The Bulletin has obtained a transcript of Duker's December 2008 testimony to the Equity Court of the NSW Supreme Court.

Duker's memory failed him spectacularly, even when asked why he had been examined by ASIC.

"I don't know," he replied.

Asked if he was concerned after being told ASIC suspected he had breached provisions of the Corporations Act he replied: "I can't



Glenn Duker

remember what I considered or thought at the time."

Grilled by examiner Michael Hayter, Duker admitted records showing his holding company RVP Group owned 36 properties were false and it owned fewer than 15 but said that could have been a 'typing error'.

Questioned about millions of dollar that passed through his and his wife Lorilea's private bank accounts, he denied they were company funds, but could not remember where the funds came from.

Nor could he remember being told by his own solicitors that his actions may have been illegal.

"I'm not on anyone's side and neither is the church. We're a church, we don't control what our members do in business. I have no control over that – if I did I would be a cult leader, not a pastor," he said.

"As far as Glenn Duker is concerned, my position is that if he has broken the law he needs to be put on trial and if he's guilty he needs to go to jail – simple."

He said he would be interested to know the reasons why ASIC did not pursue Duker.

As far as Mr Bennison's exclusion from RCI was concerned, he said as far as he knew, that was a 'local matter' that had nothing to do with the accountant's investigations into the

Duker schemes. The news of Duker's amazing ASIC escape comes as his brother Matthew, who was involved in real estate schemes, has been served with papers suing him for almost \$10 million.

Duker family accountant Alan Walker is also being sued after being struck off as an auditor because of his professional failures in connection with the Duker schemes.

Last year, Duker filed for bankruptcy owing \$34.3 million. His wife Lorilea also filed for bankruptcy protection owing \$12.7 million while their holding company RVP owes creditors a further \$9 million – together an Australian record bankruptcy of \$56 million.



Craig and Sue Williams want to know why nothing was done

How the scam works

THE SYSTEM

DUKER would buy a property, get the seller to agree to take 70-80 per cent cash with the rest payable in 12 months, interest paid at 10 per cent on the unpaid amount, while the sellers could still live in the house.

A deed of contract with a Duker shelf company would be signed with 'special conditions' indicating there was a second contract – but that section would not be shown to the lending bank – enabling Duker to borrow on the property for much more than he would pay the seller.

The shelf company (Duker) would then pay out the owner's 70 or 80 per cent, with the rest deposited into another Duker shelf company and from there into other accounts.

Duker would personally guarantee the company debts and present himself as the owner of a number of companies with seemingly large assets – without disclosing any debts.

He would pay the bank loan for a while, then stop. The bank would foreclose on the house, kick out the 'owners' and sell it for what they could get – with the bank, the original owners and any second mortgagees all losing money. Duker did this many times during 2007. He placed his RVP Group into liquidation in June 2008 and declared bankruptcy in 2009.

Casualties angry and seek answers

THE VICTIMS

GOLD Coasters ruined by rogue pastor Glenn Duker have slammed ASIC for letting their tormentor off the hook.

"ASIC has a lot to answer for," said Lyn Orloff, who lost her \$500,000 home in a Duker scam.

"I tried to speak to ASIC about Duker and they wouldn't listen.

"I have a court case coming up and after that, I'm going after ASIC."

Builder Craig O'Brien is equally mad after heavy losses.

"ASIC is a government body that is supposed to protect people like me and they let me down entirely," he said.

"I lost more than a million dollars to Duker and I'm really struggling, but that would not have happened if ASIC had done what it was supposed to do.

"If I traded the way Duker did, ASIC would be on my tail in an instant, but they let Duker get away with blue bloody murder."

Architect Ian Hosking says he has come to the conclusion 'the system stinks'.

"I'm appalled at ASIC's inaction. I lost over \$550,000 because ASIC did not follow through on their own investigation," he said.

Craig Williams, who once worked with Duker, said he had turned over a dossier on Duker's schemes to ASIC and the organisation said it would act.

"We'll contact you once the time arrives (for litigation) they said ... I was never contacted," he said.



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