



HINDU COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA



Annual report 2017-18

15 Dec 2018

Vikas Chopra
Secretary



Annual Report 2017-18

On behalf of the Hindu Council of Australia it is our absolute honour and privilege to present to you the Annual Report of Hindu Council of Australia for 2017-2018. As our AGM is in Dec, this report includes all programs we have conducted till Dec.

On behalf of the board of directors we would like to thank volunteers, members and stakeholders involved with HCA to support, promote and value their association with us. We are grateful for the community support we have received throughout the year in the form of active participation, sponsorship, volunteering and constructive feedback. We also thank government agencies for grants and individual donations by giving us the opportunity to plan for and allocate much needed resources to run for the community programmes.

In the 12 months since July 2017 HCA has been involved in various activities in Adelaide, Canberra, Perth, Melbourne & Sydney. Hosting interfaith forums, chaplaincy program in NSW and Melbourne, International Yoga Day celebrations at multiple venues, Gargi Awards for International Woman Day, first time Holi Celebrations in Cumberland Council in Sydney, various community initiatives from Hindu Benevolent fund, online education on Introduction to Hinduism, 10 week Hindu education Capsule course, first Hindu Arts exhibition, weekly newsletter, revamping of HCA website, opening of WA and NT Chapter, are some of the highlights for the year.

The challenges ahead are to work on our goals and establish ways of achieving them. With enthusiasm, hard work and commitment of our volunteers, sponsors and community supporters we can continue and grow our work in all territories and states of Australia.

Once again thank you all.

Warm Regards

Prakash Mehta
President
Hindu Council of Australia
15 December 2018

General Activities

Administrative Activities

- Since last AGM Total 5 meetings held for National Executive team and total 3 formal Board meeting held and 3 teleconference meeting for resolving quick issues.
- Various policies development is in progress. Three new policies have been finalised and issued.
- 1 team building workshop held in NSW
- 3 new member associations joined HCA.
- HCA chapters established in WA and NT. Now we have presence in each main land states.
- Hindu Benevolent fund established with initial deposit of \$ 7100 by HCA.

Governmental/ Submission

- Same sex marriage
- Migration program 2017-18
- Senate inquiry on Dowry abuse
- Representations has been made with the Immigration department on immigration issues affecting Hindus
- Immigration is being lobbied to remove the requirement that priests must have a qualification equivalent to a Bachelor's degree and unnecessary high English proficiency requirements. HCA along with various member organisations representatives is coordinating the priest visa issue.
- Another representation is being made to grant Refugee status in Australia for Pakistani Hindus to the government as well as the shadow minister.

Website

HCA website has been revamped and is being regularly updated and following features added:

- A new RSS link has been added so that people can use automated tools to learn what new has been added to the web site.
- A new software has been added to support offering of online courses, taking exams and awarding certificates on Introduction to Hinduism. An FAQ on Hinduism has been added.
- Submission of Gargi award nominees has been made online via the web site.
- A section has been added to allow people to download rare Hindu manuscripts and to list upcoming Hindu festivals and upcoming events.
- A Donation button where by donations by Credit Card has been added
- A ticketing software has been added and was tested and now it is ready to be used for other paid as well as free events of Hindu Council.
- A new software has been added to automate stalls booking for Diwali.
- Hindu Council web site is being visited by over 500 visitors daily and it is being monitored by many International news agencies for news about Hinduism in Australia.
- The web site is being maintained by Surinder Jain while Deepavali web site is being maintained by Surinder Jain and Vijay Maharaj.

Education

- 10 Weeks Hindu education capsule course carried out by research experts in various field. Total 40 students from all over Australia plus overseas took part.
- An online course on "Introduction to Hinduism" has been designed and is being offered via web. Six students have been accepted for registration. . Four students have successfully completed the course and have been awarded Certificates of completion.
- Talk on Hinduism provided at Universities to students learning theology.
- All Chaplains, Marriage celebrants, Teachers and others seeking endorsement of their Hinduism knowledge by Hindu Council should take up this course and earn the certificate.

- Regular queries from students studying Hinduism addressed.
- Spoken Sanskrit Class held at Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne by Dr Jyoti Ruba from Durdarshan.
- Approached Education Minister, Govt of India for opening IGNOU chapter in Australia. Waiting for reply.

