

Sahaja Yoga

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Australian Newsletter

Jai Shri Mataji!

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*...I have known in my body the sport of the universe:
I have escaped from the error of this world.*

*The inward and the outward are become as one sky,
The Infinite and the finite are united:
I am drunken with the sight of this All!*

*This Light of Thine fulfils the universe:
The lamp of love that burns on the thali of knowledge.*

*Kabir says: "There error cannot enter,
and the conflict of life and death is felt no more."*

Kabir
(translated by Rabindranath Tagore)



STATE NEWS

News from Western Australia

National Navaratri Puja 2001 at Gidgegannup

The celebration of the National Navaratri Puja located at Perth was a most propitious occasion, and extremely pleasurable for many of the Yogis who attended, especially for those visiting Gidgegannup from interstate. The one overriding memory from the weekend was enjoyment and joy.

Many interstate yogis undertake the journey that allowed them to worship Shri Mataji's Lotus feet at the temple which has been raised to Her glory at Gidgegannup.

We were all part of the assembly of yogis offering salutation and exaltation to the Devi. As befitting an occasion of National celebration representatives from many regions of our country began to gather during the days preceding Puja.

The beauty of the Valley upon which the Ashram has been constructed creates a peace which settles the soul. Lake Josephine receives the rain which showers down from the tree lined encircling hills, water is clear and pure, running cold and clean, pure and blue, the waters of the lake ripples as the wind blows, its waters reflecting the light of the sky, carrying the vibrations of life. Nestled on the hill above it all is the grand Ashram and Temple, the abode of Shri Mataji in the West and the focus of the collective.

As has become traditional in Western Australia the Yogis gather together at Gidgegannup each weekend where they are accommodated in the main Ashram. The majority of the men and ladies are generally housed on the top most level. By Friday evening Yogis in large numbers had begun to assemble and to look forward to the weekend's celebrations.

The days were filled with the laughter of children playing within the Ashram. The peace and beauty of the setting which absolves and purifies the heart and the soul. Young and old alike travel to the lake's edge, where the waters are cool and clear and everyone delights in time enjoyed in a place of peace and tranquillity.

As the sun sets, gentle breezes blow and are heard moving amongst the trees, seen swaying amongst the flowering trees, moving through the abundant wildflowers, carrying their scent through the still night air.

We were all welcomed to the celebrations of Navaratri Puja which seemed to celebrate a re-vitalisation in the

level of commitment and the application undertaken by those involved in the weekend's preparations. Everything had been accomplished, there appeared to be no obstacle that could not be overcome.

During the weekend everyone experienced the expression of the abundant Lakshmi of our hosts. Their generosity and care helped to make one feel more than at home, in fact we were all treated most royally.

The night skies in Western Australia are most beautiful, amber horizons far away, never ending stars in a rolling heavenly sky, all were watching the moon's rise, bathing all with its soothing glow. As the night unfolded we certainly forego our rest. But we were refreshed by something far more serene: time spent in the company of our brothers and sisters, music, dancing, good food and even better company.

It is at moments such as these that there is no other place that we would rather have been than together at Gidgegannup.

Saturday evening a music program commenced with performances from the hosting Yogis. We were treated with a series of musical performances, which ably demonstrated the depth of artistic talent and depth of the Western Australia collective. The performances demonstrated both technical expertise and spiritual sensitivity.

The Yuva Shakti in Perth have formed a most accomplished group. Their singing really inspired the collective to dance and enjoy themselves. Sometime we forget that the most important aspect of music is its ability to impart joy and to bring the collective together regardless of the level of musicality.

Navaratri Puja was celebrated on Sunday afternoon within the main meditation Hall at Gidgegannup. The Puja was one of deep consequence. It was a most fitting highlight to the weekend's celebration. It was an occasion of deep effect and gravity, exhibiting a strength of purpose and commitment, and an understanding and vision. Those present were privileged to have witnessed a display of pure devotion done with an appreciation and understanding for that which is pleasing to the Divine.

