

## 2006 Kriya Yoga Program, Australia

The Program commenced with Paramahansa Prajnanananda and Swami Samarpanananda on Friday 22 September 2006, the new moon day preceding the Hindu season of prayer and devotion to the Divine Mother for the next nine nights. Paramahansa Prajnanananda spoke of the special significance of this new moon and the worship. The venue was Baden Powell Scout Centre, a beautiful bushland setting in Sydney's northern suburbs. 22-23 September was the Kriya Program of public lecture on Kriya Yoga by the Swamijis, initiations and guided meditations.



### The Centenary Event

The Centenary Celebration was on 23<sup>rd</sup> September and featured an Interfaith Seminar at the Strathfield Town Hall. The theme was "Oneness of Mankind". The venue was lovingly decorated with beautiful hand made drapes, photo displays, posters and garlands made of beautiful flowers. Gurudev's Centenary commenced with a fire lighting ceremony by Swamiji and introduction of the invited speakers.



**Five keynote speakers** from different religious backgrounds were

1. Rev Bill Crew of Uniting Church
2. Khalid Saifullah Khan, National Vice President Ahmadiyya Muslim association Australia.
3. Brahmachari Gopal Ji of Chinmaya Mission
4. Swami Samarpanananda of Kriya Yoga
5. Paramahansa Prajnanananda of Kriya Yoga

The essence of the enlightening discourses was that all spiritual paths lead to the same God.



A cultural feast of devotional songs and Indian traditional dancing by local kriya devotees followed. Around 200 people from all over Sydney attended this special evening. Each guest speakers were presented with gift basket that included off-white saffron shawls from India and the program concluded with a splendid banquet for all to enjoy.



## Silent Retreat

In honour of the Centenary Year, the association organised a four days silent retreat from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September at the Tops Conference centre located at Stanwell Tops, a two hour drive from south Sydney where the Great Escarpment meets the sea. Registration and room allocation for approximately 80 people from all over the world went extremely well. The days were fulfilled with guided meditation, talks, meals and NOBLE SILENCE that commenced early each evening until after morning meditation. On the third there was an off site visit to the nearby Hindu temple, which was an unexpected extra blessing.



## Other Australia Programs

There were also public lectures, Initiations and special centenary evenings at Brisbane (18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Sept) Canberra (28<sup>th</sup> Sept-1<sup>st</sup> Oct) and Melbourne (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> October). More than 100 people were initiated into Kriya Yoga during this visit.

## Kriyavans of Canberra enjoying Master's company



## Celebration in Melbourne

Melbourne honored to be one of the 108 cities to host the Centenary Celebration of Gurudev Paramahansa Hariharananda. in the presence of Baba Prajnananandaji and Swamiji Samarpanandaji. The celebration highlighted Gurudev's humble legacy of spreading the message of Kriya Yoga to true seekers. It was also a symbol of Baba Prajnananandaji's devotion and admiration for his guru. Kriyans from different cities around Australia attended the program.



The highlight of the celebration was Swamiji's heart felt devotional song, invoking the blessings of the Divine Mother as the event innocently coincided with the Hindu festival of Navratri. The celebration also coincided with the 12th year anniversary of our beloved Prajnananandaji's hectic travels abroad, spreading the message of Kriya as per his guru's instructions. This celebration concluded with a simple vegetarian dinner, and swamiji traditionally served his devotees.

