



# NEWSLETTER

## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS FOR PEACE

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IVP is the Australian group of Service Civil International (SCI), a global network of cultural exchange organisations - [www.sciint.org](http://www.sciint.org)

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The IVP Family

In January, IVP had a picnic at Bronte beach which was attended by about 30 members and friends. There were many past and present office volunteers, including Renzo and Giovanna (IVP Melbourne and SCI Italy) and Amanda Hajnal with fiancé, Teemu. Others came with their offspring and it was great to meet the new babies and toddlers. Surprise appearances were Serena Rix with her Nepalese husband, and Yolande Speter, with wedding plans. Some of the group were caught by our photographer, Hamish.

Pictured from left: Rosie Martens, Ruth Martens, Monica Kamfer, Kerrina Swords, Guy Morrison, Yolande Speter, Rita Sofea, Renzo Sabatini, Giovanna Gagliardi, Daniele Sabatini, Amanda Hajnal, Eric Tierney, Teemu, Maria Trimboli.

## Getting to know the sea turtle

By JADE HERRIMAN

In October 2003 I was lucky to go to Mexico, camp on the beach and help with a sea turtle conservation program.

There are 8 species of marine turtle worldwide. We were working with the Olive Ridley sea turtle,

*Lepidochelys olivacea*, (known as Tortue olivâtre in French and Tortuga golfina in Spanish). The program was run by local conservation group Nuestra Tierra and the work we did was part of a larger education / research / protection program to help save this species from extinction.

The workcamp was on a beach, 'Bocca de Tomates', north of the popular resort town of Puerto Vallarta, on Mexico's West Coast. The beach was beautiful, and the camp was a scattering of cotents under lofty thatched shelter.

The camp was a mix of volunteers with two leaders. I was the only Australian, with other participants hailing from Switzerland, France, Germany, Denmark and the UK.

Daily life in turtle camp consisted of breakfast and clean-up around the camp in the mornings, lunch and showers in the staff facilities at a neighboring hotel, back to camp for dinner and then the real work began. We were divided into two teams, with the first team 'patrolling' the beach from 10 to 5. *continued on Page 5*

# IVP News Update

**Great new Australian workcamp.**  
See page seven.

**Workcamp leader needed: 8 -15 April Bi-lateral workcamp, Katoomba, NSW. Apply to IVP.**

**Desperately Seeking Susan, ... and Daniel and Jane and Chris and ....**

We need your help in the office! There will be working bees every Wednesday night 6pm to 8.30 pm, except for first Wednesday of the month as this is meeting night. Come in and join a team. If Wed evening doesn't suit you, contact Janet or Maria on 02 9699 1129 to arrange another time.

## Medium Term Volunteering

A Medium Term Volunteer is wanted at an Aboriginal community in South Australia.

This position is open to a female who has workcamp experience (or other appropriate experience). The position is initially for three months, with an opportunity to extend. Situated in an isolated part of South Australia, this community of 50 is looking for assistance for an elderly Aboriginal woman. Nanna Gerty is a respected Elder and is active in the battle against uranium issues in the area. For more information, write to: admin@ivp.org.au with Nepabunna in the title.

**Committee meetings** always first Wed of the month at 6pm.

**Open meeting** for all members at 7pm on first Wed of the month.

**Working bee** in the office every other Wed night of the month, 6pm - 8.30pm.

**Garage sales** will be a regular feature throughout 2004, to raise funds so that we can continue to pay for professional administration. We will be running these in conjunction with our landlord, People for Nuclear Disarmament. Please gather goods from friends and family as we now have storage space. Contact Angela Maag: angela@webasto.com.au.

## IVP Diary - the last 6 months

- \* Janet Martin farewell party at office.
- \* Maria Trimboli and Angela Maag elected to committee and Rita became Acting Coordinator
- \* Medium Term Volunteers, Ysabeau and Olivier, 2 months work in IVP office
- \* Anita completed her Work for the Dole placement.
- \* Rita spoke about IVP during Anti-Poverty Week, at University of NSW
- \* Newsletter published: Vol 14, Issue 4
- \* Sept - workcamp: OZ 9.1 Katoomba

- \* Sept - workcamp: OZ 5.1 Townsville
- \* Nov - workcamp: OZ 1.1 Melbourne
- \* Financial alert! Fundraising committee formed.
- \* Nov Garage sale - \$660 profit
- \* Dec garage sale - \$650 profit
- \* Sale of Christmas cards - \$480
- \* Office closed from 23 Dec - 5th Jan
- \* Thy Dinh represented IVP at Training and Networking Workcamp in Nepal.
- \* February Garage sale - \$400
- \* Melbourne group of IVP raise \$550 from sale of theatre tickets. This money will go towards costs of the CERES workcamp.

## Coming events in 2004

### March:

- \* 7th - AGM, Sydney
- \* 4-7 - SCI Technical Exchanges Meeting, Belgium
- \* IVP meeting on South Coast.

