

# Shivratri programs in Sydney, Australia, 1-2 March 2014

## Saturday 1 March

### Ashfield

About 35 BKs attended a special morning gathering at Ashfield Centre. It was raining, so after class there was a quick flag hoisting in the garden then everyone went back inside for breakfast. One Sr Vijaya had made sweets and another Sr Vijaya had made savoury pakoras, while the centre provided upma and cake. It was a pleasant morning and many stayed for a while and enjoyed one another's company.



### Blacktown

The BK Hindi speaking group headed by Sr Indu and Br Ramesh had planned for months for a program at the Blacktown Senior Citizens Hall on the afternoon of Saturday 1 March. Over 180 people attended. Sr Monika MC'd the program which had various elements such as several dances in between talks, a visual meditation and a meditation commentary spoken by Sr Pranita with Sr Maureen leading meditation. Br Jagdish gave an entertaining talk which had the audience laughing and agreeing with him on many points. The program was in the Hindi language.



A highlight was the appearance of 'Shankar' who was really Br Sanju, sitting by the Shivalingum. People prostrated at his feet, had their photo taken and he gave them blessings. Many of the audience were Indians who had recently migrated to Australia and had been to BK centres in India. Sr Vaishali and the kitchen team worked hard to feed everyone chick peas, halva and puris. There was even enough food left over for the Sydney BK morning class to have breakfast on Sunday.

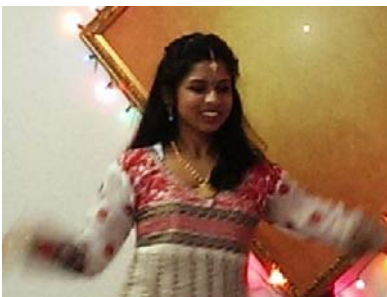




### Sunday 2 March

#### Toongabbie

February was busy but enjoyable and rewarding as preparations were made to celebrate Shivaratri with lots of happiness and splendour. ShivaBaba's introduction was given in an entertaining and enjoyable way at Toongabbie Godly Garage on Sunday 2 March. The program, held in the Tamil language, drew a full house (about 50) and included a variety of items such as dances, songs, videos, a discussion and sharing of experiences on the theme "Experiencing Gods Love".



Sr Maureen from Ashfield Centre gave brief talk, Sr Nithya and Sr Sharu from Blacktown performed beautiful dances, Br Thayalan from Malaysia joined in a discussion about the spiritual significance of Shivratri and Br Bubbles shared his experience.



The program was very much enjoyed by all and participants sent good feedback. Some new people booked in to start the Foundation Course in meditation.

18 March 2014