

A plan for Youth Activities - update from GCHCA

GOLD Coast Hindu Cultural Association 2016 program started with monthly bhajan on 15th January 2016 which coincided with the Hindu Tamil Pongal festival in Helensvale community centre, Gold Coast. The Thai Pongal day marks the start of the sun's six-month-long journey northwards (the Uttarayanam). This also corresponds to the Indic solstice when the sun purportedly enters the 10th house of the Indian zodiac Makara or Capricorn.

Thai Pongal is mainly celebrated to convey appreciation to the Sun God for providing the energy for agriculture. The Thai Pongal bhajan in Gold Coast was well attended by Hindu Community from Gold Coast and Brisbane. The children and adults sang the bhajans. Bhajan was concluded with speech from one of our new member Dr. Asha Sadasivan. She made a presentation in favour of more youth engagement in GCHCA activities so that it can give them more understanding of our culture and lead them to be good citizens in future.

Following this thoughts, the committee has decided to have a consultative meeting(s) to discuss potential youth activities with youths at a suitable venue and time facilitated by its youth coordinator Kartik Menon with the consent of parents.

GCHCA membership numbers started to increase in the recent weeks for the GCHCA with the wider Hindu community supporting the noble project. Many Hindu members came forward to guide the project with enthusiasm and many of them started to join as members. While we welcome our new members we encourage others to come forward with their families to help us in achieving the target.

Earlier on 9th January 2016, a community information evening regarding GCHCA project was held in the Garden City Library meeting room. This meeting was organised



• Supporters meeting with Councillor, Cr. Margaret Grummit & Gold Coast City Council officials.



• Workshop participants in Brisbane.

by the community leader and member Mr Sriram Gopalakrishnan from Eight Mile Plains. Community members participated in the meeting and expressed their views about the GCHCA project and valuable information exchanged with committee members.

The main part of the Hindu Education and Cultural precinct will be developed this year.



• Supporters making the final call on design.

Two phases of the project: 'Community Square' and 'Multipurpose Hall' work is expected to start in the early part of this year after signing the lease agreement for the land with the Gold Coast City Council. The committee members are busy organising the final paper work to sign the lease agreement with the council.

In the next phase, we are in a drive for more funds for the Gold Coast Hindu Education and Cultural Precinct. All monetary contributions of \$2 or more to the GCHCA Building Fund will be eligible for a tax deduction. The association has already raised over \$600,000 and continues to be bestowed with donations. However, the association is still far from achieving its target and the GCHCA needs your urgent support to fulfil its noble objectives with minimal impediments. The first phase of the project is estimated to cost around 1.5 million dollars.

We, therefore humbly appeal for your support. Any contribution would make a difference and every cent counts towards helping our community realize its dream. We are confident that anyone who gives to this cause would be abundantly blessed. Even if you can't contribute, you can still help through voluntary work and as mentioned earlier, we need members of the community to assist us for the engineering project as well as volunteers to maintain our website and help us in fund raising activities. If you have the capabilities, please contact us via email.

For more information about this project, please visit the GCHCA website on <http://www.GoldCoastHindu.org>. You are also more than welcome to contact the association's President, Secretary or Treasurer if you have any further queries. All tax-deductible donations (\$2 or more) can be deposited into the following:

Commonwealth Bank Account: The GCHCA Building Donation Account
BSB: 064-474 Account Number: 104 88 900
GCHCA like to remind its members that Maha Sivarathri, the night devoted to lord Shiva falls this year on coming 7th March, Monday 2016.