



# Australian Sahaja Newsletter

Contributions:

19th Nov 1999

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## Sahaja Yoga Seminar Weekend

We wish to announce, and to invite everyone to a Seminar to be held over the weekend, **November 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>** at the National Country Property at Balmoral. This Seminar will provide us with an opportunity to promote discussions centred around the celebration of **Maha Shivartri Puja** and the forthcoming **Australian Tour**. The weekend will also provide an opportunity to enjoy a few days in each other's company.

It is hoped that as many people as possible can attend the Seminar to provide an auspicious beginning for the arrangements for Shri Mataji's visit. Everyone who wishes to contribute in any manner towards the Tour is invited to volunteer their services. All ideas and contributions are welcomed.

## Sahaja Yoga Seminar Weekend (cont.)

Topics for discussion include:

1. **Public Program**, progress with venue availability, community marketing, target marketing, mainstream media – print, radio, television, posterizing, handbilling, billboards, outdoor posterizing, direct mailing, yogi referrals, Internet site, press kit and a coordinated media strategy.
2. Arrangements for **Shri Mataji's accommodation** in Sydney and the Bowral/Mittagong area during her stay in Australia.
3. The promotion of the Tour will be based upon our community achievements, material will be prepared highlighting our achievements including: Radio program, Medical Research, Regional Programs, Shri Mataji's work towards universal understanding and peace, high school programs, artistic achievements - music, drama.

(continued inside)

4. Preparation's required for **Balmoral** to host Maha-Shivartri Puja: including preparatory work to the Puja Hall and cottage, cooking facilities, water supply, car park, on site waste water treatment, landscaping, hedges for privacy, accommodation for up to 1000 people.

Each member of our collective will need to be involved in some manner with the coming Tour, each of us should evaluate the manner of expression of our desire to manifest Shri Mataji's vision for mankind. Only through a dedicated and focussed individual and collective desire will the success of the coming Tour be assured. There maybe some costs involved in covering catering requirements for the weekend, but this will be kept to a minimum in order to facilitate as many people attending as possible.

Sincerely Avinash Nichkawde and Chris Kyriacou.

## FESTIVAL NEWS

### Newtown Festival

This festival was a resounding success, with around **650 people receiving their realisation**. Many young people received their realisation. Thousands of leaflets were distributed. Many people were curious about Sahaja Yoga and wanted to know when Shri Mataji would be coming.

There seemed also to be a greater level of awareness and respect for the place of the Divine, as many people who were really interested in learning about meditation said they would not take the experience that day because they had been or were intending to 'drink'. They seemed to understand more that it was not appropriate to mix the two.

All in all, there was a great eagerness to find out about Sahaja Yoga. There are lots more festivals coming up, and it really feels as if people are ready for their self-realisation. *If we are all ready too, then we will have the opportunity to give realisation to thousands over the next few months!*

Jai Shri Mataji!

### Next festival:

#### **Glebe Street Fair, this Sunday 21st November**

Place of Sahaj Yoga stall not confirmed at time of printing this check with Strathfield (ph 9747 2820) or Burwood (ph 9747 4835).

### **Lakshmi Puja**

All yogis are warmly invited to attend a Lakshmi Puja at Sandhya and Trevor Sandford's new home.

Saturday 20th November

3pm

22 Nyngan St  
Quakers Hill

Please let them know if you can come,  
ph 9837 8198.

### **A Musical Experience**

A chance to support local music!

#### **Western Sydney Sing**

#### **2001 Choirs Concert**

Bankstown RSL Club.

Tuesday 23rd November.

7:30pm

Music will include:

*Haida*

*Freedom is coming*

*Siva Hamba* (conducted by John Smiley)

Entry \$5 - All Welcome!

### **NOW AVAILABLE**

The new CD (recently released at Cabella) from the Sahaja Yoga Bhajan group in Perth.

A truly beautiful compilation of both soft & devotional, and lively joyous bhajans that compliment each other perfectly.

