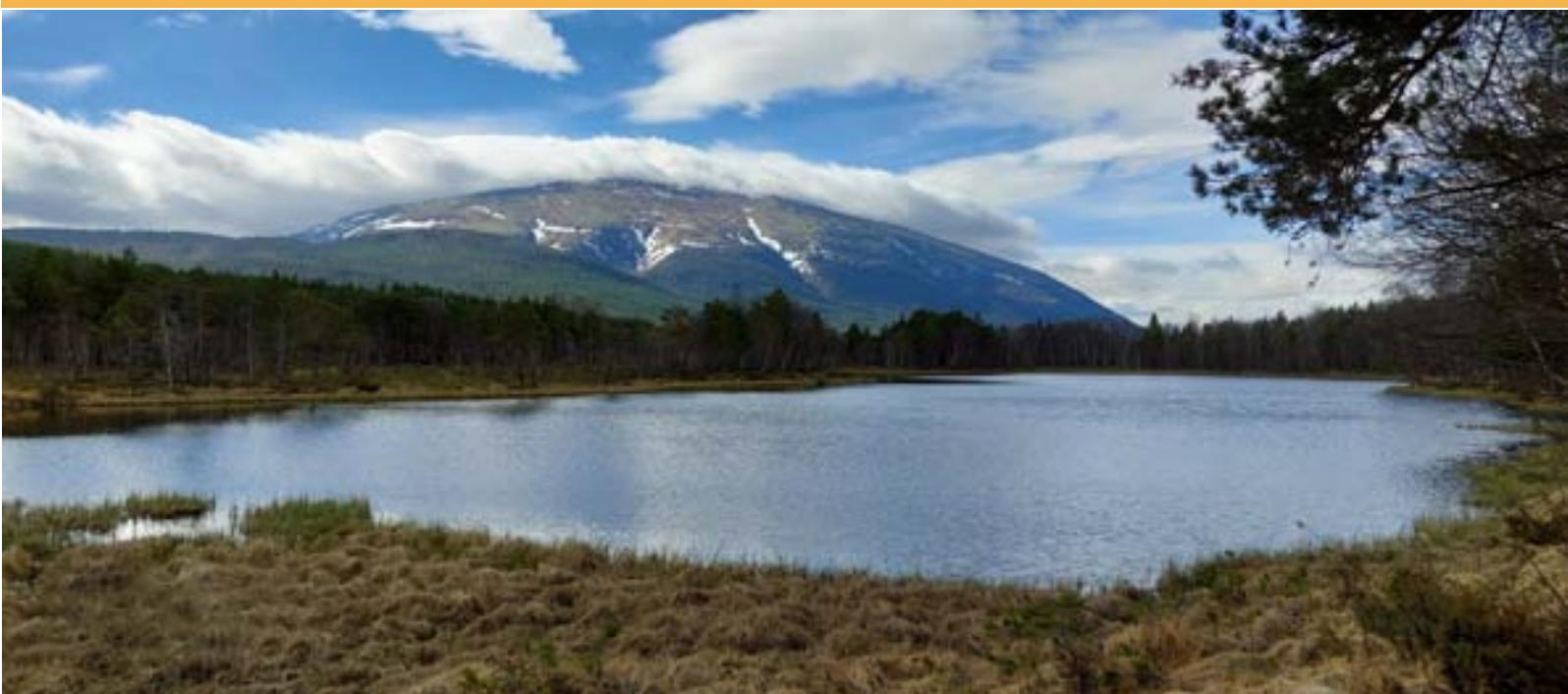




The Mt. Tron Mail

December 2022 * Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation * No 1 Vol. 25



Mt.Tron seen from Stormyra Nature Reserve at Tynset, at 0924 hrs on May 23rd 2022. Photo: BP.

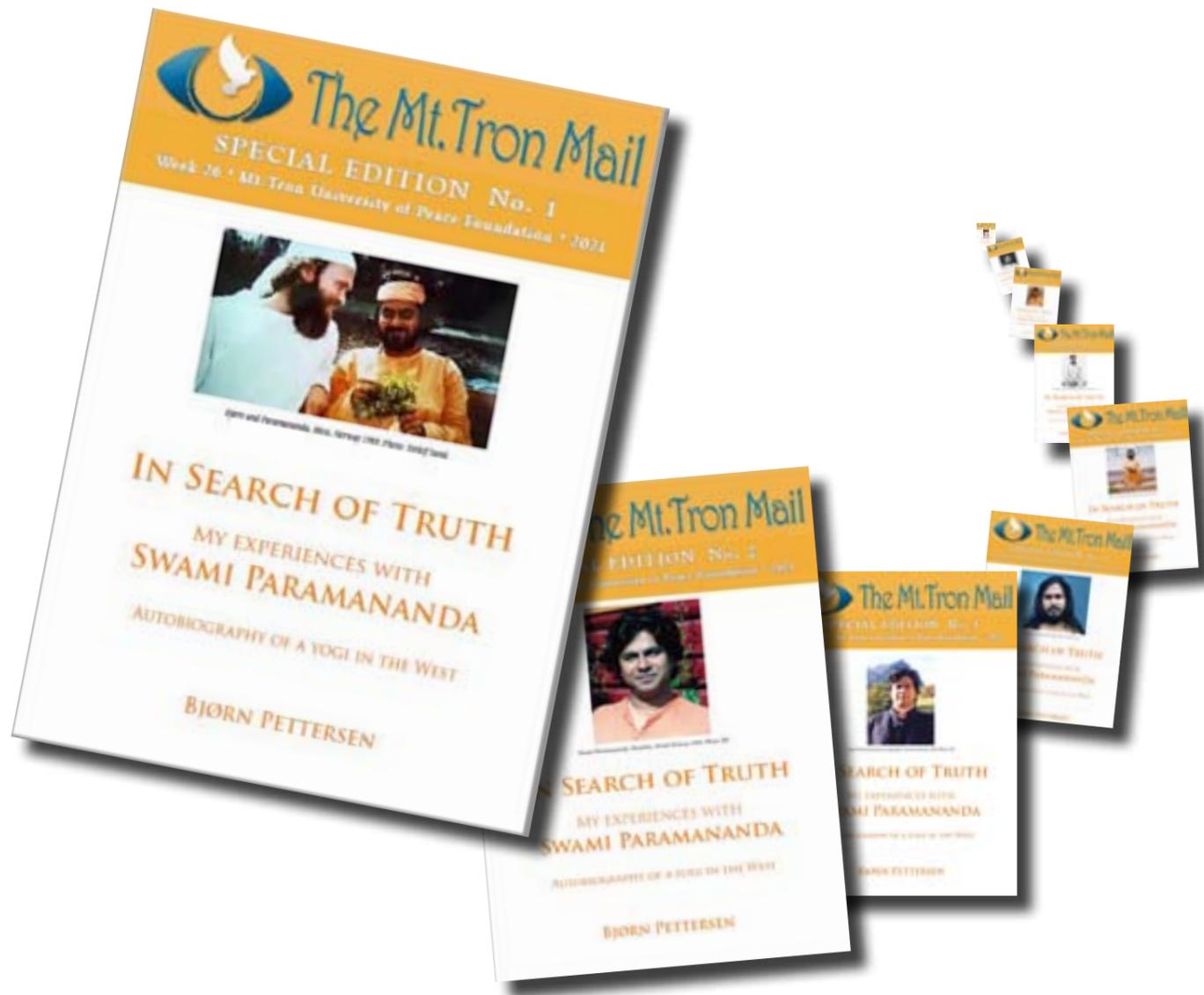
Big anniversary edition of The Mt.Tron Mail