Ecology

- Hindu Council has participated in "Living the Change" initiative of ARRCC.
- "Eat Less Meat to save the Environment" campaign is being pushed among environment movements in Australia.

Women issues

- An online survey of Hindu women on issues affecting them was started during Kalyanam and Diwali.
- Initiated Gargi Women award, criteria and categories for award have been finalised. . A four member panel to assess each nominee against the criteria has been formed. The awards will be given as part of International Women's Day celebrations being planned by NSW team.

Multi faith

- Hindu Council has participated in various Interfaith forums explaining Hindu views and helping other religions to understand
- Participated in Religions for Peace movement
- Participated in Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)
- APRO - Hindu Council has supported funding application of Australian Participation of Religious Organisations for 2019 conference and report on Multicultural Communities relating to violence
- Hindu Council has participated in various consultation by Multicultural department of NSW on religious issues
- Order of Australia Multi-Faith meeting "Wisdom for Common Good at the ACC&C
- Pacific Islands Multi-Faith Meeting at Pilgrim House Canberra
- Multi-Faith Prayers at National Arboretum for Drought Baha'i Parliament House
- September International Multi-faith with Catholic at Home of Archbishop Prowse, Canberra

Marriage Celebrants

- Hindu Wedding procedure drafted and submitted to Attorney General office
- Total 4 priest applications for becoming marriage celebrants processed.

Media

- HCA has issued media release on various occasions such as IWD, desecration of Hindu Temple, FIJI flood relief appeal, as well as 20 years history of HCA. In addition to this, protest letter issued to Brookvale Ginger Beer as well as commented on articles showing incorrect details about Hinduism in Newspaper as appropriate.

News Letter

- New software has been added so that visitors to the web site can opt to receive newsletters, event information and to volunteer. The newsletter is being edited by Surinder Jain and sent every week to about 5,000 recipients of whom about 1,500 are opening the newsletter to read. (We are doing better than the industry average of 26%)

ACT Chapter

ACT Chapter of HCA is actively participating in community events and representing community events at various forums.

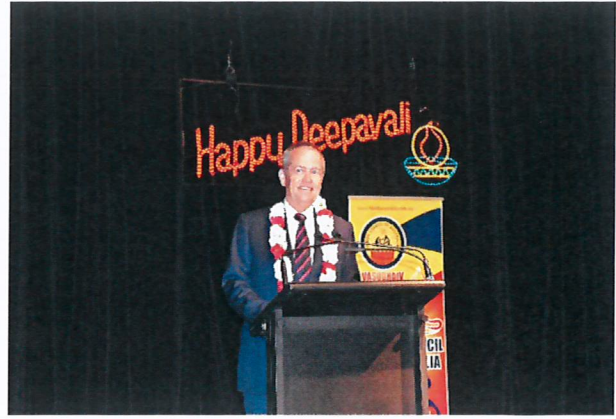
Deepavali & Annakut – Australian Parliament House

A grand and spectacular Deepavali & Annakut celebration was hosted at the Australian Parliament House on 3 December 2018 by the [Hindu Council of Australia \(HCA\)](#), in association with Hon David Coleman MP, Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs and Senator Hon Zed Seselja MP, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Finance.

The event showcased the rich Indian culture and heritage through elaborate displays, Annakut offerings and engaging cultural performances. While HCA has been hosting Deepavali celebration at the Australian Parliament House since 2004, this year marked the introduction of an eclectic Exhibition of Indian Festivals and Culture followed by lunch, attended by over 150 guests. The highlight of this year's celebration, the Exhibition received much appreciation from the guests.



The celebration in the evening comprised of speeches and performances representing the various dance forms of India, to an audience of over 500 guests. The opening address to the evening of cultural performances was given by Mr Prakash Mehta, President HCA, Details about Annkut by Sitesh Bhojani, Trustee BAPS, Hon Bill Shorten MP, Leader of Opposition, Hon Zed Seselja MP, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Finance, High Commissioner of India Dr A. M Gondane, Federal MP for Berowra, Julian Leaser MP, Michelle Rowland MP, Shadow Minister for Communications all extended Diwali greetings to the guests. The event ended with Shri Kanti Jinna (OAM) Vice President HCA, calling on stage to honour the committee members of Hindu Council of Australia and a vote of thanks by Shri Santosh Gupta, Coordinator, HCA (ACT Chapter).