We are fortunate to be blessed with such talented musicians as Matthew on saxophone, Richard on rhythm, lead and bass guitars and Lorenzo on harmonium. The gift of their music combined with strong and tight percussion elements and lovely singing, brings such a diverse range of listening experiences within the one CD.

At times the music is hauntingly beautiful. (the introduction to Mauline Thotavile Daar, the Our Father, sung in Sanskrit with mystical harmonies), at other times spirited and lively, (Shri Jagadamba Ayi Re, Ganesha, Ganesha)

### **Mauli by Bhakti**



To add the perfect finishing touches Graham Browne and Guy Jeffries have lent us their considerable artistry to produce a truly remarkable CD cover.

**CONTACT Chris Dobbie to get your CD....\$20.00**

## **COUNTRY TOUR**

THE NEXT NORTHERN TOUR IS ON THE WEEKEND OF 27TH NOVEMBER,  
STARTING FRIDAY EVENING 26TH NOV, TO SATUDAY EVENING 27TH NOV.

### **PROGRAM**

FRIDAY - 26/11 - STAY OVERNIGHT AT MUSWELLBROOK

SATURDAY 27/11 - 11.00 AM TO 1.00 PM

PROGRAM AT ARMIDALE

HUGHES HOUSE MEETING ROOM

(Behind Kent House) 141 FAULKNER ST

3.00 PM TO 5.00 PM

PROGRAM AT TAMWORTH

THE BRITTEN ROOM - TAMWORTH COMMUNITY  
CENTRE, CNR OF PEEL AND DARLING STS.

IF YOU ARE iINTERESTING IN COMING ALONG -

CONTACT: SUE WILLIAMS (02) 9799-3418 OR

DAVID AT BURWOOD (02) 9747-4835

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### **WOODFORD FESTIVAL CANCELLED**

Due to a misunderstanding our application for a meditation site at the Woodford Folk Festival has been inadertantly cancelled. As there are no available sites at this late stage this means there will be no meditation tent at Woodford this year.

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### **Fundraiser**

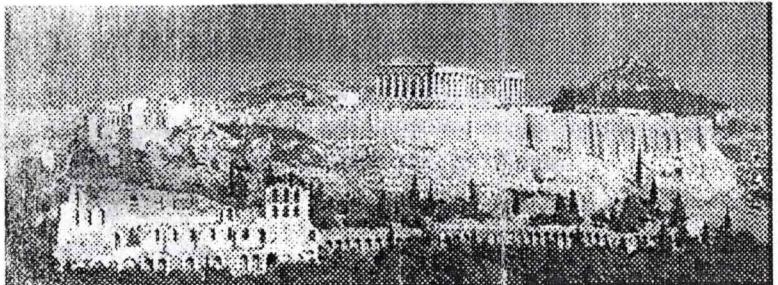
#### **For Shri Mataji's forthcoming Tour**

Baby-sitting rates have skyrocketed for people looking for someone to mind their kiddies on December 31st for the **Millenium Party**. People are willing to pay \$200 - \$300 to baby-sit their children while mum and dad party!

