

SUBUD AUSTRALIA E-NEWS JULY 2009

Letter from Peter Jenkins:

Last Saturday, (June 27) I attended the third in a series of workshops held at Heatherton (Melbourne) to look at options for the development of the property. One of these options includes a 'retirement village' and I undertook to conduct a survey of how interested members around Australia are in this kind of facility right next to a group centre and latihan halls.

Just this morning I heard about another proposal for a retirement/rural enterprise community being explored by the Sunshine Coast group.

The Heatherton plans are quite well advanced, while the Sunshine Coast project is still at the ideas stage. However, I will try to make sure that information on both projects is made available and a fairly simple survey of members' interests is put in process.

Perhaps the question of a retirement centre might also find a place on the agenda of the council meeting to be held at Gunnebah in October.

Peter

ENEWS has received several moving tributes to Bapak, as June 22nd was Bapak's birthday. Many groups around Australia celebrated this day with music, exotic food and latihan.

Adelaide South

The group celebrated Bapak's birthday on the 27th of June, with an open invitation to members from other groups to attend.

Adelaide

Davina Egege has written to say that Louise, Imron Comey's daughter has given birth to a second child, a boy. Name not known yet.

Brisbane

Liza Elwood is back home after successfully undergoing surgery.

ICDP is still in the process of transition. Renee will be sending out information on a regular basis. Please watch this space!

Canberra

Property Development Plans

Maxwell reports that the design work for infrastructure has been submitted for approval. This includes electricity, water, sewage, gas, a road and a car park. The commencement of the infrastructure will take place this month.

"We intend to put the caretaker's residence first. This will give us a place to use for latihan. The latihan hall will be put in after that.

We very much hope that young people from around Australia can help build the outer walls of the hall. These walls will be made of earth and cement. This could be a real barn-raising experience!"

Melbourne

Rohana Bourne sent in this very moving story:

Bapak's birthday is a very special day for me too, so I was up early for the early morning latihan. Such a good idea that it was also a World Latihan this time. Let us hope that we may always do this? I kept my 'latihan dress' on all day, as I could not bring myself to take it off - a long, dark pink and black one I bought in 1990, when over there for Bapak's 100th Day.

Must tell you something. It was so special to read the new development proposals for Heatherton, (the presentation re Elder Village and the new Subud House)

So one night I offered up prayers to Almighty God. As I was waking up the next morning, I received a glimpse of a vision. It was a large cloth of gold - when I looked more closely, I could see it was cloth of golden chain mail, so finely wrought - and I knew in my inner that this was what was being offered to the Subud members in Victoria - and Subud Australia, of course.

It is up to the group (or groups?) to cut the cloth and make the appropriate outer garment. But what a garment we could create with this material! "Like a skin", if I remember Bapak correctly when he spoke about the difference between renting premises and owning our own Subud House - a perfect fit (like the robe in "The Hymn of the Robe of Glory").

Much love
Rohana

Perth

This from Rohana Hutchings:

Bapak's birthday was commemorated with shared reminiscences after latihan, followed by lunch together at our Subud hall.

To mark the occasion of Bapak's birthday, we made a special collection of canned and packet food, tea etc for the homeless. When our dance class tenant saw the collection box at the hall, she suggested her class contribute also. So our Chairman and one of the dancers will be taking the boxes along to the Centre for Christian Social Action around the corner.

We are working hard on finishing our group blanket. So far, (some still to come!) we have 138 brilliantly colourful and diverse patches to assemble, contributed by two of our children, six men and fourteen women.

Sunshine Coast

Rosemary Hayward sent this news:

The Sunshine Coast Group celebrated Bapak's birthday with a selamat after latihan on Sunday the 21st June. A good number of us went together to a nearby park, where we enjoyed delicious cakes and biscuits prepared by members of the group. We started the proceedings with a reading by Mariamah Vernon of the following beautiful prayer which was sung by Bapak on the occasion of one of Ibu's birthdays when Bapak played the gambang and sang this prayer in Javanese:-

BRING US NEAR TO HAPPINESS

**Let us all worship together,
Kneel down before Almighty God,
Ask Him that we may receive
The grace of a pure heart.
Guide us away from obstacles
And bring us near to happiness.**

**May we be granted wisdom,
The wisdom of humanity
While in this world and in the next,
So that in the end we can stand
before Almighty God.**

(17th February 1968, Cilandak)

SYDNEY

SICA AUSTRALIA 'KNIT- OFF'

Vivienne Jacobs writes: Many thanks to all those supporting our knitting challenge. Rugs have been completed and passed to me from Brisbane and Northshore groups - which are gorgeous!

We in Sydney have almost completed one rug and another is well underway. We are planning a 'Ladies Day' on 11 July to sew up the rugs and share our other craft projects with one another.

Could other groups making rugs please let me know. We are hoping to have all rugs completed by 31 July. Rugs completed after this date can still be brought to New Zealand for display and auction. The deadline is to allow time to get the rugs to groups, who would like to exhibit them in their halls before Congress.

Thanks again to all those involved - keep those needles clicking!

Love
Vivienne

SUBUD NEWS ROUNDUP

Youth:

Emmanuel Cahill, our National Youth Chairman, Kenneth Collette our roving National Helper and an enthusiastic young member Muchtar Johnson visit Maryborough, in Victoria.