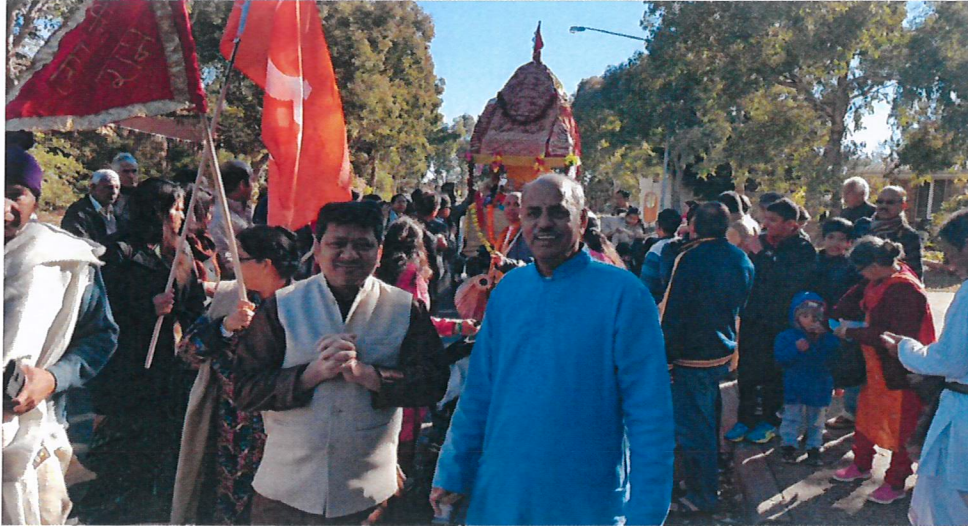


Hindu Unity Day event 16 June 2018

Hindu Unity day was celebrated by inviting various Hindu organisations at Hindu Temple and Cultural Center. Total 16 associations took part. Each association has been asked to say about is routine activity and provide ideas/suggestions about how collectively we can help to preserve, promote and share Hindu values in Australia.

Rathyatra Festival July 2018

HCA participated with Hindu Temple and Cultural centre and local Orria community for celebration of Rath Yatra festival. Chariot of Lord Jaggnath taken out on streets of Florey. Total attendance was more than 500.



HCA represented/ participated at following activities during the year.

- Presented exhibition on Hinduism at AUS-INDIA Fair
- Girmity day celebration with Fiji Hindus at HTCC
- CIF/ BAHAI at Australian National University Multi-faith presentations
- Catholic Mass at St Christopher’s Cathedral at Manuka, ACT
- Religious Short Film Awards – Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
- Parliament House and then at DSS regarding funding for 2019 APRO Conference and report on Multicultural Communities relating to violence
- Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre – Armistice Day.
- Participated in interfaith prayer for rain in NSW

VICTORIA Chapter

Multifaith

- Continued participation in the Multifaith Advisory Group attached to Premier’s office.
- Continued participation in multi faith apex body Faith Community Council of Victoria

International Yoga Day

- International Yoga Day celebrated on MCG lawns in partnership with ASMY



Hindu Chaplaincy in Prisons:

- Commenced Chaplaincy visits in the Corrections system
- One visit to Women's prison for 2 inmates
 - Achieved success in allowing Hindu objects of prayers at the multifaith prayer room in the prison
 - Hindu God Pictures (Ram, Krishna and Om) received from Bharat. Waiting for lamination to submit to prison.
- One visit to Men's prison for 1 inmate.

Health Care Hindu Chaplaincy

- 12 volunteer chaplain training completed for accreditation as per Spiritual Health Victoria guidelines.
- Chaplain kit under preparation for distribution which includes HCA lanyard, Copy of Bhagvad Gita, Beads (mala) and Saffron Scarf.
- Funding from Spiritual Health Victoria has been now increased to \$28 k from this financial year (18-19) and along with ISKON, Sankat Mochan Samiti also joined.
- Aim to train more volunteer chaplains in the first quarter of 2019.

