


Beach and Banquet in Lorne

The day was chilly and freezing. It really dampened our spirit a bit due to the fact that we were going to Lorne, supposedly Surfer's Paradise in Victoria. Most of our entourage from Melbourne caught the train to Geelong. From there on, they headed for Lorne in a mini-van sent by the good people of Lorne. Coincidentally all our group members arrived at Lorne at the same time. Our Nepali girls looked at their best traditional Nepali 'Gunyu, Cholo and Pachhyora' breaking few hearts on the way.

After some hustle-bustle the program finally started with the Principal of Lorne P-12 College welcoming all guests. There turned out to be more people than they had expected. There was a cover charge for the program but the organisers were generous to let our group for free. Then came the guest of honour Peter Hilary to give insight into 'Himalaya Trust and Australian Youth Adventure Activities'. The talk was lively, very interesting and informative for the people who hasn't been to Nepal. Alex Butler of 'Australian Tibet Council' was next giving a short speech about how we can help concerning refugees and conservation problems in Tibet. After that we had spot prizes for the oldest and the youngest mum, the day being Mother's day.



Then came the highlight of the day (for us anyway); our girls giving a traditional Nepali dance on the very popular Nepali song from a movie. The lyrics went like this "Gairi Khetko Sirai Hanyo...". Surendra was in his element again introducing the girls in his usual lively and funny way. The crowd really appreciated the dance. Heaps and heaps of thanks to Neeta, Depika, Carol and Monica for their initiative and effort.

By that time all of us were so hungry that we could eat an elephant. Luckily the next item on the program list was 'Banquet Lunch'. There was vegetarian as well as meat dishes. The food prepared by local Hare Rama, Hare Krishna was simply awesome. The only problem was that there were too many people. However, we satisfied our appetite with whatever we had. After the lunch, we went to entertain ourselves at the beach trying to defy the soggy day and chilly winds. Our girls were again the centre of attraction playing with cold antarctic water and MIND YOU THEY WERE BAREFOOT. Australian members of our group now knows why one of the wonders of the world is Sherpas can walk barefoot in the snow.

The last program on the list was the "Tales of Adventure" by students who had been to youth adventure in Nepal. The presentation was interesting and educative with the aid of slides. It was hearty to see their enthusiasm get carried away by all three of the students trying to speak at the same time. Seems like they really had a great time. At the end, the Principal formally closed the ceremony adding that they want to set up a trust to send the students from his college to Nepal. On behalf of NAFA, we wish him and his school good luck and thank the people of Lorne for inviting us for a lovely day we had despite the weather.

Rajan

Project Update

April 11th, 1994

Kath has written to NAFA with the latest project information.

I am very grateful for the effort NAFA members have taken on behalf of the Teachers Centre Project in Kathmandu.

I will be happy to keep you informed on a six monthly basis as to the current progress.

The conference was extremely successful and was met with great enthusiasm by the 70 Nepali teachers who attended. Because of the enthusiasm of those teachers we have decided to make the conference a yearly event. We also intend to spend more effort to encourage a greater number of government schools to take part. To this end I will visit a number of the schools where I know teachers personally and enlist their help in encouraging other government school teachers to attend. One of the most valuable things to come out of the conference was the willingness of teachers to help each other particularly their colleagues in poorer schools.

I am currently widening my approach for funds to set up the centre and hope to have enough to lease a building and set up a physical base in Kathmandu before too long. However despite the lack of a building for the Centre as yet, the work of the centre has well and truly begun. We have already an exchange of books taking part, a research club set up, dialogue between us Kathmandu University and Kathmandu schools in progress. All of this will continue and the organisation of the 2nd conference (in Sept) while the search for funding continues. I hope to have good news to share with you soon.'

Kath Maltzahn

NEPALI NEW YEAR

New year was celebrated with a Nepali banquet and Australian entertainment. Richard Gijbers called a bush dance which was a lot of fun once we all learnt which was our left and right feet. Thanks Rajani, Sonia and Lukpar for all your hard work cooking. The banquet was enjoyed by all.

Because of the success of the bush dancing NAFA is trying to organise a repeat performance. See future dairy dates for details.

Stepping out for Sight

Jane has successfully completed her walk from Nelson to Mallacoota. A detailed report on the walk will be in the next newsletter.

Lisa Guifre NAFA members since returning from Australian Youth Adventure in Nepal forwarded to NAFA this example of one of her VCE folio pieces that she wanted to share with NAFA members.