Here is Emmanuel's version of the visit:

On Wednesday 24 June, Ken, Muchtar and I visited Mathew Thorpe in Maryborough, rural Victoria. After a pleasant drive in Kenneth's luxurious Lexus, we were warmly greeted by Matthew. He is one beautiful, tender human being, and it was an emotional union for all present. Matthew is conducting an enterprise in Maryborough; searching for gold in the area known as the 'golden triangle'.

After we shared a latihan, the four of us picked up our metal detectors and combed the land in search of our fortune. Muchtar 'Gold Fever Johnson' led the charge, ably followed by Ken 'I will never have to work again if we strike it rich' Collette. Several times the detector made promising beeps, but alas! We returned to Melbourne as the men we departed, rich in love, poor in pocket. A splendid day none the less!

I encourage any Subud folk, who have the time, to visit Matthew. That means **you!** Matthew is quite isolated up there. His email address is: <thrp_mtthw@yahoo.com.au>

Emmanuel 'I found a nugget but did not tell them' Cahill

Parliament of the World's Religions (POWR)

The Parliament of World's Religions have been holding free monthly public conversation series in Melbourne leading up to Parliament of World's Religions international gathering from Dec 3 - 10.

This series of ten monthly conversations will create public dialogue between people of different backgrounds and religious traditions.

The premier John Brumby has invited all Victorians (and visitors) to join him on the Walk for Harmony on **Sunday, 12 July 2009** to reaffirm to the world Victoria's strong support for multiculturalism. Anyone interested in the Walk for Harmony, please contact Emma Bridgland at the Parliament of World's Religions on (03) 8622 4809 or:

<info@parliamentofreligions2009.org>

The Chairman of World Subud Association (WSA) and other WSA and ISC Subud members will be attending the seminars in Melbourne in December, continuing on to New Zealand for the World Congress in January. Several members have asked to be kept informed about POWR.

OSANNA VAUGHN'S MUSINGS ON THE CAMINO

In recent months, I have pondered on why, with all our good intentions, looking for solutions and consensus, we sometimes seem unable to communicate at the deeper level unlocked by the latihan.

During the May Camino Gathering of the Subud World Council in Spain, we had some wonderful experiences - including being part of the midday mass at the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela (destination of the St. James pilgrim route), where the WSA had the chance to make an invocation in front of around 1500 people (see <www.subudworldnews.com> for the words of the invocation.

During the six days of meetings, we were doing our best to really listen to and understand one other, to speak carefully, trying to communicate; and yet there were many occasions when we seemed to be talking past each other.

In one of the latihan, the story of the Tower of Babel suddenly came to me. I did not dwell on it at the time, but afterwards we wondered why that particular story (the Old Testament does not usually pop up!) The following summarises the gist of it.

The people decided their city should have a tower so immense that it would have "its top in the heavens". However the Tower of Babel was not built for the worship and praise of God, but was dedicated to the glory of man. God, seeing what the people were doing, came down and confounded their languages and scattered the people throughout the earth.

Musing on this, led me to the idea that humility might be a key issue for better communication, so proposed testing about humility after latihan on the following day, something along the nature and meaning of true humility. How do I feel when I act and interact from a place devoid of humility? How do I feel when I act and interact from a place of humility?

Unfortunately, it was easy for me to conclude that I am rarely acting from a place of such humility. But one day, I suddenly realized that what I had felt during the service and invocation at the Cathedral of Santiago was Grace of humility. I felt awe at being there as part of a large group; Subud members, pilgrims and visitors all as one sharing the experience of worship and joy, appreciating one other as equal creatures of God. For a while, individual self interest was gone.

Understanding this as a real manifestation of how it feels when I am in a space of humility was a gift for which I am deeply grateful. It gives me hope for what is possible.

It also gave me a new feeling towards our attendance (as members of WSA) at the Parliament of World's Religions which is being held in Melbourne in December this year. May God guide us in humility when we meet with well intentioned people from our broader human community. May God also bless us with humility, when we meet amongst ourselves to discuss issues of group, national and international concern.

Osanna

WORLD CONGRESS NEW ZEALAND NEWS

Milford Track Tramping

There are still some places left for the Milford Track Tramping trip (from 19 - 25 January 2010). Deadline expiring soon. For more details go to the congress website:

<<http://www.subudworldcongress2010.com/>>

Click on the Milford Track link under "latest news and events".

If you wish, you can also send an email to <arif@hamarconsulting.com> for further information.

Regards, Arif

Milestones

Death

Hamilton Manley, aged 64 years. Our dynamic, compassionate and caring International Youth Chairman, passed away suddenly whilst swimming with family at home in Hawaii, Hilo. Suspected cause of death, a cardiac arrest, but not yet confirmed.

He was very fit, worked tirelessly with athletes, and ran basketball summer camps and clinics.

Hamilton is survived by wife Marisa.

Frank Ward recently passed away in June. He was a member of the Brisbane group.

Births:

Baby boy Aziz Williams to proud parents Mirawati and Hashim of Brisbane.

Quote from Bapak:

It is clear that within beauty there is ugliness; within happiness there is also suffering. And if, when you suffer, you do not take it as suffering but as a test, then you will find happiness in mistakes and in that ugliness.

Note from the Editor:

Please send your snippets and submissions to

<rohanafraval@gmail.com>

Deadline for all news items is 31st July.