

Sathya Sai International Organisation, Australia & PNG, NSW Region East



Monthly Newsletter

Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville

Venue: Hurstville South Public School hall, Cnr. Maher St. & King Georges Rd. Hurstville, NSW 2220

Spiritual Program: Thursdays, 7.45 pm - 9.15 pm **Contact:** Tel: 02 9570 5298 Mob: 0402 115 298

Web: <http://www.saiaustralia.org.au>

Compiling Editor: Ravi Shankar

Selfless Service Opportunities

Nursing Home Visit

Venue:

Hillcrest Nursing Home
11 Mimosa Street
Oatley, NSW

Date: Sunday, 21 February 2016

Time: 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Spending 1 hour with home-care residents: singing songs, conversing, joking, birthday song and wishes and so on.

ALL WELCOME

For more information contact:

Bill Andrianopoulos - 0422 592 968

Thomas Reddall Breakfast Club

Breakfast Service for School Students

Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville has a service project to participate in this breakfast club. Centre participants can join in by donating any amount of the following items:



- Orange juice
- Apple juice
- Long life Full cream milk
- Any cereals
- Vegemite
- Jam

You may give your donation to our Service Coordinator:

Bill Andrianopoulos - 0422 592 968

Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville Stands for Universal Spirituality

The programs of the Hurstville Sathya Sai Centre are principally based on Universal Spiritual Principles, stressing the importance of basic Human Values in our every thought word and deed, thereby harmonising these three to develop to the awareness of the One called Truth. This unity in turn can give rise to the unity and peace on our earth and beyond.

One of the main programs of the Centre is Sai Spiritual Education which can help us to live in unconditional love. A good proportion of our Sai Spiritual Education is presented through Interactive Spiritual Workshops. Efforts are made to implement the knowledge gained; in our personal daily activities in life at home, at work place, in society and selfless service to needy ones in the environment.

The five human values — when practiced with integrity — render good character which transforms the chaotic society into one of peace, harmony and vision.

‘WORKING BEE’

The ‘Working Bee’ is the national service project to fulfil the needs of our Sathya Sai Primary School at Murwillumbah as well as our newly acquired campus for High School at Dungay, NSW.

Sai devotees can play key roles in preparing our secondary campus to be ready for school this year (2016) and also to ensure that our primary school campus continues to be maintained at a high standard.

In order to have this volunteer service activities program progressing on a regular basis and also to organise the ‘Working Bee’ program in a structured way, the Board of Governors of the Sathya Sai School would like to create a database of volunteers with special skills sets and also collate information from members interested in supporting and contributing to the working bees that are planned.

To fulfil the needs our Sai School, the school board is looking for the services of members with special skills in carpentry, plumbing, electrical-work, IT, architecture, event-management, and so on.

For all those planning to fly/drive in for the ‘Working Bee’ service, if you need any further information or help, please contact our national service coordinator:

SundaramSudhan@gmail.com or 0404 829 385



Working Bees at the Sathya Sai School campus

Sai Spiritual Education Classes for Children

Time:

10.30 am -12.30 pm

Venue:

**RAIN property,
501 Forest Rd., Penshurst, NSW 2220**

Dates for SSE classes:

**(Please have the venue and dates
confirmed by Rajeshwari Singh for
FEBRUARY 2016 classes)**

Tel: 02 9584 3001

Mobile: 0450 521 983

Email: rajeshwari16@hotmail.com

Parents are requested to serve their Children by enrolling them for instilling education in human values as basic principles in building their good character at home, in school, at work place, in the society and in the nation.

Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville has a qualified and experienced SSE Teacher giving service to parents and children.

Children from all faiths are welcome

*"The end of education is character."
- Sathya Sai Baba*

Gayatri Yagna (Laksha Archanam)

*Chanting Universal Prayer in Sanskrit
language with rituals*

Date: Friday, 12 February 2016

Time: 8.00 pm

Venue details:

**At the residence of
Jitendra & Nirwarni Sahani
12 Tottenham Place,
Glenfield, NSW 2167**

Tel: 02 8731 1372

0434 652 558

This service program is conducted outside the Centre by a group of Centre members for peace and happiness in the world; and to disseminate awareness of Sathya Sai Baba's teachings to the general public. The program is held at homes of people in the society at their request.

Contact R.D. Patel - 02 9570 5298

A group of Hurstville Sai Centre members participated in the 'Working Bee' Service at our Sathya Sai School on 11-13 December 2015. Below 2 of them present their experiences in this project .

