

Avatar's Abode 60th Anniversary Invitation 1958 ~ 2018



Avatar's Abode - June 1958 - Giff Alston

Tuesday June 5th 11:30 AM to Monday June 11th 2:30 PM
48 Meher Road, Kiels Mountain, Queensland, Australia

The 60th Anniversary will be a unique celebration of our annual remembrance of Avatar Meher Baba's 1958 visit to Australia and to His Abode. This year for 7 days there will be programs and presentations featuring individuals and groups from Australia and around the world who are coming for this special Diamond Jubilee Anniversary. The Anniversary is always open to all and all are welcome. Donations towards attendance are helpful and much appreciated. Because of the larger than usual expected numbers that we know are intending to come we are asking all to please take seriously our request that you let us know as soon as possible of your intention to come via our online Registration Form. Even if your plans are not finalised this will still be useful, helping us be better prepared for your attendance at this year's Anniversary.



Avatar's Abode June 1958 - Collin Adams

The first Anniversary in 1959 was a very small gathering of just two families who had had the good fortune to be part of the small group who had been with Baba at Avatar's Abode for His only visit to His Abode in June 1958. Along with enjoying memories of their time with Baba there was also a second agenda. During Baba's visit there had been a moment of extreme awkwardness when at one point Baba unexpectedly asked for some singing, but unfortunately the little group had prepared nothing! Afterwards, determined never to let this happen again, Francis Brabazon began preparing songs and skits to be performed at the Anniversaries, so that if Baba should come and ask again, the Abode would be prepared to properly entertain Him. The subsequent Anniversaries thus became a natural focal point for these performances, and over the years helped towards developing the unique flavour of Australian Baba music as well as other forms of performance that have remained a key feature and theme of the Abode's Anniversaries over the past 60 years: A time for Entertaining the Beloved.

We are most fortunate to have **Bill LePage** participating in our celebrations. Bill is one of the people who played an integral part in both the 1956 Sahavas in Sydney and the 1958 Sahavas at Avatar's Abode and is one of the last surviving adults from this time. He brings to our celebration a unique, personal perspective and we look forward to hearing his many stories. Some of the other 1958 Avatar's Abode Sahavasees who have confirmed that they are coming for the 60th are: **Michael LePage, Bernard Bruford, Jenny Keating and Cynthia Borg**. And from the 1958 sister Sahavas at the Meher Spiritual Center, Myrtle Beach, SC: Sahavasee **Wendy Haynes** will also be joining us this Anniversary. A few other Sahavasees from around the world may also be with us. Come prepared to enjoy their memories!

Our Guests:

This year we are most fortunate to have as our special overseas guests
Peter and Debbie Nordeen.



Peter is a builder by vocation but by avocation, he is a Meher Baba historian, having studied Baba's life and teachings for over 40 years. Peter was a resident of Meherabad when many of Baba's old disciples were still alive. From them he had the opportunity to glean many stories of life with the Master. In 2003 Peter wrote and produced the biographical documentary, *GOD IN HUMAN FORM: the Life and Work of Avatar Meher Baba*. A few years later he produced the music video, "You Alone Exist". Peter has written several histories of Meherabad used for historical walking tours and for the Trust website. He has just completed a booklet entitled 'The History of the Tomb-Shrine of Avatar Meher Baba'. Peter and Debbie continue to make yearly trips to Meherabad, where Peter works on projects in the AMB Trust Archives and AMB Trust Publications, as well as helping with historical building preservation.

Debbie is a choral conductor and singer who enjoys leading Baba choruses in Meherabad during her winters there and at various gatherings. Years ago when Peter and she were residents in India, Baba's sister Mani wrote a few songs and asked Debbie to notate for sharing. She holds these times with Mani as deep treasures in her life. Debbie looks forward to sharing her love of music with us all.

In addition some of our other overseas performer/presenters this year will be Ted Judson, Jim Meyer, Buz Connor, Ward Parks, Raine Eastman-Gannett. A special video presentation is being prepared by Sufism Reoriented featuring a musical performance based on Francis Brabazon in America. Naturally there will also be presenter/performers from the Abode, Brisbane and Sydney as well as additional Aussie talent from around the country. All of whom, along with our visiting international talent, are generously offering their gifts for the Beloved's pleasure and ours. Prior to the Anniversary the Program schedule with a full listing of all our performer/presenters will be made available on the Avatar's Abode website.