Other:

- Participation in Jewish Indian dinner hosted by JCCV
- International Yoga Day celebrated on MCG lawns in partnership with ASMY
- Diwali celebrations in the Victorian Parliament with BAPS and other participating Hindu organisations.
- Garba celebration at Durga Temple with over 1000 attendees.
- Bharat Vishwaguru event organised together with HSS Melbourne
- Currently working with Commission for Children and Young People towards implementing Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme at Hindu organisations dealing with children

South Australia Chapter

Hindu Council of Australia, SA Chapter entered 4th year of its operation in South Australia. The SA chapter has performed reasonably well and developed an image of a very responsible and respected organisation in South Australia.

In 2018 there was change of leadership as Dr Gaurang Prajapati has decided to stand for council election and express his limitation to continue as a President of SA Chapter and the chapter has to take an immediate decision overnight to change the leadership. Mr Snehal Thaker has voluntarily accepted the responsibility and takes over as a President of HCA SA chapter.

The SA chapter has organised 3 main activities in 2018:

- International Yoga Day: SA chapter is organising IYD since 2015 and we prefer to organise at some iconic venue. In 2018 IYD was organised at 2 places and major achievement are:
 - > Two Yoga session was organised at Royal Adelaide Hospital in Adelaide where Doctors, Nurses, other hospital staff and few patients has attended the session at 7 am and 3.30 pm. The session was conducted by Ms Vani Shukla who is also a Secretary of HCA SA chapter. The objective was to strengthen the health of medical professionals and hospital staff as they are the back bone of the society. We will continue this event in 2019 as well.
 - > The second event was organised in hearth of Adelaide city, Victoria Squire. It was a working day, hence, we organised during lunch time. This session was a collective approach and in partnership of number of Yoga teacher/ schools

including Therapies, Australian School do Meditation and Yoga, Power and Living.



- Ganesh Chaturthi Puja at Adelaide Zoo: HCA SA has established a small temple with a historical idol of Lord Ganesha in 2015. Aadarniya Nihal Agar has attended the first event and since then we perform puja every year on Ganesh Chaturthi. We invite most of Hindu organisation in Adelaide. This has become a very important annual event for SA chapter.



- Deepavali Mela 2018: The biggest Deepavali festival in Adelaide was celebrated in a grand way on October 20th, 2018 at the Adelaide Showgrounds. An ethnic festival offering activity for all ages, it witnessed more than 5000 people streaming at the Showgrounds through the day. The major achievements were:
 - > It was attended by number of community, political leaders and HCA President Prakash Mehta ji and Sanjeev Bhakri ji.
 - > There was range of activities including Photo booth, Rangoli competition, Gulab Jamun eating competition, House decoration competition.
 - > Local Footy Team Adelaide crows has also participated and organised few sports activities for kids.
 - > It was a multicultural event in partnership of various country/ ethnic background including Nepal, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Tibet, India and Australia. We had cultural performances form all this countries.
 - > We applied for a state Government grant which was rejected initially and then we approached concern Minister and they approved \$ 10 000 grant for 2018 Mela.
 - > The biggest achievement of Deepavali Meal 2018 was a large team of volunteers. This is the first year where we have around 20 volunteers were working shoulder shoulder. Even the family members of most of volunteers were contributing the the best they can. This will be the biggest asset of HCA SA chapter in future.





Next year 2019 is the fifth year of HCA SA chapter and a large team is very enthusiastic and we have decided that we will organise a monthly meeting on first Tuesday of every month. We are also planning to sign a membership of Multicultural Community of SA and we can use their resources for monthly meeting or a small event at no cost.

WA Chapter

WA chapter established in May 2018. Following events have been done:

- International Yoga day in association with HSS
- Presented "Certificate of Honour to visiting Sant Pujya Mahant Swami". Program was led by HCA and many other Hindu associations joined with HCA
- Community leaders meeting with HSS for discussion on "Contribution of Hindu community. 32 associations took part.

NT Chapter

The Northern Territory Chapter of HCA came into effect in March this year. A team of four volunteers joined with Dr Rajeev Sharma. Team met on a number of occasions to explore possible actions to further the objectives of HCA in Darwin and other populations centers of the Northern Territory. Team also met with visiting HCA representatives from Sydney and Canberra to plan for future.