'Working Bee' Experience of Rajeshwari Singh

(Rajeshwari Singh volunteers to share the experiences of her husband Pradeep Singh)



Rajeshwari Singh

Rajeshwari is the Education Coordinator & SSE Teacher, Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville.

Her husband, Pradeep Singh is a long time participant of Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville, especially in selfless service projects. He is a very humble Sai devotee and strongly believes in the practice of Sai principles rather than preaching or talking about his spiritual experiences. Nevertheless, he has the right to follow his own conscience. For him the spiritual principle, "Hands that serve are holier than lips that pray" is very valuable and that is what he strives to do in his life as far as possible, amidst the worldly turmoil.

*The following is an account of his experiences shared by his wife, Rajeshwari Singh, which is combined with her own experiences in the 'working bee' national service project. Below is an account of Rajeshwari's experience.
- Compiling editor*

I thank you for inviting my husband, Pradeep Singh to share his experiences in serving in Sathya Sai School as 'working bee'. As you know that he is a great believer in "Hands that serve are holier than lips that pray". He would usually not like to talk about his service in the 'working bee' national service project.

Nevertheless, I would voluntarily like to share his experience that he has shared with me in relation to 'Working Bee' national service project in Sathya Sai Primary and High School Campus on 12-13 December 2015, You may share with this with others through the Monthly Newsletter of Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville.

At first when Dr Gunu Naker approached Pradeep to find out whether he was available to accompany him in the Working Bee national service project, Pradeep was very happy to say yes. He was in fact looking forward to joining the Working Bee group to serve in Sai schools . Dr. Gunu explained to Pradeep that only 3 people can travel in his van. He already had 3 on his list. However Pradeep was told that he can accompany Dr. Gunu Naker if one of the other Sai devotees withdraws.

So when he told me his intention and the opportunity that was available, I encouraged him by saying, "May be you can take a flight and meet them (Dr. Gunu Naker and others in his group) at the Sai school". He was happy with the suggestion but waited for Dr. Gunu Naker's message.

A week passed and he did not hear from Dr. Gunu Naker. I said to him, "Let's see what Swami wants". Then that afternoon he came and told me that Dr. Gunu Naker has sent him an email, which said that one of the other two cannot go because he could not get leave approval from his workplace. I said to Pradeep, "This is Sai's blessing - whatever happens, is His will. It's just like going to Prashanthi Nilayam - no matter how anxiously one plans to visit Prashanti Nilayam, one is able to make the trip only if Sai wills."

After this, the preparations to join the Working Bee group began. Pradeep was all hyped up getting ready to go. He said to me, "When I go there, I don't want to waste any time. I will do my best for Swami."

The first day, upon arriving at the school, Pradeep rang me and said, "I think a miracle has happened." I asked him, "What happened?" He said, "The 3 little Chinese containers filled with fried rice which you packed for Dr. Gunu Naker, Anil Patel and myself, multiplied when we gave it to the school kitchen for heating. When the kitchen people poured it into a pot, there was a potful of fried rice, which was enough to feed 30 - 40 working bees, who were present." Then I said to myself, "This is Sai's way of winning Pradeep's faith even more."

Throughout his service to Sai school, he kept emailing me photos of devotional singing sessions and the service that they provided. This was an expression of his joy and resoluteness in serving the children of Sai.

When Pradeep returned to Sydney, I picked him up from Hina's (Dr. Gunu's daughter) house. He was full of stories about the Sai school. He was talking like a little child excited about his new toys. He carried on in this way for a few days.

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Self Transformation Programs (STP) For February 2016

The Self Transformation Programs of the Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville will be held as follows:

Group 1

At the residence of Brian & Satya Champness
16 Hillcrest Ave, Morebank, NSW
at 7.30 pm

For schedule date, contact:
Group 1 facilitator, Brian Champness -
02 9601 4030

Group 2

At the residence of
R.D. & Meenaben Patel
816 King Georges Rd., Hurstville, NSW
at 8.00 pm
Tel: 02 9570 5298

For schedule date, contact:
Group 2 facilitator, R.D. Patel :
02 9570 5298

Group 3

At the residence of Nirupa Prasad
3/162 Harrow Road, Kogarah. NSW
at 7.30 pm
Tel: 02 9599 2421

For schedule date, contact:
Group 3 facilitator, Nirupa Prasad -
02 9599 2421

Self Transformation Program is conducted outside normal programs of the Centre where participants serve each other by sharing spiritual knowledge and understanding the reality that we are in fact one in the Spirit.

This service is also open to general public who are interested to participate in this study circle, understand and practise the principles of Nine-point Code of Conduct laid down by Sathya Sai Baba for spiritual growth.