For a breathtaking moment, the essence returns in full. Drowning in a photograph, if I stare too long, I am there.

... A mystical, almost eerie remembrance of prayer flags flapping in the smoky breeze. High on the crest of the earth, my soul is flying - free of limitations. The faint tinkering of yak bells, as the hearty beasts trail the slopes. Near by, a shrine built upon foundations of sorrow and endurance, for the eighth child lost.*

My thoughts are jolted, when a sound from the outside intrudes abruptly on the lost Paradise. I fall helplessly from the bubble that suspends me. Burst - by the harshness of western civilisation. At an age of romance and captivation, I am caught between two worlds.

A year ago today.

... As the aeroplane, the iron bird, pursues the runway with a droning mechanical bawl, the music pounds in my head. The same song that accompanied me on this adventure, as birth was given. The same musical schedule as before. A million years of diverse richness and knowledge have passed between its repetition.

As we take off, emotions are swirling close to the surface, ready to explode. Clouds of human closeness trail behind, as we soar through the spiritual world, entering the thickets of no mans land.

Sitting with strangers, my eyes become clouded and I cry silently. The pain of intense emotion is twisting and howling from the pit of my inner most being. I have so much to be thankful for. The cherished memories, of faces and voices; the beauty of the land; the people and their ways. The radiance and warmth they project, is dearer than gold.

On returning home, I feel love, but a different kind. There is happiness with a reunion, but also frustration and sadness for the inability to share ultimate experience with the ones I love.

Now I am sometimes alien in my own culture. How can I not criticise the false ness of our materialistic society, when I have seen light and energy channelling from what we might define as poverty? In Nepal, hardships are common, but life is a blessing. It is a joy, worth celebrating at every moment.

*We stayed with a lady called Angdouli, who had lost eight children in infancy.

Lisa Guifre

DIARY DATES

BUSHWALK

Sunday 10th July Point Nepean National Park, Portsea.
Meet at 10.30am at Pines Picnic Area, Cape Schanck Rd, Cape Schanck.
Melways Ref: Page 259, A9.

We will walk to Bushranger's Bay for lunch.

Bring your lunch, drinks and wear warm clothing as it is very windy on the walking track and at the beach.

Contact Surendra if you are coming and want transport. Tel: 544 9651

GRAMPIANS WEEKEND

Saturday 24 & Sunday 25th September. We will stay in cabins.
Organiser: Jane. More details next newsletter.

DASHAIN CELEBRATION

Details in next newsletter

WERRIBEE PARK VISIT

Planned for November when the roses are in full bloom

Many NAFA activities have been planned for the remainder of 1994. Come along and join the group for a great day. If you require further information on any of the activities or transport to the event please contact Surendra on 544 9651 or Colleen on 557 2073.

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT NAFA (VIC)

The Nepal Australia Friendship Association (Victoria) is a non-political, secular, non-profit association.

The primary objective of the NAFA (Vic) is to promote friendship and cooperation between members of the association; in particular, people from Australia and Nepal.

The activities of NAFA (Vic) include:

- * participation in social activities, discussions, seminars, etc
- * provision of support and assistance to Nepali visitors and students to Victoria;
- * financial support of small-scale projects in Nepal;
- * contact with similar organisations and groups.

Membership of NAFA (Vic) is open to any person with an interest in these activities.

Regular social events include functions to celebrate Nepali New Year and an Australian end of the year function.

Guest speakers and slide presentations inform members about current events and issues in Nepal.

SUPPORT IN AUSTRALIA

NAFA (Vic) provides a welcome to Nepalis visiting Australia and Melbourne in particular, and is especially active in assisting students in Melbourne.

SUPPORT IN NEPAL

A number of small projects have been established to help disadvantaged groups in Nepal. Emphasis is on, but not confined to, education and health. Further details of the projects NAFA (Vic) currently supports are available by contacting one of the NAFA (Vic) committee members listed on the inside cover of this newsletter.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$00.00 visiting Nepalese student

\$20.00 single membership

\$20.00 family membership (living at one address)

\$10.00 student membership

If you wish to become a member of NAFA (Vic), please fill out the application form below and mail it with your cheque to:

*Colleen Rolls
25 Carlton St
McKinnon 3204*

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name.....

Address.....
.....

Telephone.....

Please find enclosed cheque / money order for \$.....

If unclaimed please return to;
25 Carlton St, McKinnon 3204.



Chanelra Yonzon
15 Mitre Cree
BAYSWATER
3153