

Brazilian experience

cont'd from page 9

In fact, Josefina's younger brother, Kaspar, is already in Brazil working for Monte Azul. No doubt he will show Josefina the Brazilian ropes....

"Monte Azul is really three separate communities working together serving 2800, 3500 and 12,000 people respectively," Santiago told us. "Sandra and I both worked there for four years - but when the opportunity came up to create a new community - Aramitan - we decided that that was where we had to put our focus."

They have been in New Zealand working at Hohepa and building a network - a 'circle of friends' who can support the development of Aramitan.

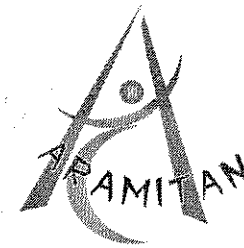
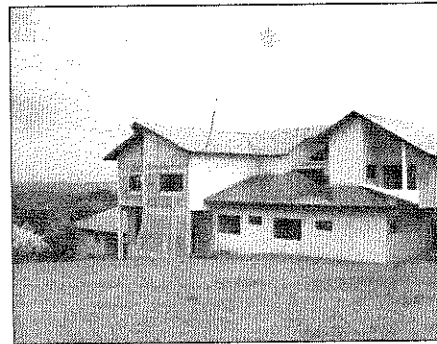
"We have been delighted with the response," Santiago continues, "from individual donations and sponsorships through to generous offers of work - such as Josefina's - through to endorsements of support from people like Greg O'Connor - the National President of the Police Association."

The common denominator through all this - Monte Azul, Aramitan, Hohepa and the people themselves - is the philosophy of Rudolf Steiner. Santiago, Sandra, Josefina and Kaspar are all graduates of Rudolf Steiner Schools.

"It can be very hard for New Zealanders to really appreciate or understand how hard life is for so many children in Brazil - the poverty, disease, violence and ignorance. So many parents are beaten down by the burden of knowing that they cannot give their children what they need. The philosophy underlying the Aramitan initiative comes from Steiner's

comments that: 'Despite everything that surrounds us, we ought to be convinced that humanity will find a way out of this tragic destiny of our times. But we must recognise the signs and the necessity of working together for the healing and well-being of society.' We also aim to awaken social consciousness by giving young people of the wealthier socio-economic classes from Brazil and around the world the opportunity to exercise social responsibilities.

"In Aramitan we want to develop a community model which encourages people to work together around the principle of "family", recognising it as an essential matrix in which the human being can develop fully. That's what Aramitan is all about - rescuing children and at-risk



Early days of Aramitan: The completion of this main building will be the first step in providing a supportive focus for the community surrounding it.

youth and giving them a healthy opportunity to develop and acquire the strength they will need as adults.

"We chose the name Aramitan deliberately - in the language of the native Tupi-guarani people near the site it means 'Child that unites Earth with Heaven'."

And little by little, person by person, a difference is being made. After all, it makes sense to do what we can to help people in our own (global) village.

Weather the weather

From the department of: If-you-need-experts-to-back-up-what-you-already-know-to-be-true.....

Rainfall: Rainfall in July was at least 300% above average in the Bay of Plenty, Gisborne, and in and around Blenheim.

Temperatures: The July national average temperature of 7.3°C was 0.6°C below normal. Overnight minimum temperatures were well below average.

Sunshine: Sunshine totals were above average throughout much of NZ, with new July records at Dargaville and Tekapo. However, lower than usual totals occurred in Northland, Gisborne, and Hawke's Bay. In other words, it was sunny but cold and wet.

The Main Centres: Of the four main centres Auckland was the sunniest and Dunedin the driest. Rainfall was below average in Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and above average in Wellington. Temperatures were below average in Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, and near average in Auckland. Sunshine hours were above normal in all four main centres, especially Dunedin.

Powering into the future

Kiwis have overwhelmingly chosen wind energy and hydro electricity as the most preferred power generation options for the future.

In a recent EECA commissioned survey some 82% of respondents approved or strongly approved of wind power. Hydro generation was the next most preferred option with 79 percent approval while geothermal scored 67 percent.

Interestingly, the report also indicates low levels of the "not in my back yard" syndrome. When people were asked if they would support a wind farm being built in their local area, the percentage did drop to 60 percent, but still only 18 percent opposed.

NZ has an abundant wind resource capable of producing about 20 percent of NZ's electricity needs.

Feeling your age?



• Aching joints

Hastings Blossom Festival

Bravura

Friday 10 September 8pm

The Assembly, Hawke's Bay Opera House