How to Attend:

Please use this [Registration](#) link to let us know of your intention to come as well as your special needs. A registration link is also available on the [Avatar's Abode website](#). In addition on this site you will find information about the Abode and the local area along with useful links to various local places for accommodations etc. Unfortunately the Abode does not have accommodation facilities for such large gatherings and what limited accommodations there are have been allocated for volunteers and invited guests. We are organising free transport to and from the Abode to two Woombye motels (see [Registration Form](#)). As we work towards making the Anniversary available to all who wish to attend, please register as soon as you can even if your plans are only tentative, this will still assist us so that we can begin to prepare for your possible visit. On arrival at Avatar's Abode please check in at the Reception Centre. Donations towards the Anniversary can be made at the Reception Centre or online at the [Avatar's Abode website](#). Our suggested donation is \$20 a day per adult or \$100 per adult for the full seven days (meals are not included as part of any donations, see Avatar's Abode Dining below). One advisory note for those planning to come from long distance overseas: if you are flying direct, giving yourself a few extra days in Australia prior to the Anniversary in order to recuperate from the effects of jet lag.

Tour: Charmaine Foley is organising an independent Australian tour (not connected to Avatar's Abode Trust or the Anniversary Committee) of the cities that Baba

visited during His 1956 visit, to take place prior to the Anniversary. If interested you can find further details on the [Avatar's Abode website](#). Email: chsfoley@gmail.com

How to Participate:

Volunteers: The Anniversary depends on volunteers; assistance from all is welcomed and your service will be greatly appreciated. Indicate your interest by ticking the appropriate button in the [Registration Form](#).

Performance/Workshop Offers: All offerings are welcomed for possible inclusion in the Anniversary program. You can register your interest by ticking the appropriate button in the [Registration Form](#). An open opportunity for short items (a song, a poem etc.) will be available during the communal singing period that follows both morning and evening Arti in Baba's House.

Avatar's Abode Dining: Service is from dinner Tuesday night to lunch the following Monday. Meal costs are separate from attendance donations (lunch and dinner, \$10 each, Breakfast undetermined at this juncture). Meals are to be paid for per person and per meal, please use the [Registration Form](#) to advise us of your anticipated dining schedule during the Anniversary. Meals can be paid for in advance for multiple days at the Reception Centre at any time or at the Kitchen for individual meals prior to each meal. Meals are prepared on the Abode by teams of dedicated volunteers whose work and support we are most grateful for. Specific food needs can be addressed when filling out your [Registration Form](#).

Children: Parents remain responsible for their child's safety and well-being throughout. Some supervised child activity times are provided during the days. Evening baby-sitting is not planned but may be provided dependent on expressions of interest. Please make requests via [Registration Form](#).

Accommodation: There are nearby motels and caravan parks at a range of prices. See "motels accommodations" on the [Avatar's Abode website](#).

The Sunshine Coast Motor Lodge has been booked out by the AA Trust primarily for the benefit and assistance of potential overseas pilgrims. If there remain rooms available the AAA Planning Committee will open it to all. Please contact us by email aa2018anniversary@westnet.com.au for expressions of interest.

Climate:

Most Australians know of our climate but to help advise our potential overseas visitors here is a brief description of the weather you might expect. It will be winter here in Queensland but our winters are mild, during the daytime it usually ranges from a mild 20C/68F to 25C/77F. But at night especially if it's a clear night, it can drop to 10C/50F or below. If it rains the Abode can become very muddy, especially if the rain lasts for a few days, therefore some form of water resistant foot gear may be needed. Flashlight (torch), rain coat, compact umbrella etc are all smart items to have with you.

Transport:

Air: The nearest (20 minutes) airport is the Sunshine Coast Airport (also known as Maroochy Airport) – domestic and NZ flights only. Brisbane Airport is the closest international airport and is 100 km south.

Taxis are available from the Airports, Central Bus Stations, and Nambour Rail Stations - www.suncoastcabs.com.au or phone: 131 008.

Shuttle Buses from Brisbane Airport leave hourly from both domestic and international terminals to the Sunshine Coast (our general area) - www.con-x-ion.com. The nearby local drop-offs (60-80 minutes from the airport) are either Forest Glen or better still, Woombye. In some possible situations Aussie World might be the only alternative but the former drop-offs are your better choices when available.

Trains: Available from Brisbane to Woombye and Nambour; Woombye Station is the closest (5km from the Abode) but there is no taxi rank (pick-ups may be arranged see below). Nambour Station has taxi ranks (10km from the Abode). You can board a train at the Brisbane airport that goes to Eagle Junction where you would then need to

change trains for Woombye or Nambour. Altogether expect at least 2 hours on train, plus wait times between trains that can be as long as 2 additional hours. translink.com.au

Buses: Available to Nambour (interstate) and Woombye (local). Note: There is no public transport (bus) to Kiels Mt. or Avatar's Abode.

Pick-ups: Volunteers are able to do most pick-ups at the local hubs: Sunshine Coast airport, Forest Glen and Woombye airport shuttle from Brisbane. Also Aussie World, Woombye train station, and Nambour rail/bus hub. See the [Registration Form](#) "Special Requirements" to request and arrange for possible assistance.

If you require transport during the Anniversary please make this known at Reception and we may be able to arrange this with a local volunteer.

