

Greenletter

June 2010 Vol 1 Issue 3
Service Wing

"Life is the best Teacher, Nature is the best Preacher" -Baba



*I died a mineral and
became a plant,*

*I died a plant and
rose an animal,*

*I died an animal and I
was man. (Rumi)*

Sai Envirocare in every State

We have recently changed the title of our environment officers to Envirocare Officers. Care for the Environment expresses Swami's love for all of our planet and its denizens on many levels of existence. Sai Envirocare is an activity of the Service Wing.

Envirocare officers provide a spiritual focus (based on the Ceiling on Desires Program) on topical ways to save and conserve:

- Tips on saving water
- Composting kitchen and garden refuse.
- Turning computers off when not used or lights off when the room is not occupied.
- Avoiding the use of plastic bags.
- Recycling batteries and used printer cartridges
- Boiling just enough water for the needs instead of filling the kettle.
- Recycling bottles, cans, etc
- Pooling cars for commuting.
- Environmental Management Awareness
- Use of Green Power

- Use of safe pesticides
- Avoiding/ minimising use of disposal cutlery and crockery at Sai Organisation functions.

Prayer for the Earth

An island in the Bay of Bengal recently disappeared under water. In the last week of March, the Eyjafjallajokull volcano, located near a glacier of the same name (that's AYA-feeyapla-yurkul, apparently) in southern Iceland erupted and has now built craters.



Earthquakes multiply in the Pacific Ring of Fire and in South America. Cyclones and Tsunami's multiply in the Pacific.

With recent events it seems that the Earth itself is going through change. The earth, as Swami has taught us, is a living being, and is our mother (Gaya, as in Gayatri). She has been affected by human initiated activities which have resulted in Global Warming and Climate Change.

Swami has told in one of his discourses that the Earth herself, follows dharma, and will undertake action to restore dharma to the planet itself. Perhaps this is why the "Pacific

Rim of Fire" has been active, extreme weather conditions prevail, and extreme events are occurring on the surface.



We may pray for the Earth herself. We may include Mother Earth in our daily devotions, and we may even have a day of Prayer for the Earth. The call is a call to prayer that the Earth may be graced in this time of crisis.

We may read of environmental disasters and global warming in a newspaper or see it on the television screen. We may work via our devotion to and prayer for our Mother Earth and ask for Peace and Harmony to prevail within the Earth, on the Earth and within the hearts and minds of all who live on our Home, the Earth. We are capable of helping to bring changes upon this earth. As the Lord Jesus taught, **Prayer can move mountains.**

Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Clothing

When you give up the clothes you no longer wear because they do not fit, not in fashion,

or are just not comfortable, you then allow someone else the opportunity to have something different, and also to make another person happy. When I clear out my wardrobe I imagine the excitement I am giving another person when they find what they have been looking for in a second hand shop. Also when you allow yourself to 'let go' of the past thru the clothing and articles you give up that have energy attached to them from your past, you then create that energetic space for newness in your own life. Buying recycled clothing or articles for your home saves energy and our environment.



I enjoy going to second hand shops or opportunity shops, when my husband and I need anything either clothes or household articles because I treat it like a treasure hunt and a hobby. I also do not feel 'so greedy or materialistic' because every single time I buy I always give back something, It's our Ego that makes us materialistic and stops some people from shopping second hand, when we hire clothes or even try new clothes on, someone else has also. All new clothes have been touched by others at lots of stages before they get to shops. Recycling helps a lot more people than just you and me, and it helps the world. Remember what goes around comes around. *by Carolyn Nicholson, Vic*

Green Energy - Green Mill

Comments and suggestions to greenofficers.sai@gmail.com

So near the Sathya Sai Primary School, the Condong Sugar Mill is a familiar sight to visitors to the Sai School. Did you know this sugar mill recently changed to green technology?