All of 2022 has been so busy that the publication of any ordinary edition of The Mt.Tron Mail has not been possible. Therefore this 'anniversary' edition now comes as a summing up of this eventful year. This year we have seen great changes both locally, nationally and globally, with huge consequences already and to come for everybody personally. The Corona Pandemic and the gruesome war in Ukraine have both global and individual influence and affect all of us.

But here in this anniversary edition we will mainly focus on what has happened locally on Tronsvangen in Alvdal in connection with the development of the Mt.Tron University of Peace. Steps to become more self-sufficient in energy and food have been taken, which so far have resulted amongst other things in a roof full of solar panels, a huge massive brick stove in the Dining Hall and weatherproofing the loft. Actions for subsistence farming have also been implemented.

Last year two editions of The Mt.Tron Mail were published. The first one was published in March and was mainly about a new 3D-model of the Mt.Tron University of Peace, which is published on our homepages on the net, together with the rehabilitation of the "Forest House" into a museum for Baral. The second was published in June and was entirely dedicated to the coming Special Edition of the Mt.Tron Mail, namely the biography of Bjørn Pettersen. Both the Baral Museum and the Special Edition will again be referred to here.

The Mt.Tron Mail Special Edition



The first issue of Mt.Tron Mail's Special Edition containing the serialisation was published on July 1st 2021 and then every Thursday onward until March 3rd 2022 – 35 issues in all in as many weeks – both in Norwegian and in English. The whole of Bjørn's autobiography, which deals with his experiences with his teacher-friend Paramananda, has been published and is available for all on the homepages of the University of Peace: www.tronuni.org

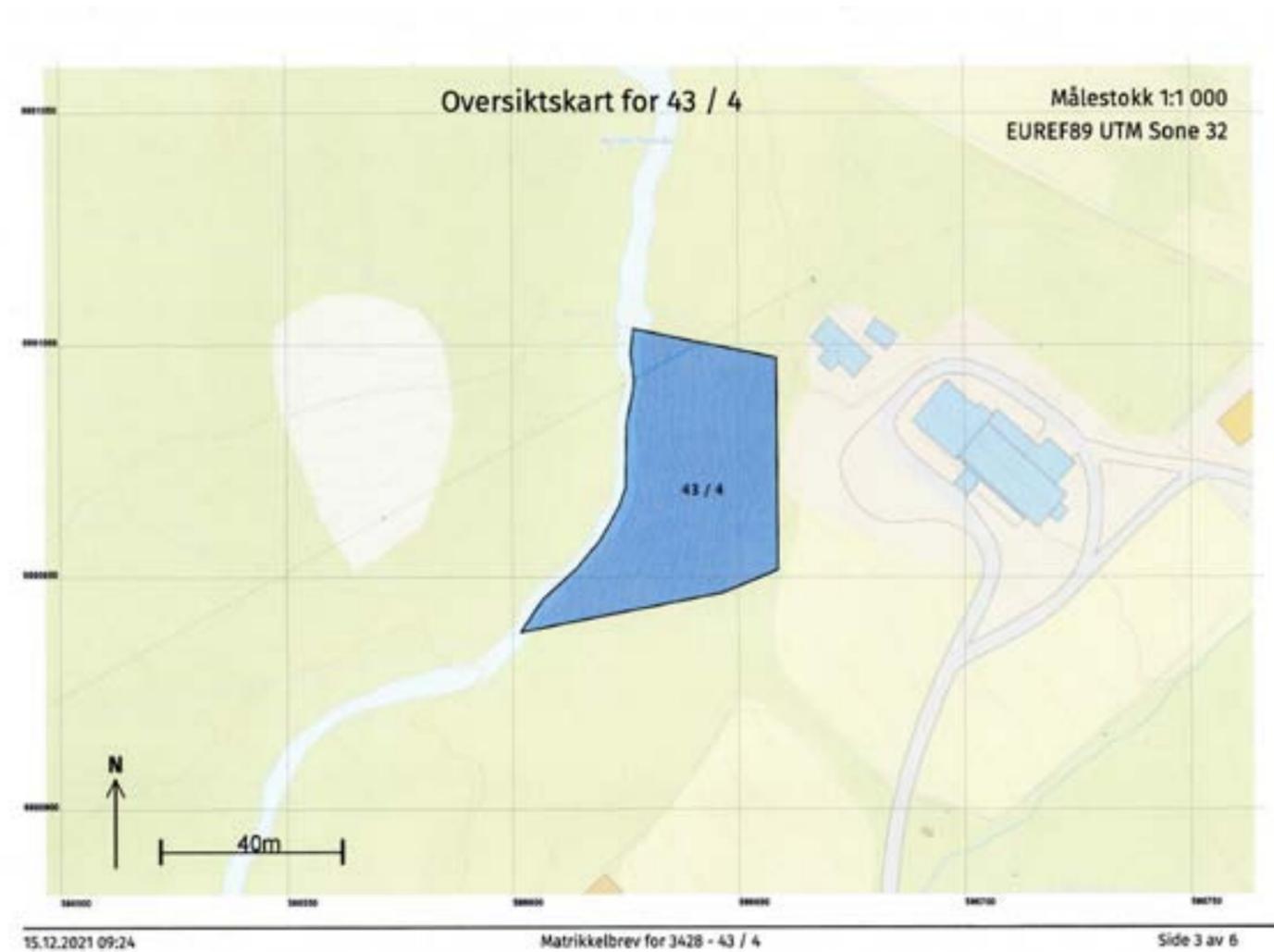
The book, entitled "In Search of Truth. My experiences with Swami Paramananda. The autobiography of a yogi in the West", has been very well received in Norway and beyond. It has now been adapted for paper book format meaning that the majority of the photographs have been removed and those remaining are now placed between chapters so that none appear inside the text. The text is unchanged save for a few minor text edits in light of feedback from a couple of readers. Whereas the Special Edition was more like a magazine which allowed many pictures, the book format restricts the number of photos that can be included.

Many were delighted to read it as a serial with a limited amount of text every week, while others would rather have read it all at once and without the 'disturbing' pictures inside the text. Most reported back that they could hardly wait another week to continue reading!

