



**THE HINDU TEMPLE & CULTURAL  
CENTRE OF THE ACT (INC.)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2012-13**



**THE HINDU TEMPLE & CULTURAL CENTRE OF THE ACT (INC.)**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13**

### **Overview**

This annual report is prepared in accordance with clause 15 (b) of the Constitution of the Hindu Temple and Cultural Centre of the ACT (Inc.). It reports on the activities from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013\* against its main objectives:

- (1) to promote an understanding of the teachings, philosophy and culture of Hinduism;
- (2) to provide facilities to engage in Hindu religious and cultural activities, including the practice of Yoga;
- (3) to foster inter-religious harmony, mutual understanding and respect for religious views of others and promote universal brotherhood;
- (4) to provide moral and spiritual support to the needy;
- (5) to build, maintain and operate a Hindu temple, a cultural centre, a library and other facilities to achieve the above objectives and purposes

\* Please note that although this report provides updates on the activities that took place from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 some key milestones were achieved by the Executive Committee since then and highlights are included in this report. Full details will be provided in next year's report for such activities.

## Message from the President

Dear friends,

I am pleased to share with you that this year has been a remarkable year of achievements. I am very proud of my team which has put lots of efforts to bring a number of tedious infrastructure and Governance projects to their fruition.

The infrastructure projects include video surveillance and Parking lights installations for temple's security, multi-purpose room and toilets, tiling in the shrine area and pavements in Gazebo. The EC has attained long-awaited certificate of occupancy and building revaluation. The repairs and repaint of temple ceiling and halls were undertaken under the insurance repairs. Currently, temple is negotiating carpet replacement under insurance repairs. I am pleased to share with you that the Resident Priest Selection process has been completed under the newly established recruitment process and framework. We hope to see the new priest joining us soon. Unfortunately, the contract term for Pundit Shailesh Diwedi has come to an end. I wish him well for his future endeavours he may choose.

A Special Interest Group (SIG) - 'Indian Seniors Well-Being Group (ISWG) has been established under the HTCC Umbrella. The broad objective of this group are caring and sharing. Any person over the age of 50 years can become the member of this group and there is no fee. The coordinator for this group is Sh Ramesh Malik. The group has been meeting every month for the last few months to discuss various health and wellbeing aspects.

Hari Om – Subhash Dang.

## HTCC Office Bearers:

The following is the list of HTCC Office bearers for 2012-13:

President: Sh Subhash Dang

Vice Presidents: Sh Sanjay Sharma, Mrs Manju Bhardwaj

Manager: Mrs Indu Arora

Secretary: Tushar Gupta

Assistant Secretary: Mrs Sonal Bajwa

Treasurer: Sh Raman Bhardwaj

Public Officer: Mrs Rashmi Jain

Committee Members: Sh Punit Ahori, Sh Akhilesh Arora, Sh Heram Bal, Sh Udit Gera, Sh Bhagwati Khannah, Sh Pankaj Puri, Sh Vishnu Sharma, Mrs Lakshmi Singh and Sh Yogesh Vashist.

## Members Co-opted

The EC co-opted two members this year – Mr Vishnu Sharma and Mr Heram Bal to help with the increasing work load. Team roles and responsibilities were reviewed based on the skills,

interests, and availability of the committee members to ensure smooth delivery of services to the community.

## **Infrastructure Projects Completed in 2012-13**

- Video Surveillance** A video surveillance system has been installed within and outside of the temple. This security system will help in deterring any possible vandalism.
- Certificate of Occupancy** This task involved getting 20 years old building files, obtaining engineering design verification, windows manufacturers certificates and Fire Brigade compliance. Thanks to the structural design engineer, Mr Antoun Hajjeh, for his tremendous help that too without any obligation in achieving the positive outcome.
- Multi-purpose Room** The Multi-purpose Room (MPR) constructed this year is proving to be very beneficial. A number of activities have started happening in this room. As part of this change, the toilets have also been completely remodelled with their access from outside the main temple and thus allowing devotees to go with shoes on.
- Parking Lights** Two big lights have been installed in the temple parking area to improve the lighting when required and to improve security and safety on dark nights. The video surveillance and the parking lights have been installed against a grant that was awarded to HTCC for the purpose.

## **Governance Strategies (2012-13)**

- Strategic Plan** The HTCC has grown to a respectable size business unit. The need for a well thought Strategic Plan was considered important for the Executive Committee to guide where the priorities be allocated. This enormous task was only possible with a great amount of effort by Sh Yogesh Parikh, Rakesh Malhotra and

### **Thanks to Pundit Shailesh Diwedi ji**

**Pundit ji served the HTCC for eight years. His contract has expired in August 2013. His services to the temple in this duration were exceptional. The HTCC EC is grateful to Pundit ji and wishes him well in his ventures in the future.**

## **Priest Engagement Framework and Proposal**

various reasons. This year the EC decided to look at those findings and recommendations with fresh pair of eyes and decided to consider initially the changes those are considered must and urgent. These changes will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the membership endorsement.

