

Editorial

April, 2011

Dear Readers,

On 27th February it was the 150th anniversary of Steiner's birth.

Because of Christchurch's second major quake on 22nd February, the College of Teachers at our school celebrated the event a month later. Sue Simpson, the general secretary of the Anthroposophical society in New Zealand was our guest. Sue spoke of the events before the First World War and the wish of Steiner to introduce ideas of three folding and the threefold human being in the economic realm. These ideas did not succeed as he wished, but transformed into the Waldorf movement – the first Waldorf School opening in September 1919.

Many practical impulses developed at and after that time – bio-dynamics, medicine, and curative education amongst others. All had to find their way with the benefit of very few material resources - a post war time which later suffered extraordinary financial inflation – yet grew in strength spiritually. Our college was told about Karl König – the founder of the Camphill curative home movement – as an individual who faced the terror and destruction of the 1938 occupation of Vienna and created, in the first Camphill in Aberdeen, a world movement that is still bringing healing in many realms – social, economic, educational – based on Steiner's Spiritual Science .

Sue compared such events as a major earthquake, flood, fire, war or other disasters, which today cause such trauma in the human soul, with those in 1919 when the old order had to change and it was imperative that new possibilities had the spiritual space to develop.

In this issue we include thoughts and directions concerning resilience – presented by Lisa Devine. Resilience in the human being is like Michael's armour and strong gaze to the future.

Dr Michael Sargent, Robyn Ritchie and Annette Brian make contributions developed further from last year's Australasian Kolisko Conference held in Cambridge, New Zealand – which brought together impulses from Waldorf



Earthquake: 22nd February , 2011 . Christchurch central city – dust rising from falling buildings

education and the Anthroposophical medical movement, including curative education and therapies. Our thanks.

A challenge is given by the previous leader of the Pedagogical Section at the Goetheanum – reprinted with permission from the author – for us to question and research some of the traditions that have built up over the ninety years of Waldorf education: we invite responses from our readers.

We honour a loved and respected teacher of many of us – Audrey McAllen.

Thank you all contributors, Karl Grant for layout and supportive readers. We welcome contributions to our next issue. We particularly thank Robin Bacchus most heartily for his editing, for researching references for the footnotes and also for taking over my previous task of Journal distribution. We hold in our hearts those suffering – especially those in Japan at present .

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The opinions expressed in this Journal are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors.

We welcome all contributions on the themes pertaining to Waldorf education. Please forward your contributions to waldorf@clear.net.nz, glasby.peter@gmail.com