Preparations have also been made for an audiobook with the author's voice, as asked for by a number of readers. In a written text with many explanations of words and footnotes integrated into the text, the written text requires a certain adaptation to be voiced. The text therefore, to some extent, has to be rewritten and adapted to this medium.

How both a printed-book and an audiobook, together with a possible e-book, should be published, is not yet known. Suggestions from the readers will be received with thanks!

Acquisition of parcel of woodland



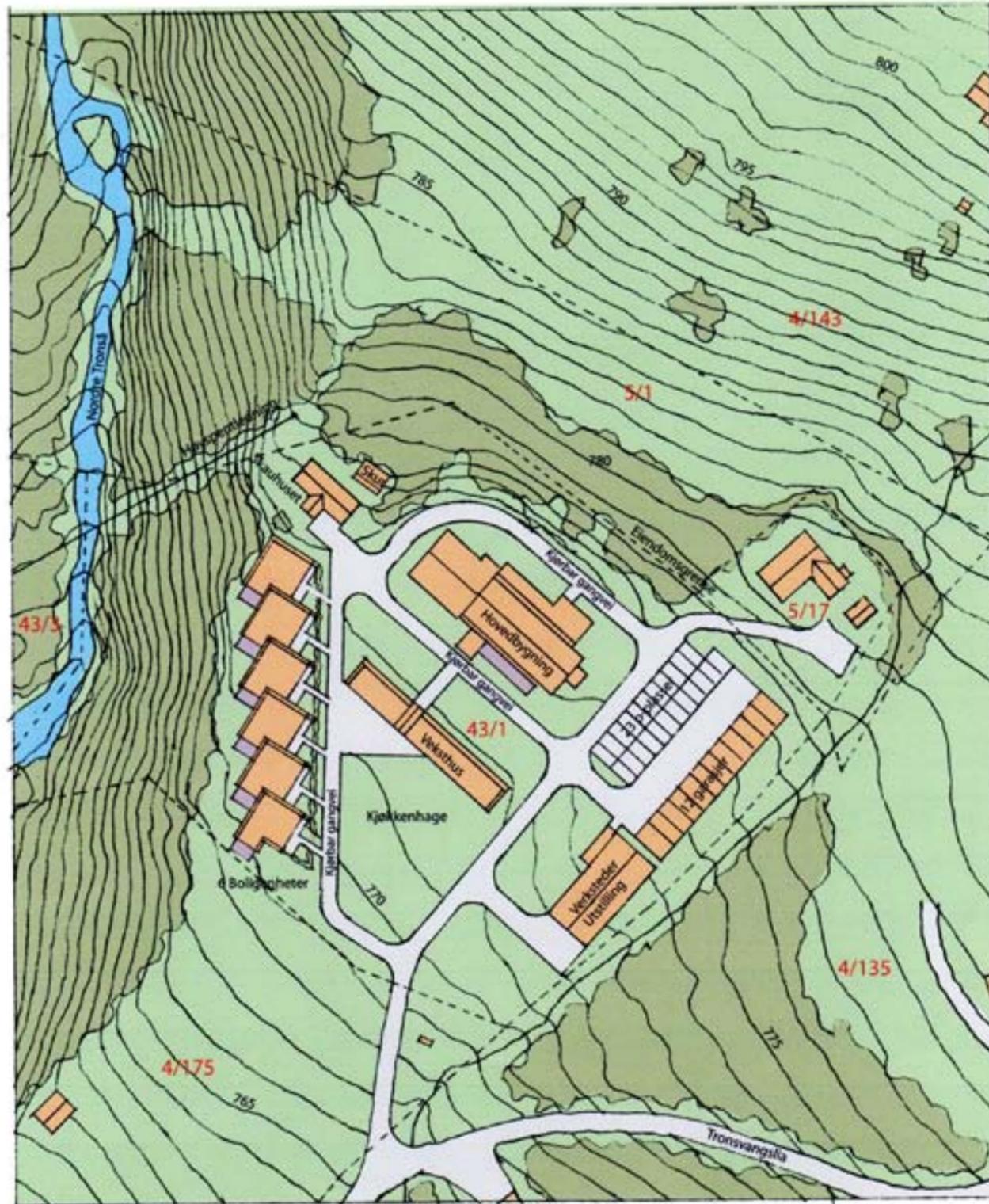
On November 7th 2020 an agreement with the neighbour Olav Murud was reached about dividing his land east of the brook NordreTronsåa and up to the borderline of Tronsvangen Seter. Finally, after the municipality taking far too long handling the case, the conveyance was registered on March 16th 2022, following a municipal concession.

To start with the local agricultural authority did not readily agree to the land division as the parcel is within the municipality's regulated LNF (agriculture, nature and leisure) area but when, on inspection, they found that all of the parcel was a steep slope only from Tronsvangen Seter and down to the brook, the air changed. The parcel has no agricultural value. It consist of an old clearcut area where not much has grown afterwards. The main factors for purchasing this land were:

1. **Gain control over the forest** so that it will not hide the view from the hotel for our guests.
2. **Gain access to the brook** to get a better and more dependable drinking water source than we have today, and also potentially for a possible miniature power plant.
3. **Secure necessary boundary area beside planned building development** of a terrace of 5-6 apartments.

After accurate surveying we found that the biggest and nearest trees, which block the view towards Rondane and AlvdalVestfjell and which we were eager to cut, are still on (another) neighbour's land. For this reason and also considering a more appropriate borderline of the whole property, we may therefore initiate the same process with this neighbour.

Ecological adaptation at Tronsvangen Seter



Suggestion to development plan for Tronsvangen Seter, sketched by architect Knud Larsen some years ago. Blue colour is the brook Nordre Tronsåa; dark green is forest and trees; light green is open field/pasture/cultivated land; white is road; and yellow-orange is existing and planned buildings. After Frederica's visit we are in need of new drawings.

Frederica Miller

At the end of May this year we invited architect Frederica Miller from Gaia-Oslo inc. to stay with us for a couple of days and advise us how best to utilize our property and resources in an ecologically sustainable way. Frederica is a pioneer in Norway on Perma Culture Design and has been involved in the development of both private and public ecological projects and eco-villages all over the country. She also participated in the NRK TV serial "The Architects Home" where she presented her ecological home at Nesodden outside Oslo. She is also the author of the book "Living Houses. About environmental and resource-friendly building", and editor of "Ecovillages Around the World" (2018). In 2010 she received an environmental prize from Oslo.

Perma Culture

Perma culture ('permanent culture') is an overall method designed to create sustainable human settlements – including houses and building methods/materials, methods of cultivation, handling of waste and a lot more.

'Perma culture is defined as the conscious use of ecological principles to create sustainable and productive life environments. Perma culture is a planning/design method which is used all over the world. The basic principles are the same, but the results are different depending on people and place. The goal is always a best possible use of the place's local resources, to create possibilities for cultivation and to satisfy the basic needs of humans in a perceptible and nature friendly way.'

