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Dear All Chalker Family Members

You will recall my original letter and questionnaire which I sent regarding the holding of a family reunion. Well it is my great pleasure to inform you that a family reunion will take place on the Bicentennial Year weekend of the 23rd and 24th of January 1988 at St. Patrick's College, Clinton Street, Goulburn 2580. This location has been chosen for many reasons not the least of which relates to the efforts of my cousin Brother Peter Sheldon (Joseph Henry Chalker line) of Aitkenvale, Queensland. Peter who at one time worked at the college has arranged through the Principal, Brother John Corbett, for the use of the facility

No doubt there will be members of our family who will be unable to attend but I urge all those who can to come along and help make it a very special occasion.

Importantly, there is still much to be done however, I strongly feel that if the opportunity to hold a reunion on such a scale is missed there is nothing when another one would be organised. The costs involved for the administration of all facets of the reunion will be kept to a minimum. The use of college facilities for example, will not entail a charge as such but:

1) I have decided to place a \$1.00 surcharge on all individuals attending the reunion which will then be donated to the college. This charge will be collected at registration on Saturday. A form will also be distributed at the registration desk asking for comments concerning the reunion.

2) The meal will be served by the college staff at reasonable rates who have to be on hand anyway to prepare food for a group of nuns who will be staying at the college. I consider this to be a stroke of good fortune because it means that everyone attending the reunion will be free to mingle with family members.

3) The other initial cost is for administration purposes, this will involve an up-front cost of \$5.00 attached to the acceptance questionnaire which is a down payment to help cover costs of phones, postage, photocopy pre-dinner drinks and other material required.

With regards the availability of accommodation in the Goulburn area, I have enclosed a list of places where accommodation is available and I would stress that booking early is a good idea. I would also suggest that if you are travelling some distance and are volunteering to help organise things over the weekend in question that you book your accommodation for Friday (22.1.88) so that you will be able to arrive at the college for a 'team meeting' on Saturday morning (23.1.88) at 9.30 am. It is a little unfortunate that accommodation at the college itself is not available.

At the college an area will be set aside so that historical documents, photos, paper cuttings, cards and alike can be displayed. This area will be under-cover either in a hall or classrooms so that the material on display will not be at the mercy of the elements.

The program for the reunion weekend will generally fit within the following parameters:

- a) Team organising committee to meet 9.30am on Saturday the 23rd at St. Patrick's College to work out the final details.
- b) Then on Saturday the 23rd at 3pm, all members of the Chalker family who are attending the reunion will gather at the college to register, to set up family historical items and to generally familiarise themselves with the college facilities that we will be using such as the location of the dining room, hall, toilets and so on.
- c) Between the hours of 4.00pm and 5.00pm, family members will be invited to inspect the displays, family trees, and to meet with relatives.
- d) 5.00pm onwards - pre-dinner drinks
- e) 6.30pm to 7.00pm - during which Dinner will be served and various members of the "family" will present to the gathering, stories, historical facts and explain their links to William Chalker 1775-1823. These segments will be timed to last between 10 and 15 minutes.
- f) Once these proceedings have been completed, people will be free to retire for the night or to go on to other social locations.
- g) On Sunday at 11.30 am the "Family" will gather for group photos. It is possible that a professional photographer will be on hand to take the snaps. Whatever, this will be worked out in weeks leading up to the reunion weekend.
- h) Following the photo session, the swimming pool and tennis courts (BYO rackets, balls, togs) will be available to family members. One idea would be for those who can to bring along deck chairs to sit on.
- i) 1.00pm Picnic Lunch - BYO food and drink (tea, coffee, milk, sugar and paper cups provided).
- j) It is anticipated that the weekend activities will finish around sunset.

In concluding, it is suffice to say that the information contained within this communication has been designed to cover a whole range of questions which may be on the minds of many readers of this letter. Nevertheless, if anyone feels that they need to contact me for whatever reason, please do not hesitate to write or phone me.

Best wishes for now,

Yours sincerely

Terry O'Toole

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