



REACH

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

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

Vedanta Centre of Sydney, 2 Stewart Street, Ermington, NSW 2115, Australia.

E-mails: vedasydney@vedantasydney.org, vedasydney@gmail.com; Website: www.vedantasydney.org;

Online bookstore: www.spiritualbookstore.org.au, www.spiritualbookstore.com.au

Phone: (02) 8197 7351; Fax: (+612) 8197 7352.



Sydney Centre

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) 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.

f) The **Viveka Study Group** meetings were held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Sundays for youth.

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

h) **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.

i) Classes on **moral and spiritual lessons** were conducted for children at Eastwood Public School on Wednesdays from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. during the academic term.

j) **English language tutorial** was provided to children on Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. during the school terms.

k) *Rāmanām Sankirtana* was sung on the *Ekadashi* days after the vesper service.

Celebrations:

Sri Krishna Janmastami was celebrated on 28th of August with formal worship and singing of *bhajans*.

Visiting monastic:

a) Swamis Tyagananda, Sarvapriyananda and Baneshananda arrived at the Centre on 16th, 24th and 25th of August respectively. Swami Tyagananda visited Canberra on 23rd of August and then all the Swamis visited New Zealand from 25th of August 2013 onwards. Seminars were conducted on 26th, 31st August and 1st of September 2013 in Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland respectively.

FORTHCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Seminars on the 150th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Swami Vivekananda	Adelaide	Friday, 20 September 2013
	Brisbane	Friday, 6 September 2013
	Melbourne	Thur&Sat.day, 12 & 14 Sept. 2013
	Perth	Sunday, 22 September 2013
	Sydney	Monday, 16 September 2013
	Townsville	Sat. & Sunday, 7 & 8 Sept. 2013
Play: Oneness—Voice Without Form	Brisbane	Sunday, 22 September 2013
	Sydney	Tues. & Wed. 17, 18 Sept. 2013
	Sydney	Saturday, 12 October 2013
Durga Puja	Sydney	Saturday, 12 October 2013



Adelaide Centre



Brisbane Centre



Canberra Centre



Melbourne Centre

Adelaide Centre

Monthly activities:

a) Swami Chandrashekharananda visited Adelaide from 8th to 10th of August 2013 and delivered discourses on the *Narada Bhakti Sutra* (*The Aphorisms of Narada on Devotion*) at the Dulwich Community Centre, 14 Union Street, Dulwich SA 5065. A dedicated group of devotees attended his talks which have also been recorded. Contact persons: Dr. Raman Sharma 08-8431 9775 & Mrs. Pathma Iswaran 08-8379 5336. E-mail: vedanta.adelaide@gmail.com.

b) The reading from *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* including discussion on relevant points was conducted on Sunday, the 4th of August at 33 Woodhouse Crescent, Wattle Park, SA 5066 and on the 31st of August at 3:00 p.m. at 777 Marion Road, Ascot Park, SA 5043.

Brisbane Centre

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. Contact person: Dr. V. Reddy 07-3720 0228. E-mail: vedantabrisbane@gmail.com.

Canberra Centre

Monthly Activities:

Seminar: On the 23rd of August, the Canberra Chapter in conjunction with the Australian National University (ANU) held a free public lecture and forum to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Titled "Bridging East and West - From Individuals to Global Organisations", the lectures focussed on the teachings of Swami Vivekananda with a special emphasis on the universal teachings that bridged the gap between the East and West, and humanistic world economic development. The keynote speaker was Swami Tyagananda, and there were lectures by several other noted academic staff from ANU. The event was well attended by both the general public as well as university staff/students. Contact persons: Mr. J. Venkataraman, Secretary - 02 6258 7612. E-mail: jaishankar_venkataraman@gmail.com.

Melbourne 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. Contact persons: Mr. Suresh Ravinutala, Secretary, on 03-9803 6154 or Mr. Mohana Krishnan on 03-9801 6174. E-mail: vedanta.melb@gmail.com.

The bookstall holds literature on Ramakrishna-Vivekananda, Vedanta philosophy, and other spiritual topics in print, audio, and visual media

throughout the period.

