



CONGREGATION OF THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
 HOLY SPIRIT COLLEGE
 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PROVINCE
 EAST PERTH, AUSTRALIA

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TELEPHONE - - - - 450 5311

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 PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

Dear Barry,

First of all, my apologies for the long silence regarding our proposed West Australian Centenary History. You would understand that my absence for the first part of this year and the subsequent change of Provincial Council, together with accumulated work, have together made life more than usually complex over the last couple of months. However, we have now managed to give further consideration to the question of our Centenary in West Australia.

There are two significant factors which bring me to a variation of my original proposal which I will outline in this letter. The first of these you are already familiar with: namely, the persistent publicity and enquiry surrounding the whole Child Migrant question. The recent publication of a book entitled "Geordie", together with consequent reviews in newspapers, radio interviews etc., have caused some of the old faithful Bindoon supporters to encourage a more public stance on our part regarding the history of that period, and especially of Paul Kearney. The second factor which causes me to make the proposal which follows, is that one of our highly competent Brothers in Perth, (Kevin Paull) is currently engaged in writing a Master's Thesis in History, and he has chosen to write on the Christian Brothers' Educational work in West Australia - a social history of our 100 years here. He chose that topic quite independently of me, and I was not aware of his choice until I returned from the General Chapter in May. He made his choice, too, without any knowledge of my negotiations with you. Talking with him, I discovered that his thesis would cover our plan for a history to be published for our Centenary Year.

So both of those factors Barry, lead me into the following suggestion.

It seems to me now that two books are needed:

- 1) An overall history of the Christian Brothers in West Australia for the past 100 years.
- 2) A detailed and thorough history of our whole operation in the care of orphans and of child migrants in all of our four "Institutions" in this part of the world - Castledare, Clontarf, Bindoon and Tardun.

The first of these projects (the overall history) would satisfy the need for a readable history available to the wider community in West Australia and beyond. The second project would satisfy particularly those people who had, one way or another, a particular interest in the Castledare-Clontarf-Bindoon-Tardun enterprise. Such a history would also be of interest to those former child migrants who have been very critical of their time on our Institutions.

I believe Barry, that you would be the best qualified person to attend professionally to that second project - the story of our "Institutions". I believe that you have already researched those questions to a large extent, given that you would presumably need to do further research. I also understand that this area has held and does hold a particular interest for you. I also believe that this particular area of history is very complex and requires specialised treatment - that is, a history in itself. There is no doubt that it would need to be set in the wider context of the Brothers in West Australia and the work of the Brothers in general, but it seems to me that the complexities are such that a relatively cursory treatment in a general overall history would be insufficient. Therefore, I am proposing a specialised history of this aspect of Christian Brother life in West Australia be written and published.

What I am asking you is how would you feel about the writing of a history of the Castledare-Clontarf-Bindoon-Tardun elements of Christian Brother life in West Australia? I ask that question on the understanding that the nature of the publication would be such as to make it available to the wider community, both for those who have been and are good friends of the Brothers, and those who feel some resentment at the treatment they allege to have received in these Institutions.

So I await your response to this modified proposal, and we can continue negotiations after I hear from you by letter.

Many thanks for your consideration of this suggestion, and continued good wishes in your work in Papua New Guinea.

Yours fraternally,



Br. G.T. Faulkner cfc
Provincial.