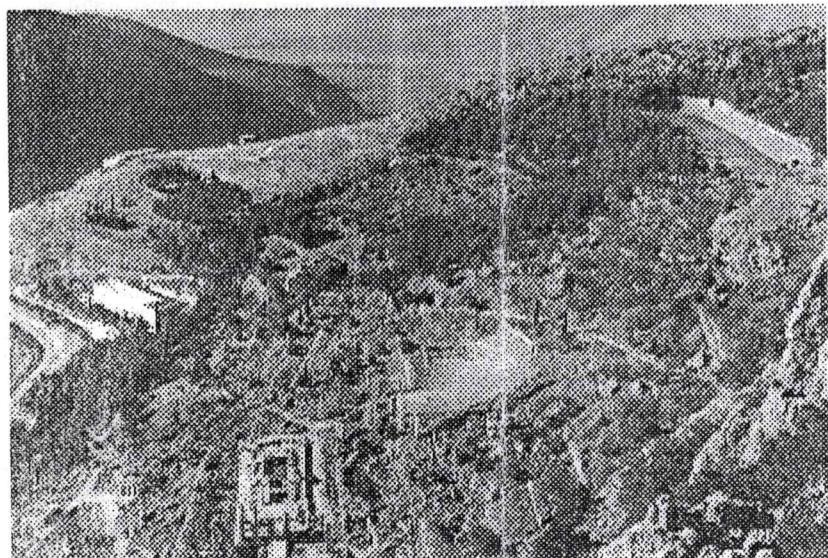
Our suggestion is to offer our services to look after the children, with a little party, sleep-over and pick-up at 12 noon the next day. While most people are only offering the standard baby-sitting service, we are offering a more extensive and fun service.

So if you can **make yourself available** that night and you like kids, it would be a good opportunity to contribute to Shri Mataji's Tour expenses, (and it could be fun for the carers also).

Please contact Carol Carlstrom, 9906 7190

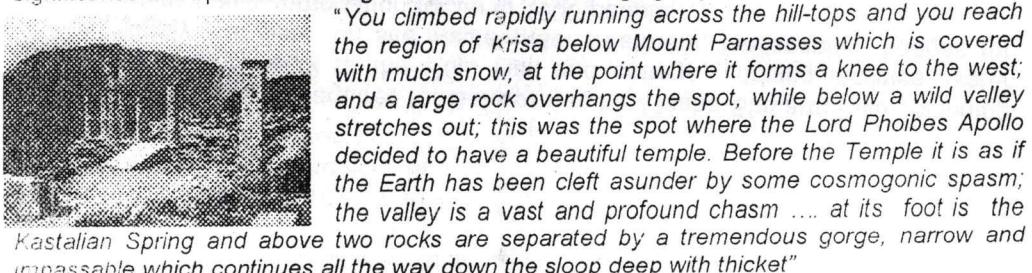


winding road that makes its way along the mountain range which runs through central Greece. Legend has recorded that Zeus wishing to find the centre of the Earth let loose two sacred eagles from the two ends of the earth, they met at Delphi which became the Manipur – the navel of the universe, the home to the *omphalos* or navel stone which has been venerated by pilgrims throughout the ages. Once more pilgrims from the enlightened nations of the Earth have come to visit the site of the ancient Oracle, and to pay homage to Shri Athena.



he first came to Delphi.

We arrived in Delphi and encountered a dramatic and vital landscape, which told of deep significance and spiritual meaning and was described long ago by Homer:



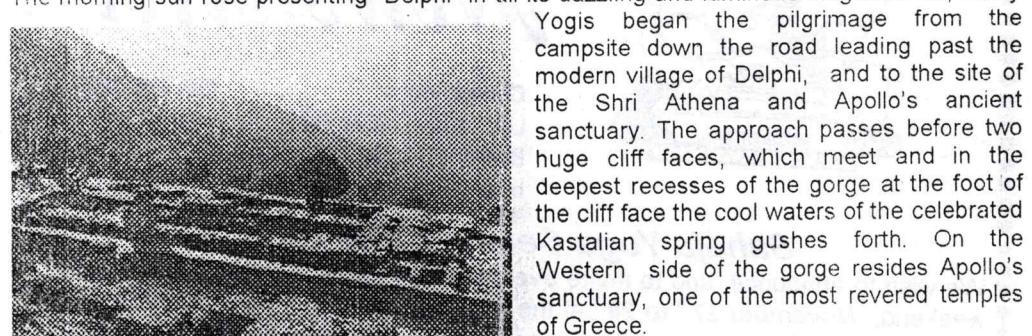
*"You climbed rapidly running across the hill-tops and you reach the region of Krixa below Mount Parnassus which is covered with much snow, at the point where it forms a knee to the west; and a large rock overhangs the spot, while below a wild valley stretches out; this was the spot where the Lord Phoibes Apollo decided to have a beautiful temple. Before the Temple it is as if the Earth has been cleft asunder by some cosmogonic spasm; the valley is a vast and profound chasm .... at its foot is the Kastalian Spring and above two rocks are separated by a tremendous gorge, narrow and impassable which continues all the way down the slope deep with thicket"*

temples of ancient Greece, listening to the strains of music played by the enlightened representatives of an exalted culture.

