

# Sahaja Newsletter

## Contributions:

Sue Raggatt: (02) 746 9144

Ariane Kaub: (02) 798 6779

Carole McNeill: (02) 560 6921

Fax: (02) 745 4562

JULY 31, 1992

news from Brisbane & Wamuran.

Walkman Raffle - The raffle will be drawn on 24/7/92. Winner notified by phone & winner's name printed in following weeks newsletter.

Many thanks to those people who sold the tickets, gave donations and generally sent good wishes and vibrations our way.

On 23/7/92 Highgate Hill ashram closes down and all the yogies living there will move onto the property at Wamuran. Caboolture is the largest town near the property, and Wamuran is a little village about 5 minutes drive. Michael Fogarty spent a weekend with us recently and has drawn up plans for an ashram, and Stephen Taylor has taken the plans overseas with him to show Shri Mataji. Many thanks to Michael for the time, effort and thought he has put into creating the best design for the land, Qld. climate and Sahaja Yoga. Until the ashram is built a rather ugly shed has been transformed into a cosy home which will be main residence for now. There are tremendous vibrations at the property, all put cares fall away when we are there, and to see the children play happily for hours is a special joy. Their world expands so much with 13 acres to play on, - cubby houses, bike riding, mud puddles and encounters with wild birds and animals are the order of the day. We are all looking forward to the day when many yogies can gather at Wamuran to greet Our Mother at Her Australian property.

Meanwhile we'll keep you posted with all developments, any visitors always welcome and any fund-raising ideas would be welcomed too.

Any queries about the raffle, ring Wendy on 07 8622983.

Love from your brothers & sisters in Brisbane.

PS. Wamuran Address is:- Lot 13 McClintock Rd. Wamuran Qld.

Phon. 074 966176.



There was no Newsletter last week - our photocopier died, unfortunately this week's edition is still a little fuzzy but we do expect to be back to "normal" next issue. The Editors.



The  
**TASMANIAN UPDATE ...**

Tuesday July 21, 1992

Hello everyone!

News from Tasmania is that everything is progressing extremely well. Thank you very much all those wonderful yogis & yoginis who have been giving us so much support - by way of travans, bandrans, shashikals, phone calls, letters, & especially through your love & attention. It has all been much needed & very much appreciated.

We have held 6 programmes so far, 4 public programmes in outside venues and two Sunday morning meditations here. The first week 18 people attended the advertised programme, 7 came to the follow-up and one man came to Sunday meditation. The second week saw 17 people to the advertised programme (including 5 from the previous week), 7 to the follow-up and 3 to Sunday meditation. It seems that we have 7 or 8 regulars, some once, some twice & some 3 times a week. One lady actually received her realization here 11 years ago & has had Mother's photographs on her wall ever since. She joined us for our simple and yet very strong Guru Puja on Saturday night, and again for meditation Sunday morning. She is extremely happy to be a part of Sahaja Yoga once

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again, & when asked by a friend if perhaps Savaya Yoga was taking over her life a bit she replied "you don't understand, Savaya Yoga isn't taking over my life, it is my life" what a joy it has been to find a Savaya Yogi already here waiting for us.

As well as the people who have attended public programmes, a few old friends have either received or re-established their realization. One couple who came for dinner last night felt the cool breeze, and for the husband it was explaining to him what he has been feeling within himself over the last decade - he was a very close friend who must have had Kundalini awakening at the same time as the rest of "the Tasmanians" without knowing it.

The vibrations throughout the programmes have been amazingly strong for us, & the same whenever we are talking to anyone about it. We have been feeling Mother's presence here very much.

Please keep up the letters, handwritings, etc, as we really appreciate the contact with the collective, on every level.

JAI SHRI MATAJI,

love to all

for English paper

Mary

### KINGS CROSS PROGRAM!

Kings Cross Community Centre, 60 Macleay St. (Fitzroy Gardens)

Sunday 2nd August, 2:30pm. Booked for a month of Sundays!

Details Ramesh or Robert Hutcheon.....Please come if you possibly can.

