

THE AUSTRALIAN SAHAJA NEWSLETTER

Saturday May 17th

FORGET YOUR LIFE

Forget your life. Say God is Great. Get up.
You think you know what time is. It's time to pray.
You've carved so many little figurines, too many.
Don't knock on any random door like a beggar.
Reach your long hand out to another door beyond where you go to the street,
the street where everyone says, "How are you?"
and no one says "How aren't you?"

Tomorrow you'll see what you've broken and torn tonight,
thrashing in the dark.

Inside you there's an artist you don't know about.
He's not interested in how things look different in moonlight.

If you are here unfaithfully with us, you're causing us terrible damage.
If you've opened you loving to God's love,
you're helping people you don't know and have never seen.

Is what I say true? Say YES quickly, if you know if you've known it
from the beginning of the universe.

By Rumi, the 13th century Sufi poet

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR FOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

24-25 May	Kundalini Puja	Cabella
6-7-8 June	Mahalaxmi Puja	New York
10 June	Public Programmes	New York
18-19-20 July	Guru Puja	Cabella
15-16-17 August	Krishna Puja	Cabella
18 August	Raksha bandhan	Cabella
12-13-14 Sept	Ganesha Puja	Cabella
10-11-12 October	Navaratri Puja	Cabella

SHRI MATAJI ARRIVES IN ITALY

Wednesday 30 April '97, we had the blessing of receiving Shri Mataji at Linate airport, Milano. Even though the trip was very long (they stopped in UK for hrs) Shri Mataji was as usual fresh and Her loving smiles toughed everybody's hearts.

She sat in the center of a big silent crowd of seated yogis, like the corona of a thousand petalled flower, and then She took the flowers from the little children (to the big children She said "*I can't take the flower from each of you, but don't worry: I know you all very well!*").

Shri Mataji said She was very happy to be with us and conveyed the love of our Indian brothers and sisters. She also said that we should put our desire so that they might be able to come to the puja in Italy. She added that this is a very auspicious time and we should start using our powers and our desire to change whatever is wrong in the whole world.

Afterwards Shri Mataji headed for Cabella, leaving us in an ocean of bliss and vibrations.

Love, Marco

SHRI GANESHA PUJA - SEPTEMBER 1997

The time for Shri Ganesha Puja - mid September - is rapidly approaching and preparations are under way. All those who are planning to travel to Cabella for this auspicious event should immediately notify their state leader. Likewise anyone who is unable to go but would like to help with the preliminary arrangements please contact your leader.

Michael Fogarty.

TASMANIA - JUNE ON THE ISLAND

Any Yogis planning to visit Tasmania in June to assist Catherine, please contact Marcus Rome at Gordon Ashram on Tel: 02 9498 3751.

THE PHILIPPINES

News has come from Rajiv Kumar in Manila announcing a series of programs the Yogis are planning for June and requesting any support (either financial or active) that we can give them. They are planning at least two programs. The first on Saturday 21st June for the general public and the second on Sunday 22nd of June for the Chinese community.

It is not easy to spread *Sahaja Yoga* in the Philippines and the Yogis are very few in number so they have requested our help and will be delighted to welcome any visitors. Please contact Michael Fogarty if you can assist.

FRESH NEWS FROM THAILAND

Sunday April 20th was a blessed day for the Sahaja Yoga collectivity in Thailand. 300 people gathered in the beautiful ballroom of the Rembrandt Hotel - where Shri Mataji usually stays - for a public program. Many doctors who had attended a medical conference given by Dr Umesh C. Rai on the benefits of Sahaja Yoga also stayed for the program. Dr Rai gave an outstanding talk, supporting his research with slides.

The attentive listening, the relevant questions and the respect shown in the time people spent in order to understand Sahaja Yoga's holistic approach to medicine and Sahaja Yoga itself, expressed the quality of the seekers gathered by Shri Mataji's grace.

A journalist from the daily national English newspaper "*The Nation*" interviewed Dr Rai at great length, showing sincere interest in Sahaja Yoga. Another journalist from "*Thai Rath*" also attended the public program. The resulting article brought to our weekly program a crowd of people interested in the curing powers of Sahaja Yoga. Since the day of the articles' publication, more than 300 people have rang up our centre, turning us into full-time phone operators.

The double program really generated tremendous vibrations that the majority of new people in the hall could feel, including 2 monks and a highly placed teacher of a Buddhist meditation center.

The Tai collectivity had worked hard for this date, putting all their heart and energy into posterizing, contacting the media, sending letters to hospitals and phoning doctors. The success of the evening was a very beautiful reward. Held at a time when Shri Mataji in person usually blesses the country with Her presence, no doubt Our Holy Mother's attention illuminated this unique event.

KUNDALINI PUJA

Kundalini Puja will be held at Burwood on Saturday 24th May starting at 5pm sharp. Parents may wish to ensure young children are supplied with refreshments before Puja begins!!