To us on Tronsvangen Seter it will first of all be about ecological cultivation of food for own use, but we have also received good suggestions regarding, amongst others, energy, efficiency and organization.

Course (PDC)

Seter residents Kent and Erlend have now started participating in a Perma Culture Design course (PCD) over four weekends from 2022 to 2024. One of the course leaders is Frederica Miller. The course will be held at Bygdøy Kongsgård, Koster and Nesodden, and is described as 'A course for people who want to do an ecologically sound project in own local environment, to build up healthy and lush surroundings and a deeper understanding for the processes of nature and for the quality of life.'

It is implicit and an important part of it that alongside the course the two participants will work with a perma culture project here at the Seter .

Concrete plans for Tronsvangen Seter

For some years now we have played with the thought of building a large greenhouse on the property, and we are now in a phase in which we prepare for planning, organizing and financing of this project.

Nothing has so far been finalized, but we imagine the greenhouse partially dug down into the slope below the existing car parking area, with a stone wall towards the slope storing the heat of the sun during daytime. Behind the stone wall two separate cellars will be built for winter storage of vegetables. These cellars may also be partly designed as shelters in case of emergency. Existing car parking at the hostel's entrance (main building) will be turned into a garden with bushes and useful plants.

Circulation House

The greenhouse will have an integrated henhouse so that it will be a so-called 'circulation house'. Through their searching for food on the ground the hens will till the soil in the greenhouse, fertilize it, and also generate heat and produce eggs for food. Thus, both crops and hens benefit from one another and 'co-operate'.

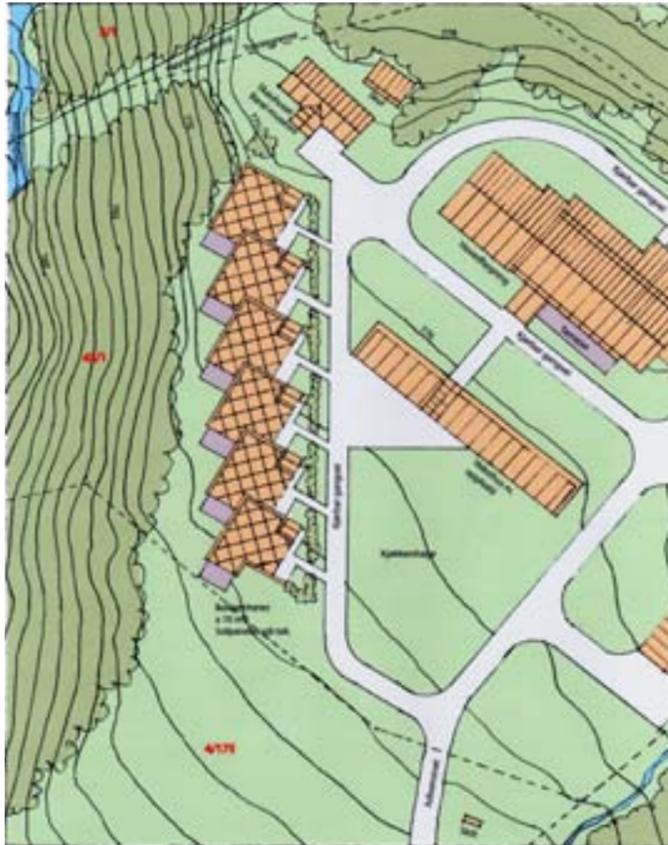
Inside the greenhouse, tomatoes, salad vegetables and a variety of crops for food, which require a more thermophilic, protected environment, may be produced, while just outside the greenhouse facing south and south-west, more local and seasonal crops may be produced, which will be needed in a bigger quantity, like potatoes and carrots. A small patch of land in that area has already been tightly covered so that it will be free from grass and ready for test cultivation in the spring/early summer.

Ecological farming

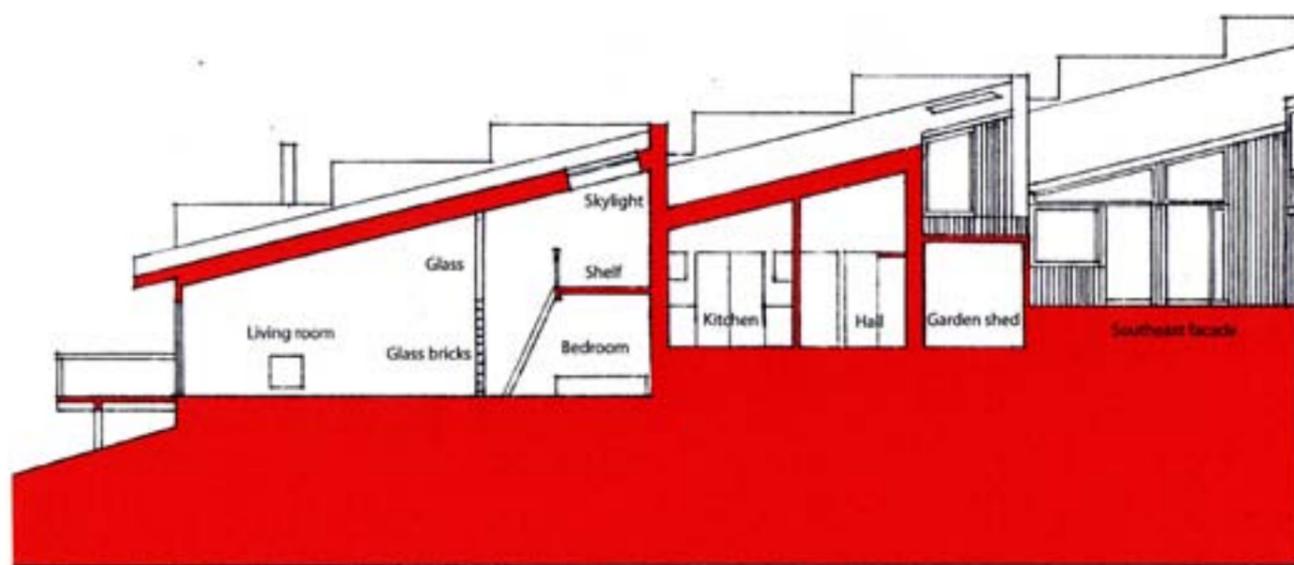
To farm ecologically as little as possible should be done with the soil so as not to destroy its natural diversity of micro-organisms. Ploughing and harrowing, and the use of huge farming machinery, should not take place. Where the soil is naturally poor, micro-organisms will be added through natural fertilizer and compost. Right composting and its extensive use is an important part of such a cultivating method.

All organic waste at Tronsvangen Seter, both indoor and outdoor, has already been taken care of on the spot for many years, so that we already have a certain foundation for the cultivation. All chemical additives like synthetic fertilizer and the shower of pesticides and poison against insects and weeds are certainly banned and strictly avoided. Moreover, in non-commercial, ecological farming there is no such thing as a 'weed' – all is food!

