

## **GCHCA Navarathri (Dasara) Festival:**

Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association (GCHCA) proudly celebrated their annual Navarathri (Dasara) Festival in grand style at the Nerang Community Centre hall, Gold Coast on 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 2015. His Worship the Mayor, Cr Tom Tate and his wife graced the occasion as Chief Guests. The Honourable premier of Queensland Annastacia Palaszczuk send a message to the festival and stated that Queensland State is richer for its multiculturalism, and the Government is committed to promoting, celebrating and valuing the many benefits our multicultural society delivers to all Queenslanders. She further commended the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association for organising this popular festival and actively promoting our State's diversity.

The programme was inaugurated with pooja and honourable guests lit the ceremonial lamp. Various cultural programmes including Bharathanatyam Dances, Carnatic Style Vocal Music, and Carnatic and Hindustani style instrumental music of Venna, Sitar, Flute, Miridangam and Tabla were conducted. Both individual artists and virtuosos from a myriad of art schools in Brisbane and Gold coast performed at the event. Student artists came from Easwaralaya Kalaikoodam Dance School, Nadananjali School of Dance, Madhura Vaani Isai Palli and Ashu Babu Memorial Tabla School.

His Worship the Mayor, Cr Tom Tate in his chief guest address, congratulated the Gold Coast Hindu Cultural Association for their commendable work and thanked them for inviting him to such an entertaining cultural evening. He pledged ongoing support from the City Council to such a worthy cause. The GCHCA President Dr Chinniah Arunagiri guaranteed that GCHCA is working hard to build the Hindu Cultural Precinct before the Gold Coast for Commonwealth Games in 2018. He also reminded that such magnitude of a project cannot be delivered by the community alone and wider participation from local council, state and federal government is vital, especially on the financial side, for the success of the project.

The event concluded with a delicious vegetarian dinner, mainly sponsored by the **Krish Indian Cuisine**, the Indian Restaurant with branches in Varsity Lakes, Robina and Worongary. The other major sponsor (logistics and staff) was **Saffron Indian** gourmet restaurant in Broadbeach. It was noted that a lot of community members wanted to attend the event, but were unable to get the tickets due to limited number seats available at the venue. Therefore, for next time, GCHCA is considering to celebrate this wonderful occasion at a larger venue, to facilitate the larger audience attendance.

On another note, GCHCA is happy to announce that they are in the final stages of applying for the Building Approval, for the cultural and temple precinct. We would appreciate if any volunteers from the engineering field, to come forward and assist us in this work. We need people who can help us in Structural Engineering plans, Mechanical Engineering plans, Electrical Engineering plans, Hydraulic Engineering plans, Civil Engineering plans and Energy efficiency assessment report and Form 15 design certificates in the above plans. If you can volunteer your valuable time, please contact us on [gchcan@gmail.com](mailto:gchcan@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

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. Within a relatively short period, the association has already raised \$550,000 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.

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 in the project engineering side 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

Web site: [www.GoldCoastHindu.org](http://www.GoldCoastHindu.org).

Email: [gchcan@gmail.com](mailto:gchcan@gmail.com)

Thank you.

GCHCA Management

Children from the Easwaralaya Kalaikoodam Dance School



President of GCHCA, Dr. Chinniah Arunagiri



Mayor Tom Tate in conversation with GCHCA president, Dr. Chinniah Arunagiri



Mayor Tom Tate in the audience



Mayoress Ruth Tate lighting the traditional lamp



Mayor Tom Tate address the audience



Another dance item



Students from Madhura Vaani Isai Palli school played at the event



Mayor Tom Tate and Mayoress Ruth Tate being received with a traditional bindi