A remarkable evening ended with a combined Kiwali group drawn from representative from the hosting countries who demonstrated their expertise, skill and sensitivity to the spirit of the music. Within moments of the commencement of the performance the audiences rose to their feet and were dancing in celebration of the music, and our Guru, who was before us in the centre of the universe.

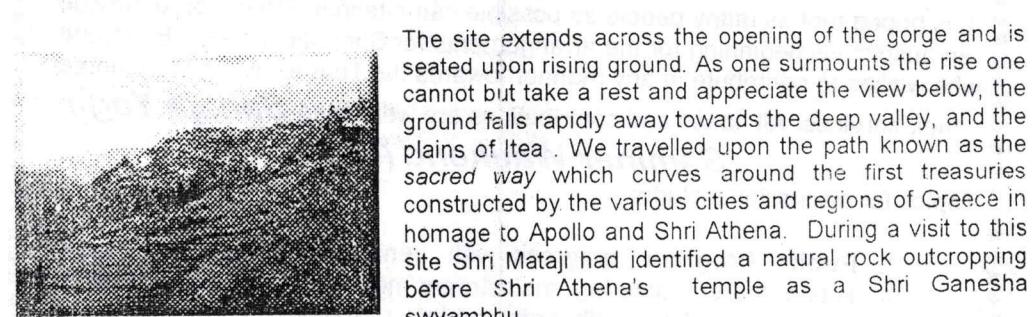
Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999

The morning sun rose presenting Delphi in all its dazzling and luminous magnificence, many

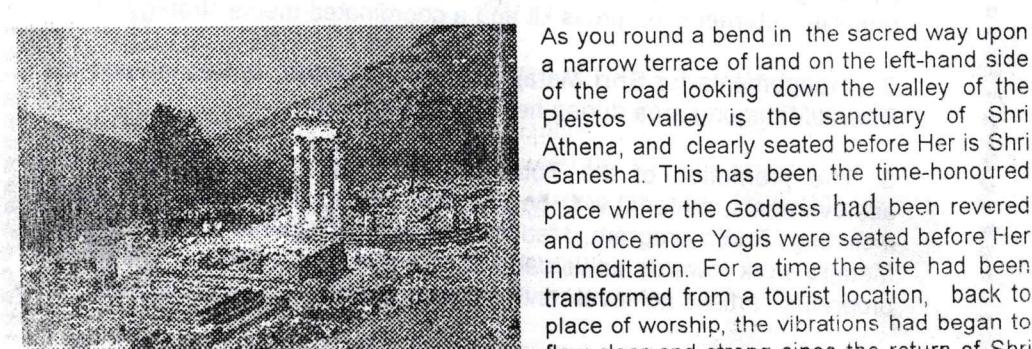


Yogis began the pilgrimage from the campsite down the road leading past the modern village of Delphi, and to the site of the Shri Athena and Apollo's ancient sanctuary. The approach passes before two huge cliff faces, which meet and in the deepest recesses of the gorge at the foot of the cliff face the cool waters of the celebrated Kastalian spring gushes forth. On the Western side of the gorge resides Apollo's sanctuary, one of the most revered temples of Greece.

The Pleistos river spreads out towards the coast, thick cypress pine forests cover the valley floor, its sides spread out green and silver with olive groves which merge with the plains of Itea which extend down to coast and meet the deep blue waters of the Aegean sea, clean and bright under the morning sun.



