

THE AUSTRALIAN STRATHFIELD

# Sahaja Newsletter



## Contributions:

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*Mother, you have changed my world,  
Your eyes are so powerful that one cannot see in Your eyes.  
We don't have words to praise the divine beauty of Your eyes.  
You have changed my life according to Your wishes.*

WORDS TO A KAWALI  
GANAPATIPULE 1994

Melaney-Woodford Festival - Queensland - 28-31 December 1994

The Melaney Festival of Music is held every year. As it grew in popularity, the original site in Melaney became too small and the organisers decided to move to a larger site in Woodford - about 30 km from Wamuran. It now covers an enormous area of hills and valley and for the festival period was smothered in tents and cars and DUST. One section was set aside for the dozens and dozens of stalls - many for food and drink and lots for clothing. In fact everything the Alternative Lifestyle desired was there for sale. We were impressed by the type of people there - mainly music lovers and well mannered and polite.

Sahaj was asked to run a food tent which had to be vegetarian only and to be known as the Curry Kingdom. It seemed quite a daunting task for Queenslanders, not having done anything like this before, but with the promised support from yogis in other areas, (Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra) plans went ahead. A small band of dedicated Brisbanites put months of planning into recipes, supplies, hiring of equipment - tents, fridge truck cooking appliances, crockery etc and that all worked out very well.

Four car loads from Sydney headed for Wamuran on Boxing Day at some Godly hour in the morning & arrived late that evening to find kind hosts waiting up for us. We were fed the most delicious samosas made by the yogis for the Festival before running foul of the Qld Health Dept who would not allow them to be sold. The reason was that Wamuran's kitchen facilities did not meet the proscribed health standards. This left 400 or so samosas in the freezer for Sahaj consumption - and 400 times nicer than the smaller frozen ones we eventually had to buy. As we sold 8,000 of them in the end, we wonder if Kimmy could have made that many. Actually the Health Dept gave us a hard time with site inspections before and during the festival and putting limitations on various procedures. This slowed the start of the first day and with disappointing takings, we wondered if it was going to be worth all that effort. Little did we realize the marathon ahead!

The word soon got around that the Curry Kingdom was the best food in the festival grounds and by the third day, the queues were sometimes very long and the work load in the kitchen became horrendous. Three people on continuous wash up (no disposable plates allowed), 3 or 4 always serving, 2-3 chopping vegetables, 3-5 always cooking and very little let up. And yet the general bonhomie amongst us was fabulous. No angst or bickering and although the work was too much and we did wish that more yogis had come to help, the thought that this was for Sri Mother's house was always uppermost and kept us going and engendered such a strong bond of love.

The compliments kept coming all the time. "Beautiful, wonderful, marvellous food." "Are you a restaurant?" some asked. One of the organisers is reported to have said that there was some magic ingredient in the barfi as it completely refreshed her from her exhaustion.

Just across the way from the eating tent was the regular Realisation tent where more than 100 turned up to ask for it. Such high quality seekers came and even morning meditations at 6 am saw a small turn up. As many were from Sydney and other states, we can expect to see them at our local programmes.

This was a highly successful venture into the field of fund raising and we hope it will be repeated every year. We learned a lot - not so much from errors, but from the unexpected. For a start, we never expected to have at least double the turnover planned, but that's the nature of Sahaj. The net profit will be \$12,000-12,500 depending on some missing plates and crockery, etc. Sri Mother gave us this opportunity and we could not turn our backs on it, even though we knew it would be hard work. Wamuran will soon be roofed and as Sri Mataji suggested a grass roof, will there be enough left over for a lawn mower?

PS The young men who stayed behind to help at Wamuran made 1000 bricks - nearly enough to finish the building.



SYDNEY NEWS

**The BIG DAY OUT - Thurs 26th Jan., RAS Showground.**  
(only 2 weeks away...)

A FOOD STALL will be held to raise money for Shri Mataji's tour.  
Last year this event was very rewarding for everybody involved and \$3000 was raised. This year is expected to be bigger and better! Lots of people are needed to help ON THE DAY by preparing and serving food, and to prepare food and set up BEFORE THE EVENT.

If you can help on the day we need to organise it beforehand as we have to give names to the organisers to arrange passes etc.

Please contact Ramsay St (798 4051) if you can help.

Havan 7.30 Saturday 14 Jan At 33 Church Street.  
Mt Kuringai

All welcome - Phone: 4570125. See Toby And Pilar

Havan at Coogee. Sunday 15 Jan at 6 o'clock  
77 Brook Street Coogee Bay - Dinner provided

BHAJAN PRACTICE - every Friday at Burwood - 6 o'clock

Everyone welcome





*"This we know...  
the earth does not belong to man,  
man belongs to the earth.  
All things are connected, like blood which connects one family.  
Whatever befalls the earth befalls the children of the earth.  
Man did not weave the web of life -  
he is merely a strand in it.  
Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."*

Chief Seattle 1854

## ASIAN NEIGHBOURS SEMINAR GANPATIPULE 28/12/94

Summary of a seminar hosted by the Australian Collective and including representatives from New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia and Fiji.