<b>Financial Statement - "Bundilla" 18/7/92 to 19/7/92</b>			
<u>Collection</u>	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Total</u>
Adults	172		\$9,842
Children	47		\$470
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	219		\$10,312
<u>Banked</u>			
7/7/92	\$7,272		
21/7/92	\$2,339		
Cash Spent	\$701		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	<b>\$10,312 Total Collected</b>		
<u>Spendings</u>			
Cheque	Paper,etc.	\$337.65	
Cheque	P.A. & Puja Setup	\$320.00	
Cheque	Postage	\$90.00	
Cheque	TenI	\$2,594.30	
Cheque	Dakshana	\$2,100.00	
Cheque	Grocers	\$485.30	
Cheque	Meat	\$218.00	
Cheque	Rent (Deposit)	\$500.00	
Cheque	Rent	\$2,800.00	
Cash	Food	\$588.00	
Cash	Milk	\$39.00	
Cash	Gas	\$78.00	
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>\$9,546.25</b>	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<b>Total Profit</b>	<b>\$365.75</b>	
Ray Tollis			
24/7/92			

The pre registrations were a little disappointing, with only half the registrations received by the closing date and about fifty people paying their money on the actual weekend. This makes it very difficult to advise the venue of numbers, impossible to order the correct amount of food and gives the organisers of the camp unnecessary work load on the days of the seminar or Puja. We understand that circumstances will happen, that you cannot register early. But for the other, who have no excuses please lodge registrations on time.

The long weekend in October (2/10/92 to 5/10/92) may be time for our National Seminar. The possible site is Glenrock.

## A REPORT

Guru Puja went quite smoothly with a lot of help from many people, thank you to all the helpers.

We came out ahead financially by \$365.75.

Thank you to all the people who stayed behind and cleaned up. The cleaning up part of the weekend is very important, it establishes a reputation, of us in the eyes of the public. We encourage everyone at our future events to participate with enthusiasm in finalising our commitments.

# Religion muscles in on reason

PHILLIP ADAMS

THE WEEKEND REVIEW JULY 14-15, 1982

**W**HEN I read that Turkish Kurds had kidnapped an Australian, Dr Allen Roberts, I felt a stab of sympathy and concern. Those poor, unsuspecting Kurds. When it came to acts of terrorism they were clearly out of their depth. For they had snatched a fire-breathing fundamentalist, someone in the business of hijacking rationality. Some sort of intent on holding it to ransom.

On hearing our media describe Roberts as "an archaeologist", I heard the heaviest of sighs. For Roberts has gained his doctorate from the Freedon University of Florida, just up the road from Disney World. It was awarded in January 1979 for a thesis on "The Teaching of Absolute Christian Values in Australian Primary Schools". Sadly, the Freedon University does not appear on the list of accredited universities and colleges recognised in the United States, let alone worldwide. Its degrees, including Doctor of Christian Education, are obtained "by correspondence".

A little like my own horrific. For in the US I am a legal archishop, not to mention a saint. I obtained these titles from a mail-order religious organisation whose legitimacy has, believe it or not, been vindicated by the Supreme Court. For \$US50 pop you can have any title you like. As well as archishop and saint you can be an ayatollah, a rabbi, a cardinal, a guru. And there's no problem with the ordination of women. All you need is a credit card.

Yet there were Australian journalists uncritically accepting a dubious doctorate while earnestly reporting not only Roberts's kidnapping but his archaeological doings. Namely, his discovery of Noah's Ark. The one that contained the entire menagerie of this world's creatures, from giraffes to gerbils, from gnus to kangaroos. Despite my sainthood, I'm not normally a pious person, but I found myself praying the Kurds would keep Roberts, so as to protect the minds and chequbooks of Australia's gullible Archaeologists.

The Kurds, obviously protective of their own sanity and education standards, decided to release Roberts, who has turned his brief incarceration into an invaluable publicity stunt. Since then he's been marketing his pseudoscience to what seems to be a growing multitude of dimwits. Moreover, he's threatening to take legal action against those scientists who can be bothered to attend his public meetings, where they interrupt his fund-raising by questioning both his credentials and his findings.

To claim to have found Noah's Ark in Turkey is tantamount to a self-styled geographer announcing that the world is, after all, flat. But the good doctor has not only found the ark; it's perfectly preserved in fossil form. He also sells his jonnies groups that he's also discovered the dung, and the fur, of the various animals that dwelt within. Also their boarding passes.