At the Condong sugar mill in the Tweed Valley near the Australian Sathya Sai School, we can find a great example of *envirocare* in action. The mill still produces sugar in much the same way it has for more than a century. It's what happens to the waste that has been revolutionised. Instead of being set ablaze in open fields, it's burned to generate power in Australia's first baseload co-generation power plant – a plant with a continuous output of electricity driven by an amalgam of heat and power. Now less than 10% of sugar cane fields will be burnt, lowering the smoke and particulate hazard and pollution that this creates.

Through their co-operatively run, century-old mill at Condong , sugarcane growers are helping supply electricity to 6 0,000 households. They operate for 12 months of the year, providing some 400 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually; by reducing the load on existing coal-fired generators this prevents some 400,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents from entering the atmosphere each year. Raw cane is shredded and crushed to extract the juice, which is processed into raw sugar. Burning the leftover material (bagasse) in furnaces at up to 2000°C produces

steam, which drives a turbine generator. During the six-month crushing season the electricity from the generator satisfies the mill's energy needs and allows a total of 25 megawatts to be exported to the national grid for sale as green power. Stockpiled Bagasse keeps the power generation going until the next cropping season.

Canegrowers, many of whom have spent thousands of dollars converting their operations, look forward to the day when they start receiving payments not just for their sugar, but also for the amount of fuel fibre they deliver to the mills.

World Religions on the Environment



Do not dump waste on any space from which it could be scattered by the wind or spread by flooding. (Judaism: *Maimonides' Mishneh Torah*)



Do not cut trees because they remove pollution. (*Rig Veda 6:48:17*)



The world is beautiful and verdant, and verily God, be He exalted, has made you His stewards in it, and he sees how you acquit yourselves.

(Hadith of sound authority, related by Muslim on the authority of Abu Sa'id al-Khurdr)



You should not burn (the vegetation of) uncultivated or cultivated fields, nor of mountains and forests. You should not wantonly fell trees. You should not throw poisonous substances into lakes, rivers and seas. You should not wantonly dig holes in the ground and thereby destroy the Earth.

(180 Precepts of Lord Lao)



This is what should be done by those skilled in goodness and who know the path of peace: let them be able and upright, straightforward and gentle in the speech, humble and not conceited, contented and easily satisfied, unburdened with duties and frugal in their ways, peaceful and

calm, wise and skilful, not proud and demanding in nature. Let them not do the slightest thing that the wise would later reprove. (The *Metta Sutra*, The Buddha's teaching on Loving-Kindness)



Then the Lord God took the Man and the Woman and put them into the garden of Eden to tend it and keep it. (*Genesis 2:15*, Today's English Version)

Book Review: *Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis*, by Al Gore



Subtitled "A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis," this book takes us on a 404-page tour of the wide world of alternative energy sources, from easy-to-love wind and sun to the less alluring nuclear option; the living systems that rely on energy in all its forms and how they use it; and the negative mindsets that get in the way of making and accepting change, and how to jump these hurdles. Throughout, Gore maintains that saving the earth's climate doesn't have to come at the expense of the economy; indeed, it can strengthen it and be a source of opportunity for people around the world. A glossy colour book, illustrated with many, many stunning images, along with diagrams of turbines

and so forth, even visually, this book makes a powerful impact and inspires the reader to think to the future.

Kids Korner - Nugget

Nugget was found when her mother was killed by a passing vehicle, when she was crossing a road.

The small wombat was taken to her new foster mum, Mary Ann, who now bottle feeds her when she wakes towards dusk and is hungry. (Wombats are nocturnal creatures.) She also now nibbles the roots and leaves of grass. During the day, Nugget mostly snuggles up inside a 'pouch' made of fabric and sleeps. Nugget was carried around and used to sleep in her mother's pouch which opened towards her mother's back legs. As wombats live in burrows in the ground and therefore need to dig, a rear-opening pouch stopped dirt from filling the pouch. (This is an example of the miracle of Creation and the innate wisdom which exists in the Natural World.)