Those who wish to join the STP, please contact:

STP Supervisor, Jitendra Sahani
02 8060 5429

STP Coordinator, Brian Champness
02 9601 4030

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From my perspective, Pradeep came back feeling very energetic, with a stronger faith in Swami, and feeling very contented with himself with what he had to offer at the Sai School. He said to me, "It's like going to Prasanthi Nilayam! That's how blissful I feel." That morning he said to me, "I will go again."

This is my short experience on behalf of Pradeep that I thought I would share with all because I know he would not talk about his experience.

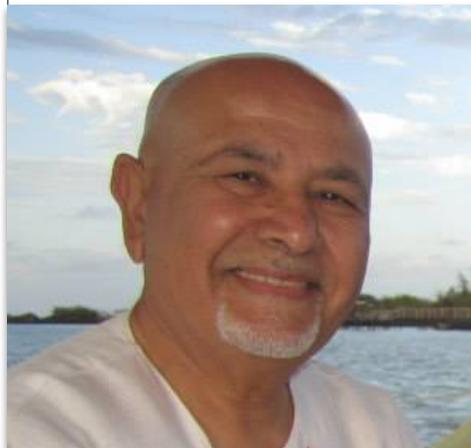


A glimpse of 'Working Bee' activities: Sathya Sai Primary and High School Campus

My 'Working Bee' Experiences

Dr. Gunu Naker

Team leader Fiji Sai Medicare, Australia. Co-Convenor Sai Medical Unit, Australia
Treasurer of Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville



Dr. Gunu Naker

The call came out from Brother Sudhan, our National Service Coordinator, for a Working Bee at the Sai School Murwillumbah. I have seen the school, grow since its inception at the foot of Mt Warning as a small facility, to its fully functioning primary school in Murrwillumbah township. The school was blessed by Swami and the hard work and perseverance on part of all who furthered the project; have progressed it so much.

When the call came for the Working Bee I felt that Swami has given us this project to nurture it to the next stage as a high school and to continue to support in all possible ways. So I registered my interest with skills in handyman work and carpentry. I started looking for two more members who could be able to assist with their skills so we

could travel as team with all the tools needed. With Swami's Grace I got two very able Sai volunteers, one an electrician, Pradeep Singh and one a general handyman and trouble shooter, Anil Patel, both in whom I had full confidence.

I had communication with brother Sudhan as to the jobs we may be doing, which included painting, cleaning, carpentry, electrical work, gardening and so on. So we gathered all the tools that we thought necessary. We set out on our road trip with our camper van early on the morning of Wednesday 9th December at 5.00 a.m. from Sydney and reached the high school by 5.30 p.m. Already there were Sai youth from Victoria, NSW and Queensland doing cleaning and garden work under the guidance of brother Sudhan.

At 9.00 a.m. the following day we had an orientation and briefing regarding the jobs at hand by brother Sudhan and Steve, who has taken up a job as caretaker volunteer. They had done all the planning, preparation, and equipment provision necessary. So various teams were made up from all the volunteers for the various jobs at hand. We were all advised to keep hydrated during the day due to the heat. All started their allotted jobs with lots of enthusiasm, although for some this was a first experience. Brother Sudhan's leadership, involvement, commitment and communication with all the volunteers is commendable.

Apart from work at the new secondary school, we had jobs to do at the primary school too, so we needed to find out what was required from Mr Suresh Sampathkumar the Manager and Leelah Broughton the Principal.

(Continued on next page)

Universal Spirituality (Human Values) Program

**Thursday,
4 February 2016**

**Sathya Sai Centre of
Hurstville presents
Universal Spirituality
Program on every**

**1st Thursday of the
month from
7.45 pm - 9.15 pm**

**based on Eternal
Universal Spiritual
Principles**

**People from all faiths
are welcome**

Program includes:

- Meditation on Cosmic Sound
- Earth Anthem
- Group devotional singing
- Universal Prayer
- Interactive workshop
- Prayer for world peace

The program concludes with refreshments

For more information contact:

*Program Coordinator -
Satya Bhama*

Tel: 02 9601 4030; 0419 264 060

*Program Editor -
Ravi Shankar*

Tel: 02 9588 7413; 0422 507 296

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They already had some youth cleaning up and doing garden work. Our team had to do electrical work at the primary school and carpentry to set out 3 big garden beds at the secondary school. Steve had supplies ready for the garden beds. Pradeep and Anil set out to do all the electrical work.

The day was broken by a delicious lunch which was provided by our Sai brothers and sisters from Gold Coast and Murwillumbah.