### Hong Kong (Alex Henshaw)

Hong Kong has some of the highest costs in the world. The cost of a Hotel suite is around US\$2,000 per night. Hong Kong has been funding their own programmes and are trying to be self supporting. They are currently running 5 programmes a week, with a collective numbering 25 - 30. They have translated two books - "The Ascent" and an introductory book into Chinese and have produced them as bound books. Australia provided an initial contribution of AU\$6,000 which was used to secure an ashram.

At the public programme in April 1994 600 people attended. The costs were (AUS):

Hotels	8,000
Venue Hire	1,500
Advertising	6,000
Literature, posters	2,000

Australia provided \$1,500 in cash, as well as assistance in terms of manpower.

The Hong Kong collective plan to publish intermediate and advanced books in Chinese. China has a population of 1 billion people. Shri Mataji has said to wait on China and that Sahaj will work out there at a high level (meaning political level).

For future tours assistance is needed mainly before public programmes for poster and preparation, not so much on the programme night. Small collectives do not have a lot of resources to host large numbers of visitors.

Many cities in Australia and other countries have large populations of Chinese and other Asian nationalities. There are many potential synergies for Sahaj between the home countries and the relocated communities. For example, Vietnam could be assisted by taking Sahaj to Vietnamese communities. The Chinese books produced in Hong Kong could be used in ex-patriate Chinese communities.

Hong Kong receive newsletters and audio tapes from Australia. They need financial assistance, and more videos.

### Japan (Bruno Descaves)

Japan's main requirement is financial assistance. In April 1994, their tour costs were \$9,000. They received US\$1,500 from Australia. Shri Mataji was not pleased about the lack of advertising. Estimated costs for 1995 for advertising are US\$5,000.

Asian countries have been sponsored largely by individuals. In Japan there are about 12 active Yogis. Japan has not received much support from visiting Yogis.

### Taiwan (Ifari Knoebel)

Taiwan could use more people to help, and encouraged Yogis to move to Taiwan to live.

The main tour expense is hotel fees. The total tour cost is around US\$12,000. Financial assistance is provided by Austria and America, but they would be happy to receive money from Australia, although Australia's priority should be Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand. The Taiwan collective numbers about 20.

Work is obtainable in Taiwan especially as language teachers. Taiwan is not recognised diplomatically under the One China Policy.

### Thailand (Janine Sreshthaputra)

The 1994 tour was financed by money provided from Switzerland and France, and individual donations. Costs were US\$5-6,000. Hotel costs are very cheap following special arrangements with the Indian manager of the hotel. Newspaper advertising is done. There are 12-15 active Yogis. Manpower assistance is required in the week before and after the public programme for poster and follow-up.

The main problem in Thailand is language - most people do not speak English. A book translation project into Thai will cost around \$400. Video sub-titles are expensive. Audio tapes arrive from Switzerland and Australia, although under the new system the cost of tape will rise to 1000 Swiss Francs which is too expensive. The videos of the 1994 Asian tour did not reach the Asian countries.

### Malaysia (Ng Wool Boon)

Tour costs are around US\$6,000. Shri Mataji did not stay in a hotel in 1994. Funds are raised from pledges, and expenses can be covered. They require posters from Australia.

### New Zealand (Brian Bell)

In the past New Zealand has drawn more than given, but they would like to change this.

### Discussion

Ways of providing video sub-titling were discussed. It has been looked at in Australia through SBS, however they only have English characters. It may be possible to buy computer programmes containing other characters. Hong Kong have used translated videos (German) and inserted Chinese translation over the German. Another option is to use "hold frame" to insert a translation.

All countries encourage Yogis to consider moving there to live. In Hong Kong it is usual to have a work visa before arriving although an employer can sponsor a work visa after arrival. For anyone with a degree, a one month course in Australia will provide qualifications for an English teacher's position. A British passport will allow work in Hong Kong. In Japan a one year working visa is available for people under 22. A Malaysian Yogi present (Stephan) can provide employment for software programmers in Malaysia. Wages are less than in Australia but so is the cost of living.

Lyndon Devalle spoke personally about his time in Asia, the great opportunities that exist there for Yogis, and encouraged people to give real consideration to a move there.

Vietnam requires official recognition of Sahaja Yoga and an official invitation is needed before Sahaj can go there openly. Many ex-patriate Vietnamese are returning to Vietnam. There is great potential among the ex-patriate communities, and in universities hosting Asian students, and it is possible that the home countries will take to Sahaj through their returned ex-patriates. Another example is the Philippines, where Sahaj has not started but many Philippines in other countries have had their realisation.

A Fijian lady present will be going to Fiji to start Sahaja Yoga there.

Yogis in Australia are asked to bandhan and shoe beat for the Asian countries. Our attention should follow Shri Mataji when as She tours each country.

# Heritage status takes a leap

By JAMES WOODFORD  
Environment Writer

Australia is set to receive up to four prestigious World Heritage listings this week, enhancing its strong standing in the environmental world.

