



Bharatiya Vidya
Bhavan
AUSTRALIA
www.bhavanaustralia.org

Interfaith Prayer Meeting. MAHATMA GANDHI's Martyrdom Day - 30 January 2009. At Parliament House New South Wales

The greatest apostle of peace Mahatma Gandhi observed his all religions' prayers every day. On 30 January 1948, after breaking his fast against the Hindu - Muslim riots, as he was walking towards the altar for his evening prayers a religious fanatic shot him dead. This was perhaps the saddest day in the history of humanity.

We at Bhavan Australia pay our humble tribute to Mahatma by commemorating this day Interfaith Prayer Meeting every since 2004. This year we organised the Interfaith Prayer Meeting at Parliament House of New South Wales on 30 January 2009. We gratefully acknowledge The Right Honourable John Aquilina MP and Leader of the House who kindly agreed to host the event.

Like every year the leaders from all the major religions and a number of dignitaries graced the event and remembered Mahatma Gandhi in their speeches and prayers. These great souls include:



Speeches and Homage	
Gambhir Watts	President, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Australia
Hon. John Aquilina MP	Parliamentary Secretary, Leader of House, Parliament of New South Wales
Hon Virginia Judge MP	Minister for Fair Trading; Minister for Citizenship; and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts (NSW)
Dr. Stapan Kerkyasharian	Chair, Community Relation Commission for Multicultural, NSW
Michael Richardson MP	Member for Castle Hill
Councillor Nick Berman	Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council
Dr Vijay Kumer	Scientist & Vice President United Indian Association
Prema Challam	Gandhian, Visiting from India
Prayers	
Rev Pravrajika Mataji	President, Ramakrishna Sarada Vedanta Society of NSW Inc.
Sister Giovanni Farquer	Director, Commission for Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations

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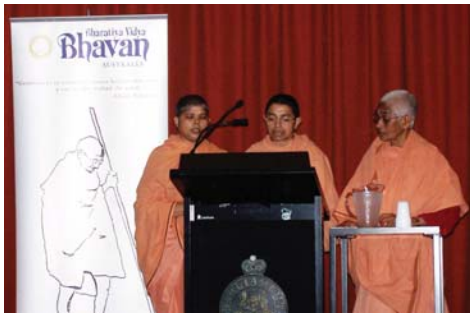


Rev Shigenobu Watanabe	Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia
Venerable Ban Ruo	Buddhist Monk, Amitabha Buddhist Association of New South Wales
Hans Van Der Bent	Sokka Gakai International
Sister Pauline	Dominic Church, Blacktown
Bhai Jasbir Singh	Chief priest Parklea Gurudwara, representing Australia Sikh Association.
Vara Nayaka	President ISKCON, Sydney
Chandra Pullen	Yoga in Daily Life
Atul Aneja	Art of Living
Ram-dhun prayers by Students of Indo Australian Bal Bharati Vidyalaya (IABBV Hindi School)	
Other great souls who attended but did not speak include:	
Laurie Ferguson MP (Federal)	Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services.
Kidar Singh	Head of Chancery and Actg Consul General of India, Sydney
Dipen Rughani	Chairman, Australia India Business Council, NSW
Clr Sam Iskander	Mayor of Marrickville Council
Sujay Banarji	CEO, New India Assurance Co. Ltd
Satish Vermani	CEO, Bank of Baroda, representative office Sydney.
Swami Chandrashekharananda	Vedanta Centre of Sydney
Vish Vishwanathan	President, Federation of Australian Indian Association
Councillor Dipak Chopra	Hornsby Shire Council



January 2009 issue of Bhavan Australia which was devoted to Mahatma Gandhi included messages and articles from Her Excellency Sujatha Singh, High Commissioner of India in Australia, Hon John Aquilina MP, Leader of the House, NSW Parliament, Stapan Kerkyasharian AM, Chair Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW, Pravrajika Ajayaprana Mataji, President Ramakrishna Sarada Vedanta Society of NSW Inc, Greg Johns, General Director, Soka Gakkai International Australia and others.





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