

Motto:
Atmano mokshartham
jagad hitaya cha
 (For one's own liberation
 and for the welfare of the world)



REACH
 Monthly Bulletin of
 The Vedanta Centre of Sydney
 and its various branches

True Knowledge

“What is knowledge? And what is the nature of this ego? 'God alone is the Doer, and none else' - that is knowledge. I am not the doer; I am a mere instrument in His hand. Therefore I say: 'O Mother, Thou art the Operator and I am the machine. Thou art the Indweller and I am the house. Thou art the Driver and I am the carriage. I move as Thou movest me. I do as Thou makest me do. I speak as Thou makest me speak. Not I, not I, but Thou, but Thou'.”

“Brahman is beyond vidyā and avidyā, knowledge and ignorance. It is beyond maya, the illusion of duality.”

“The world consists of the illusory duality of knowledge and ignorance. It contains knowledge and devotion, and also attachment to 'lust and greed'; righteousness and unrighteousness; good and evil. But Brahman is unattached to these. Good and evil apply to the jiva, the individual soul, as do righteousness and unrighteousness; but Brahman is not at all affected by them.”

- - - Sri Ramakrishna.

Surrender Leads to Knowledge

“When one realizes God, He grants knowledge and illumination from within; one knows it oneself. Continue to pray without losing heart. Everything will happen in time. If one surrenders himself totally at his feet, the Master will see that everything is set right.”

“The goal of life is to realize God and to be always immersed in thought in Him.”

“Everything depends on the mind. Nothing can be achieved without



**Swami Vivekananda, Sri Ramakrishna
and Sri Sarada Devi**

Sayings and Teachings

purity of mind. It is said, "The aspirant may have received the grace of the *guru*, the Lord and the Vaishnavas; but he comes to grief without the grace of 'one' ". That 'one' is the mind. The mind of the aspirant should be gracious to him.”

“The mind is everything. It is in the mind alone that one feels pure and impure. A man, first of all, must make his own mind guilty and then alone can he see another man's guilt.”

- - - Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi.

Man making education

“The ideal of all education, all training, should be this man-making. But, instead of that, we are always trying to polish up the outside. What use is there in polishing up the outside when there is no inside? The end and aim of all training is to make the man grow. The man who influences, who throws his magic, as it were, upon his fellow-beings, is a dynamo of power, and when that man is ready, he can do anything and everything he likes; that personality put upon anything will make it work.”

“We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet.”

- - - Swami Vivekananda.

FORTHCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Function	Centre	Date
Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda	Adelaide	Sunday, 3 February 2013
	Melbourne	Saturday, 9 February 2013
	Perth & Sydney	Sunday, 3 February 2013
	Auckland, NZ	Sunday, 3 February 2013
Maha Shiva-Ratri	Sydney	Sunday, 10 March 2013
Birth Anniversary of Sri Ramakrishna	Brisbane	Saturday, 9 March 2013
	Melbourne	Saturday, 16 March 2013
	Perth	Wednesday, 13 March 2013
	Sydney	Wednesday, 13 March 2013
	Auckland, NZ	Saturday, 16 March 2013
Sri Chaitanya Jayanti	Sydney	Wednesday, 27 March 2013
Ramanavami	Sydney	Friday, 19 April 2013
Sri Shankaracharya	Sydney	Thursday 26 April 2013
Buddha Purnima	Sydney	Saturday, 25 May 2013

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Adelaide Centre— inauguration at the Dulwich Community Centre in 2006 and public lecture.

Monthly activities:

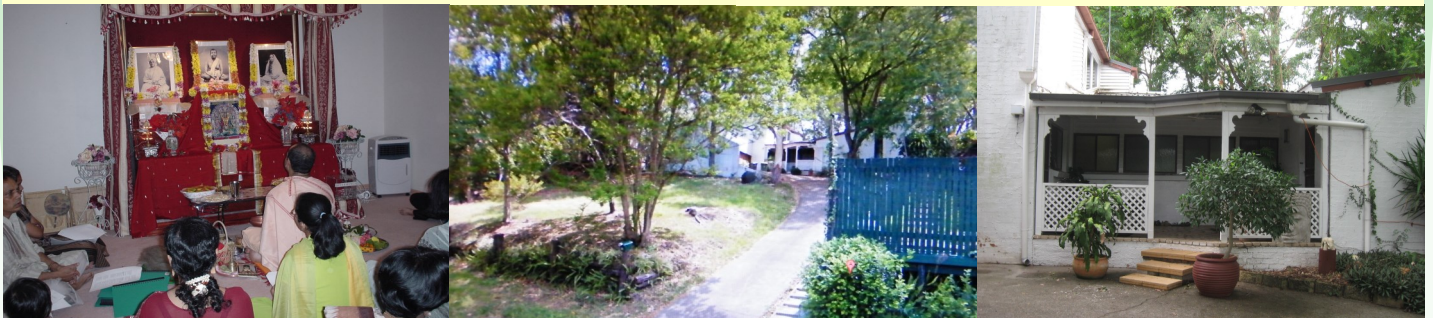
a) The 'reading from *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*' including discussion on relevant points was conducted on Saturday, the 26th of January at 2:30 p.m. at 77 Marion Road, Ascot Park, SA 5043.