### April:

- \* Bi-lateral workcamp, Katoomba
- \* Handbook production
- \* 19th - Placement season starts - send your applications early

### May, June, July, August

- \* May - Postcard release (Avantcard)
- \* May - Fundraising concert
- \* May - Info Nights (check website for dates)
- \* June - Rita to "Training of Trainers" in Netherlands for 2 two weeks.
- \* August - Workcamp Leader Training

## South Coast Meeting

Originally planned for March, this meeting has now been postponed. The brainchild of Giovanna, the meeting would have several aims. One purpose is for the Melbourne group and the Sydney active members to meet at a half way point, hopefully joined by members living in the vicinity of the South Coast. All members would be welcome, and we hope to have twenty participants. We have been offered accommodation at a beautiful property at Tuross Heads.

Topics for the agenda so far are:

- \* Starting a local group: legal and financial relationship to Sydney IVP office.
- \* Developing Australian workcamps
- \* Local promotion of IVP
- \* Leadership training

The weekend will run like a mini-workcamp with everyone sharing cooking and other responsibilities.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact the Melbourne group: ivpmelbourne@optusnet.com.au

## Amanda Hajnal is getting married !!!

His name is Teemu, he is a Finn, and they met in Helsinki last year at a KVT party. (KVT is the Finnish branch of SCI.) Yes, Teemu is also a volunteer for SCI and last year was on the team that put together the workcamps handbook for KVT. That's how come he was at the party. So you see what can come of volunteering with IVP!

Amanda first volunteered in the IVP office about 10 years ago. She went to a workcamp in Hungary, partly to see the land of her parents. She volunteered for a while in the German branch of SCI, and they soon gave her a paid job in the East-West Office. Here she helped develop workcamps in Eastern Europe and learned a lot about the problems of East-West relations. Since early 2003, she has lived in Poland and runs the SCI East-West development office. She was in Finland delivering a seminar, when she was invited to the fateful party.

Teemu came to Australia to meet Amanda's parents and see a bit of this country. After they marry, they'll spend some of their time in Queensland and some in Finland. We're hoping this will be the start of the Queensland branch of IVP.

**Gareth Thompson** is an IVP member from Melbourne. He was in Sydney doing a summer school for his Honours year at Uni. He offered IVP a week of his time to help out in the Sydney office and so we had the pleasure of his company and his assistance. Thanks Gareth!

**Hamish Lindsay** has a new interesting job with the Red Cross and so will not be leaving to go back to Scotland after all. This is lucky for IVP because we depend on Hamish for many things, such as updating the website, newsletter layout and information stalls.

**Rita Sofea** has won a scholarship from IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation). This will take her to the Netherlands in June for a short training of trainers for women peace-makers. With the support of IVP, Rita will run two workshops over the following twelve months, using the knowledge gained at this training.

### *Newsletter Team:*

*Guy, Rita, Scott, Charles, Hamish and Gareth*

## GOSSIP Column

## Big hearts - and bigger appetites



Working with children from Chernobyl-ravaged Belarus, **CHRISSE PRYDUN** discovered her inner child and the healing powers of fun and fine Italian food.

When I applied for an IVP workcamp I never imagined I'd be dressing up as gnome, complete with robe, bright red cone-shaped cap and cotton-wool beard. But there I was, sitting on the side of a road in the middle of a Northern Italian village trying to reassure concerned looking passers-by with my limited Italian vocab that I wasn't a recent escapee from a psychiatric ward.

My part in a mythical revamp of hide-and-seek was just another day in the life of a volunteer for Progetto Chernobyl. And as much as the child in me secretly delighted in the absurdity of the spectacle, it was actually part of a greater purpose: to entertain 30 Belarusian children on a month-long work camp.

Every year, Progetto Chernobyl selects a group of Belarusian children to spend the whole of September living with Italian host families. They come from areas still contaminated by radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. While in Italy they're able to lose up to 40 per cent of the radiation they have accumulated from their environment. They also have medical tests for thyroid cancer and other common complications.

Most of the seven to eleven year-old children I met and grew to love come from poor farming families who couldn't afford to travel. For most of the month, the children's evenings were spent with their nominated host families. However during the day, they were allocated to one of three local playgrounds.

My main role was running one of the playgrounds located in a tiny country town near Carpi called Novi di Modena. I couldn't speak Byelorussian, but I spoke to the children in Ukrainian and they replied in Russian, and for the most part we understood each other through the universal language of children.

At the playground we created and ran various activities for the children, including cooking, pottery



*Away from farm life into the world of make-believe*

and bike-riding. I got to re-live favourite childhood pastimes, such as building tree houses and cubby houses. At one point I got more excited than the children about our activities and thereafter was referred to as 'The Kid'.

Unbeknownst to me, part of a volunteer's job description was to consume huge quantities of food. Every day I was required to eat a minimum of three courses that the Italian cooks prepared each lunchtime in their quest to fatten up the rather thin Belarusian children. It was also mandatory to drink copious quantities of wine, champagne (prosecco), lemoncello or grappa before I was given permission to leave the table. Then there was 'merenda' (Italian-style afternoon tea) to contend with...

