

AV News Summary

May 17th, 2003

AVNews Survey -- update

The response to the AVNews Survey has been good. About 150 forms were returned. The results are now being processed and will be published as soon as possible. The survey results will reflect to the community how the previous News was appreciated. It will also act as a basis for the editorial team-to-be to develop an editorial policy for the future. One of the more onerous tasks of the future editors will be to find a way to allow the community to express its opinions and feelings, for not only the Survey results, but also external factors will have to be taken into account. Thanks to all who took the trouble to fill in the forms. We'll keep you posted!

About the News

The old Auroville News will not appear for the time being. This news summary is a temporary replacement, until a new version of the News has been worked out. Short messages and announcements are welcome, longer items will have to be shortened. In the near future information will be given about where to obtain hard copies of meeting reports or how to be placed on mailing lists to receive soft copies of meeting reports. For the time being messages may be sent to the same email address avnews@auroville.org.in or given to the News office at Aurelec. Deadline is Wednesday noon.

Note from Auroville Council regarding proposed new Members

In our rush to put the proposed names before you last week we forgot to mention how Ashatit, Narayanswamy and Peter T. were selected.

Last November the 50 persons, who received the highest number of nominations, met to decide how to choose 15 members for the AVC/WC. They had the mandate to choose the 15 by whatever method they decided upon. Although a few of the 50 suggested that they should choose the first 15, who said they were willing to serve, this proposal was immediately rejected by the vast majority of the 50, who wanted to choose those on whom most people could agree, taking into account that the group should be as balanced as possible in terms of ability to work harmoniously together, gender, age and cultural background.

At that time it was also agreed that any eventual new members would be chosen by the AVC/WC from those who remained from the original 50, and the AVC/WC would choose those persons who most represented the qualities which were needed by the group. So a few weeks ago, when the AVC found itself short of members, we went back to that list and chose from it those that we all felt we could work with. We contacted more than 10 people from the original 50 and three said yes. (Narayanswamy has since informed us that he will not be able to be a full member, but will only be available for emergency or ad hoc work.) Some people who had a large number of nominations were not chosen, because it was felt that they lacked the necessary qualities for fostering harmonious working relations within the group.

This time we were specifically looking for people for the internal work so we did not contact anyone who is only willing to do WC work, although soon the WC will be looking for new members also.

We also need more Tamil members, and most of the Tamil persons on the list of 50 have been asked and declined. Therefore it may be necessary for us to have to look for others who were not part of the 50, if the community approves. If you have any feedback on this point, please let us know.

Auroville Council

COMMUNITY MEETING
Wednesday May 21st, 5.15 pm @ SAWCHU

~ a forum for information and communication amongst ourselves ~

Agenda:

? To be decided & announced

Entry Group announcement for May

Entry Group requests your feedback (within two weeks) on the following announcements:

Aurovilians:

Prashant lives in Vikas and works at the Matrimandir Nursery.

Jackie lives in Prarthna and has been teaching at Future School.

Rowland lives in Prarthna and has been teaching at Future School.

Krishnaprem lives in Angiras Garden and is a healer.

Sonja lives in Angiras Garden and presently does secretarial work for the IDC.

Yogini Emma Shivani (YES) lives in Reve II and works at SEWA and the Information Centre.

Bunty lives in Prarthna (WDK), teaches at Future School and works in the SAIER administration.

Lalit lives in Courage and works at Aurofuture.

Newcomers:

Paolo (Italian) is a plumber and stays in Revelation; contact person Olivier (La Ferme)

David (British) works with CIRHU and the Farm Group. He stays in Surrender. Contact person: Chali

Klaas (S. African) works at Aurosystems and stays in Quiet; contact person Marco.

Anand (Indian) works at Land and Estate Management and stays at Gokulam Farm; contact person Subash.

Jean-Claude (French), an ecology teacher, works at Future School and stays at Mango Kottakarai; contact person Maurice.

Dima (Russian) works at the Solar Kitchen and stays in the caretaker's house; contact person Sergei.

Balu (Indian) works and stays at Svaram, a new unit (previously Decauram) in Kottakarai, which makes musical instruments; contact person Ricardo.

Amudha (Indian) works at the Solar Kitchen and stays in Sailam; contact person Auradha.

Long Term Guests:

Nathalie BLEUZEN (French) teaches at the Free Progress School and stays in New Creation.

Meridith HARVEY (Australian) teaches and stays at Udavi.

Friends of Auroville:

Joel (French) and **Sneha** (Indian): Joel works at the Matrimandir; when in Auroville they stay at Invocation.

