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### WOODFORD FOLK FESTIVAL - AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST

In the seven days from Boxing Day to New Year's Day, almost seven hundred children, women and men received their self realisation at this year's Woodford Folk Festival. Woodford is about an hour by car from Brisbane, right near Wamuran. A core of five Sydney yogis and one from London were joined by four others from Sydney, two from Canberra, one from Coffs Harbour and most of the available brothers and sisters from Brisbane and Wamuran in setting up and manning the Sahaja Yoga Meditation tent.

Minor setting-up hitches soon became either lessons for future festivals or just plain laughing material. The weather was hot but a persistent cloud cover provided shelter from the sun when the tent was overflowing. It's hard to describe the joy felt when you witness a seeker's life change forever - let alone a hundred or so a day!

Because of its size and stature, the festival attracts people from all over; the elderly, couples, hippies, 'fairy' people, revelers, teenagers and children. There were also the inevitable new agers and those unfortunate enough to have a false guru or two in their past, just to keep us on our toes.

For most of us, the children and the teenagers were the highlights and at times the serious business of giving realisation turned into more of a realisation party. Most of the kids approached the tent with the confidence and determination they would normally reserve for the counter at McDonalds. One little Ananda Marga girl became a regular but was somewhat perplexed that there was no donation box for her to make her contributions.

I was particularly touched by two eleven year old girls on New Year's Eve who got their realisation before heading off to a big family gathering. When I gave them the follow up details, one of them said it would be awkward because she and her family were Christians. We talked a little more before she cautiously but excitedly asked whether the Kundalini was something like the Holy Spirit. It was a great privilege to be able to tell this young lady that that's exactly what it was. I also particularly remember a sort of role reversal incident where a thirteen year old girl came back the following day, this time with her mum because as her mum said, 'My daughter felt it would do me good'.

There were lots of opportunities for us to take breaks and enjoy other festival activities. Great corroborees! By the second day, you couldn't get water or food at the festival that wasn't vibrated because we had 'bombed' the 'Fluid Druids' water tank and the water reservoir on the hill. To top it all off, when we'd finished packing up at the end of New Year's Day the skies opened up and washed everything down, ready for next year.

Jai Sri Mataji!  
Richard Kennett.

The Canberra Festival is coming up in March/April. Make a point of it - its almost like India, without the bus travel. All are welcome.

# THE AUSTRALIAN STRATHFIELD Sahaja Newsletter



Contributions: 11 JANUARY 1997

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## DEPARTURE - TALK

Rahuri, 1987

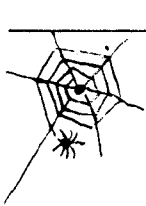
... Try to be extremely happy, that you've met so many people, that you've had weddings, that you have seen so many weddings, we've had a nice time and every bit of it was full of joyous vibrations.

Of course today some of you would be a little unhappy, I can understand that because your spouses are leaving, somebodies husbands are going away or somebodies wives are going away. So I can see some are looking rather miserable about it. But it's a .. thing, because it's out of love and out of attraction for each other for enjoying the company of each other, suggesting something very good to me.

But still I would say that after all you are going to meet each other and remember all the good things you have said to each other, you have enjoyed with each other and try to keep happy because these days will pass very fast. In Sahaja Yoga you just forget time, everything. The time passes so fast and all these things will pass over and you'll be again united with your husbands or wives, whatever may be the case.

So there's nothing to feel very sad about all these things and do keep smiling and laughing. So when they are departing also they should not feel 'See your love's face is full of tears', but remember the face of assurance and courage that the hope is there we are going to meet very soon and there's nothing to feel sad about.

You have to be giving like the sun. ... You carry the sun with you. And you should spread love and warmth and let them feel that the sun has been brought from India by you. ... You are Yogis, you are not ordinary people, you are Yogis. You represent that category of people who are known for their righteousness, for their compassion and love. So I wish you all best of love, enjoy your journey, enjoy everything and pass this joy that you have achieved here, to other people to other Sahaja Yogis and to other people who are not even Sahaja Yogis. May God bless you!



# (INTER) NET NEWS .... (GNET GNUS ??)

Jai Shri Mataji!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Just thought I'd let you know in advance that the month of January could be a little slow for news. I will be out of town about half the month and will be spending some time trying to sort out a bit of a mess here at the ashram in Seattle. We had almost two feet of snow followed by several days of heavy rain and the quiet little stream in the backyard is now 120 feet wide at the upstream end of the property! No serious damage - at least not yet - but it will take some work to clean up afterwards. I guess our place needed a little holiday "cleaning."

Also, due to the fast paced growth of the SahajNet, there has been talk about multiple distribution points and people to maintain those lists. Nothing definite has been decided and any changes should be transparent to most of you except that the postings may become more frequent.

That's all for now. Just wanted to let everyone know what is going on in case you were wondering, "Where's the news?"

Kind Regards From Your Brother Mark Mays

Thank you for broadcasting 108 Sanskrit names of Shri Krishna and of Lord Jesus Christ. These are very strong names indeed. Could you please post the following request on the Sahaja Net: I heard that there are also 108 Sanskrit names of Ekadesha Rudra and of Shri Hanumana. Maybe somebody has them on a file, then, I think, it would be a good idea to broadcast them for all yogis on the net.

Much love Lev Dorosinskii (Russia)

## GOOD NEWS FROM BULGARIA

Jai Shri Mataji!!!

YES, YES, YES! We got it!!! We got the registration of Sahaja Yoga in Bulgaria. Please inform the other brothers and sisters on the net. Many people knew about the problems around the registration in Bulgaria, I guess they will be all happy to know that Sahaja Yoga is officially registered in Bulgaria finally. As I do not live in Sofia, I cannot say much more. Soon I will have more news and I will send it to you.

A lot, a lot of love to everybody:

"Aleкова Veronika Gueorgieva"

## GREETINGS FROM MEXICO

Dear brother Mark:

I met you last October at New Jersey, when our dear Holy Mother went there for Khrisna Puja. Since then we have been receiving Sahaja news thru the E-Mail, and the Mexican collective wants to thank you for keeping us informed. Sahaja news come like sun rays and keep us connected to our dear brothers and sisters, geographically distant but very close to our hearts.

As the coming new year is already arriving, the desire of the Mexican collective is that the Blessings of our dear Holy Mother flow like a waterfall on all our dear Sahaja brothers and sisters of the world. May the LIGHT be with you ever.

On the 25th December we had a beautiful Christmas Puja, after the second Havan ever held in this country. On Saturday the 11th of January, we will have another Public Program to introduce Sahaja Yoga to new seekers. That day, please put your attention in Mexico. Your sister Graciela (Maha Devi).

JAI SHRI MATAJI!!!

From: Graciela (Maha Devi), Mexico City

There will be a Bhajan practice next Friday 17th Jan (7.30pm) at the NEW Lindfield Ashram (ie. 39 BENT St) This is the 1st practice in preparation for MAHASHIVRATRI PUJA & Shri Mataji's public Programme. All welcome & especially any keen singers from INDIA SCHOOL.



Saturday night programmes will begin at 6.45pm with Bhajans.

She's ba-a-a-c-k! For a limited time only, Sue Raggatt is standing in for the fabulous Heather S. All faxes etc to Nicholson St please.