With all the food I was obliged to digest, I was grateful for all the running around with children I had to do and the daily 40 minute bike ride from Fossoli (another country town where the volunteers shared a flat) to the playground - even if it was on an old children's bicycle.

Progetto Chernobyl had pre-planned some events for the children that the volunteers were required to supervise, including trips to local swimming pool and to the beach near Rimini; to the local fire-station (where Italian firemen got to show off their bravado); to an amusement park; and to a vineyard where we picked and crushed grapes by foot so the Italian cooks would have even more wine to offer us!

On these trips my role extended to peace-maker - I would have to pull apart fighting children who

had over-splashed each other in the pools; weight-lifter - there was always one kid too tired to walk, afraid of dogs or used to travelling on some kind of mule in their Belarusian home town; sprinter - I was allocated the most hyperactive children to look after at the amusement park; and finally slapstick comedian.

The best trip was the week we spent in the Dolomite Mountains, where members of Progetto Chernobyl, host families, children and volunteers took over a vacant hotel in Valsugana. It was the perfect location for the aforementioned Lord of the Rings (or as the Italians would say 'Signore degli Anelli') role-playing adventure. When the month was up it was hard to say goodbye to the playgrounds swarming with the delightful children we had grown so attached to. It was sad to see them return to a place where they couldn't take fresh air and pure food for granted or be complacent about their health.

It was also difficult to part with the 'very, very much I like you' culturally diverse mix of volunteers with whom close friendships had been formed, the super-organised Progetto Chernobyl organisation and our ballroom-sized flat with mismatched furniture and Italians shouting outside.

As the busload of children pulled away on the final day of the work camp, you could still see their superglued smiles and hear their constant giggling over the animated Italian traffic. In true festive Italian-style, the month seemed more like a party than a work camp. The atmosphere had been lively, at times chaotic, but always jovial.

The children had had an absolute ball and so did I, with all the food, wine, laughter and games. Nonetheless Progetto Chernobyl and the volunteers had been very dedicated. We worked hard to ensure the children had a great time in Italy. In addition to the strong feeling that my jeans were markedly tighter, I left feeling that I had contributed and made a difference in the lives of those children... even if it had been by making a fool of myself!



*Preparing for the day*

## US BOOTS ON THE GROUND?

By Alison Broinowski

Proposals for United States military to operate in Australia have been publicly aired five times since early 2003. Five times, the water of Australian public reaction has been tested. In November, US officials began talking about a 'logistics and training facility' that might act as a staging post in a regional conflict.

When the idea of basing US troops in Australia surfaced in May 2003, it was sharply questioned by Indonesian diplomats, and there were warnings that such a move could cause friction with China and Malaysia. The proposal was renewed in November just after the retirement of Malaysia's anti-Australian Prime Minister Mahathir, and following a successful visit by China's President Hu Jintao. The timing was chosen, perhaps, so that it would go down better in the region. Not explicitly called a base, the 'facility' would apparently be in the Northern Territory and close, of course, to Indonesia. Suddenly, construction of a formerly uneconomic Darwin railway began to make sense, particularly since a subsidiary company of Halliburton? connected to Vice President Cheney? is reported to have been involved in it.

Certainly, if relocation of US military to Australia means winding back their presence in Japan and South Korea, it will be popular in Okinawa and Seoul. The US 'refusal to confirm or deny' policy means that Japan and South Korea have no control over the possible entry of American nuclear weapons into their territory, harbours, and airspace. What's more, the US presence, for so long accepted by Tokyo and Seoul as deterring the communist threat, now explicitly confronts the DPRK as part of Bush's 'axis of evil', which is a different and more dangerous matter.

The formal occupation of Japan after World War II lasted seven years. But in 2004, some 58 000 Americans are still there. Okinawans have for long been outraged by rapes, robberies, and traffic accidents for which, in many cases, American servicemen have not been made to face local courts. The Governor of Okinawa, aware that Thailand, the Philippines, and now Saudi Arabia have all managed to get rid of American bases and still get on with the Americans, last year bluntly asked US Defence Secretary Rumsfeld to shrink Camp Courtney, where 20 000 US marines operate on scarce land. As well, Governor Inamine objected to noise pollution and the contamination of local fisheries.

Half a century after the Korean War, the United States military presence in South Korea also continues. Some 37 000 Americans are on the Korean peninsula, nearly half of them stationed on the Demilitarised Zone. The US decision (announced on 17 January 2004) to move troops away from the border and out of Seoul, to an enlarged facility about

*Dr Broinowski's latest book, Howard's War, was published in August 2003 by Scribe.*

*This article is an extract from a talk she gave at Politics in the Pub, Sydney, on 20 February 2004. An earlier version is at [www.aseanfocus.com/asiananalysis/region/february](http://www.aseanfocus.com/asiananalysis/region/february)*

45 miles south of the capital, has not allayed the concerns of those South Koreans who already protest that US bases are targets for North Korean attacks. Although the American presence is officially supposed to protect them, many South Koreans see annual joint military exercises as needlessly provoking Pyongyang and setting back prospects for reunification.