Shared House at Tronsvangen Seter



Here are three sketches by Knud Larsen which shows the possible placing and interior of six apartments in a row of terraced houses, where each apartment has 70sqm on one level. All the apartments will enjoy the view towards Rondane and Alvdal Vestfjell. They are meant for friends who wish to settle in Alvdal and work for the University of Peace, and will be owned and rented out by Tronsvangen Seter Drift AS. Individual long-term tenancy agreements will be offered. As an example, for a 50 years tenancy, an apartment may cost about 3,5 million crowns, which will be equal to a monthly rent of 5,800 crowns. The construction will be financed by the advanced payment of such a sum by the tenant.



TRONSVANGEN SETER, Alvdal.
Proposal for six new houses for friends of
The Mount Tron University of Peace.
Section, scale 1:100
Tronsvangen Seter 20. 11.2016
Knud Larsen

Insulation of old construction



In the last part of September this year we insulated the old attic construction all over the building using loose wooden fibre. The picture over to the left shows the long pipe in the stairway up to the 2nd floor and farther up to the attic above with which loose wooden fibre is being blown from a car outside on the ground up to the attic where a 30 cm layer is being laid out. In the picture over to the right we see Steinar Haug from Nord-Østerdal Bygg og Trefiberisolering AS in action. Immediately afterwards the rooms on the 2nd floor felt a bit more warm and cosy.

We have also begun to insulate in and around some of the windows of the building as well as other insulation of old construction wherever needed. Both photos: BP.

Solar panels on the roof



At the beginning of March this year we contacted Energi Pluss at Tynset to investigate the possibilities for solar energy production here. Through all of March, April and the beginning of May we had several meetings and close contact with them, as they drew up a detailed energy account for the whole plant. But when we were ready to sign the contract in May, it turned out that due to the Corona pandemic and China, they were not able to deliver essential parts for the installation. We were therefore forced to end the cooperation with them and instead quickly sign a contact with Solenergi Norge in Folldal, as they had other associates who had no such delivery problems.

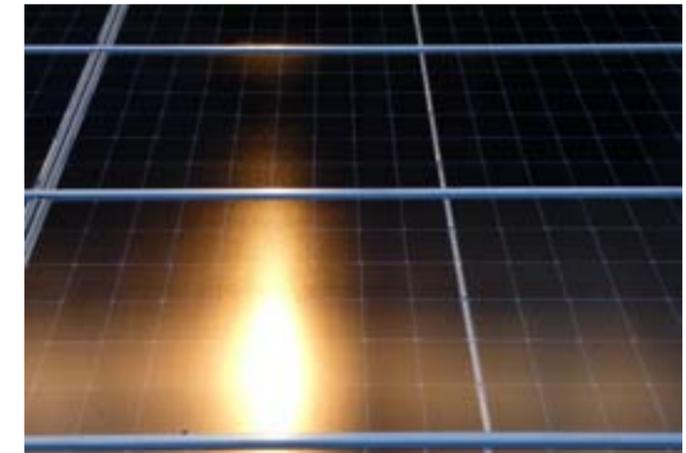
They could deliver a plant of 77 panels of 375W each, with a total power of 28,88kWp for a total sum of NOK 466,250. To manage this we had to take up private loans for NOK 500,000 as the local bank did not grant us any loan.

On November 8th, 9th and 10th the electricians from Solenergi Norge came and fitted the solar panels all over the roof. They arrived with a completely new type of panel bigger than the ones planned for, but for no extra cost. We have therefore 71 panels of 410W each, delivering a total of 29,11kWp installed power, which gives us a plant a little bigger than initially planned.

In that connection we have signed an agreement for renting the net with the local company who owns the cable net of the area, so that we will be able to sell surplus energy from the solar plant on the net at the then current spot price.

The plant is expected to produce energy fully from March onwards through six summer months.

Solar panels on the roof (cont.)



Top previous page: Øyen crane and transport lifted up the panels to the roof. Otherwise they used a very mobile, motorized lift to help with the mounting of rails, and the transport up and down of both men and material. The other pictures speak for themselves.
Below, this page: The inverters are put up on the wall on the rear of the building. Here we can follow the plant's production at any time.
There is one inverter for every roof (old and new building). All photos: BP.



The building of a mass oven in the Dining Hall



To the left and above: All men at work! Here is Sonny, Emma and Erlend occupied with the groundwork. Kent is feeding the cement mixing machine outside. Under: Mason Viggo Ballo came from Trøndelag on October 17th and worked for some days in between until November 11th. He is one of extremely few in Norway who build such ovens. The prior groundwork, which we did ourselves, took several weeks.



The building of a mass oven (stone oven, Finnish oven) was a reasonable and affordable suggestion from Frederica Miller, instead of a huge and costly wood fired central heating plant, which we had in mind as the source of heat for the six winter months at the Seter.

The principle with a mass oven is storing heat in bricks in the biggest possible volume and surface of the oven, which also has a system that utilizes as much of the heat from the smoke as possible before it enters the chimney. It is only fired up well a couple of times during the day, for instance once in the morning and evening, and unlike other firewood ovens one should not keep the fire going all day. On account of the heat storing it will keep the heat throughout the day and much of the building will have a steady and basic heat. We are now looking at the possibility of building another such oven in the parlour, in the completely opposite part of the building, which is in concrete.

The mass oven has, a burning chamber and ash withdrawal below, a bakery oven in the middle and a hot cabinet at the top. To the right of these is a bench for sitting on with a tall wall behind. Inside both of these is an ingenious system of corridors in which the smoke travels on its way to the chimney. It is also equipped with several ash withdrawals together with two different dampers to direct and control the smoke. The sitting bench has a single solid stone plate of "Blue Pearl" (3 cm thick and weighing 80 kg), which is the national rock of Norway.

The oven weighs around six tonnes (like a huge elephant!) and needed a solid foundation. The floor of the Dining Hall therefore had to be opened down to the basement and supporting walls of leca blocks had to be built. The mass oven itself has been built solely with clay mortar between the bricks – not cement – so that if, for any reason, you do not wish to keep the oven any more, you only need to pour water over it and it will dissolve by itself! All photos both pages: BP.



The “Forest House” at Tronsvangen Seter



This is what the so-called “Forest House” at Tronsvangen Seter looked like until the last days of September last year: A miserable sight which the previous owner wanted to tear down! No one knows how old the “Forest House” really is, but it is the only house left from the original buildings at the site, after the hotel business started in 1885. The house was transported from down in the village and up to Tronsvangen in 1890. It had been in the village for many years, and was originally transported there from the neighbouring village of Folldal. The picture has been taken from Kulturminnefondet (Røros) survey report of 2017.

The above picture and text are from The Mt. Tron Mail No. 1 - 2021. The so-called “Forest House” looked like this in 2020. And like this today (below) – fully renovated externally and internally, and solid enough to last for centuries! The construction works in wood and stone, including foundation wall and slate-stone roofing, have been done by Inge Slåen. Diggings by Per Bjørn. Both photos: BP.