The essence of the weekend is difficult to convey in words, as a visitor from a far off place it was like returning home, to a spiritual place of brotherhood and kinship, of welcoming embrace and of brotherhood renewed.

Attendance at National Puja celebrations bring a new level of joy, vibrations and experience and become something everyone should aspire to attend. The experience provides a powerful message of openness and love which inspires those of us to join together to prove the reality of Sahaja Yoga within our own lives.

Chris Kyriacou, Sydney

News from the Northern Territory

Letter from Darwin

Jai Shri Mataji. Yes, we are still here attempting to awaken a few souls from their slumber. I was reading *Divine Cool Breeze* last week and a letter from the Scotland yogis regarding how lovely it is and how easy life is there. It struck a chord. They are having difficulty enlarging numbers, as we also seem to be here in Darwin. I know the leading family of Scotland myself and they would definitely create yogis if they could just get them to programs. I sometimes think this may be the problem in many cases for collectives all over, especially in such nice places.

When we look around us here in Darwin and try to arrange an event, be it seminar, or program etc, it seems we are constantly looking on the social calendar to see what it will clash with. Darwin is such a happy place to live. There are so many collective events due to the many cultures and variety of interests that there is so much happening. Sport is particularly high on the list and there is quite a strong emphasis on family outings, markets, garden shows, camping, fishing etc. Then the ever-present tourist has to be catered to with more events to keep them coming. My point is that although a true seeker will come (if they are true seekers), but they are mostly so content with life they can put it on hold for a long time. The seekers that do come are mostly those looking for help to overcome some problems and have been encouraged either by a member of our collective or a doctor to try meditation.

Then one day something changes and a real seeker appears on the doorstep after seeing the Sahaj advert. They tell stories like "every time I pick up a paper the ad was looking at me again so I just took the hint and decided to phone." One such lady last week had been praying to God to help her find her "middle" as she called it. She has done no meditation or seeking before but knew to ask for this!

So getting back to my point again, the seekers are out there but they are not in bulk. We have to allow Shri Mataji to send them as She found us because of our prayers. I don't worry about how many yogis there are because it's not my place to. Darwin is often seen as a negative place to live by southerners, but that is only due to misinformation and too much thinking. Sure some drink a lot of alcohol, but we never see that so why should it affect our enjoyment of being here. There are many more who don't drink and they are a very friendly lot. Once we meet them they are interested in "who the lady in the photo is", then on it flows as you know. It's all in Shri Mataji's Devine hands. We can give realisation, but then it's up to the Holy Kundalini. As long as yogis don't run away from such places, because all bases have to be covered for the seeker when they do wake up.

I miss the big collectives very much, and so much enjoy the blessings of your love when I visit you all the more. So to all our family in out-of-the-way places like Darwin, keep up the Good Work and cherish the blessing of being chosen to be there.

Much love,
Linda Pauling, Darwin

News from NSW

Bateman's Bay Ashram

Wanted: Lots of yogis to rent a big house together to form the Bateman's Bay Ashram. Bateman's Bay is two hours' drive east of Canberra and three hours south of Sydney.

It is set on the coast in the most beautiful place in the world - beaches, rivers and mountains. More than two hundred people have got Self Realisation in the last two-and-a-half years, and two are hanging on, but I don't wish to be here alone any more.

Email me at freemeditationsahajayoga@yahoo.com.au or phone me from next week at 02-43521080.

Many thanks, Jenny Watling

Active Australia Day Fair

We are holding a Sahaja Yoga stall at the St Ives Show-ground on Mona Vale Road St Ives this Sunday 28th October, from 10am till 6pm.

This is a great chance to come and give realisation to the thousands who are expected to attend.

Please ring Judy Dobbie 02 9416 2373, or just turn up!