Since last year, the Pentagon has been considering how to make global US military operations less static and more manoeuvrable. The announcement that an undisclosed number of US 2nd infantry division troops will be withdrawn from South Korea (for possible redeployment to Afghanistan and Iraq) indicates the change in US thinking. No mass evacuation of US troops from the region is in sight, but when Australia's Defence Minister, Senator Robert Hill, met the Defence Secretary in Washington in mid-November, their private agenda included the US proposal to create a troop presence in Australia for the first time since World War II. The timing of this contentious move, as the Parliamentary calendar was winding down, may not have been coincidental. Certainly, it attracted little public protest in either country.

There's obviously much we don't know. Which are there to be: training programs, or training areas, or storage facilities in Australia? Where will they be? What will US troops do there? What weapons will they have? Will our government be consulted? Whose command will they be under? Whose laws will govern them? Will they pay Australia rent? Will their presence make us more of a terrorist target than we are already? How will their presence enhance our safety, our independence, and our environment? How will our neighbours react? When will the Americans leave?

We should remember that the US originally proposed an occupation lasting only six months in Iraq, and Rumsfeld said that taking over four airbases there was 'flat false'. But they are still there, and in Afghanistan. Roosevelt, some will recall, said in 1943 that US troops would remain in Germany 'for at least one year. Maybe two'. They are still there too. They withdrew from Vietnam because they had to, and from Thailand

and the Philippines because they were asked to. But the US military remain in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and most of the other places that they occupied after World War II and several later wars. The Americans, as Max Walsh remarked in the Bulletin in April 2003, tend to hang around. Now that Mark Latham has been shown Pine Gap, perhaps he will tell us what other bases the Americans want to hang around in here.

## NO WAR .... the bill

By David Burgess

On March 18th last year, Dr Will Saunders and I scaled the tiles and spine of the Sydney Opera House and painted the words 'NO WAR' in 25m long red lettering on its highest sail. At the very same moment, George W Bush addressed the American people, announcing that should Saddam Hussein fail to leave in 48 hours, a US, British and Australian invasion of Iraq would commence.

Following our arrests we were led down to the basement of the Opera House, where a police van drove us away to the sounds of applause from members of the orchestra and other Opera House staff. We were charged with malicious damage and subsequently found guilty of that crime by a NSW District Court Jury.

On January 30th 2004, Judge Blackmore sentenced us both to 9 months of weekend detention, which we are currently serving, and ordered that we pay the alleged cleaning bill of \$A150,000 to the Sydney Opera House Trust. We have appealed both conviction and sentence.

Our act provoked some very strong reactions both for and against. But far from being a reckless act of vandalism, we believed it necessary. Necessary to let the rest of the world know that a majority of Australians wanted no part in this war, necessary as a democratic act of two individuals doing as much as they possibly could non-violently to stop the war, and necessary following our Prime Minister's description of over a million people marching against the war across the nation as a "mob".

*continued on page 5*

## Getting to know the sea turtles - continued from Page 1

12pm, the second group patrolling between 4 and 6 am.

Patrolling the beach was walking the full length of the beach between estuary and the resort and then back to camp - looking for adult sea turtles who may be laying, or looking for evidence that they'd been there to lay recently (tracks in the sand). The work was more challenging than it sounds, mainly due to having to patrol at night, and that the days were so hot that often you were ready for bed by the time the sun went down.

On my patrols I saw two adult turtles! Huge, determined, slow-walking females returning to the ocean. We dug out their nests and found their leathery eggs that were slightly warm, counted the eggs and then carefully transferred them to a nest that we had dug within the confines of a fenced-off corral.

This is done to protect the eggs from poachers, as many thousands of eggs are taken from beaches and sold as food each year despite laws forbidding this. Adult turtles are also killed, and sold on the black-market for food and leather. Recent headlines state "Mexican Sea Turtles Massacred by Armed Poachers" February 3, 2004. "SAN VALENTIN BEACH, Mexico - Carcasses of hundreds of endangered sea turtles, bludgeoned and carved open by poachers, litter the virgin beach of San Valentin on Mexico's Pacific coast in Guerrero state". (Source: <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewshome.cfm>)

Another key part of the work was checking these nests regularly for hatched turtles, which we then released at night into the ocean (referred to as 'the liberation'). This was definitely a highlight as watching them make their way into the water was totally captivating. Needless to say the baby turtles were very cute.

Another satisfying part of the camp was interacting with guests from the nearby hotel who would wander by our camp and then come over to ask questions. A local resident brought her whole family down for the liberation one night, which was great, especially when the objective is to encourage local ownership of the program.

A downside was that the camp was not particularly well organised, an observation shared by all the volunteers in our group, so there were many little

frustrations about the way things ran and the communication between leaders and volunteers. That said, a highlight was meeting some wonderful people during the camp and I have stayed in contact with them since returning to Australia.

Tips for people considering this workcamp:

\* Don't bother with a sleeping bag - it's too hot! A silk or cotton sleeping bag liner would have been enough. A hammock would also be great for sleeping in.