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## Vatican: the last Kremlin?

One totalitarian empire — the Catholic Church continues to cling to its old ways, writes WALTER SCHWARZ

**A**FTER the collapse of communism, the Vatican is the last authoritarian, absolutist institution in Europe. There is no other regime which treats its own people so badly, especially the leading thinkers," the eminent theologian Jan Kung told the BBC this month after his distinguished colleague, Leonardo Boff, had resigned from the priesthood because of "decades" of censorship and harassment.

Without being a leading Catholic thinker, I have long had the same experience. A journalist covering Roman Catholic matters has to work in the way Kremlinologists used to work: reading between lines and consulting experts on "hidden" meanings. Papal synods and councils are private, offering the press a censored abstract. The party line comes daily from the *Osservatore Romano* newspaper.

The Vatican press spokesman, Joaquin Navarro Valls, obviously sees the media in the same light that Communists do: they should serve the common weal (and, if they don't, should be kept out on the pavement). Valls is a member of Opus Dei, the elitist, authoritarian and arch-conservative sect especially favoured by the Pope.

The Vatican handles history as the Kremlin did. Officially, there is never a change of line and every new departure is elaborately justified from precedent and authority.

An Anglican bishop will tell you what he thinks, on "the record" — and be grateful to be asked. Roman Catholic bishops have a hunted, furtive look when talking about the Pope; and even parish priests talk only off the record on such delicate matters as birth control or priestly celibacy.

### CAR FOR SALE:

Ford Cortina Sedan, 1979, Automatic; Excellent condition (But no gear box - no rego). \$1500 ono. Call Jenny Watling, Homebush 7469144.

### Songbooks for sale:

Songbooks in A4 format, with plastic "comb" binding are available from John Noyce in Melbourne for \$19 (& postage). Further information and/or orders... John Noyce, 6 Kalista Crt, Burwood East, 3151 Victoria. Telephone 03 803 2749....

When his meetings are attended by experts in primates and hominids, by those involved in palaeanthropology, by specialists in thermodynamics or the speed of light, by experts working on radiometric dating or the evolution of vertebrates, let alone by those who study fossils or rock formations (in other words, by the very people who could tell Roberts what his "ark" really is) he gets very upset.

Scientists attempting to question Roberts have been assaulted by security guards or removed from "public meetings" by police. Then there are the threats of writs and legal actions, at least one of which seems likely to eventuate. In other words, Australia is about to have a Scopes Monkey Trial in 1982.

Recently, in Tasmania, the ark crowd had Tasmanian police officers in the wings when Professor Ian Plimer tried to present the geological interpretation of the "boat-shaped" structure in Turkey. Think of it: A university professor was thrown off a university campus for asking a question in his own field of expertise, namely, geology!

Roberts then gave the same talk in Brisbane and Perth on his fund-raising tour. Now Plimer was joined by dozens of scientists. Science writer Peter Pockley describes what happened as "the most extraordinary occurrence in 28 years' experience of covering academic and public lectures".

As the audience took their seats, guards placed themselves next to Plimer and Dr Alex Ritchie of the Australian Museum, a palaeontologist of 30 years' standing. Now things were quiet while Roberts went through his vaudeville act, showing pictures of "remains" which he claimed had been identified by "experts" as not having geological origins. Metal, wood and anchor stones were said to have been identified by reputable scientists as materials "from a boat". Animal hair and antlers found on the site were said to give evidence of the "boat's" living cargo.

"After 11 hours," reports Pockley, "Roberts touched on the standard creationist line that radiocarbon dating of archaeological and biological materials cannot be relied upon. From his seat Dr Colin Murray-Wallace, an expert in radiocarbon dating from Newcastle University, called out twice for documentary evidence. He was approached by a guard and told to leave. After some argument, he and his wife complied."

Roberts would only accept questions in writing, but Ritchie stood up and asked him to explain the difference between "geosyncline" and "syncline". Roberts would not answer his questions. When Ritchie refused the guard's instruction to "leave", three guards, including one very burly bearded example, descended on him. "There was much vigorous heaving on Ritchie's arms, legs and torso," says Pockley, "but surrounded by others who kept to their seats and protested at his treatment, he managed to hang on."