The “Forest House” becomes Baral Museum



View towards Rondane from the first floor of the “Forest House”. Some of the hanging wooden balls which were missing, together with missing ornaments, were copied and made new by wood artist Leiv Skare. Photo: BP.

Baral Museum

The newly restored “Forest House” at Tronsvangen Seter is expected to be open to the public in the coming summer as the village’s new Baral Museum. Over a hundred years since Baral arrived in the village and settled here until his death on Armistice Day 8th May 1945, nearly 80 years ago, it is overdue for Alvdal to get its own museum dedicated to a prominent character of international importance. He was the first Indian to come to Norway and settle here in modern times, and he is the “father”

of The University of Peace. It was he that in 1922 said that the University of Peace on Mt. Tron will be coming “in a hundred years’ time”, and the activities going on at Tronsvangen Seter nowadays, exactly a 100 years later, are important steps on the way towards the realization of this project.

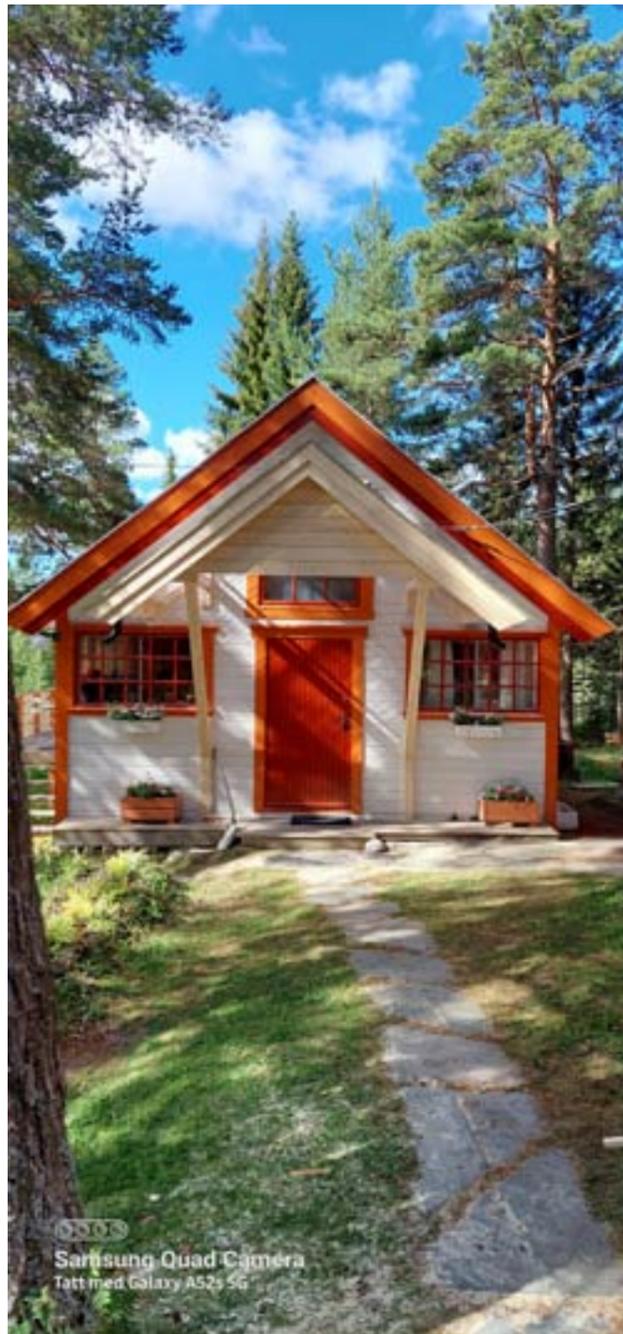
Over 1.5 million crowns have been invested in the restoration of the “Forest House”. Internal painting was done by the professional painters Kjell Olav Skogli and Ketil Stokdal, as shown in the three photos below (BP).



Upgrading of Shantibu



During the last days of October last year the team of carpenter Inge Slåen was engaged to make a saddle roof on “The Barrack” at Shantibu and to repair water damaged wooden materials by the entrance door. The roof was given a more uniform style (the roof was arched) and to have a bigger projection above the entrance door, and more projection of the roof all around to avoid the rain from damaging the walls. Later, this summer, “The Barrack” was painted by Sonny and some of our Tamil friends of Oslo.