Team is engaged with the other likeminded institutions such as the Hindu Society of the Northern Territory to work collaboratively in NT.

HCA NT team have been an active part of the Deepavali celebrations held in Darwin at the NT Parliament House. The event was very well attended by the locals, Hindu community and other invited guests of other faiths.

HCA NT coordinator, Dr Rajeev Sharma encouraged our local Member of House of Representative to attend the Deepavali event in Parliament House Canberra and NT local member attended the function to represent the Northern Territory.

NSW Chapter

1. KITE FESTIVAL

Participation in Kite Festival Organised by ISSO Swaminarayan Temple, Blacktown. NSW team collaborated for Kite Festival organised by Swami Narayan Temple to promote Hindu Benevolent Fund (HBF). Volunteers from HCA promoted HBF by advising members of public about initiatives of HCA and purpose of establishing a Hindu Benevolent Fund.



2. Swachh Bharat Kosh

'Swachh Bharat Mission' or the 'Clean India Mission' is one of the significant campaigns launched by the Government of India under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 2 October 2014 that aims to achieve the vision of a 'Clean India' by 2 October 2019. While launching the campaign the Hon'ble PM mentioned that a Clean India would be best tribute India could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150 birth anniversary in 2019.

HCA decided to support the cause and with support from clean mission presented a cheque of \$2100 to CGI in Republic Day Function on 26 Jan 18 in Sydney, NSW.



3. HOLI Festival – 3 March 2018

Hindu Council of Australia and Cumberland council jointly organized the Cumberland Festival of Colours Holi at Civic Park Pendle Hill on Saturday 3 March with great zeal and fanfare. The event was formally opened by the Cumberland Council Mayor Greg Cummings & by Mr Prakash Mehta, President Hindu Council of Australia. They smeared each other with Holi colours signifying the start of the festival. Punjabi dhol, music, colours and fun loving children and youth eagerly joined with colours in their palms.

The event was a big success and set a new benchmark. The ease with which many elected representatives joined the fun made Hindus feel very welcome and at home in their new homeland Australia.



4. Honour of Pujya Mahant Swami ji - BAPS

Hindu council of Australia presented "Certificate of Honour" to the present guru and president of the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, Hindu Sant Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj on his first Visit to Australia.



5. International Women Day on 11th March'18.

On the International day of women 2018, Hindu Council of Australia decided to institute an award for outstanding women in Australia who make a good role model for growing up Hindu girls and women. The award consists of a commendation letter and will be awarded in multiple categories like Sports, Journalism, Performers, Defence, Community Carers, Home Carers, Seniors Carers, and Educationist etc

The award is named after an ancient Indian philosopher considered to be the first woman philosopher Gargi Vachaknavi (c. 7th century BC). She is honoured as a renowned expounder of the eternal knowledge in Vedic Literature. She participated in a philosophic debate and challenged the established male sage Yajnavalkya, the only lady to do so. She is also said to have written many hymns in the Rigveda.

The winners of 2018 Gargi Woman Award were

1. Jacinta Tobin – Service to her Aboriginal Community
2. June Bullivant – Academic Research
3. Dr Meenakshi Srinivasan – Educationist
4. Anju Kalra – Dementia Consultant
5. Jayanthi Ramnan – Carer Service
6. Poornima Sharama – Performer
7. Paramita Roy – Film Producer

In a function held as part of Parramasala festival in Sydney, Hindu council of Australia announced the winners of Gargi Woman Award at a function held to celebrate International Women’s Day 2018.

The event was attended by Deputy Lord Mayor Michelle Garrard, Federal MP Julie Owens, Federal MP Michelle Rowland, State MP for Parramatta Geoff Lee, State MP Julia Finn, State MP for Strathfield Jodi McKay, councillor Reena Jethi, councillor Sameer Pandey and councillor Suman Saha.

In this celebration, Hindu Council of Australia also recognized a young riser Pallavi Sinha and lifelong community service provided by Ms Akila Ramiratnam, Saraswathi Shashi and Amitha Saxena for their services to teach our languages, culture and religion to young students.



Event organisers were Surinder Jain, Anita Sharma and Bharathi Rangarajan, Ashwini Jain.

