

Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association news.....

Courtesy Mr. Rathinam Srinivasan
Gold Coast

THE Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA) held a Special General Meeting (SGM) on Friday, Jan 18th 2013. It was well attended and many members and well wishers from far and wide attended this gathering.

The secretary, Mr. S. Indrajit, in his report took the members through the historical stages of development of the association. He said that the Hindu community in South East Queensland had long expressed a desire to set up a Hindu Cultural precinct in Gold Coast. There was a strong expression of interest for such a project to bring all Hindu functions, rituals, cultural activities and education under one roof in South East Queensland. This vibrant community regularly celebrates various cultural and religious functions enthusiastically that brings to live the Hindu culture in South East Queensland whenever and wherever possible. There are regular functions (e.g Dewali and Saraswathy poojas), bajans, ethnic language education classes and other cultural activities which makes this possible. Finally, on Friday, 18 November 2011, after the monthly bajan, the community met and decided to act on the wishes of the wider Hindu community. The community decided



that a committee be set up to explore the feasibility of setting up a Hindu cultural precinct in Gold Coast. The exploratory committee was accordingly set up.

This committee worked hard and came back on January 30, 2012 with their ground breaking recommendations on how to move forward. The three members of this committee who worked on this, now historical work are Mr. T. Kugapalan, Mr. Sures Sinnadurai and Mr. Nachimuthu Kesawan. Among their recommendations was the creation of an interim committee with specific tasks, which included setting up of a legal entity and creation of a strong constitution for the organization. It also recommended that the interim committee be given a deadline (of six months) to deliver on the framework needed to move forward.

The secretary went on to say in his report that the community met again after bajan on February 17th 2012 and an interim committee was elected by the community to act on the recommendations of the exploratory committee. The interim committee worked very hard and enthusiastically to deliver within the allocated six

months. The interim committee held several meetings which often went for many hours, sometimes late into the evening. It conducted numerous consultations with the wider community. Several members of the community were invited to make special presentations at the committee meetings. The interim committee updated the community in a town hall like meetings just after regular Friday bajans. The secretary thanked the members of the interim committee who worked with dedication and enthusiasm.

The members of the interim committee were: Dr. Ganesamoorthy Subakumar, Mrs. Piriyaadharshini Sivakumaran, Dr. Vallipuram Muthukkumarasamy, Mr. Rathinam Srinivasan, Mr. T. Kugapalan, Mr. S. Barataraj, Mr. Nachimuthu Kesawan and Mr. Indrajit Siva. The interim committee organized the inaugural AGM of the newly formed association, "The Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association" on Aug 17th 2012 at which time the present committee was elected.

The secretary outlined some of the major achievements of the new committee which included the following:

* GCHCA was formally incorpo-

rated in Queensland on 13th of September 2012

* The GCHCA building donation account received the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status on 23rd Nov 2012

* A new logo depicting the objects of the association was designed

* Received Tax Concession Charity (TCC) status from ATO

* Obtained ABN number (ABN# 141 536 399 53) and Tax File Number for the Association

* Committee is working on an offer of land from the Gold Coast City Council

by working closely with designers, engineers, architects, town planners etc

* Received Certificate of Registration as a Queensland Charity (Charity #CH2260) on Dec 6th 2012

* Brought in several additional Founder members from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria with the current membership of over 40 Founder members.

* Created the official website (GoldCoastHindu.org) which is being developed with useful information.

The secretary ended the report by thanking members for coming to General Meeting / Information Session and ended by saying that he looks forward to their continued support.