Celebration:

a) A prayer meeting was held to celebrate the birth

anniversary of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi on Sunday, the 13th of January 2013 at 10 a.m. at 33 Woodhouse Crescent, Wattle Park SA 5066. It included chanting, *bhajans*, reading from the Gospel of the Holy Mother and *pushpanjali*.

Contact persons: Dr. R. Sharma 08- 8431 9775 or
Mrs. P. Iswaran 08-8379 5336.



Brisbane Centre— Shrine, View from road and entrance of the building.

Daily activities:

Morning worship, evening *ārati*, *bhajans*, and readings from *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* are the regular activities of the Centre at 181 Burbong Street, Chapel Hill, QLD 4073, A resident volunteer looks after the day-to-day activities at the Centre.

Monthly Activities:

The following were the monthly activities held:

a) **Scripture** classes at the Centre on the 26th and 27th of January 2013.

b) **Prayer meetings** on Thursday, the 3rd of January at a devotee's house in Deception Bay, QLD.

c) **Group Discussion** on 28th of January at a devotees house in Sunnybank Hills, QLD.

d) A **class** on Dakshinamurti Stotram on Wednesday, the 2nd of January 2013 at a devotee's house in Springfield, QLD.

Celebration:

The Kalpataru day and the birth anniversary of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi were observed at the Indooroopilly Senior Citizens' Club Hall on the 1st of January 2013. Bhajans were sung by devotees and Swami Atmeshananda delivered a talk on the significance of Sri Ramakrishna's becoming the Kalpataru. Mrs. Vickey Sundaram and Miss Debapama Basu spoke on the life and teachings of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi. Devotees participated in the formal worship.

(Contact person: Dr. V. Reddy 07-3720 0228)



Canberra Centre— Inauguration session at Majura Community Hall in 2004.

Swami Sridharananda conducted a class on the *Bhagavad-Gītā* on Sunday the 20th of January 2013 at the Belconnen Community Meeting Room 2 Chandler Street in Canberra. Contact person: Mr. J. Venkataraman, Secretary - 02-6258 7612.



Melbourne Centre— Shrine, the main building and a panoramic view from the Centre

Daily Activities:

Vesper service is held daily in the Centre at **5-7 Angus Avenue, Ringwood, Vic 3135** from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. It includes set hymns, scriptural readings, meditation and occasional devotional singing.

The **bookstall** makes available literature on Ramakrishna-Vivekananda, Vedanta philosophy, and other spiritual topics in print, audio, and visual media throughout the period.

Weekly/Monthly Activities:

a) Swami Sridharananda delivered monthly **discourses** on the *Bhagavad-Gitā* on Thursday, the 10th of January and Friday, the 11th of January from 7:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at Monash University Clayton Campus of Law, Wellington Road (L. Theatre L4). The recordings of these discourses are available in Audio, Video and MP3 formats.

b) **Group studies** through viewing of (i) the *Mundaka Upanishad* lecture series video was held on every Sunday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and (ii) the *Yoga Sutras of Patanjali* lecture series video was held on every Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (iii) The *Bhagavad-Gitā* study group meets on alternate Sundays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Celebration:

a) **Kalpataru day** was observed on 1st of January 2013.



b) The birth anniversary of Holy Mother Sri Sarada devi was celebrated on 12th of January 2013 from 8:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. An elaborated worship was offered on the occasion amidst singing of *bhajans*. Swami Sridharananda gave a talk on the life and teachings of Holy Mother. Swami Chandrashekharananda visited the Centre from 11th to 13 of January and officiated the worship.

Contact persons: Mr. Suresh Ravinutala, Secretary, on 03-9803 6154 or Mr. Mohana Krishnan on 03-9801 6174.



Perth Centre— Shrine, the main building and the occasion of its' inauguration in 2008.

Daily Activities:

The Centre located at **51 Golf View Street, Yokine W.A. 6060** holds vesper service daily at 7 p.m. with *ārati*, readings from *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* and meditation. The Centre maintains a small bookstall and a library.

Monthly Activities:

The following were the monthly activities held:

a) Swami Sridharananda visited the Centre from 16th to 19th of January and conducted discourses on *Bhagavad Gitā*.

b) Monthly *satsang* on Sunday, the 6th of January from 11 a.m.

which included the singing of *bhajans* and readings from *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* and other inspiring books.

c) A **Revision** session through playing audio recording on *Bhagavat Gita* talks delivered in the previous month.