\* Consider taking some games or a battery-powered radio.

\* Not for the squeamish - emptying the nests of dead turtles, unhatched eggs and shell remains (complete with maggots) was unpleasant but a vital task in helping to gather statistics about hatching rates and mortality.

\* The heat can be quite extreme and that a reasonable level of fitness is needed

\* Make sure you have some Spanish. Even though leaders spoke English, instructions were given in

*"For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours, they move finished and complete, gifted with extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained, living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings, they are other nations caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth"*  
- Henry Beston

Spanish.

About the turtles

There are eight species of sea turtles worldwide: All except the Black sea turtle occur in Australian waters

- \* Kemp's Ridley sea turtle - *Lepidochelys kempii*
- \* Hawksbill sea turtle - *Eretmochelys imbricata*
- \* Flatback sea turtle - *Natator depressus*
- \* Black sea turtle - *Chelonia agassizi*
- \* Green sea turtle - *Caretta caretta*
- \* Leatherback sea turtle - *Dermochelys coriacea*
- \* Loggerhead sea turtle - *Caretta caretta*
- \* Olive Ridley sea turtle - *Lepidochelys olivacea*

Marine turtles grow slowly and take between 30 and 50 years to reach sexual maturity. They live for years in the one place before they are ready to make the

long breeding migration of up to 3000 km from the feeding grounds to nesting beaches. Each breeding season, nesting females return to the same area, thought to be in the region of their birth. Courtship and mating take place in shallow waters near the nesting beach and females often mate with more than one male.

The Olive Ridley sea turtle is smaller than all other sea turtles, generally under 1m in length as adults. It was listed as endangered for the "Mexican nesting population" and threatened for all other populations on July 28, 1978. This turtle has a worldwide tropical and subtropical distribution, including northern Australia. In Australia, they occur along the coast from southern Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef, northwards to Torres Strait, the Gulf of Papua, Gulf of Carpentaria, Arafura Sea and Joseph Bonaparte Gulf in Western Australia.

In Australia, all species of marine turtles are protected under various State and Territory legislation and the Commonwealth's National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975. Due to increasing threats to marine turtles, five of the six species which occur in Australian waters are listed under the Commonwealth's Endangered Species Protection Act, 1992. (Source: Environment Australia, Biodiversity Group Threatened Species and Communities Publication, July 1998).

Jade Herriman is an environmentalist with a regional council in Sydney. She assists on the production of the IVP newsletter.

**No War ... the bill, continued from page 4**

We are now fundraising through a Trust Fund to pay off the clean-up bill and have already paid the Opera House \$40,000 as a gesture of goodwill, although the final amount is still being contested. Any funds raised beyond the final amount have (through the rules of the fund) been pledged to go towards organisations engaging in the reconstruction of medical facilities in bomb-damaged Iraq.

If you feel you support what we did, any assistance would be gratefully appreciated.

**Account details:**

'Opera House No War Cleanup Fund', Bendigo Bank BSB No 633-000

or send a cheque to:

Opera House No War Cleanup Fund, P.O. Box 928, Glebe, NSW 2037.

For more information visit:

[www.sydneyoperahousenowar.org](http://www.sydneyoperahousenowar.org)



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# New Workcamps

## ASIA

### JAPAN

NICE 08 - Minamata (Kumamoto)

10/03 to 24/03

Creating a forest on reclaimed land - transplant baby trees and collect fallen leaves around the trees. We will also teach English to local kids. Some Japanese language is helpful.

NICE 09 - Omiya (Mie)

21/03 to 29/03

We've started creating "Village with fireflies and insects" that can live only in clean water. Maintain the public facilities such as camping site, flower park, buildings, etc. Some Japanese language helpful.

NICE 11 - Haki (Fukuoka)

09/04 to 19/04

We will help to prepare the international child art festival - theater and music during the festival in the hall lobby. Plan a workshop aimed at exchange of Kids, local people and visitors. Requires motivation letter.

### MONGOLIA

Additional fee 150 US\$

MCE 02 - Orphanage-01 (Ulaanbaatar)

08/03 to 21/03

The main work will be to teach English, song, game to the kids. Some renovation work. We may also do some workshops with them for Asian common actions of NVDA for forests and kids prostitution.

MCE 03 - Orphanage-2 (Ulaanbaatar)

22/03 to 04/04

Teach English, song, game to the kids. Also some renovation work.

MCE 04 - Greening (Ulaanbaatar & Buhug)

27/04 to 10/05

We will plant trees in Mongolian various places.

### NEPAL

SCI-Nepal

6th -17th April Katunje, Bhaktapur

16 volunteers (locals will also join)

Helping in maintenance of School, cleaning , painting.