6. Team building workshop -April 2018 in Swaminarayan Temple, Blacktown

Excellent initiative of HCA by starting workshop to strengthen HCA. It was first such workshop in HCA and was attended by team members from QLD, ACT & NSW. Workshop was great start which not only improves HCA's internal working, but will also help HCA to achieve its core objectives. Total 35 participants present.



7. Fund raising event for Hindu Benevolent Fund

A fund raising event for HBF held with Bandish Group (Sydney based musical group) on 19 May18. Thanks to the Bandish team for donating part of the proceeds from the event to Hindu Benevolent Fund.



8. HBF sends help to Fiji Cyclone victims

Hindu Benevolent fund of Hindu Council of Australia issued an appeal for new clothes, bed sheets and shoes. There was an overwhelming response by the Hindu community in Sydney and many pallets of helpful goods were collected at Gateway Cafe. Sai Ji took charge of the goods and many volunteers came to help sort the goods and pack them ready for shipping.

The goods were dispatched to be sent to Fiji on the night of 18th April 2018. Cash donations were also collected into Hindu Benevolent Fund (HBF) account and will be sent to Fiji to help pay for emergency food.



Fiji Consul General in Australia, Mr Zarak Khan awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to Hindu Council of Australia.

9. Volunteer Induction Programme June 2018.

Induction is the first impression a new volunteer gets of our organisation and this can encourage them to become our volunteer. The event was attended by more than 15 members of public who showed interest in volunteering with HCA.

Event was coordinated and organised by Bimal Joshi @ Cafe Gateway, Lidcombe.



10. International Yoga Day celebrated in Sydney- June 2018

IYD 2018 event continues to be successful across Australia. The day started with a sunrise yoga session at Melbourne Cricket Ground, followed by a Yoga session in the noon at Royal Adelaide Hospital. In Sydney, the event was organised at Indian Cultural Centre.

The event witnessed numerous speakers/presenters touching upon various aspects of Yoga, including Mantra chanting, Keertans and Q&A on Yoga as a Profession. We had an attendance of 80 yoga enthusiasts.

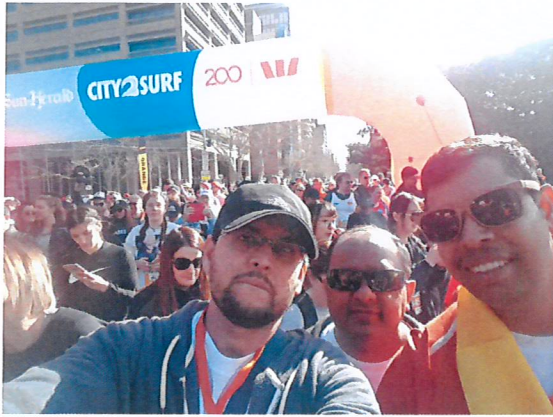


Hindu Council of Australia in conjunction with Art of Living Foundation celebrated Yoga Day at The Ponds suburb of Sydney. The event was attended by about 50 participants and the emphasis was placed on Yoga in everyday life.

11. City2Surf Aug18

City2Surf is an annual run for fun event in Sydney. Eighty Thousand people took part in the annual fun run this year running/walking a stretch of 14 km from Sydney's Hyde Park through the city's eastern suburb to Bondi beach.

Hindu organizations in Sydney and their members participated in the fun run this Sunday 12 August 2018. Hindu Council Team members started the day and met other participants @ Hyde Park in Sydney. About 30 participants (from Hindu Council of Australia & Hindu Swayamsewak Sangh Team) did warm up exercises and Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutations) before moving to their respective run schedules.



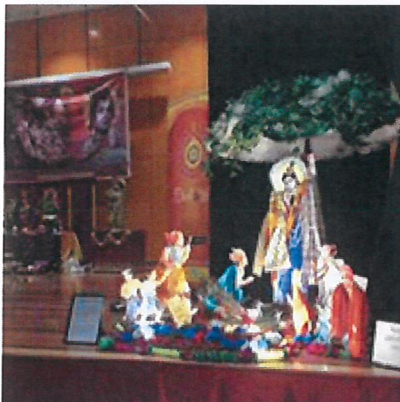
Mr Renga Rajan completed the entire run in just 98 minutes. Congratulations to the entire team. Many of the team members donated their sponsorship money to Hindu Benevolent Fund.

