We welcome you all to the Vedanta Movement in Australia, as epitomized in the lives of Sri Ramakrishna, Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda, and invite you to involve yourselves and actively participate in the propagation of the Universal Message of Vedanta.

Sri Ramakrishna on Harmony of Religions

I have practised the disciplines of all the paths, each for a few days. Otherwise I should have found no peace of mind. (Smiling) I have practised all the disciplines; I accept all paths. I respect the Saktas, the Vaishnavas, and also the Vedantists. Therefore people of all sects come here. And every one of them thinks that I belong to his school. I also respect the modern Brahmajnannis. (The members of the Brahma Samaj.). A man had a tub of dye. Such was its wonderful property that people could dye their clothes any colour they wanted by merely dipping them in it. A clever man said to the owner of the tub, ‘Dye my cloth the colour of your dye-stuff.’ (All laugh.) Why should I be one-sided? The idea that the people of a particular sect will not come to me does not frighten me.


Swami Vivekananda on India’s Spirit of Harmony

I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the world both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true. I am proud to belong to a nation which has sheltered the persecuted and the refugees of all religions and all nations of the earth. I am proud to tell you that we have gathered in our bosom the purest remnant of the Israelites, who came to Southern India and took refuge with us in the very year in which their holy temple was shattered to pieces by Roman tyranny. I am proud to belong to the religion which has sheltered and is still fostering the remnant of the grand Zoroastrian nation.

The first phase of the Vedanta Precinct of the Brisbane Chapter of the Vedanta Centre of Sydney was inaugurated over five days between 27 June 2018 and 1 July 2018. The celebrations were attended by the following monks of the Ramakrishna Order: Swami Veetamohananda from France; Swami Sarvadevananda from Hollywood, USA; Swami Tattvamayananda from San Francisco, USA; Swami Tyagananda from Boston, USA; Swami Yuktatmananda from New Work, USA; Swami Guruvarananda from Nadi, Fiji, and Swami Rajeswarananda from Colombo, Sri Lanka. There were also devotees from interstate and overseas who attended the function.

On 27 June 2018, the programme began at 6:00 pm with Vighneswara Puja, Vaastu Shanti, Rakshogha Homam, Vaastu Homam, Ashta Dik Bali and Deepa Aradhana. This was followed by a bhajan programme by Brij Bhajan Mandal. The worship was conducted outside and in the lower ground hall. Devotees were also served with dinner prasad.

On 28 June 2018 Sri Maha Ganapathi Homam, Sarvadevata Homam and Deepa Aradhana were conducted and followed by lunch prasad.

In the evening bhajans were held by Svaraalaya, Sri Krishna Music Academy and Sulagna Basu, followed by dinner prasad.

On 29 June 2018 the Sri Durga Saptashati was chanted by Swami Veetamohananda. At the same time, different pujas connected with the worship of the Divine Mother were conducted. These included Sri Chandi Devata Sankalpa, Avahana, Agni Pratishttha, Sri Sri Chandi Homam, Shobhana Dravya Samarpana, Sumangali Puja, Dampati Puja, Maha Purnahuti, Yati Puja and Maha Deepa Aradhana. In the evening bhajans were conducted by the devotees of the Vedanta Centre, Mata Amritanandamayi Centre (Brisbane) and the Woollongabba Sai Centre.

The dedication of the shrine at the Centre took place on 30 June 2018. The proceedings of the day began with a smoking ceremony by Uncle Des Dandy, a local Aboriginal elder. This was followed by a procession of the monks and devotees. The senior swamis carried pictures of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda around the building three times. After this, the shrine was formally dedicated by Swami Sridharananda, President, Vedanta Centre of Sydney. Soon after this, Shodashopachara puja (worship
with 16 sacred items) was undertaken by Swami Tyagananda with Swami Guruvarananda assisting him. This was followed by a homam (fire worship).

On this occasion the shrines to Buddha and Jesus Christ were dedicated by Ven. Ihalagonagama Nanda Thero, from the Sri Lanka Buddhist Monastery and Fr. Stephen Bliss from the Ipswich Catholic Community respectively. Subsequently, a multi-faith prayer was held in which representatives from Hinduism, Judaism, Islam (Sufi), Sikhism, and Bahai participated. Following an address of benediction by Swami Sridharananda, mementoes were distributed to the architect Jignesh Kathiria, the builder, as well as others associated with the construction and the pioneers of the Centre.

Australia is a multicultural society and this important theme was brought out in a multicultural programme held outdoors that evening at the Robelle Domain Parklands, Springfield Central from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The cultural programme showcased dances, music and songs from Indian, Aboriginal, African, French, Italian, Maori (Indigenous New Zealanders), Classical Western etc. The guest of Honour at this function was the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Government of Queensland. The acting Mayor of Ipswich, Wayne Wendt, local MPs and other dignitaries participated and spoke at this event. In a carnival atmosphere many outsiders also attended the function and visited the various food stalls. The programme ended with fire works.

