

(W. BAKER)

REDACTED

REDACTED

6/9/93

(My mail is being
redirected)

9 SEP 1993

Dear Gerry,

I'm writing from the Sunshine Coast and enjoying my Long Service leave away from the Victorian winter. We left in July and travelled to Rockhampton, gradually drifting down the East coast. Our only deadline is to be in Sydney for the reunion.

Having stood at the grave of REDACTED, the

REDACTED, I experienced a certain awe and nostalgia. The secluded graveyard of a tiny Cairnbarrow Catholic Church seemed inappropriate for a woman who would mean so much to REDACTED. However more pertinent was I depressed by the state of the headstone. Personally I am not one for monuments but it would seem that such a key person in REDACTED at least deserves an intact and clearly recognizable headstone.

My proposal is that we invite people at the reunion to contribute to a Trust which would have the responsibility of restoring the grave and headstone possibly with a plaque recognizing REDACTED to REDACTED. Hopefully you would volunteer to be Trustee (as long as you didn't do a Vincent Kiss with the funds!) and a small committee would investigate the options, costs and details of the restoration. Once the cost of the

project was ascertained, contributions would be welcomed with contributors receiving a photograph of the restoration. Do you think the project is worth pursuing? If so would you be willing to launch it at the reunion?

The other project which should be considered is the writing of REDACTED. It would make sense to "appoint" a REDACTED historian to whom all REDACTED could pool their memories. An 'official' historian would be more likely to construct a comprehensive history rather than an isolated individual. Ideally it would be you. But if your duties precluded that I'm sure there would be volunteers, myself included, who would relish the opportunity of writing such a history. Again to offset the inevitable costs of research etc REDACTED could be asked to contribute to a REDACTED fund. It would be wonderful to launch the history at Reunion IV.

Hopefully your new position is fulfilling and not ulcer producing. I read the Sunday Age article featuring your interview re. Vincent Weiss. A very delicate situation requiring the diplomatic skills of Solomon! With the publicity of sexual abuse by the clergy I am sure it will not be an easy time for the hierarchy. On that note can you tell me if Fr. Bill Baker is still a priest. If he is I hope that he received counselling and hasn't continued to deal with altar boys like he did with me 30 years ago. It's so sad that a few bad apples can turn everything so sour.

Looking forward to see you at the reunion,

Love,

BTL