

**FIRST NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN SANSKRIT FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER and SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2007**

Faculty of Asian Studies (Baldessin Precinct Building), ANU, Canberra

There are so many of us in Australia working in the area of Sanskrit these days, and yet we know so little about one another's projects. We are therefore creating an opportunity for all scholars, students and lovers of Sanskrit to gather in **Canberra on 17-18 November 2007** this year to share their enthusiasm for the subject.

The aim of the conference is fourfold:

- ◆ to bring together established and emerging scholars, and particularly postgraduate students
- ◆ to learn about one another's research
- ◆ to strengthen the sense of community
- ◆ to enhance links between scholars
- ◆ to enable fruitful academic exchange

Although our numbers are relatively small, our expertise embraces a vast range of Sanskrit genres, such as Vedas, Epics, Puranas, Katha, Poetry, Buddhist works, Upanishads, 18th century Vedanta texts and spoken Sanskrit. We have little contact with one another and little contact with other specialists in the field. An event like this is an important means of activating synergies.

You may present a paper on any aspect of your work, read or chant a piece of Sanskrit poetry or literature, or come along to listen, observe and contribute to the discussion. Everyone interested is most welcome! Our intention is to provide a venue for scholastic interchange, and in addition to provide an opportunity to hear, speak and chant Sanskrit poetry, literature, conversation etc. No Conference Fee will be charged, apart from a small contribution towards the cost of the banquet (approximately \$15 per head payable on the night).

Travel bursaries available

We are very keen to encourage postgraduate students to attend this event. Thanks to the generosity of the South Asia node of the APFRN and the LIISA committee at La Trobe, we are able to provide a number of bursaries to cover travel expenses for Australian students to attend the event. If you are a postgraduate student and you would like to attend, please contact one of the people listed below.

Arrival

We are encouraging participants to arrive in Canberra on Friday afternoon, 16 November. If you would like to be met at the airport or bus station, please contact us with the precise details of your estimated time and place of arrival.

Friday Dinner

You are welcome to join an informal dinner at a Canberra restaurant on Friday night from 7.30pm if you wish (expected cost ~\$30 per head). Please contact McComas (see below) before Thursday 15 November to make a booking.

Suggested accommodation

- ANU University House (\$117-138 per night),
- Argyle Executive Apartments, Currong St Reid 2612, (02) 6275 0800. www.argyleapartments.com.au (\$150 per night for 2 BR apartment)
- Stay free with a Sanskrit friend – billets are available – please contact McComas below

Proposed timetable

Friday 16 November

7:30pm Informal dinner at a location TBA

Saturday 17 November

- 9-10.30 1st session – Introduction and papers
10.30-11 morning tea
11-12.30 2nd session – papers
12.30-1.30 lunch
1.30-3.00 3rd session – papers
3.00-3.30 afternoon tea
3.30-4.30 4th session – Sanskrit reading, chanting and conversation
7-00 Shared take-away vegetarian banquet from Ruchi's
restaurant

Sunday 18 November

- 10-11.30 1st session – papers
11.30-12.30 Informal discussion
12.30-1.30 lunch
1.30-3.00 2nd session – papers
3.00-3.30 afternoon tea
3.30-4.15 3rd session – Sanskrit reading, chanting and conversation
4.15 Conclusion

Call for abstracts of proposed papers

Depending on the number of Sanskritists intending to present papers, it may be possible to allow 30-45 minutes per presentation. The time can be allocated between speaking and discussion, according to the presenter's desire.

If you would like to present a paper, please send your abstract to one of the names below by **Wednesday 15 August, 2007**.

Contacts:

- Jenni Cover (Sydney) jenni.cover@urnet.com.au
AnitaRay (Melbourne): A.Ray@latrobe.edu.au
McComas Taylor (Canberra): mccomas.taylor@anu.edu.au