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## Creationists are the enemies of science, education and progressive theology

As well as being rude to their critics, Roberts and his associates appeal for money at the lectures, to continue search for evidence with the "first invasive dig" of the site in July. An appeal notice distributed at the meeting states "we believe membership fees and donations will be tax-deductible".

It seems Roberts is also supported by the Reverend Gordon Moyes of the Wesley Church, the man who recently used an enormous amount of church money to buy the ailing radio station 2GB, thus providing himself with a very powerful pulpit. I recently heard Moyes telling his listeners how Russian scientists had accidentally discovered Hell while digging a hole through the permafrost. (It seems the drill-bit broke through a final layer of rock and, lo and behold, out came "the screams of millions of unhappy people".) In a recent rapturous encounter with Roberts on 2GB, Moyes dismissed all of Robert's opponents, citing the Apostle Paul to describe sceptics as "dogs".

So we're dealing with an assault on intelligence, with physical assaults on questioning scientists. We're dealing with people who refuse a public debate. Yet one of the most interesting deb-

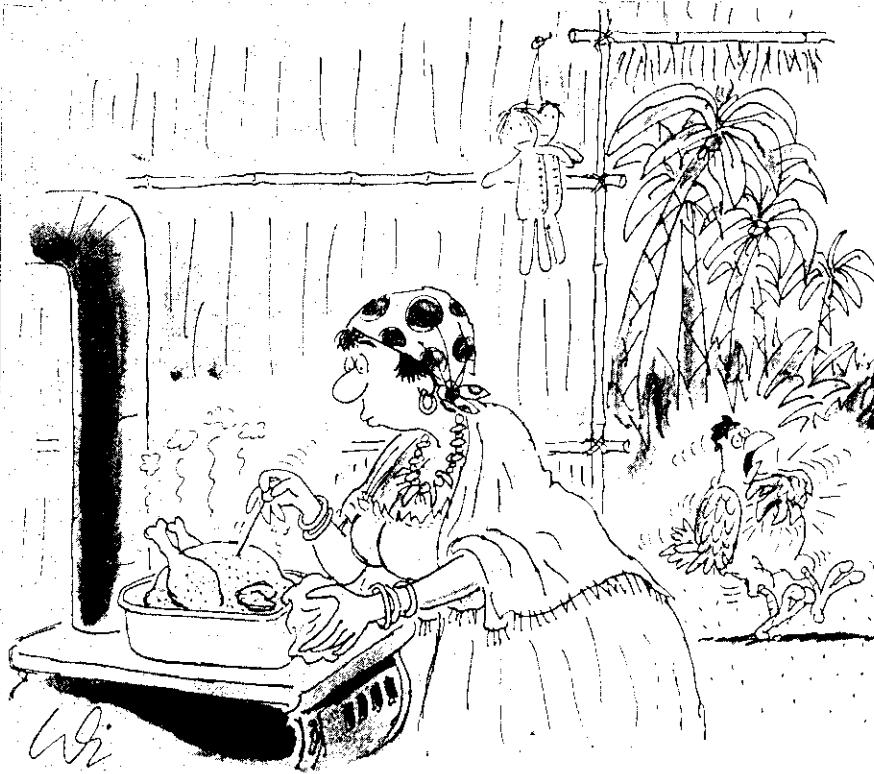
ates is the one that must one day take place between Dr Andrew Snelling and Dr Andrew Snelling and are both the same man, but one is a director of the Creation Science Foundation while the other is a consultant geologist. The most intriguing of doubtful acts.

For Dr Andrew Snelling (BSc (Hons) Geology, University of NSW), PhD (University of Sydney), is the only professional geologist in Australia who endorses the creationists' line. Thus in one life he writes articles for fundamentalist journals in which nothing is more than 10,000 years old and "everything" geological is explained by reference to Noah's flood.

The other Dr Snelling, "the consultant geologist", has written or co-authored about 10 respectable papers on aspects of uranium mineralisation published in mainstream refereed scientific journals. In these articles Snelling sites geological ages of hundreds or thousands of millions of years. This without reservation. The two Snellings are plenty of us who are spoiling for the opportunity to get these rabbags into court, where they'll be forced to swear an oath on the Bible they take so literally. Will they be so fast and loose with the truth then?