Evening of Joy

Bhajans and Laughter at Ashfield Ashram Saturday 27th November

You are cordially invited to join us for an evening of bhajans this Saturday evening at Ashfield Ashram, 85 Bland Street Ashfield, commencing at 7:30pm.

Singers and non-singers: please come along and have a great evening in the company of your brothers and sisters.

Peter Brownscombe, Ashfield

New People's Seminar

Burwood Ashram

Sunday 4th November 10am until 3pm

Please keep in mind the coming major seminar/workshop to be held at Burwood Sunday 4th November and encourage all those people to attending your local program to be present. The seminar will commence at 10am then proceed until lunch at midday, then recommence at 1pm for a 3pm finish.

The seminar is aimed at deepening people's experience and enabling the seekers to meet with each other, and the wider collective. The seekers should see an expression of our collective love, experience deep meditations, miracles of Sahaj, and Shri Mataji.

If we need deep seekers to be made into deep yogis we have to satisfy their deeper seeking by helping them take the next step in the establishment of their realisation.

Can everyone continue to encourage those attending their programs to participate in the seminar. From our perspective we need to keep a track on the numbers of people attending to ensure Burwood can cope with those attending so can we take bookings.

Working Bee this Sunday

Burwood Ashram

This Sunday 28th November there will be a working bee at Burwood.

Burwood ashram is Sydney's main collective centre, whose purpose for spreading Sahaja Yoga. We need to prepare it for the coming Weekend Seminar. There is a lot of material that needs taking away, including building material to go to Balmoral.

We would like to have the premises ready for the new people who are coming. At present its current condition is not presentable, nor a particularly good representation of Sahaja Yoga.

Chris Kyriacou, Sydney

Mother's Love Childcare Centre Opens

Following the satisfactory inspections by Burwood Council and Dept of Community Services, *Mother's Love Childcare Centre* at 12 Clarence St Burwood will be opening its doors for business from Thursday 1st November.

Please see Raymond or Reema Hampton (ph 9498 6591) to make an enrolment.

Diwali Puja 2001

Hiawatha Victoria

I wish to extend the invitation to the NSW collective on behalf of the Victorian collective and really encourage everyone to take the opportunity to share and enjoy the unique experience of attending the celebration of the First National Diwali and Foundation Puja of the Victorian country property, over the weekend of November 16th to 18th.

Shri Mataji has said that the property is *"a gift from Mahalakshmi"*.

This is a unique opportunity to collectively travel to celebrate the first National Puja at our newest National Country Property. It represents an attitude unique to Sahaja Yogis: we are able to continually look forward to a spiritual world where we all come together from all over our country to worship Shri Adi Shakti.

During Navatri Puja many commented that they felt like they had been lifted up, and had taken part in a great holy festival, these memories should be kept close in our hearts, for it keeps alive in ourselves the desire for the spirit, and for a reality and brotherhood which one day we can make the same as our day-to-day life.

What better way to experience this reality than to re-live those unique experiences together again at the first National Puja at the Victorian Country property *Hiawatha*.

There is not much more that needs to be said, nor the need to worry about how far it is, how much it will cost or what we will be doing. Let us do the needful thing and commit to ourselves, and to follow that commitment through to attend Diwali Puja.

We ask that we commit ourselves and coordinate our travel arrangements to **inform the Victorians by October 30th, which is next week.** Can everyone travelling for Diwali Puja provide their details, be it Flight arrival and departure times, train or bus timings, or if you are driving when you are planning to arrive.

If you wish to fly to Melbourne air tickets are still available for around \$150 plus taxes, but you must book quickly as the cheaper tickets will fill soon.

A transport service will be arranged from the airport, and similar to the shuttle service operated at Cabella, those travelling will be asked to contribute towards the journey. Transport arrangements may be made on our behalf to travel to Victoria, if there is enough interest to hire a bus.

Or you may decide to drive yourself down, directions for travelling by road will be provided very soon.

