

Recollection of Shri Mataji's Visit and the Birth of Giddegannup

It was sometime in 1990 When Shri Mataji visited Perth. At that time, the collective here had a small, old asbestos cottage in Maylands. Though modest, it had become our labour of love. Many weekends were spent tirelessly renovating it, preparing everything in anticipation of Her visit.

While there was a great deal of joy in that work, we were also exhausted. People were worn out—week after week of effort, and the strain was beginning to show. Amidst this fatigue, a quiet thought began circulating among the collective: perhaps we should sell the place. The idea was painful, but somehow it made sense.

When Shri Mataji arrived, She mentioned she was told that the house was small. She looked at me and said, “, *but it isn't.*” Then, with that all-knowing compassion, She added, *"Since you have decided to sell it, you should sell. But then, look for a large old house—dilapidated, so you can renovate it."*

It was the last thing the collective wanted to hear at the time—more renovations!—but as good children, we accepted Her words. We began searching the inner-city suburbs of Perth for large, inexpensive, run-down homes.

Before Shri Mataji left Perth for the East Coast, She came across a newspaper listing for country properties. She turned to us and gently suggested, *"Maybe it would be better to get a country property."*

Then, on Her way to the airport, driving past a cluster of aircraft hangars, the Australian leader in the car pointed out that one of them had been built by a Sahaja yogi from Perth. Shri Mataji was intrigued.

Later in Her journey, during a stay in Brisbane before heading to Auckland, New Zealand, I had the immense privilege to follow Her. On the return flight from Auckland to Sydney, by some great blessing, I was seated next to Shri Mataji.

During the flight, She turned to me and asked, *"Those hangars you built—would they make good ashrams?"*

I was stunned. The thought of turning raw, utilitarian industrial buildings into spiritual spaces had never crossed my mind. I was lost for words. But instinctively, I replied, *"I don't see why not."*

The conversation flowed onward from there. Once we landed and returned to Burwood, Shri Mataji called me in and shared a most extraordinary vision. Jo and Robin had graciously offered a portion of their property in Giddegannup for the collective to build an ashram. Shri Mataji then outlined Her vision:

She described how Giddegannup could become an international centre—where yogis from all over the world would gather to develop the arts and music. She instructed that

we should build four hangars, arranged in the shape of a swastika, with a central courtyard. She also asked that a small cottage be included, where She and Sir CP could come to relax and take holiday, as She found Gidgegannup deeply peaceful. She mentioned that She had visited the area in the past and found it soothing.

When we returned to Perth, we presented Shri Mataji's vision to the collective. Inspired and uplifted, we threw ourselves wholeheartedly into the new project. Week after week, we gathered in Gidgegannup. Once again, it became a collective effort—a shared joy and a shared exhaustion. We were so tired, and yet the joy was so deep, that often we could only experience *thoughtless awareness*.

Her Return and the First Puja at Gidgegannup

The following year, Shri Mataji returned to Perth. By then, we had managed to erect the first hangar and build rammed-earth walls that formed a single room with a small bathroom at one end. But the structure was far from complete. The perimeter walls of the hangar were still open, and the ridge capping on the roof hadn't yet been installed. It wasn't watertight.

Despite this, we gathered with full hearts and held our first puja in that unfinished hangar, celebrate the Birthday of Mahavira.

As the puja began, the wind started to blow. Then it began to rain. I remember feeling a deep sinking feeling—*What a disaster*, I thought. Here was our beloved Mother, and we had brought Her into this exposed, leaking shell of a building.

At that very moment, Shri Mataji calmly closed Her eyes.

Suddenly, the wind stopped. The rain ceased.

Then, in that profound silence, golden rays of sunlight streamed through the open gap where the ridge cap should have been—right above the altar. It was as if the heavens themselves had parted to honour Her presence.

In that moment, the hangar—unfinished, humble, and exposed—became a sacred temple, transformed by Her divine grace.