The site extends across the opening of the gorge and is seated upon rising ground. As one surmounts the rise one cannot but take a rest and appreciate the view below, the ground falls rapidly away towards the deep valley, and the plains of Itea. We travelled upon the path known as the *sacred way* which curves around the first treasures constructed by the various cities and regions of Greece in homage to Apollo and Shri Athena. During a visit to this site Shri Mataji had identified a natural rock outcropping before Shri Athena's temple as a Shri Ganesha swyambhu.



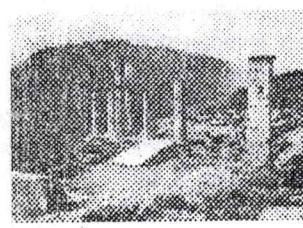
As you round a bend in the sacred way upon a narrow terrace of land on the left-hand side of the road looking down the valley of the Pleistos valley is the sanctuary of Shri Athena, and clearly seated before Her is Shri Ganesha. This has been the time-honoured place where the Goddess had been revered and once more Yogis were seated before Her in meditation. For a time the site had been transformed from a tourist location, back to place of worship, the vibrations had begun to flow clear and strong since the return of Shri

Athens to Delphi is four hours on the bus, as we travelled we watched the white line rushing past and all around are olive groves and cypress pines, and the rugged earth rising up. We travel upon a long and

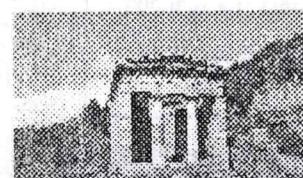
Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1999

The rain has fallen soft and gently upon the earth, our feet hardly touch the ground as we move towards the sounds of the evening's concert drifting across the camping ground, empty except for the Puja Pendal.

The number of hosting countries responsible for Diwali Puja meant that two nights of entertainment had been arranged to allow ample opportunity to present the different aspects of their cultures. One of the highlights of the first evening was a presentation of dance and music from the countries of Africa. Their performance was characterised by the infectious rhythms and unique harmonies which echo a deep-seated tradition uniting dance, beat, and music; their colourful costumes reflected the vivacious shades of the African landscape. It was a performance, which both enthralled, enchanted, and charmed the audience. Another feature artist of the night was a young violin soloist who demonstrated a command of his instrument which belied his youth.



The Sahaja Yogis of Greece had prepared a video presentation of the Delphic sanctuary and with commentary centred upon the mythology and significance of the site. It was no easy task to embrace the significance or magnitude of the site at Delphi and Greek civilisation, which are inexorably bound. Delphi had acquired world fame and power of a kind unparalleled in the ancient world, not only Greek but monarchs throughout the inhabited world sent envoys to consult the oracle and express their gratitude to the Gods through sacred offerings to the temples of Shri Athena and Apollo.



During a visit to the site Shri Mataji confirmed this as the site of the Manipur, the navel of the universe and identified a natural rock formation before the feet of Shri Athena's temple as a Shri Ganesha swyambhu which is found below the temple to Apollo, who is also Shri Vishnu.