12. Janamashtami Celebrations September 2018 - The Ponds, NSW.

Event coordinator was Tara Chand Sharma. Janamashtami was celebrated on 02 Sept 2018 in The Ponds High School hall. This is second year of Janamashtami celebrations in The Ponds. This festival has become so popular in one year that this year it was attended by around 1500 people, much beyond our expectation, even though it wasn't widely promoted.

Janamashtami is well supported enthusiastically by local community, as volunteers (planning, execution and windup), and funds (material / Donations / sponsorship). HCA volunteers were there to help specially for food preparation and food distribution.

The program consisted of Pooja, procession of Bal Krishna, Bhajans, and cultural performances, Dal Handi, Rasleela and Aarti. Children were treated with gifts and sweets. In the end delicious Bhojan Parsadam Food was served to all. HCA is planning for a bigger Janamashtami festival next year.



13. Karma Kitchen

We are continuing with Karma Kitchen twice weekly on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

Temple Walk (Paad Yatra)

We have organised 4 paada yatra's this year, the first one was during Easter long weekend, second was the big one in October, this was the 20th anniversary of Paada yatra and we have dedicated this walk to raise fund for Aussie Farmers / HBF. Third paada yatra was organised to commemorate 100th maha samadhi of Sri Shirdi Sai Baba, walk was organised on 21st October between Strathfield Sai Mandir to Regents park Sai Mandir. Fourth one was the Pallaki utsav of Sri Ram Parivar during our Deepavali celebrations, it was conducted on both days of Deepavali celebrations one during the celestial wedding and the other one for coronation festival.

14. SRE

HCA has been recognised as SRE provider along with Chinmaya Mission, VHP, JET and Murugan Temple.

17 volunteer teachers have been trained to teach next year by Madya Lila. Contact has been made with all high schools with a population of Hindu students that are within a reasonable travel radius of volunteers (one hour travel time each way). 6 of these schools have asked us to provide classes in 2019 (Sydney Boys HS, Sydney Girls HS, North Sydney Boys HS, Fort Street HS, Burwood Girls HS, Macarthur Girls HS).

In Term 4 of 2018, we ran a course at Sydney Girls HS to trial our curriculum. Based on the feedback given, we will be making changes to our SRE program over the holidays and will have it ready for delivery by the beginning of Term.

Most schools we are working with only have SRE programs for years 7 & 8. Macarthur Girls HS is the exception; they also offer SRE programs for years 9 & 10. Initially program developed for 9 to 12. We are modifying to suit younger audience.

Gopinath Rao is preparing compliance and reporting formats under guidance of Jay Raman. All providers met together and have worked out a rotation basis for representing Hindu providers in the department of education. For 2019, Murugan temple will represent Hinduism and Hindu Council will be a backup.

Gopinath Rao and Surinder Jain are coordinating these activities with help from Jay Raman. Madya Lila is resourcing teachers, training them and coordinating with schools. •

15. Connect with University Students

- Diwali was celebrated with UWS students providing them with kheer and sweets. This was done in conjunction with Christian chaplains at UWS.
- Negotiations ongoing with UWS to register Hindu Council as chaplain provider for 2019.
- An online survey is being conducted of student needs.
- Bhupinder Chhabra and Surinder Jain are coordinating these activities

16. NSW (Sydney) Deepavali Celebration 2018

This year Deepavali Celebration held at five locations within Sydney as follows:

27 October 2018 – Rouse Hill Shopping Centre. (Coordinator - Vikrant)

28 October 2018 – Cherry brook in the shopping centre (Coordinator –Saurab & Anand)

31 October 2018 – Martin Place (Coordinator – Neelima Parvastu)

3 and 4 November 2018 – Diwali Mela – at Parramatta Park (Bhagawat Chauhan/Jay Raman)

This year event was held for two days. On 3 Nov, Sitaram Kalyanam program held.

Attended by more than 15,000 members of the community with the Hon PM Scott Morrison, Premier Gladys Berejiklian, Deputy Leader Tanya Plibersek, Jodi McKay MP - Member for Strathfield, Michelle Rowland MP, Julie Owens MP, Julian Leeser MPJ, Geoffrey Lee MP, Consulate General of India, Sydney, David Coleman - Member for Banks the Minister for Immigration, Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, Ray Williams MP the New South Wales Minister for Multiculturalism and the Minister for Disability Services and Dalbir Singh Suhag former Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army and many members of Parliament and other community organisations.