On 1 July 2018, there was an informal musing with the Swamis in the shrine of the Vedanta Centre where the visiting swamis either chanted or gave talks. There was chanting by Swami Rajeswarananda and others. Following this, Swami Tyagananda spoke on ‘Sri Ramakrishna of the Heart’. Swami Sarvadevananda spoke on ‘Breaking the Chain of Karma’, Swami Yuktatmananda spoke on ‘Divine Assurances in the Gita’, Swami Veetamohananda spoke on ‘Vedantic Values for Everyday Life’ and ‘Swami Tattwamayananda spoke on ‘Spiritual Humanism in Advaita Vedanta’. The talks were interspersed with music and meditation.
Final Preparations

Floral Arrangements for the Shrine

Arrangements for the Worship in the Shrine

Setting up the Marquee for the Worship Outside

Handyman Work

27 June 2018

Vastu Homam

The Witnessing Swamis
28 June 2018

Worship on 28 June 2018

Bhajans in the Evening

Members of the Audience during the Bhajans
29 June 2018

Swami Veetamohananda Chanting the Durga Satashati (Chandi)

Saptashati Homam (Invocation of the Divine Mother in the form of fire)

Worship related to the Divine Mother

Devotees Witnessing the Worship related to the Divine Mother

Worship related to the Divine Mother

Maha Purnahuti — Worship related to the Divine Mother
29 June 2018

Kumari Puja

Yati Puja

Evening Musical Programme
30 June 2018

An Aboriginal Elder Performs a Smoking Ceremony

Beginning of the Procession around the Building

Procession

Homam after the performance of the Puja of Sri Rama-krishna

Placing of the photos in the Shrine
Ven. Ihalagonagama Nanda Thero dedicating the shrine to Buddha

The Shrine Hall at the time of the Inauguration

Mahalingam and Yoga Sinnathamby with Swamis Sridharananda and Atmeshananda

Robelle Domain Parklands, Springfield Lakes

Fr. Stephen Bliss dedicating the shrine to Christ

Aboriginal Dance by the Yerongpan Aboriginal Dancers
1 July 2018

Chanting by Swami Rajeswarananda, Sunishthananda and Guruvarananda

Swami Tyagananda speaking on ‘Sri Ramakrishna of the Heart’

Swami Sarvadevananda speaking on ‘Breaking the Chain of Karma’

Swami Yuktatmananda speaking on ‘Divine Assurances in the Gita’

Swami Veetamohananda speaking on ‘Vedantic Values for Everyday Life’

Swami Tatttwamayananda on ‘Spiritual Humanism in Advaita Vedanta’
First Phase of Vedanta Centre Inaugurated

BRISBANE. Chapter of Vedanta Centre of Sydney now has a permanent home in the shape of a splendid new building – The New Building. The project has been long in the making and has come to fruition with the hard work and perseverance of the hard working committee under the guiding hand of Swami Amarananda. The new building is the result of many meetings and hard work, and the committee is looking forward to its use.

A project of this magnitude takes a lot of planning and administration. There is a whole lot of permits that need to be sought, many town planning criteria need to be fulfilled, funds need to be raised and the list goes on, with such strenuous requirements many committees give up on projects of this size, and their projects never get past the drawing board. The new centre situated at Vedanta Drive, Springfield, underwent a full traditional inauguration ceremony which began on 27th June and finished on 1st July. The prayer on 27th June began with Vyakshottara Puja – prayer to Lord Guanisha remover of all obstacles, Vaanta Shanti – to create peace, prosperity and harmony within the new facility. Followed by Hare Krishna offering and mangai nthal.

St. Adhin Mupendar, visit president of Vedanta Centre, Brisbane, Chirr welcomed official guest and asked the members of the multiphase religious leaders to each say a short prayer. After the voice of flutes, the dignitaries joined swamis for a group photo.

The evening program was held at Robelle Demim Parkland, with Minister Hn. Sterling Arch and Sir. as the guest of honor, the cultural program included Sloy by children of the St. Hsabgha, majestic performances, and festival style food stalls and finished off with the grand finale fireworks. On Sunday 1st July, everyone had a chance of informal mingling with swamis at the now ground level hall which finished off with Jalsa, lunch and Prasadam. The centre will be open from 9am till 12.30pm and 6pm till 8pm, the daily programme will include morning prayer and morning classes till 5:00pm and evening classes till 7:00pm. Evening aarti will be at 7pm till 8pm on weekdays, Saturday and Sunday evening classes will be from 6.30pm till 7.30pm. The contact details of the Centre are as follows email info@vedantanews.org Telephone (7) 9315.9866.

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