Celebrations:

a) The birth anniversary of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi was observed on 4th of January. The highlight of the celebration at the Sydney Centre and the talk given by Swami Sridharananda was relayed and played at the Centre.

Contact persons: Mr. H. Mukhopadhyay, Secretary - 0411 478 244, Mr. P. Parekh, Asstt. Secretary - 0430 511 699.



Sydney Centre— Shrine, Main building views from North East and south East

Daily Activities:

Daily worship including chanting and meditation is held every morning from 7 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at the Centre. The vesper service is held in the evening from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. including devotional singing, reading from *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* and meditation.

Counselling, interviews and discussions with devotees are also conducted on a daily basis. The library is available to devotees for reference and research. The Centre maintains a **bookstall** which has a range of books on the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda, Vedanta, Yoga, and other spiritual literature. Devotional songs, discourses on the *Bhagavad Gitā*, the *Yoga Sutras of Patanjali*, *Mundaka Upanisad*, and other topics are also available in various media.

Weekly/ Monthly Activities:

The Centre conducted the following activities in Sydney:

a) Swami Sridharananda conducted **classes** on the *Bhagavad-Gitā* every Sunday morning from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Centre.

b) **Classes** on *Bhagavad Gitā* were also conducted by Swami Sridharananda at 1/11 Boyle Street, Balgowlah, NSW 2093 **Manly Beach** on Tuesdays from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

c) Some devotees availed **spiritual counselling** and guidance. The Swamis also visited the homes of devotees when required.

d) **Meditation** sessions were held at the Centre on Sundays from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

e) **Sanskrit language** classes were held on Saturdays and Sundays for various levels of adult students.

f) **Bala Sangha** Classes on **moral and spiritual lessons and drama and movement** were conducted for children every Saturday from 4:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. at the Centre during the academic term.

g) *Rāmanām Sankirtana* was sung on 8th and 22nd January the *Ekadashi* days after the vesper service.

h) A **class** for ladies on *Meditation and Spiritual Life* was conducted on selected Mondays twice a month from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Celebrations:

a) The **Kalpataru** day was observed on the 1st of January 2013.

b) The **birth anniversary of Holy Mother** Sri Sarada Devi was observed on Friday, the 4th of January 2013. Amidst chanting of mantras and bhajans a special worship was offered to the Holy Mother. Swami Sridharananda gave a



Birth Anniversary of Holy Mother

talk on the life and teachings of the Holy Mother after evening *ārati*.

c) The **birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda** according to the Gregorian Calendar was observed by offering *bhajans* and violin recital by a group of young artists on 12th of January 2013.

Overseas Visit:

Swami Sridharananda visited New Zealand from the 23rd to the 31st of January 2013.

Obituary:

We are sorry to inform you that Mr. Dilip Mohanty, a member of our Management Committee passed away on Saturday, the 19th of January 2013. Mr. Mahanty was a very long time devotee of our centre and helped the organisation in many ways during all these years. He is survived by his wife, daughter and two grandchildren. We pray to Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother and Swamiji to grant strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.



Auckland, NZ Centre— Main building and inaugural sessions of the Centre on 29 and 30 Nov. 2008.

Daily activities:

A vesper service is held daily from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Centre at 27 Arawa Street, New Lynn, Auckland. It includes the singing of hymns and readings from the *Sri Ramakrishna The Great Master* followed by meditation.

Monthly and annual activities:

a) On Sunday the 13th of January a *satsang* was held which included singing of *bhajans*, discourse on the *Ramayana*, reading and discussion on the life of Swami Premananda and meditation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

b) On the last Sunday the 27th of January the second *satsang* was conducted from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event consisted of *bhajans*, viewing of recorded lecture from the 3rd Chapter of Bhagavad Gita by Swami Sridharananda followed by meditation, *ārati* and Prasad distribution.

c) Swami Sridharananda conducted classes on *Bhagavad Gita* from 24th, to 26th of January from 7:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. and on 27th of January from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Celebrations:

a) **Kalpataru Day** was celebrated on 1st January 2013. As usual the program started at 11 a.m. with *bhajans*. Devotees talked about the significance of **Kalpataru Day, Life and teachings of Sri Ramakrishna. The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna** was read on the day. The programme ended after *ārati* with Prasad distribution at 1 p.m.

b) The **Birth Anniversary of Holy Mother** was celebrated on 4th of January 2013. The program started at 8 p.m. after vesper service and ended at 9 p.m. with Prasad distribution. Devotees talked about the life and message of the Holy mother and the Divine aspect of holy mother by comparing her with goddesses **Saraswati, Annapurna and Meenakshi**.

Photo Feature :

The Vedanta Centre of Sydney

The Construction of the Vivekananda Memorial Multi-Purpose Community Facility at 2 Stewart Street, Ermington 2115.

We would earnestly request to generous people not to miss this opportunity to get actively involve in this noble venture. Any contribution towards the construction of this institution will be thankfully accepted and acknowledged.

