

By S. Barataraj
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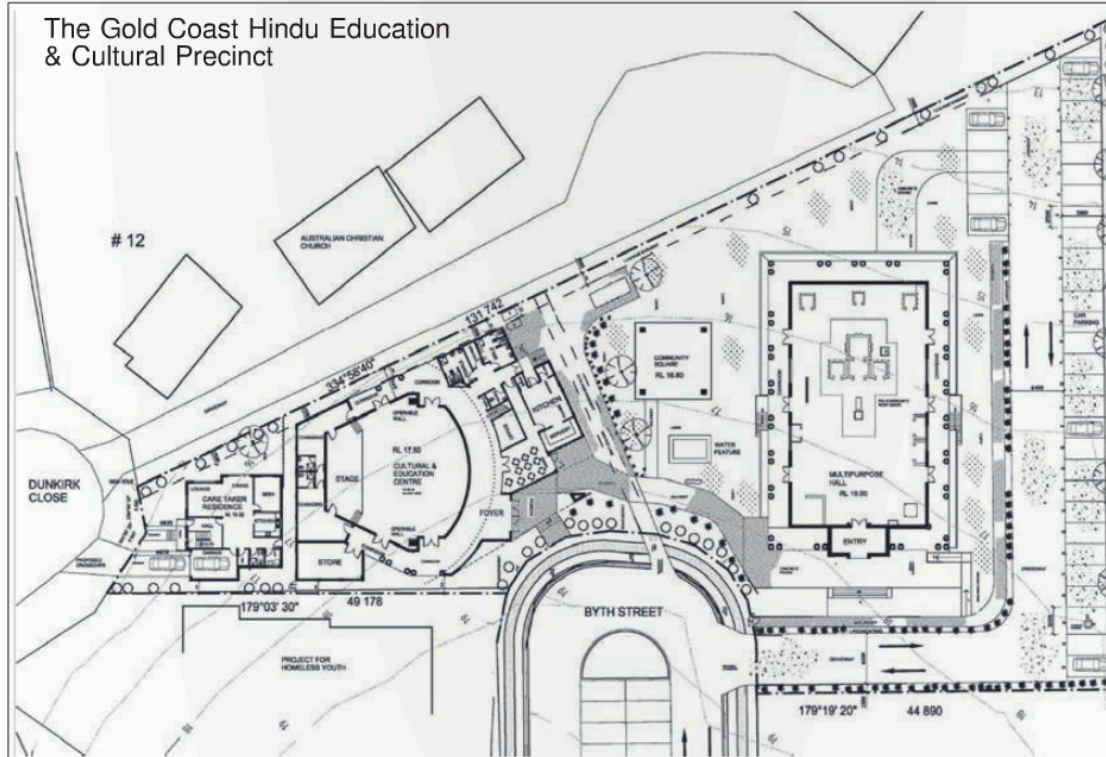
THE Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA) is now embarking on the next phase. With the help of many community volunteers, GCHCA is nearing the completion of the Development Application (DA) to the Gold Coast City Council (GCCC) of the cultural masterpiece. This iconic design is being developed with the help and support of large number of volunteers including Architect (Mr. Yoga), Quantity Surveyor (Mr. N. Navaruban), Structural Engineer (Mr. K. Thangavel), Traffic Engineer (Mrs. Kumutha Mutalithas), etc.

GCHCA Youth wing member, Mohanapiriyam is excited about the project and says, "Located near Harbour Town in Gold Coast, our vision of the precinct is that as you make the turn onto Allied drive from Olsen Avenue, the magnificent master piece of Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Precinct can be seen, towering above the gum tree tops, standing with elegance, and pride, the spirit of the Gold Coast Hindu's. The Cultural Centre lies under the gum trees, a beautiful auditorium, a top class chef's kitchen are housed in this small complex. However it is neither the size of the Place of worship nor the creativity of the architectural designs that distinguishes this precinct from any other. It is the spirit that the great founders of this centre, the passion in the community's motives that will never be forgotten."

"With the help of its many supporters including the youth wing, the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association has been able to reach incredible milestones. The dream of fostering the virtues of culture, religion and education has become one step closer with the architectural design currently being finalised. The precinct incorporates the needs of the 21st century into its design and hopes to create monumental buildings that will soon become a tourist attraction in the Gold Coast."

These are the thoughts of another Hindu youth, Thavarakan. He further says: "The recently released design is creating buzz within our adults and youths. The 'multi-purpose hall' will serve as the place of worship, education,

The Gold Coast Hindu Education & Cultural Precinct



hall for meditation and recitals. The 'cultural and education centre' will serve to act as an auditorium for cultural performances, community activities and small classrooms for our educational purposes. These main buildings will fuse together to provide the youth, adults and seniors with the traditional values of our heritage. The precinct hopes to incorporate modern and conventional architecture to enhance the atmosphere and sensations."

The GCHCA is hoping to continue its astounding progress through the prosperous year of 2014. For this to be true they need your support. Not only can you join as a Life Member and make tax-deductible donations and support the Association financially but also provide them with your kind feedback on the design and share the experience with the Development Application. GCHCA thanks those that have already helped them immensely throughout the year of 2013 and look forward to your continued support. Further details can be found in our web site or by contacting at gchcan@gmail.com. Make your donations through credit card or bank transfer to the GCHCA Building

Donation Account: BSB: 064-474 Account: 1048 8900.

Hindu community celebrates "Pongal/ Maha Sankranti" this month. Thavarakan says, "as the sun rises across the ocean and breaks free above the mountains, Hindu worshippers bow their heads in respect. The smoke created by the Pongal rises above the heads of the worshippers, signalling a new day, a day where we pay respect to the almighty god, the god that brings light and happiness to this planet; the Sun God or Sooriyan."

On the morning of January 14th temples would be full of Hindu worshippers who have taken a break from their busy lives to pay respect to the Sun God. Makar Sankranti or Thai Pongal is one of the most auspicious days for the Hindus, and is celebrated in myriad of cultural forms, with great devotion, fervour & gaiety. We wish all the Hindu residents residing in the South East Queensland a happy Pongal.

GCHCA warmly invites one and all to our special Pongal/ Maha Sankranti centric bhajan on Friday, 17th of January at the Helensvale Community Centre (31, Discovery Drive, Helensvale). Please gather at 7pm for a 7.15pm start.



• GCHCA Bhajan night.