

# Maha Shivarathri wishes from Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Assn.

THE Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA) likes to remind that Maha Shivaratri falls on 7th of March 2016. Maha Shivaratri, which literally translates to "great night of Lord Shiva" is a Hindu festival largely celebrated by Hindus from all over the world. The 14th day of the dark half of each lunar month is especially sacred to Lord Shiva, but when it occurs in the month of Magha (January–February) and, to a lesser extent, in the month of Phalgun (February–March), it is a day of particular rejoicing. The preceding day the devotees observe a fast and at night a vigil during which a special worship of the lingam (symbol of Shiva) is performed.

While GCHCA wishes Hindu devotees for Maha Shivarathri day celebration, it also likes to announce that the committee is working hard to build the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Precinct early as possible so that Maha Shivarathri 2017 will be celebrated in Gold Coast in the new Hindu Precinct. The final work to sign the land lease for the precinct with the Gold Coast City Council will be expected to happen in a few weeks time. Building approval (BA) application will be forwarded to the council approval follow the lease signing. The final Building Approval sketch work is being done by team volunteers consist of engineers and architects after consultation

with community members.

The Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA) holds monthly bhajans every third Friday of the month starting at 7:15pm at the Helensvale Community Centre (31 Discovery Drive, Helensvale, 4214, Gold Coast). Activities include Bhajan recitals, short educational presentations and free vegetarian dinner. All are cordially invited to attend and the next bhajan will be held on 18th of March 2016.

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.

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 sup-

port 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, 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 [www.GoldCoastHindu.org](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