NIFC-52 Chitwan - 15/03 to 30/03

NIFC-53 Chitwan - 01/04 to 15/04

NIFC-54 Ilam - 01/04 to 15/04

NIFC-55 Pokhara - 15/04 to 30/04

### THAILAND

Chiang Rai - 15/03 to 28/03

Maha Sarakham - 19/04 to 02/05

### INDONESIA

Additional fee: US \$ 150

IIWC-05 KARIMUNJAWA

12/03 to 22/03

National Marine Park of Karimunjawa. Cleaning beaches, making a new route/signs for tourists/ travelers. Also educational projects such setting up library, teaching English and eco-tourism.

IIWC-06 KEBONDAWA - SUSUKAN

12/03 to 23/03

Renovate public toilet and cleaning the swamp from garbage as our main activities, plus projects like cooking session, making handicrafts from water plants, dancing lesson, teaching English for kids.

## AFRICA

### KENYA

KVDA 4.1, Lunjre Primary School - Western

Kenya, 07/04 to 28/04

Renovation of primary school buildings and teaching.

KVDA 5.1, Central Kenya Institute of Organic

Farming, 09/05 to 30/05

Environmental conservation, agriculture and flatten playground.

### UGANDA

1 workcamp - 24/04 to 08/05

### GHANA

Danyoukura

7/05 to 28/05

Construction of school block, HIV/AIDS program

Gyankufa

14/05 to 4/06

Afforestation, HIV/AIDS program

Wenchi

28/05 to 18/06

Construction of Training Centre, HIV/AIDS program

## SOUTH AMERICA

### MEXICO

Additional fee \$180 US.

Nuestra Tierra's Friends - 29/03 to 17/04

Puerto Vallarta.

Environmental Education Easter program. The volunteers will lead activities with children, ecological handwork, games, recycling and artistic plays. Volunteers need to be fluent in Spanish.

## EUROPE

### CZECH REPUBLIC

SDA 101 Tvarozna Ihoti I - 22/04 - 04/05 ENVI/CONS

White Carpathian in South Moravia, a region with strong traditions. Work: in a club which runs projects connected with protected cultural landscape with mosaics of meadows and forests.

SDA 102 MODRA

24/04 - 08/05 CONS/ENVI

In a Traditional viniculture village in Southern Moravia. Work outdoors in archaeological digs

and construction of a historical museum.

SDA 201 VILLA NOVA I

23/04 - 07/05 ARCH/ARTS/ENVI

A small village, Velky Uhrinov, hidden under the Eagle Mountains, is relatively isolated.

Work is with the Centre for Experimental Archaeology.

SDA501 Kostelecke Horky

15/03 - 31/03 ENVI/RENO

Forgotten historic Czech village in Eastern Bohemia. Work - gardening, renovation on building of Blue Stone House, Children day.

## WALES

These projects concern improvements to public access to the countryside (ie. footpaths). The work is very physical and will continue whatever the weather - even when very cold, wet and windy.

UNA W07 Nantgaredig - 25/03 to 08/04

UNA W08 Pontarogothi - 13/04 to 27/04

Meinciau, Carmarthenshire

UNA W09 Llanfynydd - 28/04 to 12/05

Meinciau, Carmarthenshire

## GERMANY

VJF 3.1 05/04 to 16/04

You will live in the Projekt- und Begegnungsstätte, the project centre of VJF. Painting, cleaning, gardening work.

D-SCI-6.40

Bernkastel-Kues I

04/04 to 18/04

The Sonnemann family owns four hectares of land where they cultivate plants which are rare or forgotten. The family makes and dyes wool from their own sheep. Very simple accommodation and vegetarian food only!

## BELGIUM

B-SCI-9.1 - Sortilèges au château, Ath

14/05 to 26/05

The aim of the event is to give the opportunity to discover a new culture. Volunteers will help with the organisation of the event: setting up and taking down the facilities and the exhibitions, welcoming the artists and the public. Basic French needed.

## DENMARK

INTERNATIONAL LEADER TRAINING SEMINAR

7th to 12th April (Danish Easter holidays)

Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke, Danish Association for International Co-operation

5 hectic and intensive days to inspire and prepare you for the challenges that await you as the leader of an international work camp.

The experience you obtain by participating in the MS Leader Training Seminar can also be used in other aspects of life, e.g. education,

# Australian Workcamps

job or organizational work. People with and without previous work camp experience can participate.

## Medium Term

Positions for Medium and Long Term Volunteers are updated every three months. These positions are open to volunteers with workcamp experience. Application process is similar to workcamp application process.

### AUSTRALIA

-SA Aboriginal community

### AUSTRIA

- Placement officer

### BELGIUM

- Administrative co-worker

### ECUADOR

- Capacitación en género

### FINLAND

- Placement officer

### GUATEMALA

- CEPSE - Programa de TV, "La Banqueta" - Asociación MOJOCA - Capacitación de jóvenes

### KENYA

Volunteers needed for ongoing projects in: Education, Social Work, Health, Agriculture/ Environment, Community Development, Recreation, Planning & Management.

