



### **Extraordinary year of achievement for the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA)**

The Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association had an extraordinary year with many achievements under its belt. Recap of what they have achieved this year seems very interesting. Following intense activities related to the proper formation and registration of the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA) in the latter half of last year; GCHCA devoted most of this year to disseminating information about the vision and objects of the association. The founder membership roll closed on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (as per the constitution, after one year from incorporation). The founder membership drive was successful and encouraging with 46 members joining the association as founder members. This was a big achievement for the association and laid a solid foundation. GCHCA has members from all over Australia, including Victoria and NSW. As Gold Coast is **“Australia’s playground”**, people from all over Australia connected with Gold Coast and the GCHCA and felt the urgent need for a *Hindu Education and Cultural precinct*. They responded in kind to our call to join the association. Apart from Founder Membership and Life membership, many joined as supporters of GCHCA by participating in the **“Thousand families for Murugan”**. GCHCA has been fortunate in that the *GCHCA Building donation* account has received the DGR status from the ATO and hence all donations (\$2 or more) into this account are tax deductible. Most of the donors already benefited with income tax deductions. The achievements included the following:

1. Received valuable input and feedback from general public through a Special General Meeting in Jan 2013 where GCHCA explained their objectives and mission.
2. Successfully conducted the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM after formation on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2013, where many members participated and endorsed the concept plan for the precinct and commended the transparent accounting practices.
3. Held the first major public event, Navaratri Celebrations, which was well received and attended by wider community, local, state and federal representatives (Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 2013) (<http://tinyurl.com/ohz5jxy>).
4. Successfully organised a Youth Event, which brought many youth in the community for the very first time (<http://tinyurl.com/paqx9vf>).
5. Conducted regular bhajan sessions every month – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.
6. Preparation of the DA application to be finalised by the end of December 2013. Town Planner and Architects hired to complete the task.
7. Successfully negotiated with the Gold Coast City Council and received the land in prime location close to Griffith University.

Many prominent leaders from the wider community attended the Navaratri event. The *Executive Director of Multicultural Affairs QLD*, Mr. Wayne Briscoe, represented the *Minister for Multicultural Affairs*. We had in attendance the *Federal Member for Macpherson*, Ms. Karen Andrews, *State Member for Burleigh*, Mr. Michael Hart, *State Member for Gaven*, Dr. Alex Douglas, *Gold Coast City Councilors*: Cr Lex Bell, Cr Bob La Castra, Cr Tracey Gilmore, and Cr Paul Taylor, distinguished guests and representatives from The *Multicultural Communities Council of Gold Coast* (e.g. Mr. Nao Hirano), *Brahma Kumaris Australia* and the *Gold Coast Youth Orchestra* (Dr. Patricia Geale). Dr. Brian Adam represented the *Griffith University's Multi-Faith Centre* and Prof. E. Selvanathan represented *TaCWA*.

Further details and information (including progress update on the DA, drawings of the proposed Hindu Education and Cultural Precinct etc.) and about our ongoing activities can be found from GCHCA website <http://goldcoasthindu.org> or by emailing us at [gchcan@gmail.com](mailto:gchcan@gmail.com) or through phone +61 7 5571 5808.

We also have an active Facebook page:  
(<https://www.facebook.com/goldcoasthindu.culturalassociation>)

We sincerely thank all supporters and well-wishers for their commitment and wish you all the best for this festive season.

Dr. M. Anandakumarasamy  
Vice President, GCHCA

Here are some photos from the year:

Fig 1: Navaratri Event



Fig 2: Navaratri Function: Mr. Arthavan Selvanathan (on Mridangam), Prof. Thiru Aravinthan (Flute) and Mr. *Sujeewan Jeyamanoharan* (Carnatic Violin)



Fig 3: GCHCA youth Event was well received by the youth in the community

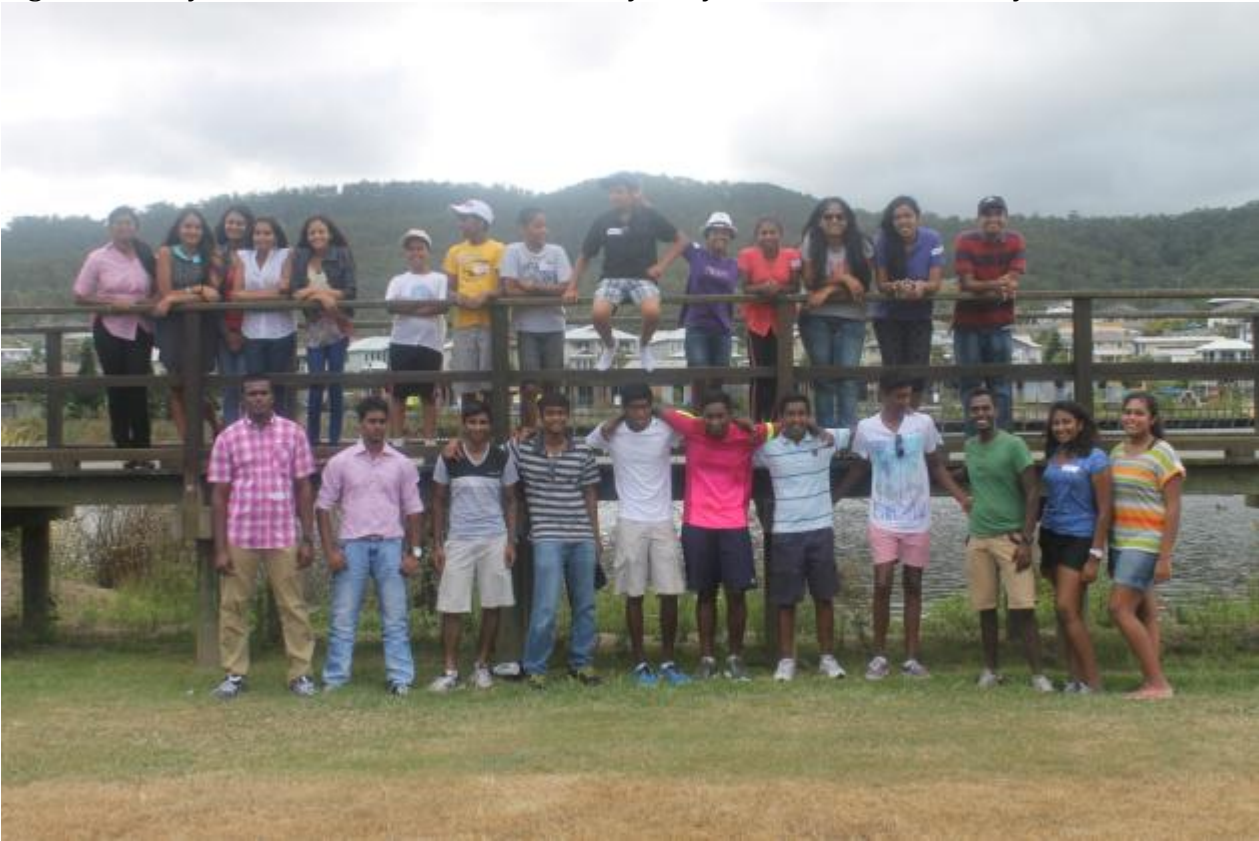


Fig 4: GCHCA had an information booth on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 at the Melbourne Shiva-Vishnu Temple





Fig 6: Friday Bhajan Sessions



Fig 6: Special General Meeting (Jan 2013)





Fig 7: Many people worked together to produce the GCHCA logo

