

Sahaja Yoga

21st September, 2001
28th September, 2001



Australian Newsletter

Jai Shri Mataji!

Contributions:

Sydney ph: 61 2 9716 6516

fax: 61 2 9716 0203

email: sahajnews@yahoo.com

Publication deadline for contributions
is midnight each Tuesday

...We worship Shri Ganesha who is the Past and Future, who is oblations and who is worshipped by all the rishis. You are the One who has a Divine Army, who is the trap of Death itself, who is saluted by all the eight Lokpalas (protectors of the worlds), who is Purna, Brahma, who is bright like the Sun, the ancient and first God.

O Shri Ganesha, salutations to You who fulfill all our desires and who are the Protector of your devotees.

We worship Shri Ganesha who is the valour of the Universe, the Sun of the Universe, who performs various tasks, who is holy and pure, who is the Creator and Destroyer of the Universe, who is worshipped everywhere by yantra and tantra, who has four faces, four hands and who is worshipped throughout the four Ages.

O Shri Ganesha, salutations to You who fulfill all our desires and who are the Protector of your devotees.

Extract from Shri Ganesha Sthuti
(Sanskrit bhajan)



STATE NEWS

News from Victoria

Celebration of the Victorian Collective Shri Ganesha Puja 2001 at Haiwatha Victoria

At this time of internal and international turmoil, the Victorian collective was blessed to have held the first Shri Ganesha Puja at the newly-acquired Haiwatha property in Victoria Australia. Saturday evening's havan was blessed full of flowing vibrations and dancing flames to wash away all transgressions and help reinforce innocence in the world.

On Sunday September 24th, 2001 the Greater Melbourne Collective had the privilege to offer Shri Ganesha Puja in Shri Ganesha's land. Spontaneity and thoughtlessness reigned supreme as little if any organisation was needed - "it all just fell into place".

The earth was radiant and receptive and vibrated, as it does in Maharastra. Mother's blessings were truly upon us and our thoughts went out to all peoples of all the world.

We were fortunate to have a good number of Victorian Sahaja Yogis represent us on this most auspicious occasion in Cabella Italy to be with Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi. We were equally fortunate to co-host the puja in Cabella with Russia and India and offer comfort to the greater world-wide Sahaja Yoga Collective.

In this time of life unfolding in dramatic fashion, we in Sahaja Yoga are truly fortunate to have the knowledge of the roots and to shine like a beacon of light, with detachment, humility and the ability to witness and not react and share our blessings and depth with all around.

It is no accident that we all are here and we are truly blessed to have such a diverse and dynamic collective in which to grow.

Jai Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi.

Christine Clear
Melbourne

News from NSW

NSW Financial Contribution to Mother's Love Pre-School

During Shri Mataji's last visit to Australia in 1996 monies resident in the NSW School Fund were loaned to the National Funds as part of our effort with hosting the National Tour and extended stay at that time.

We can all recall the recent sterling and heroic efforts on the part of the NSW collective towards the hosting of the Spontaneous Caterers event at the *Alternative Therapies Conference for Nurses and Doctors*.

The profit from this commercial venture, after meeting all costs and financial obligations was \$14,395. A further \$3,000 was raised from events held within NSW over the last twelve months.

A total of \$17,395 was raised and contributed towards the National Projects Fund to be used towards completing the works surrounding the Pre-School.

In this land of Shri Ganesha it was most gratifying to repay this long-standing loan back to the school fund, and through the combined effort and attention of the collective raise a substantial amount to provide help to realise the vision of Sahaja Education when it was most needed.

Again on behalf of the NSW collective we would like to sincerely thank each and everyone involved who made the Spontaneous Catering event the tremendous success that it was.

Life Eternal Trust NSW Financial Account 2000-2001

The financial accounts for the Life Eternal Trust NSW Account for Financial Year 2000 to 2001 have recently been completed, compiled and presented to the NSW collective.

On behalf of the collective I would like to thank the finance team who so diligently manage the collection and accounting of all finances within NSW on our behalf. They do an unheralded but essential job which bring enormous benefit to the collective in the transparency with which our monies are managed.

A bound copy of the 2000-2001 Accounts will be kept within the office at Burwood and is available for review by the collective.

Celebration of the NSW Collective Shri Ganesha Puja 2001 at Kariong NSW

"The best way for a Sahaja Yogi to cleanse his Mooladhara chakra is to be pure in heart and to lead a chaste life full of good thoughts and good deeds. Through innocence one can make the attention very pure and unattached. He is a living God, and is active all the time. No human words can describe his glory. Shri Ganesha has created the spiritual fire in nature which ignites every petal of every chakra.

