

Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association takes off...

THE newly formed Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA) was formalised following a successful inaugural AGM on August 17th 2012. The interim committee organised the inaugural AGM and it was very well attended by people from South East Queensland and Northern New South Wales. Under the supervision of Dr. Murthy Divi and Prof. Paddy Krishnan the following Founder Members were unanimously elected to the Management Committee:

President -
Dr Vallipuram Muthukkumarasamy
Vice President -
Dr Pathmanathan Sivakumaran
Secretary - Mr S. Indrajith
Joint Secretary -
Mr Vidyakartik Menon
Treasurer - Mr Rathinam Srinivasan
Assistant Treasurer -
Mr Tharmalingam Surendran
Director of Cultural Activities -
Prof Thiru Aravinthan
Director of Religious Activities -
Mr Subramaniam Barataraj
Director of Educational Activities -
Dr Elankayer Sithirasanen
Director of Resources, media, Publicity and Asset Management -
Dr Sanmugarasa Kamalarasa
Director of Youth and Community Activities, Fund Raising Activities and Event Management -
Mrs Rathika Rauraman

The GCHCA based in one of the fastest growing regions of Australia, aims to promote Hindu culture among the community by being inclusive and supportive of friendship, respect, peace and tolerance. It will strive to promote and foster Hindu cultural activities, classical literature, music, dance and spiritual and language education by providing resources and facilities at the proposed "Hindu Education and Cultural Precinct" for the South East Queensland youth and adults.

The GCHCA is now incorporated in Queensland. It is a registered not-for-profit organization with charity status. The GCHCA Building Donation Account has received Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status from Australian Taxation Office (ATO) which permits donations of two dollars or more to the building fund to be allowable deduction from your taxable income.

The GCHCA committee is currently evaluating land options in prime locations in Gold Coast. The association received an offer of a sizable land in a

prime location, but it is contingent on demonstrating up-front sufficient funds for building works. The GCHCA is now in the process of raising funds to make it a reality. The GCHCA is required to present a development plan with costing and matching funds within a few months to take advantage of this offer. The Management Committee has prepared initial Architectural concept designs for the "Gold Coast Hindu Education and Cultural Precinct" and a comprehensive Business Plan. Further details and awareness about the activities of GCHCA can be found on the website: <http://GoldCoastHindu.org/>

Dr. V. Muthu, the President of the GCHCA, speaking to this correspondent was very enthusiastic about the steadily growing GCHCA Founder membership, but stressed that more Founder members are needed to grow the Association. He added that the Management Committee would be pleased to meet interested people in-person for an in-depth discussion about the GCHCA's vision and activities. Dr. V. Muthu emphasised that GCHCA is an inclusive organisation and welcomes members from all walks of life and from all communities who embrace the Hindu customs and heritage and that the GCHCA will be a place that brings together Hindu customs and heritage with Australian values of community.

The committee members are available to meet the community-at-large after the Bajan session held 3rd Friday of every month (7:15 pm - 9:15 pm) the *Helensvale Community Centre, 31 Discovery Drive, Helensvale*. They will be delighted to meet the supporters of the GCHCA at this and any other events. They are also seeking suggestions and feedback on their activities from the community. The email address for the general public to send feedback is: gchcan@gmail.com.

The GCHCA extends their best wishes to all readers of the Brisbane Indian Times for the upcoming holiday season.

Dr. S. Kamalarasa

Director of Resources, Media, Publicity and Asset Management
The Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association Inc.



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