The contract for the current Priest engagement has ended in August 2013. The AGM had tasked the current EC to review the current contract; note lessons learnt and develop a new proposal for the membership approval. A subcommittee, led by Sh Yogesh Parikh was formed and the proposal by the subcommittee was presented at the SGM. It was overwhelmingly approved by the membership.

This proposal was used successfully in the recruitment process, led by Sh Rakesh Jain for the Resident Priest and Assistant Pujari. The Selection process has been completed, selection report approved and the new priest will be joining soon.

## **SHANTI the newsletter**

Shanti was published via email, HTCC website and in hard copy at the temple for devotees who prefer to have a paper copy. Shanti was used to provide periodic reporting on the financial health and the progress on various projects undertaken.

Shanti also continued to be used to promote religious, cultural and educational aspects for which the HTCC stands and also providing its members a updated on the new initiatives taken by the Executive Committee and their progress. We thank Mr Rakesh Malhotra for his continued support in putting the Shanti together.

## **Spiritual Activities**

### **Swami Samarpananandaji from Kriya Yoga Ashram, Orissa, India**

Swamiji gave a talk on Kriya Yoga and conducted the Initiation Ceremony for which we sincerely thank Swamiji. We also thank Mr Nagaraja for coordinating Kriya Yoga activities.

### **Triveni Sewa Mission**

HTCC sponsored Triveni Sewa Mission (TSM) again this year. This was the 5th time HTCC sponsored TSM. HTCC Community enjoyed their satsangs and devotional songs.

### **Budha Statue Pran Pratishtha**

Budha Statue was installed at the Temple by Sri Lankan community this year to replace the other Budha Statue. Pran Pratishtha was done on Sat 25th May in a devotional and cultural way which was well attended. Many thanks to Mr Shiva for coordinating this task with the HTCC.

## **Devotional, Cultural and Recreational Activities Organised by HTCC**

Various devotional, cultural and recreational activities were organised by the HTCC during the year 2012/13. Details of these activities were published in SHANTI and our regular broadcasts. The photographs of various activities organized by HTCC this year are available on the HTCC's website on [www.htcc.org.au](http://www.htcc.org.au) These activities include but are not limited to the following:

### **July 2012**

1. Rath/Palki Yatra

### **August 2012**

2. Krishna Janamashtmi
3. Vishnu Maha Yagna

### **September 2012**

4. Navrang

### **October 2012**

5. Navratri 16th Oct 2012 to 24 Oct
6. Mata Ki Chowki 19th Oct
7. Durga Puja on 22nd Oct
8. Dushera on 24th Oct
9. Akhand Ramayan Path on Sat/Sun 27 & 28th Oct

### **November 2012**

10. Karwa Chauth on Friday, 2 November
11. Diwali Mela & Indian Vegetarian Food Fair on Saturday 10 November
12. Participated at the Diwali Mela in Glebe Park by having a Vegetarian Food Stall and Performing some cultural activities – Sunday 11 Nov
13. Diwali MahaLaxmi Pujan on 12 Nov
14. Govardhan Puja 14 Nov
15. Bhajan Sandhya by Brisbane Shri Dhiru Bhai Desai and Ritesh Sadana

16. Tulsi Vivah 24<sup>th</sup> Nov

### **December 2012**

17. SAI BABA's Murthi Sthapana Ninth Anniversary – 1<sup>st</sup> Dec

18. Geeta Jayanti 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec

### **January 2013**

19. New Year's Celebrations with Sunderkand paath at HTCC 1<sup>st</sup> Jan

20. Makar Sankranti celebrations Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Jan

21. Lohri Celebration Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan

### **February 2013**

22. India in the City – HTCC's participation – Food Fair and Cultural events 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

23. Saraswati Puja on Vasant Panchami Sun 17 Feb

### **March 2013**

24. Talk on Stress Management by Sri Sri Shudhaananadaa Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March

25. Maha Shiv Raatri Utsav Sunday 10 March

26. HTCC and Mandir Society jointly represented the Indian Community at the  
Canberra Centenary Celebrations on 11 March in City

27. TRIVENI's Satsangs at HTCC - Holi Milan and Hanuman Ras Sar on Tuesday  
26th March

28. Spiritual Talk on "How to please god" by Swamini Gopeshwari Devi Sat 16th  
March

29. Holi Mela & