

RAIN 10

RAINBOW ARCHIVES INFORMATION & NEWS SPRING EQUINOX 1990

Mitchell Library
State Library of NSW
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Phone (02) 230 1429
Fax (02) 232 4816

Alternative Resources Circle (ARC)
Postal Address: PO Box 390
Avalon NSW 2107
(02) 918 9256 (A.H.)

FIELD TRIP RAISES AWARENESS

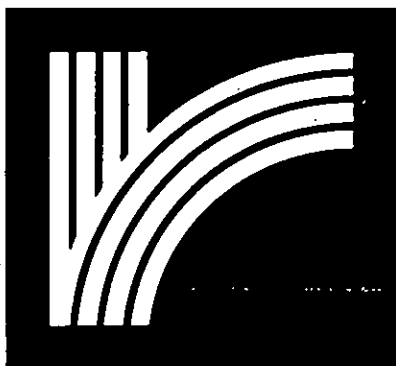
Firstly, apologies to regular readers of RAIN who will have noticed that we missed the Winter Solstice edition. When publication looked like being really late we decided to hang on till Spring when we could report on our field trip.

On September 8 a team of four volunteer Rainbow Archvists made a week-long trip to northern NSW and southern Queensland to promote this project. Pip Wilson and Warwick Lawson made contacts and did media interviews, while Peter Pegasus and Paul White interviewed alternative lifestylers on video, to kick off our oral history section of the Rainbow Archives.

All four men had in the past worked on 'Maggie's Farm' magazine. Through 'Maggie's' and a variety of other connections with Alternative Australia, the four have fairly extensive contacts around the place, and in one week it was possible to do a great deal of networking to help further the cause of conserving our alternative heritage.

7.30 REPORT, ETC.

In advance of this field trip, Paul Brunton, Curator of Manuscripts at the Mitchell Library (part of the State Library of N.S.W., which conserves the Rainbow Archives) contacted the Sydney Morning Herald and proposed a story.



RAINBOW ARCHIVES

As a result, Heritage Writer Geraldine O'Brien wrote a sympathetic piece which was placed prominently on page 3 of the Herald two days before our departure. Other media grabbed hold of the story, and interviews were conducted on Channel 10's 'Good Morning Australia' as well as several metropolitan and regional radio stations.

ABC-TV's '7.30 Report' asked if they could come along with the "Maggie's Brothers" for two days. We reached an agreement that as long as the story was about the Rainbow Archives (and not another story on the hippies) and if the complete footage, including out-takes, was donated to the archives, then reporter Greg Hoy and his production crew could come along.

The result was a five minute story on prime-time TV which certainly must have helped to make people more aware that their records of Australia's alternative movement (including the peace, conservation, beat, hippie, rural resettlement and new age movements) are being actively sought to save for posterity.

FIELD TRIP - CONTACTS & ACQUISITIONS

(Just a few of the contacts made)

Early Esoteric Documents

A chance encounter with Mrs Lorna Anderson of Kyogle led to the offer of a very unusual and hard-to-get collection of papers from Australia's early esoteric scene. Mrs Anderson has for forty years been involved with esoteric and psychic groups. Many of the roots of today's New Age and other alternative cultures are to be found in the sorts of groups that Mrs Anderson has been involved with. Her commitment to sending several boxes of related material is welcomed by the archives.

Channon Markets

Steve Cooke, a co-ordinator of the large monthly markets at The Channon, near Nimbin, has offered a full collection of monthly newsletters tracing the history of the markets to their 1979 beginnings. The markets are closely associated with the north coast NSW alternative society and services as a source of income for many new settlers.

Nimbin News

Another publication which has been going since the 1970s is the 'Nimbin News'. This small news magazine is very important as a record of the issues and concerns of the Nimbin alternative community; it also reflects wider matters relating to alternatives, as it has faithfully reported from far and wide for all these years.

We found on our field trip that apparently no one held a full set of NN. That problem has been rectified by long-time Tuntable Falls pioneer Susan Bingham, who has hunted down missing issues. By dint of collecting and photocopying, a full set of this remarkable paper is on its way to the Rainbow Archives.

Homeland/Findhorn

Homeland Community at Thora (near Bellingen) NSW started in the mid-1970s largely inspired by the Findhorn Community of Scotland, that famous cooperative of the outsized vegetables grown in snow and sand.

Our supporters at Homeland had kept aside a box labelled 'Rainbow Archives', to which they consigned whatever old and contemporary relevant documents they came upon.

The result is a fine collection of papers that partially chronicle the activities of a lifestyle experiment in progress.

One particularly welcome document in the Homeland donation is an official copy of the deeds to Findhorn, complete with government seal.

(Thanks especially to John Dorbis, an active Bellingen district 'spy' for the archives, for his pledge to help save alternative heritage from the garbage cans of history).

Interviews regarding September Field Trip

Sydney Morning Herald, 6/9/90 p.3
Good Morning Australia, 7/9/90
Brian Bury, 2UE, 6/9/90
2HD Newcastle, 6/9/90
2NR Lismore, 6/9/90
Frank Crook, 2BL, 7/9/90
2NR Lismore, 10/9/90 (One hour talk-back)
2NR Lismore, 11/9/90
2LM Lismore, 11/9/90
Northern Star, 15/9/90 p.3
2NCR-FM, 13/9/90 (Lismore)
2BBB-FM, 14/9/90 (Bellingen)

OTHER RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Rockhampton responds

Marilyn Gavranovic has mailed down the last two years worth of editions of Connexions : Newsletter of the Holistic Self Help Network, which hails from Rockhampton, Qld.

Thanks to Marilyn we have our first documentation of Rocky's alternatives. Who can find us more? We don't have enough from

mid-to northern Queensland. No documents at all from early northern Queensland alternatives such as Cedar Bay. Someone out there might have a contact.

THE YELLOW HOUSE

Nikki Barrowclough, writing in The Good Weekend, June 30, 1990, brought to public attention again the Kings Cross, Sydney, art phenomenon of 1970-71, The Yellow House Artists such as Martin Sharp and Brett Whiteley helped to make this living gallery of avant garde art. While the Rainbow Archives doesn't see its role as taking in works of art, there is a need to document the cultural context of The Yellow House - Sydney's alternative and bohemian scene of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. With a little luck the exhibition of Yellow House art at the NSW Art Gallery from July 25 will stimulate interest in this period.

ACQUARIUS - EARLY DAYS

We have received some helpful advice from Lance Wilson (no relation) about the university scene that led to the Acquarius Festival in Nimbin in May 1973.

Following an interview with John Doyle on ABC radio with me, Lance rang the studio and has since contributed some information about the visionaries on various Australian campuses whose efforts led to the festival, seen by many as a seminal event in the history of Australian alternatives.

Following Lance's contact, we would like further information on the following:

- . A visit to Australia by Buckminster Fuller.
- . Other activities by alternative-minded staff and students of architecture faculty of Uni of NSW, c.1970.
- . Whereabouts of Acquarius organisers, so we can send them RAIN.
- . Documentation of Acquarius and early university counter-cultural activities.

PROGRESS OF A COMMUNITY

RAIN subscriber and friend of the archives, Alan Coad, has sent a series of photographs, made over seven years, of the topography of Patanga community at Darkwood, near Bellingen, NSW.

Photographs of all kinds are eagerly sought. We can probably meet your expenses for printing and shipping if necessary - just give us a call.

PANS COMMUNITIES COUNCIL

This organisation should be thanked for continuing to send us information concerning the rural resettlement movement.

RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE

We received advice from Mara J. of the RIC that materials are being collected for conservation in the RA. Other conservation groups; mention our work at your committee meetings - and CONSERVE OUR ALTERNATIVE HERITAGE.

BRANDYWINE

Jurgen P. Wegner, librarian for The Brandywine Press and Archive, is including RA in a new journal on the history of books and printing in Australia, to be called Brandywine. We appreciate this and any other promotion our friends can give us.

FROM THE FOREST, AND THE CITY

We can't thank even a small proportion of our regular or occasional correspondents and donors, but thanks must go to some in particular;

- . Roger Marchant of Sydney for superb collection of photos of festivals, etc.
- . Nina Sunday for a great collection of newsletters from Kuranda, QLD

RAIN will be sent regularly at no cost to potential supporters and interested people.

The success of this 'alternative time capsule' depends on an active network of part-time and occasional 'spies'. Please remember the future; please don't let our alternative heritage disappear.

Fip Wilson

PS Thank you to all those who willingly took part in our oral history project. We now have on videotape some valuable personal recollections of early alternative days. Others might like to record their recollections on audiotape or paper and send them in for posterity.