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### NETHERLANDS

- Placement officer

### POLAND

- Better future  
- Regional Centre of Social Education Switzerland  
- Gruebisbalm

### USA

Innisfree Village,  
- Gardener  
Innisfree Village,  
- Residential Counselor

### OZ 5.1 Townsville, North Queensland

28 Aug - 11 Sept 10 vols

Shalom Christian College is an innovative school for Aboriginal and Islander Students, located in Townsville, North Queensland. Indigenous students from remote communities live at the school, which has a primary and high school as well as an adult learning centre and a nursing home for elders. It is set up to create community-based responses to educational needs and is funded mainly by the Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. A one page motivation letter is required showing some knowledge of indigenous issues, and successful applicants must sign a 'Work with children check' form.

### OZ 1.1 Melbourne, Ceres

07 - 22 Nov 8 Vols

Located in an inner suburb of Melbourne, CERES is a community environmental project that supports sustainability, social equity, cultural richness and community participation. Every year CERES organises "The Return of the Sacred Kingfisher Festival" involving all the ethnic communities living in the area. The festival ends with a ceremony where members from the Aboriginal group of Wurundjeri as the traditional land owners, hand to representatives of all the communities a gum leaf to signify that everyone is welcome in this land.

### OZ 9.1 Katoomba, NSW

OCT - NOV (2 weeks - dates to be set)

12 Vols

Gundungurra are the indigenous people from the Blue Mountains region. The Gundungurra Tribal Council was formed several years ago works to locate and re-unite people of the tribe and lobby for recognition of their rights. In 2002 a building and several hectares of land was donated to the Tribal Council by the State Government. The building is situated on a ten hectare site near a famous scenic tourist area. This April the Tribal Council are taking court action to claim Native Title over a large area of the Blue Mountains National Park.

### OZ 6.2 Sunshine Coast, Queensland 4 - 17

OCT 8 - 10 Vols

SPLASH is a biennial festival celebrating the waterways of the Sunshine Coast. The festival is a powerful tool to educate, celebrate local environmental achievements, build community and foster a sense of and hope for the future. This year, the focus is 'act local, think global'. Volunteers will assist with set up and break down of the festival. They will construct large performance puppets and develop a shadow theatre with which they will perform at the festival. Also assist others in the artistic team and general community.

## REDFERN

By Rita Sofea

I live in Redfern and like many other members of my community, I am mourning the events of Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th February. A youth died violently and unnecessarily, and then a war took place in my neighbourhood. This is a very complex situation, which seems to contain every issue there is and, of course, is a climax of a long history. How do we begin to unravel it, how do we know where to start, how to continue, where to draw a line, what to believe?

On both sides, some people have vowed to step up the aggression. Other voices have spoken with great wisdom. Meanwhile, racism has proliferated and the property developers are rubbing their hands with glee. Yet I believe there is the possibility within this crisis to make changes for a positive future, that there are seeds of hope within this conflict.

I was glad to have an opportunity to mourn with my community at the march on Tuesday, which coincided with the funeral of TJ Hickey in northern NSW. There were 500 to 800 people on the march, about half of them Aboriginal and half non-Aboriginal. It was peaceful, moving and mostly silent apart from a noisy media helicopter overhead.

At the site where TJ Hickey died, we laid flowers and stood in silence for a few moments. This was the moment of the only angry outburst, which was handled very swiftly and skilfully by the Aboriginal organisers of the event, gently leading the man aside, speaking soothingly to him while hiding him from the media with an Aboriginal flag, and then giving him a chance to cry on someone's shoulder.

Near the police station, a police cordon blocked the entrance to the street. Organisers of the march made a speech and issued a list of 17 demands, which was delivered to the Commander of Redfern Police Station. We then walked in silence back to the Block.

Local residents wonder why police seem unable to close down the drug dealers who operate out of the Block. They also seem unable to do anything about the alleged pedophile ring, to which Aboriginal women on the Block have alerted them.

The demands from the Aboriginal community in relation to the death of TJ Hickey, relate to matters which need clarification. They include calls for independent forensic examination of TJ's bike, the site of the accident and the four police vehicles involved in the incident.

There is a call for police log-books, radio transcripts and staffing details to be made available so that the whereabouts of each vehicle can be corroborated by independent witnesses.

*continued on page 8*

# The World page

## Global day of action. End the occupation of Iraq Saturday 20th March 2004

Sydney action will be a rally at 12 noon in Hyde Park with speakers:

John Pilger, Andrew Wilkie

## News

### Elsham News Service

[elshamnewsservice@jayapura.wasantara.net.id](mailto:elshamnewsservice@jayapura.wasantara.net.id)

Elsham Papua is a human rights NGO with a mission to eliminate militarism and promote human rights, democracy, justice and peace. Their news service provides regular reports on social and political developments and their implication on the human rights situation and democracy in Papua.

### Manifesto against conscription and the military system

A one-hour radio interview is also available (in English) that discusses the manifesto and the non-profit activities of the "Gandhi Information Centre" (Berlin), which promotes a global culture of nonviolence.