We need to coordinate our travel arrangements. Can everyone from NSW attending the Puja please contact David Sharp on 9747 4835, so that he can pass on final numbers to our hosts. Preferably send an Email to Burwood via mrome@bigpond.com.au

If you wish to travel by bus then let David know and if there are sufficient numbers we may book a bus. You will need to provide your details as soon as possible to reserve your seat. The bus if arranged will leave Friday night and return early Monday morning.

This is a big undertaking and we can make the job of the Victorian collective much easier if we provide our details as soon as possible.

To further encourage visitors to attend Diwali Puja a reduced rate of \$85 for interstate adults visiting Victoria has just been announced. It will apply to Yogis from States other than the hosting state.

Together at the celebration of Diwali Puja we will for a time be reunited with each other and with Shri Mataji within the grandeur of the Australian countryside; and together again we shall experience Her splendour and power and joy and timelessness.

Jai Shri Mataji
Chris Kyriacou

Birthdays!

Our very best wishes to all Sahaj yogis whose birthday falls in the coming week. May they all have many happy returns of their special day...

Prashant Hinge
Kay McHugh
Robert Henshaw
Linda Pauling
Lyn Roles
Peter Doherty
Judy Lenartas
Sarah Matthews

News from Victoria

Revised Fees for Diwali Puja Weekend, Victoria

Adults (Vic)	\$108
Adults (Interstate)	\$ 85
Pensioners/Students	\$ 75
Child 11-18	\$ 15
Child 0-10	Free

Transport Details

By Car from Sydney:

Head to Melbourne via Hume or other Highways; once you reach Broadmeadows on Melbourne outskirts, take the right turn off to Western ring Road around 5km, then take left turn onto Tullamarine Freeway to City (NB this is a toll-way with electronic tolling that should be prepaid or paid within 24 hours after use by calling 132 629 or pay at any Australia Post in Victoria \$8.50 for a day pass; Buses are more expensive). Follow signs to Melbourne South East Suburbs, cross large bridge next to City, then turn left to South Eastern Suburbs, then follow road through City Link tunnel which goes under the Yarra River.

Continue the entire length of the South Eastern Arterial and take a left turn after around 40kms to Cranbourne/Phillip Island/Princess Hwy. Follow road for another 30kms approx, then past a lone Shell Garage near Lang Lang take left turn to Korumburra/Leongatha on South Gippsland Hwy. Follow Hwy past these towns, Foster, Welshpool and reach Yarram. Just at the end of town strip past the bush hospital on the right and Catholic School on the left, take a left turn marked *Hiawatham Wron Won*.

Follow road for around 5kms past a few dog-legs and then turn right onto Albert River Road. Follow road for another 7kms which forks down to the right where there is a World War stone memorial. Follow well-graded dirt road another 3kms to a large old wooden bridge, and the driveway is just after it on the right.

There is a large sign marked *Albert River Lodge*, but hopefully it will have *Sahaja Yoga Meditation Retreat* on it soon!!

From Canberra:

Follow the above OR take Monaro Hwy to Cooma/Bombala/Cann River, turn left at Princes Hwy to Sale, turn Left onto South Gippsland Hwy to Yarram, and then follow directions as above from the other end of Yarram (ie you turn right just before hitting town).

Anyone coming via Princes Hwy, then as above from Cann River.

From Adelaide: As for Sydney from any entrance to Tullamarine Freeway. (Don't forget to buy a day pass at \$8.50 for City Link, call 132 629 or purchase at Australia Post in Victoria).

Anyone arriving via Air, please call Maruti ASAP, on 03 9530 9283 in the evening to arrange pick up times or any other transport matter.

Jai Shri Mataji
Rob Henshaw

GENERAL NEWS

Article from TIME Magazine
October 22, 2001 Vol. 158 No. 18

The Presidency: A Work In Progress

Bush is growing--and graying--before our eyes.