18 November 2018 – Strathfield (Coordinator – Akhil)



7 to 20 November 2018 – Diwali Art space Exhibition at Strathfield Library

First Hindu Arts exhibition was held in Parramatta library. About 26 artists displayed about 66 works of Art at the exhibition opened by the Mayor of Strathfield and Dr Bala.. Many paintings (about 10%) were sold. As a first event of its kind, it was well received by the public and brought many Hindu artists into limelight. A different format and a more impactful Hindu Art event is being planned for 2019 by Surinder Jain and Jay Raman.

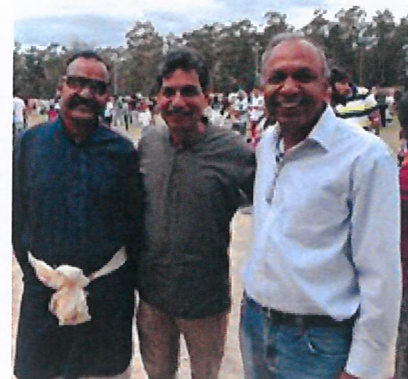
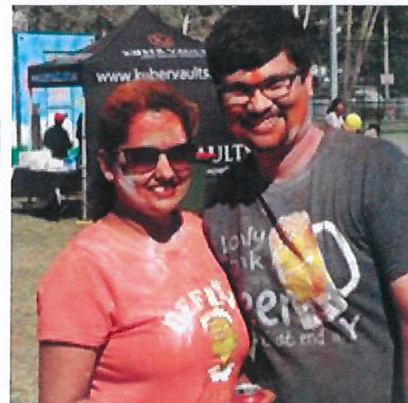
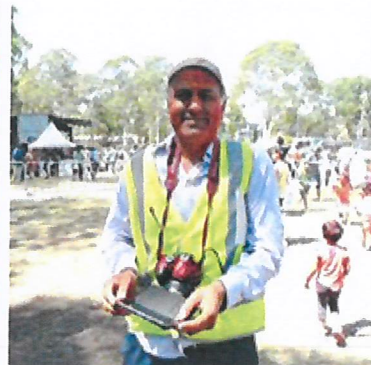
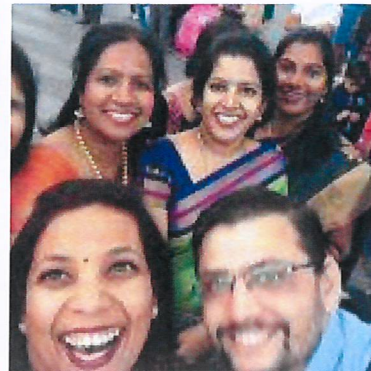


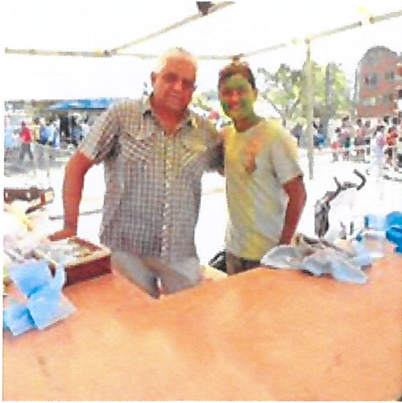
Volunteers

Volunteers are key people for success of any event. Volunteer coordination was done by Bimal Joshi and Vijay Chinnupathi. Number of Volunteers (this includes HCA Team members too) for each event are as follows:

Location	Volunteers
Holi	20
IWD	15
Rouse Hill Deepavali	30
Martin Place Deepavali	20
Parramatta Deepavali & Kalyanam	215
Cumberland Council - HCA	10
Cherrybrook - Cenatoph	20
Strathfield Deepavali	25







Acknowledgements

Thanks to the management of following venues for helping HCA for arranging meetings.

1. Café Gateway
2. ISSO Swaminarayan Temple , Blacktown
3. Sydney Sri Ayyappa Swami Centre Inc