Manifesto:

<http://home.snafu.de/mkgandhi/english.htm>

Interview:

<http://home.snafu.de/mkgandhi/interview.htm>

### Creative Journey to Nauru to support refugees:

[www.powerbox.inoz.com/Power\\_Box\\_2004/Flotillas/lotillas\\_of\\_Hope.htm](http://www.powerbox.inoz.com/Power_Box_2004/Flotillas/lotillas_of_Hope.htm)

### "Baghdad Burning" Web Log

<http://riverbendblog.blogspot.com/>

Written (in English) by an Iraqi woman who calls herself "River". Her twice weekly postings describe current daily Iraqi life.

### Individuals without Borders

An not-for-profit web-based organization promoting and supporting overseas volunteerism. They are looking for current and former volunteers interested in writing about their volunteering experiences. Whilst the website is not yet live, a beta page is available at: [www.individualswithoutborders.org/aspbite](http://www.individualswithoutborders.org/aspbite)

### Grassroots Good News

[www.dieschwelle.de](http://www.dieschwelle.de)

An electronic mailing list that provides news and contributes to NGO networking. It contains information on human rights monitoring, citizens' diplomacy, environmental commitment and non-violent conflict management.

### The Israeli Security Wall

The UN General Assembly voted recently that the International Court of Justice should give legal advice concerning Israel's "separation wall". However, according to experts, it might take years for the court to conclude its work. Thus, the decision of the court may have little effect upon the construction of the wall.

### Fairer Chocolate Production

[www.divinechocolate.com/kuapa.htm](http://www.divinechocolate.com/kuapa.htm)

Ghanaian cocoa co-operative, Kuapa Kokoo, was formed in 1993. It enhances farmer's power, women's participation and implementation of environmentally sustainable production processes.

## Books

### Courageously Crossing Thresholds / 29 Examples of International Peace Work

The Bremen Peace Awards of the Threshold Foundation were presented in November 2003. This book presents the 3 award winners and a selection of 26 convincing award proposals. It is available free (only surface delivery mail costs are charged). Orders via: [stiftung@dieschwelle.de](mailto:stiftung@dieschwelle.de)

### Dark Dreams:

#### Australian Refugee Stories:

[www.safecom.org/dark-dreams.htm](http://www.safecom.org/dark-dreams.htm)

A collection of stories by young writers aged 11-20, including some by refugees themselves. Some are about Holocaust survivors or Vietnamese boat people, whilst others are more recent, describing refugees fleeing Afghanistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka or Africa.

### REDFERN - continued from page 7

And they ask when, on Sunday 15th, did Redfern Police decide to hold a press conference to deny reports that TJ was being chased by the police at the time of the incident.

They would like an explanation of why police made their first radio call for back-up, rather than Emergency Rescue Services or Ambulance. And why police did not follow normal procedures in relation to impaled victims with serious injuries, but themselves removed TJ from the fence without calling the appropriate services so that the fence could be removed from TJ under medical supervision.

The call for a Royal Commission into the death of TJ Hickey seems appropriate, given these unanswered questions.

On a positive note, I discovered a group called "Legal Observers" who were at the march as independent witnesses. This group consists mainly of people with legal training but some are from other walks of life. They make themselves available at many events, especially where there may be two

Columnist Phillip Adams comments: "We have not been allowed to know the (recent) refugees as human beings . . . These stories change all that and force a personal response from the reader."

### From Nothing to Zero

Letters from refugees in Australia's detention centres. Several contributing authors have been compulsorily detained for more than three years. The book's title was provided by an Afghani refugee, who believed that, in coming to Australia, he had gone 'from nothing to zero', with no improvement in his situation.

All profits from sales will be donated to the Refugee and Immigration Legal Centre and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, Footscray. The cost is \$20 plus \$4.10 postage. To purchase a copy, email: [ninotchka@bigpond.com](mailto:ninotchka@bigpond.com) with 'From Nothing to Zero' in the title.

## Employment and other Opportunities:

### Public Services International:

[www.world-psi.org](http://www.world-psi.org)

### Communication Initiative:

[www.comminit.org/vacancies](http://www.comminit.org/vacancies)

### International Environment and Development:

[www.devnetjobs.org](http://www.devnetjobs.org)

### Global Youth Action Network:

[gyan@takingitglobal.org](mailto:gyan@takingitglobal.org)

### International Campaign to Ban Landmines -

[www.australia.icbl.org](http://www.australia.icbl.org)

sides, telling very different stories, as there are in the recent events of Redfern. I believe this kind of observer action can be useful in creating transparency and getting to the truth.

Does IVP have a role to play? Can we do anything to help create a positive future and, if so, what? Our annual workcamps in Redfern with underprivileged, mainly Aboriginal youth came to a standstill several years ago. This was due to lack of funding and difficulty liaising with the local Police and Community Youth Club. There are many services addressing the need of youth in the Redfern area but a workcamp would fill a different role, focussing on peace-building through mutual respect, cooperation, communication and constructive change. IVP is committed to creating peace between peoples and nations and to reversing the destructive nature of racism. What better place to have a workcamp than Redfern. In order for this to happen we need a committed group of enthusiasts. Interested? Contact Rita at the IVP office.