ROSTER

SET UP

Wollongong
Robertson
Kangaroo Valley
Nowra etc

COOK

Lindfield:
Bent St
Balfour St
Pleasant Ave

WASH UP

South of Burwood
Croydon Pk
Hurstville
Punchbowl/Bankstown

DISMANTLE

North Shore except
Lindfield

WARRINGAH HEALTH & LEISURE EXPO

Sunday 18th May 10.30am to 4pm
Curl Curl Youth & Community Centre
John Fisher Park
Abbott Road, North Curl Curl

PARENTS URGENT

The fees for June and July are now due to be sent to the Sahaja Public School please give all assistance to our tireless accountant and deposit funds by Tuesday May 20th.
Thank you.

MAY BUSHWALK OR MAY NOT!!

Pam and Andrew Jones are organising a May Blue Mountains bush walk for older Sahaja children (over 10 years). Please contact Pam or Andrew for more details.

Tel: 045 713 213

The Jones's are also commencing a 6 week series of programs on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in their home at Richmond. Everyone is welcome.

JUST ONE DALMATIAN

Free to good home a very cute puppy Dalmatian/border collie cross only 6 weeks old.
Tel 043 721 546. Sarita Chavda

From: "Alex Henshaw" <smtech@hkstar.com>

Subject: News from Hong Kong

Date: Tue, 1 Apr 1997 12:54:48 +0800

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As the time draws near for China to take over Hong Kong, the attention of the world turns to this tiny enclave and one of the last remaining remnants of the British Empire. There is a definite air of uncertainty for a lot of people but at the same time there is optimism that things will work out well. Shri Mataji said last time that the Chinese are wise people and will not do anything silly when taking over Hong Kong. For all the yogis it may be a great opportunity to spread Sahaja Yoga in China and gain acceptance from the Chinese administration. Our registration to become a Charitable company has taken a very long time to process but initial approval has been given and we are hoping that this can be completed before the hand over, as the law will change under Chinese rule and it may be more difficult. Our collective in HK has been growing slowly and there would be around 50-60 established yogis with another 30-40 attending weekly programs. We were blessed recently to have a Russian yogini Natalia from Tolidatti move here to join her English husband who works in HK.

New Sahaja Yoga Centre

Last year we were asked by the landlord of our ashram to move out. There had been complaints from the neighbors about the noise and the stream of people coming for programs. Its very difficult running Sahaja Yoga from a 12th floor 3 bed room apartment which is surrounded by neighbors. The ashram had been in operation for the last 4 years and its size (1800 Sq. ft.) was hard to find for the price we were paying. Most yogis would laugh about the small size compared to other countries, but in HK this is big. After a search it was clear that the days when we could find a large and spacious apartment for under US\$4,000 per month were over. One of the Chinese yogini's had been looking for a suitable apartment and had found a reasonable large one to purchase. It was located in a very central part of Hong Kong Island, Causeway Bay. She suggested to the collective that she could purchase the apartment and then rent it to Sahaja Yoga for a fixed amount to solve the problem of having to move out. The collective met and discussed the option and all agreed that it would be the best solution. The vibrations also supported the idea so negotiations were started. She had to arrange to borrow money from the bank to pay for the property but as the banks don't like to lend money on an older property it was not certain.

After some bandhans a bank finally agreed and the loan was arranged. Everything was settled and a design was worked out by one of the yogis who is an architect. The ashram was purposed designed to give us enough room for our collective meetings and also provide three bedrooms, two bathrooms and lots of storage space for books, video tapes and shoes. Its amazing how much you can fit into 1200 sq. ft.

We now have a permanent Sahaja Yoga Centre in Hong Kong:
Flat D, 6/F,
Lei Shun Court
106 - 126 Leighton Rd.
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Public Programs

With Shri Mataji canceling the Asian tour we decided to go ahead with a large scale public program. We already had booked a large stadium and printed posters and invitations so al lot of the ground work had been done for Shri Mataji's visit. We then had to change the time to later in March to give us more time to prepare. The poster information was changed by placing a sticker with the new time of the program and we had to print new invitations. The poster was based on the same design as last year but with different colours to distinguish it form previous posters. We had one in English and one in Chinese, both of which attracted a lot of interest. From a questioner we found that the majority of people saw the posters. We had also arranged newspaper advertisements and sent out a mailing to our SY database. The day before the program we had a radio interview with three of the yogis on the English radio which is run by the Government. The interview went very well and the program included a few minutes of realisation on air. Quite a few people in the studio felt something and there was a lot of interest from the listeners. There were a couple of questions on air about Yoga and the differences between Sahaja Yoga and other Yoga methods.

March 17, Public Program Day

The preparation for the program had gone very smoothly thanks to a dedicated team of Chinese yogis. Our coordinator for the program was a wonderful Chinese lady, Florence who did a brilliant job arranging everything. We had organised a projection system to play one of Shri Mataji's lectures from a previous public program in HK. Around 150 to 200 seekers attended the program and most of them were Chinese. We had an introductory talk in English which was translated into Chinese and then Shri Mataji's lecture, followed by self realisation. The questions they asked showed that there were some quality people attending and the staff of the venue also participated in the realisation process. Around 50 people have registered for the follow up programs which will be held this Tuesday at two different venues.

We hope to have more news soon on the success of the follow up programs and about Sahaja Yoga in mainland China.

With lots of love,

Alex.