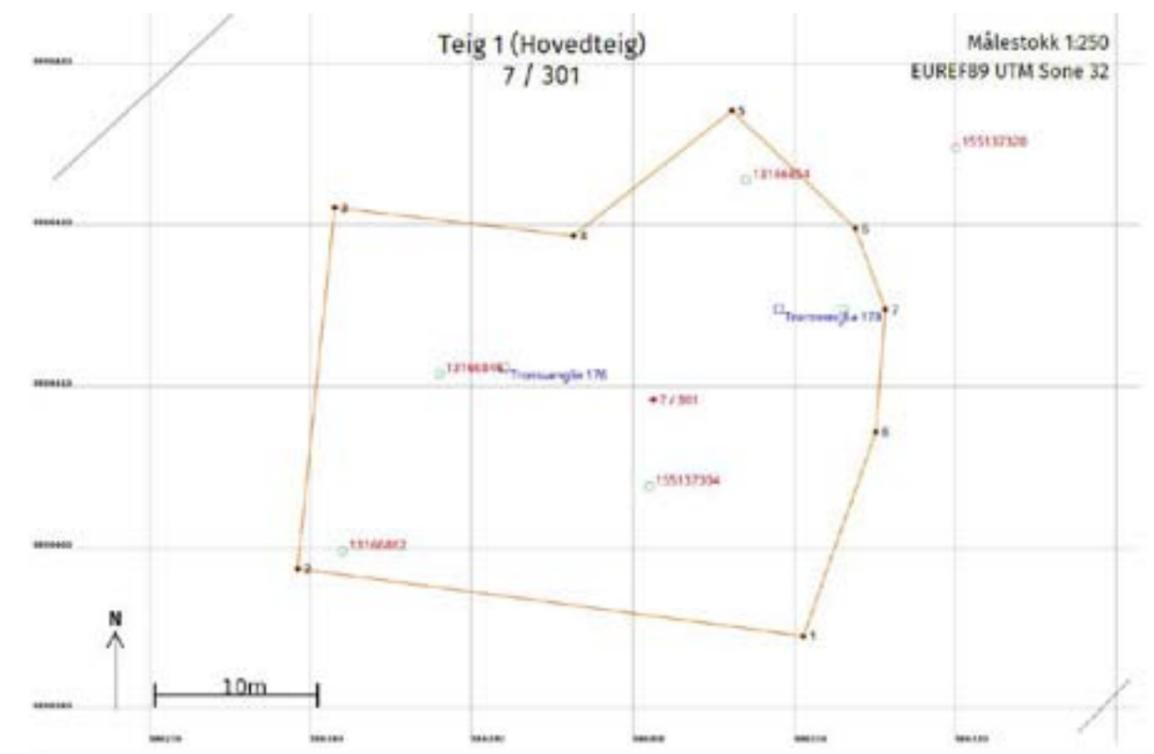
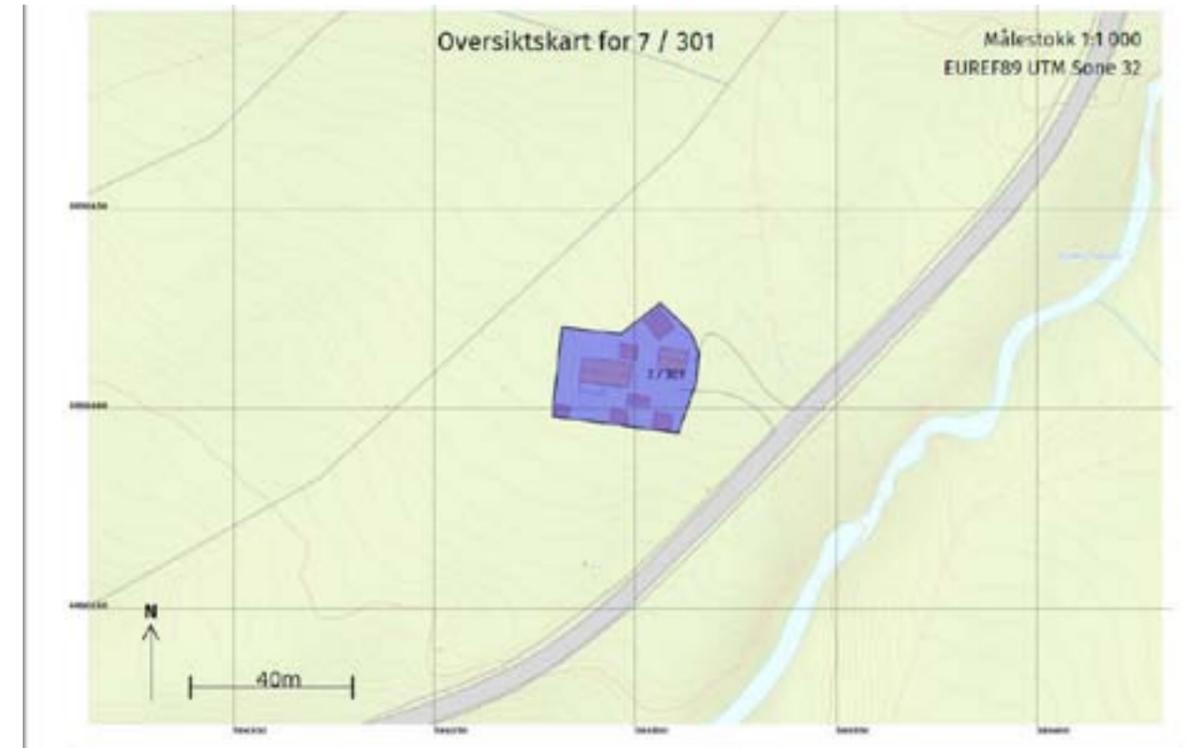


At the end of August this year the team of Steinar Haug and Dag Ole Lien was engaged to make a simple projection of the roof above the entrance door of the old house at Shantibu. The task was solved in the easiest way with a transparent roof so that the light would not be hindered on its way through the window above the door. This door has been exposed to weather and wind, and it became necessary to protect it. It will be painted in the colours of the house this coming summer.

It now only remains to make a new portal at the front of the property, which we hope to be able to do before the coming summer. We also hope to have a rail fence there. Big poles and logs for the portal are already stored there. Then the great renovation work at Shantibu, which started in August 2019, will be complete. All photos: BP.



Agreement with the landowner at Shantibu



On November 25th this year Bjørn Pettersen, on behalf of The Swami Sri Ananda Acharya Trust, and Geir Inge Steien, the landowner around Shantibu, met to sign an agreement about the property borderlines around Shantibu, 7/301, at Tronsvanglia in Alvdal. For long, wrong property borderlines have been in use in the municipal’s digital map, together with a slight extension of the property compared to the original documents. This problem was now solved in the simplest possible way by this agreement between the landowner and the Trust, and the land register has been corrected accordingly. The land owner has also suggested that the Trust may register a right to access of the property and to the sewage system both of which are on his ground, as he doesn’t want to sell that land. The Trust may now consider this.

New board at the Swami Sri Ananda Acharya Trust

In a board meeting of the SSAA Trust on March 24th 2021, the existing board, consisting of Bjørn Pettersen (chairperson), Torleif Sund and Anders Jensen (Johnny Plåt who died on 20.11.2020 had thereby already left the board), decided unanimously to resign their duties and to install a completely new and complete board, comprising:

Baheerathan Vykundanathan (Thamba), chairperson
Kent Gjørnan Skaug Kristiansen, board member
Sham Babitha Stapnes, board member
Erlend Magnussen Becsan, board member

The board of the Trust is therefore completely new and has already been working for more than one and a half years. The previous chairperson, Bjørn Pettersen, who had been chairperson since 1981 but participating in the board since 1978 (it was founded by Einar Beer in 1975), has written the Trust's history: **Swami Sri Ananda Acharya Trust. History and work last 45 years: 1975 – 2020** (dated 23.03.2021), and a copy has been given to all the new members, both on paper and digitally. He also wrote a **Summing up and status 2021** (also dated 23.03.2021), together with **Decree for Shantibu (Bjørn's Will)** dated March 28th 2021.

Shantibu was the home of Bjørn from 1978 to 2015, over 37 years, and he was the chairperson of the Trust from 1981 to 2021, i.e. for 40 years.

Agreement about lending to the Baral Museum

Quite recently Helge Marthinussen and Swami Sri Ananda Acharya Trust have reached and signed an eleven point agreement about lending of objects concerning Baral which Helge has in his possession at Gaurisankarseter at Tronsvangen, for them to be deposited and exhibited in the Baral Museum at Tronsvangen Seter. The deposition has already taken place.

This theme has been talked about for several years, and also Helge himself has taken the initiative on this. As the Baral Museum and other things have become more concrete it was finally time to make a written agreement which we have composed together.

The University of Peace is now the owner of Tronsvangen Seter

By Deed of Gift of 30.06.2022 Knud Larsen has transferred the main part of his shares (1300 of 2000 in all) in Tronsvangen Seter Operation Inc. to the Mt.Tron University of Peace Estate Inc. The latter therefore now owns Tronsvangen Seter and the operation company then becomes daughter company in a group of companies, where the estate company is the parent company.