Establishing the Western Australian Trust: A Divine Directive

During those early discussions about how to *establish* the Gidgegannup centre, Shri Mataji gave us very specific instructions—not only regarding the physical construction and spiritual vision of the land, but also concerning the legal and organisational foundation. She advised us directly to establish a formal **Western Australian trust**, dedicated to the administration of Sahaja Yoga in the state.

At the time, we were relatively naïve in matters of legal structures and governance. Few of us had experience in setting up trusts or drafting official documents. Yet, as always,

Her words gave us the courage and clarity to proceed. With sincerity and dedication, we engaged a lawyer to draft the necessary legal documents, ensuring the trust would be properly established according to Her instructions.

Shri Mataji was *very specific* about the details:

- **Who the trustees should be,**
- **What their roles and responsibilities were,**
- **And how the trust should function—not just for the property, but for the ongoing administration of Sahaja Yoga in Western Australia.**

When the first draft of the trust deed was complete, we humbly presented it to Shri Mataji during Her next visit. With Her characteristic insight and clarity, She reviewed it, line by line. She made further suggestions and adjustments, which we dutifully took back to the lawyer to be included in the final version.

To the best of my knowledge, **we remain the only state collective outside of the National Trust** to have received **Shri Mataji's direct blessings and input** on the creation of our own trust. It is one of the most precious gifts She left us—*not only a spiritual legacy, but a practical one as well*—a structure through which Her work could continue with clarity, dharma, and integrity.

We hold this document with deep reverence. It is not just a piece of legal paper, but a **symbol of Her trust in us**, and a reflection of Her foresight in establishing something that would endure.

A Collective Effort Across the Nation

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the unwavering dedication of the wider collective. The yogis of Western Australia worked tirelessly for many years—not only in Gidgegannup, but across Perth and beyond—to make this vision a reality.

But we were not alone.

In one of the most moving examples of collective spirit, many yogis from the **Eastern Seaboard** of Australia travelled across the country—some staying for weeks, others for months—offering their time, energy, and expertise. They helped with the construction, the landscaping, the wiring, the planning—**everything**. They shared not just their labour, but their hearts. Their contribution remains etched into every wall and beam of that centre.

We will always be **eternally grateful** for their support, dedication, and sacrifice. They came not just to build, but to serve Mother's vision. And they did so with love and joy.

Jo and Robin: The Silent Pillars

There are, however, two individuals without whom none of this would have been possible—**Jo and Robin**, whose generosity, foresight, and unwavering support became the very foundation of Gidgegannup.

It was Jo and Robin who offered the collective the opportunity to purchase a portion of their land for a *mere pittance*—a gift, really, considering the beauty and scale of the property. But they went even further. They **personally funded nearly the entire cost of construction** in the early days, carrying the burden with quiet strength and selflessness until the collective could stand on its own feet.

Eventually, with the support of LET Australia, the trust was able to secure a loan, and the legal structure of the property was finalised. For practical reasons, and with full transparency and trust, **the property was placed in the name of LET Australia**, which had offered its support and surety. This arrangement ensured the protection of the property for the long term and aligned with broader national structures within Sahaja Yoga Australia.

But the seed—*the very heartbeat*—of Gidgegannup’s physical foundation was Jo and Robin’s act of devotion. Their contribution was never loud or public. It was quiet. Steady. Complete. And it will never be forgotten.

Conclusion: A Legacy of Light

Looking back now, it is clear that Gidgegannup was never simply “built.” It was **breathed into life**—by Shri Mataji’s vision, by the collective’s dedication, by the hands of strangers who became family, and by the selfless gifts of those who asked for nothing in return.

We did not know, in those early days, that we were participating in something eternal. But She knew. And She guided every step—*from the trust deed to the final nail in the hangar’s frame*.

Today, as we walk through the grounds, feel the vibrations, and hear the music still echoing across the hills, we know this: **Gidgegannup is not just ours. It is Hers. It always was.**

And we remain the humble stewards of that divine gift.