

Auckland, 31/08/94

Dear Harold

Thanks a million for your quick reply to my last letter, it arrived in good time for me to consider your suggestions as to the title of the course I will be teaching next year. You will see I took one of your suggestions and used it.

This letter needs to be short I am afraid, I am still recovering from the stress and strain of our Hui (conference) last week. I have by the way discovered one of life's great lessons, to wit, never get involved in organising a conference unless you absolutely can't help it, and if you have no choice but to be involved in organising a conference, then on no account let Mary Ann France join the organising committee. There is a long story there, and when I get to visit you one day and we have time for a chat about other things I can share with you this sad but comical story of ambition, rivalry, jealousy, and out of control egotism on the organising committee. (Another title would be 'Dal the reluctant Peacemaker'.)

I am enclosing the letter I wrote to the two people who run the Continuing Education programme (the same two who interviewed me about the course) along with a photocopy of my application. There was another form I had to fill out which I forgot to photocopy, applying for permission to bring an Italian WWII Mannlicher-Carcano 6.5mm Infantry Carbine along to one or two of my lectures. There is some doubt as to whether the university will let me do this, and I could find nothing in the regulations covering firearms on campus. Gerald McKnight told me he uses a Mannlicher-Carcano with his classes, and it sounded like a good idea. I phoned some local gunstores and it is possible to buy the same rifle here, they are not expensive to buy.

Please tell me what you think of my booklist- prescribed and recommended reading. I felt I had to include Garrison's book because I'm sure most of the students will have seen Oliver Stone's movie, and I included Anthony Summers' book because he provides me with a good contrast to what you and Sylvia Meagher have done in sticking to absolutely reliable evidence from the actual period of the official investigation.

I have an old friend who is the marketing manager for one of the main publishers in NZ, McMillans, and he is very interested in looking at publishing a 6th Form History textbook based on my course. (Our 6th Form is the last year at High School, i.e. before going on to college or full university study, students at this level are usually around 16-17 years old.) I will tell you more of this in my next letter, so far it is just an idea but it seems a good way to further use the material I shall be preparing for the course next year. You'll notice the course is only going to be around ten hours next year, that is okay for a start, and it still gives me the option of doing twenty or forty or sixty hours the year after (1996) if I want to extend the course.

Sorry this is in a rush, blame it on the Hui, which was very good and many people thanked me for doing the work of organising it. Their feedback makes me feel good, but it still does not take away my terrible fatigue.

bye for now, love and best wishes to  
you both,