Make no mistake, these issues matter. During Joh Bjelke-Petersen's reign, creation science got into the Queensland schools with Joh's minister for education. A few months ago, an education seminar was held at Parramatta in NSW, organised by the NSW Festival of Light. The topic? "Should Creation Be Taught in Our Schools?" And this was chaired by Fred Nile in his role as MP. The Niles have been actively trying to introduce legislation to allow "equal time" in NSW schools for the teaching of this rubbish.

If the threatened legal action from the creationists goes through, they seem ready to spend on their side legal fees of up to \$200,000 on local versions of recent legal battles fought in Arkansas and Louisiana. Yet there are plenty of us who are spoiling for the opportunity to get these rabbags into court, where they'll be forced to swear an oath on the Bible they take so literally. Will they be so fast and loose with the truth then?



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The Sydney Morning Herald

14/7/92

## Gloomy prophets urge irrationality

By CATHERINE ARMITAGE  
Science Writer

The Club of Rome, the international group of politicians, scientists, and intellectuals that panicked the world in 1972 by predicting the imminent exhaustion of the world's natural resources, has written another gloomy tome on the planet's fate.

The club is so gloomy, and its search for solutions apparently so desperate, that its latest report, *The First Global Revolution*, pleads for irrationality because rational solutions have failed.

It says people will need "new powers, which they can actually find in themselves", to face the uncertainties and complexities ahead. "They will have to resort to combinations that have been scorned for too long," the report says, arguing for "a resort to the apparently irrational, the intuitive and the emotional".

When the club's first report, *The Limits to Growth*, was published 20 years ago, the species were overpopulation, resource depletion and pollution. Now some "new plagues" have been added: drug-related crime, AIDS, global warming and something labelled "the human malaise".

The club argues that the human malaise springs from among other things the disintegration of paren-

tal authority, the impact of the mass media with its "throbbing song of calamity", the spiritual void left by the breakdown of traditional family and religious values, rampant but ultimately dissatisfying materialism, and the inability of individuals to keep up with a complex and changing world.

Dr Keith Suter, one of four Australian members of the Club of Rome and president of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney, said the world now had a "unique window of opportunity".

"For the first time since 1945 we are able to focus on the issues we should have been focusing on, except we were on this detour called the Cold War," he said.

The report said the first global revolution must involve a transformation from military to civilian economies, and the political vacuum left by the fall of communism should be filled with new enemies: "They threaten the whole human race and their names are pollution, water shortage, famine, malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment."

Current instruments of government are inadequate to deal with the new world, the report argues. Global governance involving close collaboration and co-operation between countries is

required. Within countries, governing institutions admit a greater range of players in decision-making, including business and industry, research bodies, scientists and non-government organisations as well as the general populace — "an effective nervous system at the grassroots level".

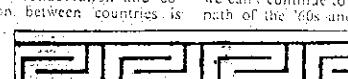
Education, science and technology and the mass media are identified as the key agents to bring about the necessary change.

"Introduction to the Great World Problems..." should henceforth be a compulsory subject in the education of children and adolescents," the report says, while arguing for education as a permanent, lifelong, multidisciplinary process that goes hand in hand with all work and leisure pursuits.

In *The First Global Revolution*, the club made no apology for the faulty predictions of *The Limits to Growth*. Dr Suter says the arguments, not the specific predictions, were most important in *The Limits to Growth*.

He says the recent Rio Earth Conference vindicated the earlier report: "We now have politicians locked into the new paradigm. Even George Bush is slowly coming to that point of view, that we can't continue to go down the path of the '60s and '70s."

Blanch d'Alpuget  
writing in the Good Weekend...



Expatriates living there say the Vietnamese see themselves as a special race, a chosen people. They beat China. They beat France. Then they beat America. Nobody else could do that. Indeed, when you descend into the network of tunnels in the Iron Triangle and see the conditions in which the guerrillas lived for years, you wonder if any other people on earth are as stubborn and hard. Yet in the north in particular, I saw people in the street with expressions of such refined intellect and sweetness it was possible to think they were saints or holy men and women in disguise. I have never seen so many faces shining with benevolence as I saw in Vietnam. It's as if the population has been sprinkled with people of a higher evolution.

In 1975, when the war ended, Vietnam

ANYONE FOR VIETNAM?