An inside report on the making of a leader

BY JAMES CARNEY AND JOHN F. DICKERSON

"You probably want to know if I'm O.K.," George W. Bush said to a friend the other day. "Don't worry. I'm doing fine. I'm totally focused on what I have to do."

It shows. The President is growing before our eyes--not morphing into some completely new kind of leader but evolving in fits and starts and in real time, which is what makes the spectacle so compelling. The changing President is the perfect mirror of a changing country. He's trying to become the leader that America needs right now, just as America is trying to become the nation it needs to be. Though his hair seems grayer since Sept. 11, his face a touch more careworn, Bush has told a number of friends and advisers that he has never known such clarity of purpose, such certainty that he is the right person for the moment. He is buoyed by his faith that God has chosen him to lead the country during this perilous time. As if to prove his mettle, he has been boasting--to a group of Islamic clerics, among others--that he has shaved his three-mile run to a speedy 21:30.

He hasn't lost his sense of humor. Bush and his top advisers gathered last Thursday in the Treaty Room of the White House so the aides could grill him before his first prime-time news conference. They sprayed him with questions. Should Americans be afraid? What will the U. S. do in Afghanistan after the Taliban is defeated? It was the second prep session of the day, and Bush was getting impatient. Then came another question: How could he possibly leave the U.S. Wednesday to take a scheduled trip to China? Bush clenched his jaw. "Well, Mrs. Bush and I want to encourage Americans to go out shopping," he said. "And I broke a plate last week."

It took a moment, but the room burst into laughter--and it wasn't the nervous laughter that sometimes comes when Bush isn't focused on his work. The President didn't need to cram for this test. He has spent every minute of the past month living the subject. At the press conference he was calm, and knew better than to promise too much. He assured Americans of ultimate victory over terrorism even as he acknowledged that there are limits to the government's ability to prevent every heinous act. If he occasionally made side trips through his syntax, he also showed a level of introspection and analysis that surprised even his close aides. Instead of offering platitudes drawn from talk-

ing points, he ruminated on the generational experience of war and bluntly warned Americans not to take out their anger by picking on "someone who doesn't look like you." And where he used to talk about "this Administration" or "our Administration" or what "we" plan to do, now he is talking about "my Administration" and what "I" plan to do.

Bush's aides sputter at the suggestion that he has been transformed by Sept. 11. "It's not like his IQ rose 50 points just because the World Trade Center was attacked," says an annoyed adviser. But the change in the man and his policies is too stark to deny. The President who wanted to go it alone in the world--and had nothing but disdain for "nation-building"--now says "we should not simply leave after a military objective has been achieved," and sees a role for the U.N. in "the stabilization of" a new government in postwar Afghanistan. As a candidate, Bush couldn't name the President of Pakistan; now he speaks of General Pervez Musharraf and other crucial Muslim leaders with the fluency of someone like, well, his father. He used to campaign against Washington bureaucrats, and he promised to balance the budget by keeping government spending in check; now he is building new federal agencies and pushing for new investigative powers, proposing billion-dollar bailouts and unemployment programs, putting the federal budget in the red for the first time in five years. "We're in a very different time," explains presidential counselor Karen Hughes. "He's always talked about the need for an active but limited government. This is one of those times when an active government is important."

It's also a time for speed. Bush took months to decide whether to provide federal money for stem-cell research; now he makes decisions about war and terrorism on an almost hourly basis. When he heard last Friday that another case of anthrax had been discovered, in New York City, Bush waited for local and federal authorities to make their statements before he said anything. Then he calmly dropped his thoughts on the matter into his remarks at an event honouring Hispanic Americans at the White House as if he had been penciling in the name of a late-arriving guest he needed to thank.

Bush can still remind you of the regular guy he used to be. When he insists that he's "amazed" by the hatred toward the U.S. in some parts of the world, he displays a powerful faith in American goodness and a naivete about the way the U.S. is perceived abroad. During an event at the CIA, he said three times that the terrorists had "misunderestimated" America and its leader. He was right.