

Sahaja Yoga

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Australian Newsletter

Jai Shri Mataji!

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*A slumber did my spirit seal;
I had no human fears:
She seemed a thing that could not feel
The touch of earthly years.*

*No motion has She now, no force;
She neither hears nor sees,
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course
With rocks and stones and trees.*

William Wordsworth

NATIONAL NEWS

**Request for assistance
with Burwood and Balmoral
building projects:**

*“It is time to raise our Temple
—High to the Sky”*

In the words of that great English bhajan we now begin in earnest the great task of the re-construction, re-development and re-invigoration of the Mother Ashram at Burwood and the country property at Balmoral Village.

Over the last few weeks builders have been working full time to commence the renovations of Burwood. Work will be ongoing. We need help each weekend (and during the week if you have time) to help with this vital project.

We need the help of some builders, both long and short term, to complete the Burwood renovation and with the development of Shri Mataji's residence at Balmoral. Renovations will be made to the existing cottage to make it more suitable for Shri Mataji's needs: a residence expressing the aesthetic and sentiment of an Australian building fit for the Goddess.

Any Sahaja builders from any country are invited to come and to work. We will need a large, consistent and dedicated work force of Yogis to support these great tasks:

Burwood Ashram renovation

Balmoral building improvements

Projects to be immediately undertaken include:

- Shri Mataji's residence
- Further extension and completion of work to the Puja Hall

Future projects

- Construction of an amenities block and an on site water treatment system
- Upgrading of the new access road and construction of the car park
- Lighting and landscaping
- Building a kitchen

Each individual's genuine commitment to the working programs at Burwood and Balmoral can demonstrate the difference each one of us can make. Every contribution of labour will help with the realisation of these important Sahaja projects. The challenge before each one of us is to really commit our time and strength—all of our abilities—to Sahaja Yoga and to see the project through to its completion, not only with the completion of the building work but

also the contribution of the funds necessary to see these important projects through to completion.

Completing this work will take real effort and commitment, but it will leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Sahaja Yogis to enjoy.

Interested parties should contact Raymond or Chris at
rnrhampton@hotmail.com
candskyriacou@hotmail.com

Avinash Nichkawde, Raymond Hampton & Chris Kyriacou

STATE NEWS

from Queensland...

**Expression of appreciation
to Brisbane Collective
for hosting Guru Puja**

Thank-you to the very dedicated and hard working Brisbane yogis for being such wonderful hosts to us all at Guru Puja.

We truly appreciated every minute of the whole weekend, sharing in the collectivity and meeting up with our brothers and sisters from far and away.

**Public Program this Sunday
in Bundaberg**

Bundaberg yogis will be having a site at the Childers Multicultural Festival on Sunday 25th July. We would like to invite anyone from the Brisbane area who is free to come and help spread the vibrations. There is plenty of room to stay at our place. Ph 41541590. Jai Shri Mataji.

*Alan and Pam Jenner
Bundaberg*

from New South Wales...

**Final details
of forthcoming public programs
in the south-west of Sydney**

Here are the final details of some public programs in Sydney's south-west.

Bankstown Public Program

Date: Saturday, 31st July
Time: 6.30 pm till 8.30 pm
Place: The Theatre
Bankstown Town Hall
Cnr of Rickard Road and Chapel Street
(enter via Paul Keating Park)

The company of all the yogis is requested.

- Please come cleared (at least a footsoak before arrival) as you might be required to give vibrations to new people.
- Please do not touch any new person while giving vibrations.
- Please wear Mother's Badge.
- The set up is at 5.30 pm all help would be appreciated. Pack up is at 8.30 pm.
- Please note: there is no food or drink provided. There is only a little candy shop there, run by the Town Hall itself.
- Parking is available underneath the Town Hall itself or on the streets around.

*Please contact Toby Patterson, Anil Sattershetty
or David Morgan for any other details*

Liverpool Public Program

Date: Saturday 7th August
Time: 5.00 pm till 8.00 pm
Place: Whitlam Leisure Centre
Memorial Ave (cnr Hume Hwy) Liverpool

Ongoing Meditation Workshops

Date: Every Tuesday
Time: 7.00 pm
Place: Senior Citizens Centre
185 Bigge St Liverpool
(5 mins walk from Liverpool Station)

*Please contact Rajen Maharaj or Hari Gaikwad
for any other details*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

from New Zealand...

**Guru Puja and Yuva Shakti Camp
in the North Island**

Hi to all the Sahaja Yogis of Australia. David, Trisha and Akhila send you our love from New Zealand. We thought we'd tell you about a very special weekend when Shri Guru Puja was held here, followed by a three day yuva shakti camp. We three Sharps had hoped so much to come to Brisbane for Shri Guru Puja. We now understand why it just didn't work out. The Divine works in such wondrous ways— "*She does it all*" as Steve Day's bhajan goes.