The World Heritage Committee, meeting in Thailand, is expected to announce listings for Australia that will greatly lift our World Heritage estate. A World Heritage Listing is the most coveted international conservation status.

A new category of World Heritage - "Cultural Landscape" - has been developed and Uluru (Ayers Rock) may become only the second site in the world (after New Zealand's Tongariro National Park) to be given such a listing.

The 250,000 tourists who visit Uluru each year are already discouraged from climbing the monolith because this offends its traditional owners, the Anangu people. If a Cultural Landscape listing is announced, the pressure to dislodge climbers would increase.

A world heritage listing means that the Federal Government must protect the listed area from being damaged in any way. The listing can be revoked at any time by the International World Heritage Committee if the area's qualities are reduced or lost.

In 1983 the Federal Government won a protracted legal battle over the Franklin Dam, allowing it to stop a development in a world heritage area.

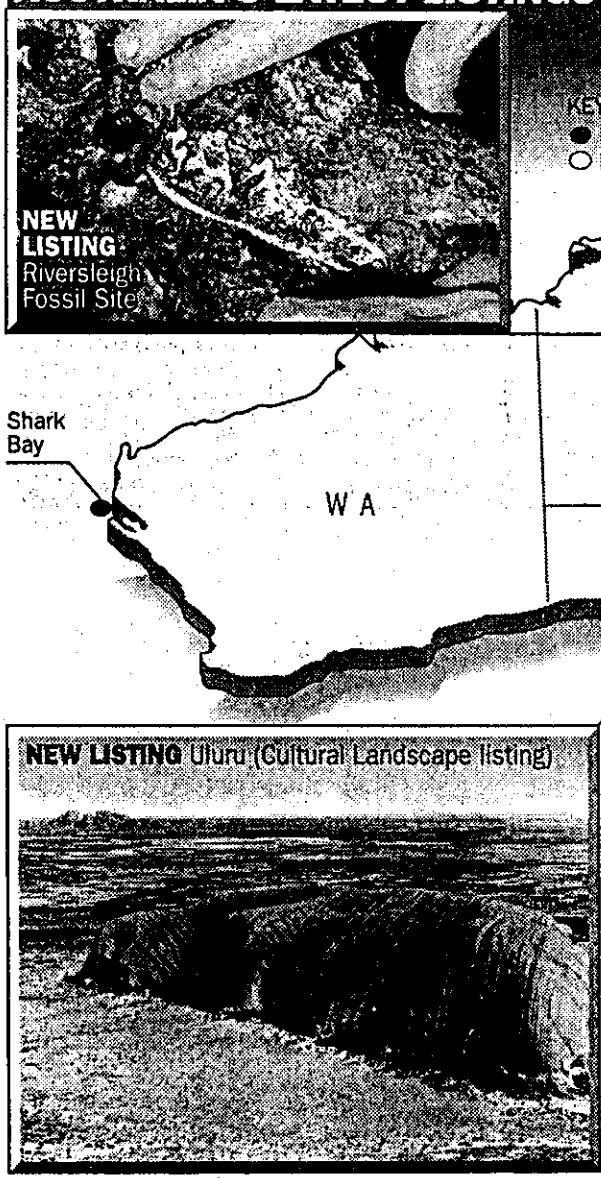
To qualify for a listing, a site must be of outstanding natural or cultural significance. Australia has 10 World Heritage areas at present, including Kakadu, the Great Barrier Reef and the huge wilderness areas in South-West Tasmania. Since their inscription on the heritage list, most of these have become highly favoured tourist destinations.

The four heritage announcements Australia may expect this week are:

- Uluru/Kata-Juta, already listed on the World Heritage register for its natural values, to be recognised as a Cultural Landscape;
- Major extension to the Central Eastern Rainforests of Australia World Heritage area;
- Riversleigh, in North-West

## AUSTRALIA'S LATEST LISTINGS

The Sydney Morning Herald MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1994



## FUTURE POSSIBLES

- ◆ Sydney Opera House
- ◆ Blue Mountains
- ◆ Tarkine Wilderness north-west Tasmania
- ◆ Kosciusko National Park
- ◆ Norfolk Island
- ◆ Port Arthur
- ◆ Lake Eyre



when it was almost entirely covered in wet forests," said Professor Mike Archer, from the School of Biological Sciences at the University of NSW.

"[From then] up to the time when the forests began to open up and dry country began to develop, right

up until when the deserts began to develop, 2 million years ago.

"Naracoorte gives a very good look at what Australia was like just prior to the arrival of humans."

"It's not only a distinctive and extraordinary history, it's also a resource for interpreting the con-

servation status of the living descendants of the creatures that are in these deposits."

The Federal Government is looking at other areas for future nomination. These include the Sydney Opera House, Kosciusko National Park and Norfolk Island.

Queensland, part of a new Australian Mammal Fossil Site; and Naracoorte (which contains fossils up to 200,000 years old) would confirm their international importance as two of the four most significant fossil sites in the world. "Riversleigh gives an exquisite look at what this country was like