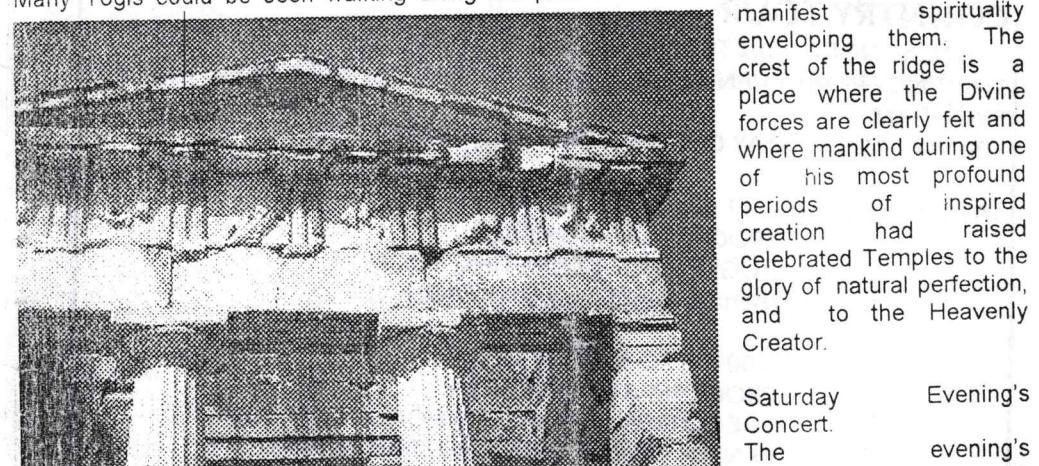
The Delphic oracle is situated on a narrow terrace of land on the left-hand side of the road looking down the valley of the Pleistos river. Since antiquity this has been the place where the Goddess has been worshipped, the remains of many temples and sanctuaries have survived within the enclosure and are amongst the finest examples of ancient Greek architecture. They remain as a tribute to the holiness of the site. Having set a classical theme a traditional Greek orchestra then performed

a number of Bhajans leading to traditional Greek music played upon the time-honoured bouzouki and clarinet. Shri Mataji was later to describe this as one of highlights of the evening. The audience demonstrated their approval as the first few, almost casual notes, of Zorbas theme were struck; there was the pleasure of the gentle interplay between the instruments, and keen anticipation of the enchanting rhythms to come, which are so representative of this music, and the culture it reflects.

Shri Mataji was later to say that this style of music was a blend between Indian and Western music and is still played in parts of India. It seems most fitting to be sitting surrounded by the

Athena to Her ancient abode.

Many Yogis could be seen walking along the path of the sacred way in reverence to the manifest spirituality enveloping them. The crest of the ridge is a place where the Divine forces are clearly felt and where mankind during one of his most profound periods of inspired creation had raised



celebrated Temples to the glory of natural perfection, and to the Heavenly Creator.

Saturday Evening's Concert.

The evening's entertainment began with

the shimmering lights of the traditional Diwali fireworks celebration illuminating the roof of Puja pendal. The audience returning to their seats to enjoy a concert of variety, harmonious melody which was to communicate a profound understanding of the spirit of Diwali. A combined European Opera company performed a superb selection of Vivaldi which was augmented by an Opera written and composed by the Yogis of France. The opera recounted the tale of a young noble man torn between the two sides of his nature, and the interplay between the forces of light and darkness. It was a rousing performance that was highlighted by an inspiring original score written by a Parisian Yogi. The mood of the evening then moved to Indian Classical with an entrancing tabla solo which sought to invoke the moods and sounds of the seasons, and to describe the sounds invoke by the names of the Deities.

A play of epic proportions produced by the French was then presented which incorporated performances by the Yuva Shakti, Swiss and African Yogis. The theme centred around the lives of the great realised souls who had brought the light of spirituality to the world, Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri and underscored the contributions they made to the course of human history. Shri Mataji was to later commend the performance expressing Her appreciation of the great words and deeds of these enlightened beings. The play ended with inspiring contemporary music rendered by the Yogis of France who sang about the path of individual and collective evolution.

By popular appeal the African Yogis again took the stage to once more unite song, music and dance in joyful praise of Our creator. The Swiss followed with a Classical performance from the Sahaja Orchestra who concluded the evening's entertainment with dramatic performance.

Shri Mataji thanked all the performers, especially praising the play and the inspirational lives they had described. She said that a divine life is thing that lives forever, inspiring generations to come. She added that it was good that we had developed a natural appreciation for Sahaja culture and the great souls who had sought to liberate mankind from his lifeless existence and is dislocation from the Divine will: for a time all our spirits had been set free. Now we were to look forward to a new day and a special Puja to be held within this sacred place