Christoph and **Friederike** (German) are active AVI Germany members; when in Auroville they stay at Auroshilpam.

Newcomers who have left Auroville:

Jonathan BOULICOT (French).

For further details on the announcement, please contact the Entry Group Office.

Tel : 2622707 ; E-mail: entry@auroville.org.in

Last chance to book Solar Water Pumps (repeated from May 10 issue)

31st May 2003 is the deadline for booking your Solar Water Pumping System under the 2002-2003 Government of India subsidy programme.

The following solar pumping systems are still available:

- ? 900 W with surface/booster pump – Rs 65,000/-
- ? 1800 W with surface/booster pump – Rs 1,20,000/-
- ? 1800 W with submersible pump – Rs 1,65,000/-

For further details contact the AURORE team at CSR Office. Tel: 2622 749 / 168 / 277.

Email: aurore@auroville.org.in , look at the following website: www.auroville.com/aurore

(all relevant documents can be downloaded from the homepage). The AURORE team

Note from Auroville Outreach

These months two young French students, David and Muriel, are with us. David works as a freelance journalist and Muriel is a future teacher. They are here to study our township in order to write articles, reports, make photographs, and possibly organise slide shows and exhibitions in France upon their return mid-July. In their opinion "Auroville is a very exceptional place and its experimental aspect merits interest. By portraying the actors of Auroville's life, and by studying the various achievements as well as future projects, we hope to get a true vision of the city."

A first article by David, "Auroville, la cité de l'aurore" can be perused on www.strasmag.com (*loisirs/voyages*) and is impressive. We recommend the community to be open for these young and capable researchers.

For further info, please contact <davidzurmely@yahoo.fr> or outreach@ . Thanks!

From AV Vehicle Service

1. General information about transfer of driving license:

Newcomers and Aurovilians who have a foreign license, please remember to come to regularize your situation and get your foreign license transferred to Indian license. Bring your passport, residential permit and foreign license, and 4 passport size photos.

2. About your Indian Driving License:

We need a photocopy of your Indian License in order to collect the database and to check the date of expiry of your license.

3. Call for new candidates:

We have finished with all the driving tests successfully. Now we are looking forward for new candidates. You will get your license within forty days. Whoever doesn't have a driving license please come and apply!

We need a photocopy of your residential permit, your passport and 8 photos. (We have a Polaroid camera in our office for the photos). For Indians only: please bring proof of residence, proof of birth.

4. Purchase of new bike in Tamil Nadu:

We ask all the Aurovilians and Newcomers and long-term guests to purchase their vehicles in Tamil Nadu state, not in Pondicherry state. This is because Auroville is a part of Tamil Nadu. We are doing the service of purchasing the bike from Tamil Nadu for you. Door delivery within 24 hours. In case you plan to buy a bike, it makes sense to come and see with us since we are given special offers.

AV Vehicle Service Office Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday	9.00am to 12.30pm / 2.00pm to 4.00pm
Saturday	9.00am to 12.30pm

For more details contact us as soon as possible. Thanking You... Ashok, Raju and Elumalai.

PHONE: 2623 302. E-mail: avvehicle@auroville.org.in

Visitors Centre evening video

THE TRIAL OF LIFE - Nature Series by David Attenborough

There will be No Monday Night Video shows on May 12th + 19th, but we start again on May 26th.
(Provided there is no other cultural event announced at the same time)

C I N E M A

EARLY SPRING

Directed by Yasujiro OZU, Japan, 1956. After "An Autumn Afternoon" which was shown last month, this is another work by Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu.

Synopsis: Eight years after his marriage, a young clerk is bored both at home and at work. He has a light affair with a colleague. His wife gets to know about it and leaves him. His colleagues, feeling his distress, try to help him...

Original Japanese version, with English subtitles – Duration: 2h. 24' - 35mm film – Colour

Date and time: Friday 23rd May – 7.30 PM (Film show starting at 7.45 sharp)

Place: Bharat Nivas - Auditorium

Missing Puppy in Certitude

Since Monday late afternoon or evening, probably from the Certitude Sports Ground, a small mixed-breed male puppy, about 3 months old, dark brown, very cute and friendly has been missing from the Certitude area. If anyone has information about the puppy or can recover it, please contact Amrit I. at Certitude, tel: 2622359. A suitable reward will be offered. Thank you.

Bush Fire

On my evening walk on May 13 I discovered a small bush fire near Samridi on Swamiland. Some people had roasted cashew nuts and maybe fired a beehive, as I found pieces of honeycomb lying around.