By the afternoon we started on the garden beds. With the help of the youth we took all the heavy logs to the well-equipped workshop to be cut to the size required. Steve was there to guide us.

We had to stop working at about 3.30 p.m. due to heat. To our rescue the Lord sent us a heavy storm with thunder, high wind, hailstones and rain, which lasted about 2 hours.

Evening was spent at the Mt Warning Sai Temple with devotional singing and spiritual sharing with Wendy. It was so spiritually refreshing.



Friday we set out early to complete our garden beds and had to dismantle the old beds and do repairs to the green house.

There was more electrical work to be completed at the primary school so we obtained all the supplies needed from local hardware shops. With Swami's Grace we managed to get all the needs in the exact

quantity required and with Pradeep's skills the job was completed by late evening.

By Saturday more volunteers arrived from Sydney and Queensland so they joined forces and although it was raining the teams managed to clean-up all the bushes and cart trailer loads of cleared material to a heap at the far end of the grounds to be burnt later.



Planning by brother Sudhan and the team at the school was exceptional. All the volunteers put in the skills and effort needed so that all the jobs were completed in spite of bad weather and storms.

Spiritually it was very elevating experience due to the effects of teamwork, respect, and selfless dedicated work with our aim to do the best we could offer.

I hope future working bees are well supported. Whoever participates will be helping Swami's Mission by supporting the Organisation's main service project for Australia and will gain spiritual benefits from such holy work.



Office Bearers

Sathya Sai Centre of Hurstville

President

R.D. Patel

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Vice President

Nikunj Patel

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Devotional Coordinator

Aruna Shankar

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Rajeshwari Singh

Tel: 02 9584 3001; 0450 521 983

Service Coordinator

Bill Andrianopoulos

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Ladies Wing Coordinator

Shobhana Kissun

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Youth Wing Coordinators

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Tel: 02 8735 7305; 0402 961 463

Mayank Patel (m)

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Ad-hoc position holders

Treasurer

Dr. Gunu Naker

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Youth Advisors

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Aruna Shankar

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Centre External Program Coordinators

Gayatri Yagna Co-ordinator

R.D. Patel

Tel: 02 9570 5298; 0402 115 298

STP Supervisor

Jitendra Sahani (m)

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Brian Champness

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STP Group 2 Facilitator

R.D. Patel

Tel: 02 9570 5298; 0402 115 298

STP Group 3 Facilitator

Nirupa Prasad

Tel: 02 9599 2421; 0412 128 217

FEBRUARY 2016 - Calendar of Spiritual Activities

Thursday, 04/02/2016

Universal Spirituality Program

7.45 - 9.15 pm

Meditation

Earth Anthem

Devotional singing

Multi-faith prayers

*Interactive Workshop:***"Human Values - The Way of Life"***By: Meera Janarthana**Prayer for world peace*

ALL WELCOME

Sunday, 21/02/2016

(External Program)

Nursing Home Service

Time: 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Venue:

Hillcrest Nursing Home

11 Mimosa Street

Oatley, NSW

ALL WELCOME

Thursday, 11/02/2016

Centre normal program

7.45 - 9.15 pm

Devotional Singing

Multi-faith prayers

Sai Spiritual Lesson

Arati

Prayer for world peace

ALL WELCOME

Thursday, 25/02/2016

Centre normal program by Youth Group

7.45 - 9.15 pm

Devotional Singing

Multi-faith prayers

Sai Spiritual Lesson

Arati

Prayer for world peace

ALL WELCOME

Early March 2016 Programs

Thursday, 03/03/2016

Universal Spirituality Program

7.45 - 9.15 pm

Meditation

Earth Anthem

Devotional singing

Multi-faith prayers

*Interactive Workshop:**(details will be announced)*

Prayer for world peace

ALL WELCOME

Friday, 12/02/2016

(External Program)

Gayatri Yagna

Time: 8.00 pm

At the residence of:

Jitendra & Nirwarni Sahani

12 Tottenham Place, Glenfield, NSW

Tel: 02 8731 1372

For more detail call: R.D. Patel - 02 9570 5298

ALL WELCOME

Thursday, 18/02/2016

Centre normal program by Ladies Wing

7.45 - 9.15 pm

Devotional Singing

Multi-faith prayers

Sai Spiritual Lesson

Arati

Prayer for world peace

ALL WELCOME

Saturday, 05/03/2016

(External Program)

NSW Region East Unity Meeting

Venue: Strathfield Girls High School, Albert

Rd., Strathfield, NSW

Time: 2.30 - 5.30 pm

ALL WELCOME

(Please note: there will be no Unity Meeting in February)