All Sahaja Yogis must know how to worship Shri Ganesha so that He is kept awakened in them, and they may remain in the eternal bliss of His innocence."

The celebration of Shri Ganesha Puja is one of the most important Pujas for those of us born in the land of the Mooladhara. It is especially so when shared within the realm of the wider collective. The hosting Yogis of the Central Coast undertook to arrange a weekend seminar which would allow us to pay homage to the Deity of this land in a natural setting of most outstanding native beauty and clear vibrations.

The Yogis with clear sight and dedication undertook their mission of housing, feeding and generally looking after around 170 people with great love and attention. They accomplished this job in a manner which brought nothing but credit and worthy praise to their collective.

It is through the blessings of Shri Ganesha that we have the opportunity to break through our ignorance and blindness. When we come to Sahaja Yoga we are liberated from the bondage of ego and selfishness. It is Shri Ganesha who has removed all obstacles, and has given us the potential through Sahaja Yoga to completely transform ourselves, and the way we share our lives together.

The weekend seminar afforded us time to spend together as part of the collective assembly offering worship to Shri Mataji in Her aspect of Shri Ganesha.

As befitting the occasion many representatives of the NSW collective were present for the Puja, many arriving for lunch on Saturday. As appropriate ladies and families were accommodated in the main bunk houses, while the men were housed on the floor of the main meeting hall.

By Saturday afternoon many Yogis had assembled at the campsite to find a location quite pure in its vibrations. The land was covered with thick natural bushland, which served to screen us from the outside world.

Many Yogis could be seen sitting upon the rocky plateau, by the stream, overlooking the surrounding valley, and the horizons far and wide, imbibing the vibrations of Mother Nature which seemed to possess a naturally inherent capacity to clear and cleanse us.

The gently flowing stream drains the rains which fall upon

the encircling bushland, flowing across the rocky plateau, before plunging as a waterfall to the valley floor below. Winter has just passed, the water runs cool and clear.

The buildings of the camp are surrounded by large tress, thick bushland and native wildflowers; the setting is peaceful and helps to soothe the senses and to quieten the hectic city attention.

Yogis both young and old alike walked around the camp, conscious of the beauty of Mother Nature as it flowed all around, everyone delighting in the time spent in a place of harmony, free from any demands place upon the attention. The days were beautiful, warm, and pleasant, the nights cool, the skies clear and blue. The sun bathed the camp in bright light, warming the Earth and grassy surrounds.

During the afternoon the Seminar commenced with a powerful and cleansing Havan held under the setting sun and rising moon, a southerly breeze began to blow which could be heard moving amongst the trees. The Havan was held in manner pioneered in Dehradun. The Yogis individually purchased the spices and mixed the Havan samhagri by hand. Great consideration was devoted to the manner with which the Havan was hosted and the Mantras used to focus the attention of the Yogis upon its more subtle yet powerful aspects. Different names of the Goddess were selected as circumstances needed and much thought was devoted to best dealing with the negativity surrounding the recent turn in World affairs. Many later commented that it was one of the most significant Havans they had attended.

During the early evening an extended meditation was held which began with a guided meditation, followed by a audio tape of an early Puja celebration to Shri Mataji when She spoke of the importance of placing Her firmly in our heart, and that everything must begin at that point. The evening meditation seemed to build upon and extend the mood created during the Havan.

Following dinner an impromptu music session began within the main meeting hall, the night ending with mediation and rest.

The celebration of Shri Ganesha Puja commenced the next morning within the main meeting hall. From the start of the Puja the mood was one of deep consequence, and thoughtless awareness. The Puja celebration was an occasion of gravity, meditation, exhibiting a commitment of purpose by the hosting Yogis, and an understanding of the vision unique to Sahaja Yogis.

The open-hearted enjoyment, delight and appreciation of the events surrounding the weekend brought much credit to the hosting Yogis.

On behalf of the attending Yogis I would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation and thanks to all of the Yogis of the Central Coast for their hard work, effort and commitment.

Central Coast Puja: the Act of Giving

In the weeks leading up to last weekend's Central Coast Puja there have been inquiries made regarding our reasons for moving the Puja away from Balmoral. I thought that perhaps there might be a need to explain the reasons behind the decision.

This year there have been five Pujas held at Balmoral and two at Burwood, including a National Sahasrara and Shri Krishna Puja. There have also been a number of working weekends, construction periods, and an Introspection seminar.

In a sense we have enjoyed many opportunities to develop the special vibrations which abound at our property, and to establish the Shri Ganesha and Shri Lakshmi Tattwa at our own country property.

Although we could easily have hosted the Puja at Balmoral there were good reasons for hosting the Puja to the Central Coast.