The burning circle of 2 m diameter was spreading rapidly, because the wind was becoming stronger. I managed to extinguish the fire by beating it down. Fortunately we had a nice rain last night, but soon the forest may be as dry as before.

We have no fire brigade, so what if a real fire spreads through our forest? I would like to suggest that the stewards of the greenbelt discuss this and try to make a fire prevention plan. Suggestions: create fire lanes and breaks in combinations with bunds to give them a double function; more people checking the forest in drought situations..?? Let's take this warning seriously. Kireet

From La Ferme Cheese (last time!)

A CHEESY WAY TO RAISE ANOTHER THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE LAND

As we would like to join the present effort to fundraise for the land, La Ferme Cheese will manufacture a special limited series of ½ kg Gouda d'Aur cheeses, and the full proceeds from the sales of this Rs. 50, 000 limited edition will be donated for land purchase. These Gouda balls will be wrapped in a beautiful cloth and label. They will therefore make a nice gift and can safely travel a few days without refrigeration, as they will be full, uncut cheeses. Buy these cheeses as gifts for your friends and relatives abroad or in India. Please join our effort to purchase the land for Auroville and order these cheeses directly from the Cheese Farm at La Ferme (Ph.2622212) or by email at LaFermeCheese@auroville.org.in With larger orders home delivery may be arranged. **We hope that with the cooperation of the AVI centers we may be able to deliver these special cheeses to any friends living abroad through our network of people connected to Auroville traveling around the world.** Olivier and La Ferme Cheese team wish you a good summer.

Summer programme for children 3 to 7 at Kindergarten (Center Field)

Starting Monday 19th, open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from 9 to 12 a.m.

Each child has to bring a towel for the pool.

The children who come from the creche/yellow group must be accompanied by a parent.

Rectification from previous announcement: this programme is not suitable for children entering the creche/yellow group in July.

From Connections

AVAG needs help from **Aurovilians**, including **Newcomers**, to make the link between villages and Auroville. We need people with many different skills to give time for AVAG activities. We need a steady presence at AVARC (the resource centre near Koot Road), but in these days of electronic communication it is also possible to work from home, and also part-time.

The following are some of the areas in which we would use help, and **we would welcome part-timers**:

1. **Proposal and report writing**: requires good command of English, ability to understand what a report is and to follow the general format; willingness to research and visit the activities in the field so that one is writing also from experience..

2. **Contact Person - Facilitator**. Someone who would get to know AVAG activities well and represent them within Auroville, especially at various working group meetings, but also informally. Someone who would keep the Village-Auroville relationship in mind and be aware of opportunities to foster it. Someone who can link the AVAG coordinators and Aurovilians.

3. **Sports guides** Village youth like to play sports, and AVAG wants to foster their interest through tournaments, etc. -- someone who can bring Aurovilians and village sports people together... someone who can coach the village teams..

4. **Income Generation guides**. Village women's clubs are interested in taking up production businesses to earn income. They need guidance to find the right product, locate sources of raw materials, learn the skills -- and then marketing!

5. **AVAG Information Centre** at the Ganesh Bakery corner. Someone who will take up the project of building up a "kiosk" cum office in the open pavilion near the Lively Boutique, where information on AVAG would be available, and which would also act as a workstation for volunteers working for Village Action.

The work of Connections relies on your cooperation. **Connections** wishes to continue bringing together jobs/activities in the community and Aurovilians with needed skills. Please come to us if you need help or if you want to help. With your cooperation, we will work to make Auroville a smoothly operating community.

The **Connections** Team

SAWCHU Building, Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00

Tel.: 2623440, email: connections@auroville.org.in

About ARKA

A new text will be available on AVNet about ARKA, a project under construction that wants to offer a self-sufficient residential and treatment centre for seniors aspiring to continue to lead an active integral life in spite of any possible physical challenges that may occur with age.

It is project on an area of about 2 acres, is located on the crown road in front of Surrender community in the residential zone just bordering the Mahalakshmi Park (Peace Gardens) of Matrimandir.

From House of Mother's Agenda

"There are two points which resist strongly – all that has to do with politics and all that has to do with money. [...] This is what most refuses all progress and all advance towards the truth; and unfortunately, in every human individual this is also the point of resistance, the point that remains narrowly stupid and refuses to understand anything it is not used to. There it is truly a heroic act to want to take up these things and transform them."

(The Mother in *Questions and Answers*, 7 August 1957)

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