We rose at 5am on Friday morning to get an early start on the 350km journey to the North Islands mountains at over 9000ft. They are volcanic. During a large part of the journey we were accompanied by a lovely rainbow.

We started from Tauranga where there are two Sahaja Yoga families living. This is a beautiful area 200km south-east of Auckland. It has long surf beaches, a large harbour, a port, much light industry, logging, fruit-growing—much kiwifruit and farming, plus a beautiful climate. Bryce from Switzerland (he's a New Zealander) came with us.

In under two hours we were at Lake Taupo, an immense lake formed by a huge eruption several centuries ago. It empties into the biggest river here, thundering through a very narrow gorge and rapids on its way 200kms to the sea.

We spotted Mark from Auckland's Sahaja Yoga bus, with Shri Mataji's picture displayed around. We made this an excuse for morning tea with the yogis staying by the lake in a motel. It was freezing outside: the lake is 1700 ft above sea level. We climbed steadily to the snow level from the famous Desert Road, turning off at Ohakune, the closest town to Mt Ruapehu. Tom and Barbara Armstrong had invited all the New Zealand yogis to hold Guru Puja and have the Yuva Shakti seminar at their homestead on the beautiful country overlooking the mountain. They are the parents of Craig, the co-ordinator of Perth and WA. Their lovely hearts and Tom's log burner warmed us all when we arrived.

Guru Puja was very beautiful—such an auspicious place to worship our great Mother as the Guru of Gurus. After we had sung *Sitting in the Heart of the Universe* huge snowflakes drifted by the rear window, lit up by the candles outside. When we awoke next morning we were blessed by and greeted with a pristine scene of great beauty. Then Mt

Ruapehu appeared in the morning sun and stayed visible and watched over us during the day. It seemed like all the deities were there with us and with Shri Mataji. Shri Ganesha and Shri Kartikeya in the beautiful land and Shri Shiva from the lofty snow of Mt Ruapehu. A river wound round below the valley and we took the children to a large beautiful lake in the native beech forest which has been preserved from before man's arrival in New Zealand. So Shri Adi Guru and Shri Lakshmi represented in the water.

A highlight of the weekend was a visit by all the yogis to Barbara and her sister Heather's *marae*—as, of Maori descent, their ancestral meeting house and tribal (*Ngati Tuwharetoa*) headquarters—these areas are sacred to Maori. All the yogis were officially welcomed by Heather's two sons, who have had their self-realisation. The vibrations were so cool and made this a momentous occasion. Many New Zealanders have been anxiously watching recent events in New Zealand which are polarizing Maori and Pakeha and all people living here. I felt deeply that Shri Mataji knows of our concern and as usual is working it out with Her tremendous love and compassion. In 2003 it became a possibility for Maori to apply for ownership of areas of the seabed and foreshore. Prime Minister Helen Clark and her ruling Labour party are seeking to vest ownership of all these two areas of New Zealand in the Crown, whilst retaining 'customary' use for all those who have fished or gathered shellfish in those areas. Meanwhile the new National Party (Opposition) leader Dr Brash (ex Governor of the World Bank) has made speeches and noises like a true red-neck, seeking to limit Maori welfare and their various aspirations. Your detached and enlightened attention will be valuable.

So we had four-and-a-half days of countless blessings. We got the children to organise and make things. They split into three groups and each did a puppet show. They drew and cut out, painted and decorated as well as wrote the stories of their shows. The grownups joined the children in the teams in a Sahaja quiz. We also played *Worst Case Scenario*—the children were just great proving to be wiser, more often than not, than the grownups! The children just loved the snow, made and threw numerous snowballs and made a couple of snowmen.

Heather and her boys brought a lovely cream-coloured horse for the children to ride. We all found comfortable spaces to sleep—just enough space for all. The cooking was effortless for the men—the ladies looked after the dinners and lunches and kept an eye on us lads doing breakfast and washing up.

We took the children for a round of golf at an international-standard course. Amazingly enough no one else was put out by our large group, nor did we have to wait or let anybody play through! The children loved it—boys and girls, all in one big group!

It was a very beautiful collective weekend—such a blessing to be there. On the Wednesday after 'brunch' those heading north met at some thermal hot pools and had a collective hot soak. Our thanks to Tom, Barbara, Heather and the boys for such an amazing time. It was hospitality of the heart and from the heart, allowing us to take over their place. Jai Shri Mataji.

Please come over and see us. Programs and seminars are going well.

Love,

David, Trisha and Akhila Sharp