

Gold Coast Hindu cultural Association celebrates one year

August 17th marks the end of one year for the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA). The management committee was unanimously elected in the inaugural meeting on 17th of August 2012 when the wider Hindu community of South East Queensland came together and formally launched the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association, to great fanfare. Looking back at the past one year, the Association has come a long way, walking the hard mile with its share of challenges. The membership and support has grown far beyond South East Queensland to nationally and internationally. The achievements are many. One of the biggest milestones is the GCHCA building fund attaining DGR (Deductible Gift Recipient) status, which enables any donation of \$2 or more to be issued with a tax receipt, which can be claimed as a tax deduction. The next biggest achievement is the successful bid by GCHCA for a sizeable land from the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC). This land is located in a prime location within the city limits and along the main transport corridor (close to Harbour Town, the new University Hospital, Griffith University and the upcoming Commonwealth games village). The wider community very well recognizing the vision of the Association demonstrated its confidence with over \$340,000 donations. These are just a few of the achievements of the GCHCA in the past year. With these in place and with the support of people from within and outside Australia, GCHCA is pleased to embark on the next stage, which is to build the iconic Hindu Education and Cultural precinct.

Picture shows GCHCA members engaging in hard negotiations with GCCC officials



During the past one year GCHCA focused on gaining support from the wider community locally, nationally and internationally as well as from community leaders and politicians at local, state and federal levels. The management committee acknowledges that without the support from them progress to this level within this short period would not have been possible.

Having secured the land, the committee is now working with Architects and Town Planners on the layout of the cultural precinct. The cost of stage one, which incorporates the education centre and a place for worship, is estimated to be \$2 million. The committee is actively collecting the funds from the community. The founder membership drive is going on in full pace, as this membership category will be closed on Sept 13th as per the constitution. No new founder member application can be made after Sept 13th 2013. The GCHCA appeals to the wider community to join as the founder members before this date. Details on joining the membership and the requirements can be found in the Association's web site culture.goldcoasthindu.org or by contacting the Secretary, Mr. Indrajit Siva at gchcan@gmail.com (or at +61 434 600 814).

GCHCA, in addition to the building activities, conducts a Monthly Bhajan on the 3rd Friday of each month at the Helensvale Community Centre ([31 Discovery Drive](#)) starting at 7.15pm. GCHCA is also making arrangements to celebrate the "Navarathri" on Oct 12th at 6pm in the [Bicentennial community Hall, Nerang](#) with a quality cultural program. Many leaders (community, local, state and federal) have already accepted the invitation and would be attending this festival and endorsing their full support to the Association. Navarathri is widely celebrated by the Hindu community world over with Pooja, prayers and cultural programs dedicated to 9 different forms of three goddesses in Hinduism the Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati believed by Hindus to bless the world with Energy (force / divine power to destroy the impurities affecting the world), wealth, knowledge and wisdom respectively. The cultural program will showcase the different art forms of Hindu culture and well-known artistes from South East Queensland community will perform in the program. You may get further information about this event by emailing the Secretary at gchcan@gmail.com. Tickets for this event (no entry fee) can also be ordered through <http://goldcoasthinduculturalassociation.eventbrite.com.au>

The second AGM will be held on 22nd of September 2013 and all members are cordially invited to attend this important meeting and be ready to make history.

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The Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association. www.GoldCoastHindu.org