Details:

Email Abode Anniversary: aa2018anniversary@westnet.com.au

Emergency contacts during the Anniversary: In Australia (07) 5442 1961 or 0415 313 471, from overseas: +617 5442 1961 or +61 415 313 471.

Access to the Abode is at the end of Meher Road, which is off Kiel Mt Rd. The nearest town is Woombye (10 minutes), the Abode is about 105km (65 miles) north of Brisbane.

Avatar's Abode's address: 48 Meher Rd, Kiels Mountain QLD 4559 (Note: some GPS systems may not work if you use "Woombye" instead of "Kiels Mountain".)

The Primary Places of importance at the Anniversary will be:

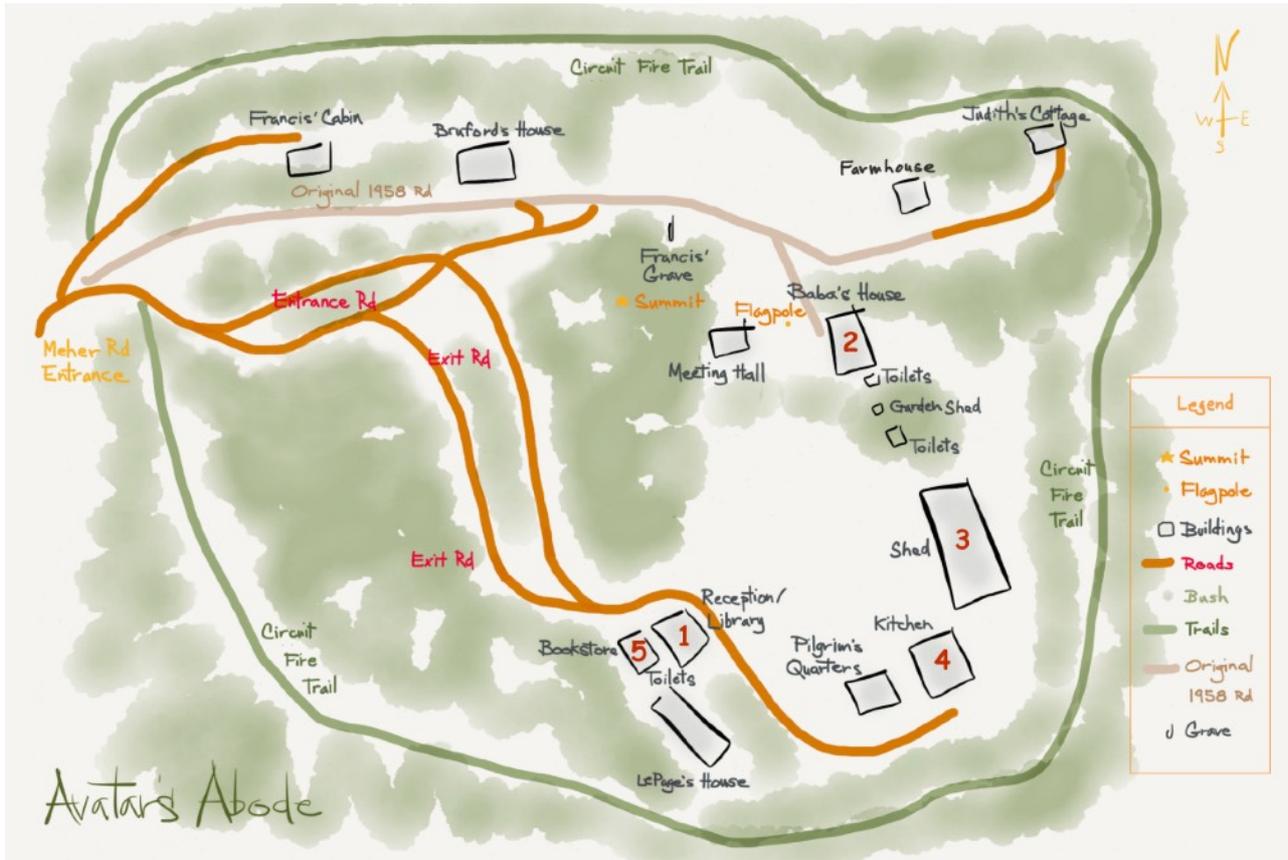
The **Reception/Library (1)** where you go to complete your Attendance Registration, make your donations towards the Anniversary, and pre-pay for meals.

Baba's House (2) where Baba stayed, Arti will be held each morning and evening in his room, and in the hall various programs will be held.

The **Shed (3)**, a long large activity space where many of the performance programs will be presented.

The **Kitchen (4)**, where meals are prepared and served and dining takes place.

The **Bookstore (5)**, besides containing books it will also function as a program location during the Anniversary.



We look forward to seeing you at this year's Anniversary!
Avatar's Abode Anniversary Planning Committee