Let us keep in mind that each year many International Pujas are hosted away from Cabella in countries such as Turkey, America, and Greece to help promote Sahaja Yoga, and for the aid of the local collectives in these countries.

There are many other greater, more Universal issues at play which override any personal consideration to the Yogis involved. We are all involved in remaking and recasting the world in a vision of Shri Mataji's conception, much is, and will be asked of each one of us.

This was one of the reasons we began hosting National Pujas in other states.

From our local perspective some of these reasons are to expand the attention, support, focus, vibrations, which is an expression of vital aspects and manifestations of our Lakshmi Tattwa with regard to generosity, open-heartedness, and spreading the vibrational bounty of our collective strength into different regions of our state, and to better provide support and help to all the collective.

We attempt to be ever sensitive to the demands placed upon the Nabhi, but experience tell us that generosity, big-heartedness, goodwill and kindness are some of the overriding principle of the Lakshmi Tattwa, even if it may impact upon the maintenance of our own personal resources.

If the motives are pure, and we display our benevolence, and yes, even if it be at some personal cost to ourselves, then this sustains this principle, rather than placing undue strain upon it, but this comes down to individual attitude, outlook, and detachment.

There has been an increase in the level of Sahaja activity over the last few years and many new projects implemented under Shri Mataji's instruction have incurred expenses.

Meeting financial contributions while they may diminish our monetary resources do not place at increasing strain upon the Nabhi, in fact quite the opposite. The expression of our generosity is an expression of the Lakshmi quality, its expression being a sustaining one.

If one feels the strain in giving, then perhaps it should not be given, but this does not mean that the act of asking, nor the response of giving is misplaced.

During the recent Puja provisions were made for those in difficult financial positions to attend and to contribute to whatever level one was able. The principle being that no one should forgo collective celebration of the Puja due to lack financial resources.

Given the provisions made for those who cannot afford the cost it is then left up to each person to decide for themselves, certainly the level of vibrations and joy felt last weekend more than justified its location.

Planned Renovations to Burwood Ashram

As the first Ashram established in Australia Burwood has provided the physical framework which has helped many Sahaja Yogis remain strongly grounded in themselves, within their dharma and in their wisdom.

The Ashram has provided us with a much-loved venue where we can best experience Sahaja Collectivity and dharma and has helped each one of us by allowing us to differentiate between the superficially projected values that we encountered in Western life and the true expressions of Sahaja Yoga.

Over the last twenty years Burwood Ashram has developed within the neighbourhood and by the Council an acceptance of 'established use' for our activities. If we were to move to a different location then we would need to have the full range of our activities approved by Council and residents. Our dealings with Councils in the past have shown us that this would be neither an automatic, straightforward nor quick process.

Some of our contribution towards the 2001 National Projects fund will be directed towards the renovation of Burwood. Keeping in mind the mutual respect, and all the good things that we have experienced during our time spent at the Ashram, and all the things they we have enjoyed there together as brothers and sisters, we are asking for your support and input into the planning of the renovation.

As we have all experienced, the Ashram's physical buildings and surrounds are displaying the evidence of twenty years of constant and intense use. The dedicated residents of the Ashram have to live in what may be described as complicated circumstances.

We seek everyone's contribution towards the coming renovation so that decisions made can incorporate as wide a variety of ideas as is possible.

A wide-ranging collective input should enable us to incorporate ideas into what we as a collective see as the use of the building over the next ten years.

Some ideas that have been floated have been to add a second storey and expand the size of the Meditation Hall. Even at present levels many people have to find space in the hallway during Friday night programs.

Anyone who would like to have a positive input should contact Jean-Michel Huet who is coordinating the plans for the renovation.

Sincerely, *Chris Kyriacou*
Sydney

Port Macquarie Program

More than twenty people attended the weekly program here in Port Macquarie on Tuesday. Most of them came through a free ad on the local radio station.

Nearly everyone felt the cool breeze after we played a CD of Mother going through the self realisation process.

I would ask that everyone give this program a bandhan so that it keeps going strong. Also, the Port Macquarie area is in a mini drought, and after the program we got a good shower of rain which continued today. Jai Shri Mataji

Brett Johnson
Sydney

Birthdays!

This edition's birthday list spans the two weeks from 21st September to 4th October.. Our very best wishes to all Sahaj yogis who recently had a birthday or whose birthday will occur in the coming week...

Wendy Barrett
Bryan Fitzpatrick
Kim Pearce
Wendy Flesser
Lorenzo Di Paolo
Jeff Roberts
Mahima Morgan
Elaine O'Connor
Gwen Ableitner
Janet Hutton
Justyn Tiptaft
Andrew Skipper
Bruno Auchello
Debbie Stainsby
Vimila Daby
Ellen Marlow