Nugget is about four months old. Baby wombats are dependent upon their mothers until they are about 20 months of age, so Mary Ann will take care of her until she is ready to be more independent at around 2 years of age. Her carers, Mary Ann and Dale, have another baby wombat who is about 11 months old now. Both baby wombats follow Mary Ann and Dale around just like puppies.

Wild Life Carers are often very grateful for old pillow cases, as these can be turned into 'pouches' for injured and orphaned animals. Creating a pillowcase 'pouch' a simple procedure, whereby the two bottom corners of the pillowcase are curved by running a seam in a half circle across each corner. This prevents small paws, or even heads, becoming caught or stuck in the corners, when the little creatures move around. The top edge of the pillow case is then turned over and sewn or stitched to create a hem through which a fabric drawstring can be threaded. This enables the 'pouch' to be hung up off the ground in a pen or room. These 'pouches' are particularly needed following a bushfire or flood.

The Ceiling on Desires Program

As simple and specific as this Ceiling on Desires program (a part of the nine point code of conduct that all members of the Sathya Sai Organisation subscribe to) appears to be, many people have found it to be far too threatening and many have ignored it altogether. But to the extent that we are willing to undertake this program, we will be freeing ourselves for enlightenment or oneness with the one God within us and everywhere present. Conversely, by avoiding this program, whether consciously or unconsciously, we will be delaying our freedom. However much we may yearn for enlightenment, we will find it eludes us as our attachments will keep us anchored to our bodies and the physical world.

In his discourses during the 60th birthday, Baba showed in his usual omniscient way, that he is perfectly aware of this situation. He pointed out that many devotees have assuaged their consciences by giving money to charitable and humanitarian

organisations, without undertaking the personal discipline of reducing waste in their lives, which was his primary reason for launching the Ceiling on Desires program. To make his point even clearer, he announced that he was returning all the money thus donated to the Trust back to the various districts with the request that it be used for service. He reiterated that he himself has no need, or ever will have need, for money. When money is needed for a particular project, such as a new school or planetarium, some devotee will voluntarily make a donation to cover the cost.

We may ask Baba to show you opportunities for service where it would be appropriate for you to use your savings.



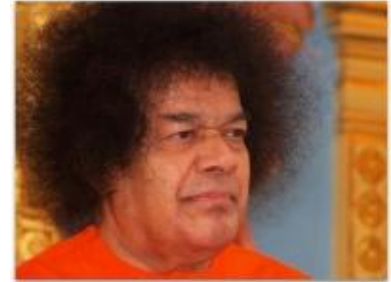
Some devotees have found that circulating their clothes, both among Center members as well as needy people, reduces waste of clothing no longer worn very often. The same can apply to household goods, such as furniture kept stored in an attic or in storage. There are many different possibilities.



For instance, a Garage sale might be a possible source of revenue to support your service and would

allow others to make use of articles no longer being used.

Baba Speaks



Karma means Movement

Karma means movement, or that which urges the movement. Air moves in space. The moving air results in heat. It is the friction caused by aerial motion that makes the latent heat manifest. Living beings are able to maintain the temperature of the body, so long as air is breathed in and breathed out. The quicker the breath, the warmer the body. Warmth is the characteristic of fire. Fire is the origin of water. The Sun, as one can see, raises clouds. The particles of water get mixed with other elements and then, hardens into 'earth' (ground, soil). The earth produces and fosters plants and trees, which feed and foster man and keep him hale and hearty. These plants give the grain that man lives upon, and the seminal fluid that produces progeny is the gift of the grain. Thus is the Karma of creation effected and continued. This is how the scriptures summarise the process. **(Sathya Sai Vahini, Ch. 18)**

The articles produced in this publication reflect the individual views of the authors and do not necessarily express nor imply the aims and objectives of the Sathya Sai Organisation of Australia & PNG. Whilst every care and effort has been taken to ensure that the information is accurate prior to printing, the editors and publishers take no responsibility for any wrong or misprinted information