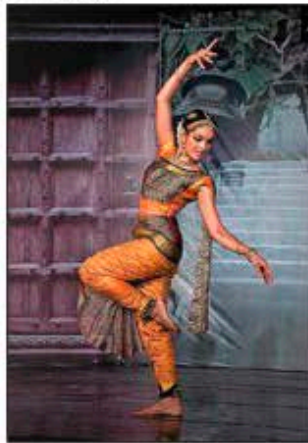


Embrace the Culture!

By Mahima Mahesh,
Youth Supporter of GCHCA

"HINDUISM is more than a religion. It is a culture, a way of life, and a code of behaviour." The Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA) aims to educate today's younger generation on this culture, way of life and code of behaviour through Hindu scriptures, stories and traditional practices. GCHCA value and encourage youth participation in all activities and also aim to pass the knowledge of our culture down to future generations. To enhance cultural awareness, the GCHCA is building a new *Hindu Cultural Precinct*, which will be located on the Gold Coast! We finally have a place where the community can interact with one and other and progress in our cultural educational journey.



So what exactly is Hindu culture? Hindu culture is an embodiment of important morals and celebration of beautiful aspects of life. We celebrate colour (in Holi) and light (in Diwali) and many more festivals which praise life's amazing features and reminds us of

the victory of good over evil. The Hindu religion instils valuable principles through the many fables of our gods. For example Krishna is a god who embodies leadership and protective qualities with regard to his love ones. These valuable virtues are very relevant in today's society.

Another key aspect of Hindu culture is the arts that accompany the religion. Art is so intimately associated with Hindu religion and philosophy. Art pervades in every facet of Indian life. Indian art is a disciplined style of worship and self-restraint. Lord Shiva, the great god of yogic practice, visually represented as Natraja, is the most remarkable symbol of artistic genius. Many musical instruments such as: the sitar, miruthangum, veena and tabla are played in temple festivals as live music. Many traditional dance forms such as Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathak and Mohiniattam illustrate our lords' stories and the love people have for our gods.

Youth Group

"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history" Mohandas Gandhi.

Being a second generation Indian, we have limited opportunities to connect with our



• Meeting the Premier.

roots. Integrating with a community who share similar cultural traits allow deeper relationships and discussions to grow. When sharing ideas during cultural discussions, a strong sense of belongingness develops. Unfortunately, by living away from our homeland, we are not as culturally aware as our parents. The GCHCA provides cultural education which can enhance the youths' understanding of our home nation and its traditions. It bridge together Indian and other youth to develop a more closely knit community. We take pride in our Indian heritage and Australian upbringing.

We call out to every young person in our community, come on board with us on this cultural journey by becoming a *youth member* today! Let's embrace Hindu culture together and create a platform for South Asian origin youth.

Further as part of the GCHCA Cultural Precinct building work, Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association members have met Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier of Queensland on 15th of May 2016 in the Community Cabinet at Southport State High School in Gold Coast. Members were able to discuss the GCHCA project with the premier and plan to have follow-up meeting with Queensland Government Officials in future.

With the grace of God, we have got all approvals to start clearing the land this month. We are still need of range of volunteers including professionals to assist in structural drafting, electrical design, building services design, landscape design etc

(for details gchcan@gmail.com or 0402 243 867). We seek financial assistance from the community and every cent donated will make a difference towards fulfilling the vision of the Association. Please support by making tax-deductible donations through credit card or bank transfer.

For more details, visit GoldCoastHindu.org and donate online. The details of the GCHCA Building Donation Account are: BSB: 064-474 Account: 1048 8900.