Knud bought the then Tronsvangen Seter Hotel for NOK 2.1 million in 2015, and has since then invested about the same amount in various upgrades of the building. "The purpose was to make a provisional start of the University of Peace for the relief of Shantibu which by then had become too small for the growing activities." In 2020 he initiated the extensive work of restoring the severely decayed "Forest House" at 'The Seter' and turn it into a museum for Swami Sri Ananda Acharya. There he invested over 1.5 million crowns, of which Kulturminnefondet at Røros has contributed 370,000 crowns.

The Mt.Tron University of Peace Estate Inc. was established in 2010 to handle the work with the regulation plan on the "Peace Plateau" on Mt.Tron, and for dealing with real estate and development in the future. It has five shareholders and the board consists of Bjørn Pettersen (chairperson), Knud Larsen and Tripti Chatterjee.

Knud has so far been the only owner of Tronsvangen Seter Operation Inc., and he is still the sole board member. In his Deed of Gift he states: "My ownership has been taken care of through my ownership of each and all of the shares in Tronsvangen Seter Operation Inc. To secure the Mt.Tron University of Peace Foundation's continued control over the property Tronsvangen Seter after my death, I will now, therefore, transfer the major part of my shares in the company to The Mt.Tron University of Peace Estate Inc. The rest of the shares will be transferred as a testamentary gift at my death."

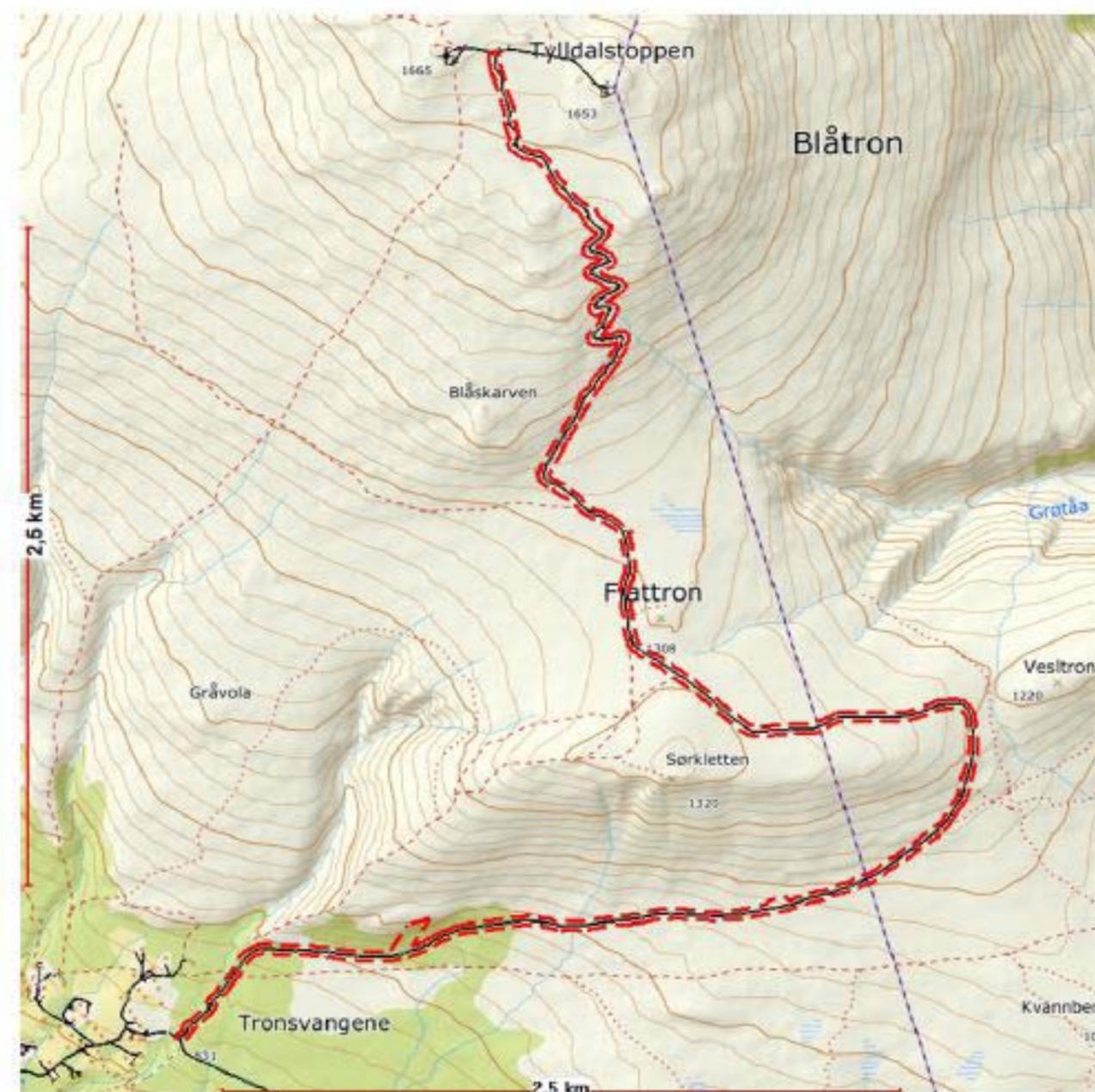
New organizing of the work

As all the work at both foundations (trusts) and companies has always been done voluntarily, this will now be concretized, formalized and more closely aligned by correcting the statutes of the various instances. Also changes will be made in boards and shareholders formally to allow more friends into the work and operation. More about this in the next issue of The Mt.Tron Mail.

Regulation of the Mt.Tron Road

On June 23rd this year the local council of Alvdal made a resolution to start regulation of the Mt.Tron Road. The purpose of this is: "Alvdal municipality wishes to work out a municipal detailed regulation plan for the Mt.Tron Road. On the basis that renovations after flood already have been done, without the proper permits and authorizations. The regulation has come about to clear up these situations, together with the follow-up of the superior aim of Mt.Tron as an area of commitment for develop-

ment and tourism. The purpose of the plan is to map, and to set the steps necessary to secure the road against flood and landslide, certain areas for possible digging of gravel for maintenance, together with the arrangement for tourism. Considerations of possible steps will clarify the terms to road width, minor alterations, fillings, intersections, signboards, parking space and the withdrawal of masses for maintenance." On October 19th this year a programme of planning about this detailed regulation plan was laid out for hearing with a time limit for comments and suggestions of 07.12.2022.



Map of the Mt.Tron Road, which starts at Tronsvangen at 829 m and goes up to the top of Mt.Tron at 1640 m. The map is from the municipality of Alvdal's planning programme for the Mt.Tron Road from this year.



*Mt. Tron seen from
Lake Savalen,
07.05.2022. Photo: BP.*



*Mt. Tron seen from Tjønnom-
rådet, Tynset. 12.08.2022.
Photo: BP.*



*Mt. Tron seen from Tynset
centre, 17.10.2022. Photo: BP.*

The Mt. Tron Mail - the newsletter for those interested in the establishing of the Mt. Tron University of Peace

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