



Amma Tasmania Newsletter

May – June 2008

"Do your actions in the world, without forgetting that your final goal in life is to break out of all bondage and limitations. Always remember that you have a higher goal to attain. Simply do what needs to be done; but at the same time, don't miss the opportunities you come across to perform unselfish actions. You will then gradually gain mental purity and devotion. As you proceed with diligence, you will attain more clarity of mind and a deeper understanding. This will finally lead you to the state of perfection, the state of Self-realization." – Amma

Aum Amriteshwaryai Namaha

Amma's 2008 Australian Tour

Once again we have been blessed to have Amma visit Australia. It was a beautiful tour and as always it is difficult to come down to Earth afterwards! Amma spent 5 days at the Sandown Racecourse venue: two days of public programs and 3 days on the retreat. I know a highlight for many was seeing Amma dance to the uplifting Mata Rani Ki Jai bhajan at the end of the Monday morning program! For an account of this experience go to: <http://blogs.amritapuri.org/701/mata-rani-down-under/> Sandown was a great venue with a huge hall and lots of room for everyone. Another memorable occasion was the Saturday morning meditation when everyone had just settled in to their "Ma" and "Oms" when we heard the vrrrrm of race cars going round the track! Surprisingly this didn't seem to bother anyone but was simply a source of amusement, especially when Amma came out at the end of the morning program to watch for a minute before going to Her room. Again there is an account of this experience at: <http://blogs.amritapuri.org/700/racing-along-the-razors-edge/>

But the ultimate highlight of the Melbourne retreat for some Tassie devotees was the opportunity to do the Pada Puja on the Monday night which Tapasya, Peter and Arathi from Hobart and Janet and Geraldine from Devonport participated in. Robyn from Hobart and Ros from Devonport also participated in Arati ceremonies which is always such a special experience. Much heartfelt love and thanks goes out to our State leader Pavitra for creating these beautiful opportunities for us. I know some of us Hobart devotees have fallen in love with our northern sisters from Devonport who were just so full of fun and warmth that we're looking forward to seeing them again!

Amma spent one day in Brisbane and then went on to the Gold Coast for a three day retreat. The Gold Coast retreat is always a special one. Spending three days in Amma's presence in that beautiful beach setting is just heaven. And there were some beautiful

question and answers during the outside meditation session on the Saturday night. Here is one account of a question asked of Amma during this session by a devotee called Sakshi:

During the Gold Coast Retreat, Amma held a question-and-answer session with all of the devotees. Towards the end of the session, many people were still raising their hands. For the last question, Amma pointed to a man standing way in the back of the crowd. When he took the microphone, he humbly asked, "Amma, I have seen so many spiritual masters. Can you please answer the question I have sought from all of them: How can I know—not believe—but know that God exists?"

Hearing his question, Amma laughed and said, "You yourself are the proof, because you are God." Amma then explained that to deny God's existence is like using one's tongue to deny the existence of the tongue. Amma then called the man to her. When he approached, she said, "Open your heart and love like a child. Then you will know God." Hearing this, he leaned forward and laid his head on her lap. —Sakshi

This simple message, "Open your heart and love like a child", seems to embody everything Amma is and stands for, and is Her succinct way of showing us how to know God.

Amma's final stop on the tour was the Sydney program where there were two full days of public programs. It seems that having an inner city venue paid off as the crowds in Sydney were large.

For photos of each of the tour cities and for other devotees' accounts of the tour go to www.ammaaustralia.rog.au or www.amritapuri.org.

Swami Shantamrita's Australian Tour – August 2008

It has recently been announced that Amma is sending one of her disciples, Bramachari Shantamrita, to tour Australia in August 2008. Br Shantamrita will spend some time at the Australian Ashram in Melbourne and will also tour other states. Br Shantamrita will be conducting Pujas and Homas while touring, and may also give talks.

At this stage it looks like Br Shantamrita will come to Hobart in August, however the details are yet to be confirmed. It will be wonderful to have him in Hobart - his talks are well loved!

We will need to raise some money to bring Br Shantamrita to Tasmania so if anyone has any fundraising ideas or would like to offer to volunteer in any way, that would be much appreciated. Please contact Arathi 62487052 or email hobart@ammaaustralia.org.au.

Cadbury's chocolate Fundraising

We are currently starting to do some fundraising with Cadbury's chocolates. If you are interested in taking a box of mixed chocolates and lollies to sell at your workplace, school or organization, please contact Arathi on 62487052 or email hobart@ammaaustralia.org.au

An Ashram for Sydney

It seems that with Amma's grace Australia may establish a second ashram in Sydney. Here is an excerpt from the Sydney newsletter on this matter:

"For the first time this year Amma has asked her Sydney children to look for a property to be used as an ashram. Amma would like us to look for one to two acres of land about 30 minutes from the city. The challenge of finding a suitable site lies ahead. However, if it is Amma's will then our efforts will bear fruit. If you would like to contribute in any way please get in touch, or attend our satsangs and fundraising dinners. If you would like to discuss your involvement in this project please contact Dayal on 9590 7935 or 0425 366807."

Hobart Satsang

May

17th May, Saturday 5pm - 9pm: light dinner followed by Satsang at 6pm. Venue: Seven Mile Beach. Please bring a plate of food to share. For details contact Arathi on 62487052 or email hobart@ammaaustralia.org.au

June

15th June, Sunday 3pm: Satsang at Supriya and Luke's. Venue: Glenorchy. For details call 62725561 or email hobart@ammaaustralia.org.au

Devonport Satsang

The monthly Devonport satsangs will recommence soon. For details, contact Pavitra (03) 6424 2817 or email tasmania@ammaaustralia.org.au

Seva Project

The local Satsang group is looking for a project to participate in as seva (selfless service). Amma always places great importance on doing selfless service and working to alleviate the suffering of others. Suggestions so far include volunteering at soup kitchens and other similar groups. If anyone has any suggestions or contacts in this area please email hobart@ammaaustralia.org.au and they will be greatly appreciated.



If you wish do not wish to receive these newsletters any more please send an email to Hobart@ammaaustralia.org.au