Weekly/Monthly Activities:

a) Swami Chandrashekharananda visited the Centre from 12th to 24th of August and conducted classes on *Kenopanishad* after the daily vesper service. He also conducted monthly classes on *Bhagavad-Gītā* from 15th to 17th of August and sang *Shyama-nama Sankirtana* on 21st of August 2013.

b) Regular monthly *satsanga* (prayer meetings) was held on the first Sunday of every month. The program includes readings from *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* and other books and discussions there on, followed by *bhajans* and *ārati*.

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

Celebration:

a) Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated on 24th of August 2013.

Perth Centre

Daily Activities:

The Centre located at 51 Golf View Street, Yokine W.A. 6060 holds vesper service daily at 7 p.m. with āratī, readings from *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* and meditation. The Centre maintains a small bookstall and a library. Contact persons: Mr. H. Mukhopadhyay, Secretary - 0411 478 244, Mr. Parthiv Parekh, Asstt. Secretary - 0430 511 699. E-mail: vedantaperth@gmail.com.

Monthly Activities:

The following were the monthly activities held:

- Monthly *satsangs* including the singing of *bhajans* and readings from *The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna* and other inspiring books were conducted on Sunday, the 4th of August from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.
- A Revision session through playing audio recording on Bhagavat Gita talks delivered in the previous month.

Auckland Centre

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. Contact person: Mr. Monnay Kumar, Secretary +64 9 21675 134. E-mail: monnay@ihug.co.nz.

Monthly and annual activities:

- On Sunday the 11th of August a *satsanga* was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. which included singing of *bhajans*, discourse on the *Ramayana*, reading and discussion on the life of Swami Premananda and meditation.
- On the last Sunday the 25th of August the second *satsanga* was conducted from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Programme consisted of *bhajans*, reading and discussion on *Srimad-bhagavad Gītā*, reading from *the Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna*, *Life of Holy Mother*, *Complete works of Swami Vivekananda* followed by meditation, āratī and *prasād* distribution.
- On the 31st of August, Swami Baneshananda of Germany, Swami Tyagananada of Boston, Swami Sarvapriyananda of Belur Math and Swami Atmeshananda of Sydney centre arrived in Auckland to participate in Swamiji's 150th birth anniversary celebrations. A *satsanga* was held at the Ashram in the evening on that day. Swami Atmeshananda sang *bhajans*. The other three swamis gave informal talks on spiritual life and Sri Ramakrishna after the āratī.

“The gross body is the instrument made out of Akasha, for the manifestation of Prana in gross forms, as muscular motion or walking, sitting, talking and so forth. That fine body is also made of Akasha, a very fine form of Akasha, for the manifestation of the same Prana in the finer form of thought. So, first there is this gross body. Beyond that is this fine body and beyond that is the Jiva, the real man. Just as the nails can be pared off many times and yet are still part of our bodies, not different, so is our gross body related to the fine. **It is not that a man has a fine and also a gross body; it is the one body only, the part which endures longer is the fine body and that which dissolves sooner is the gross.** Just as I can cut this nail any number of times, so, millions of times I can shed this gross body, but the fine body will remain. According to the dualists, this Jiva or the real man is very fine, minute.

So far we see that man is a being, who has first a gross body which dissolves very quickly, then a fine body which remains through aeons and then a Jiva. This Jiva, according to the Vedanta philosophy, is eternal, just as God is eternal. Nature is also eternal, but changefully eternal. The material of nature--Prana and Akasha--is eternal, but it is changing into different forms eternally. But the Jiva is not manufactured either of Akasha or Prana; it is immaterial and, therefore, will remain for ever. It is not the result of any combination of Prana and Akasha and whatever is not the result of combination, will never be destroyed, because destruction is going back to causes. The gross body is a compound of Akasha and Prana and, therefore, will be decomposed. The fine body will also be decomposed, after a long time, but the Jiva is simple and will never be destroyed.”

- - - Swami Vivekananda

Please visit belurmath.org for news and activities related to the 150th birth anniversary celebration. Other websites:

<http://www.rkmdelhi.org/>
<http://rkmath.org/>
<http://vivekanandahouse.org/>
<http://shashwatabharata.in/>

Welcome

We welcome you all to the Ramakrishna - Vedanta Movement and invite you to attend our programmes and actively participate in the propagation of the Universal message of Vedanta as epitomized in the lives of Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi, and Swami Vivekananda.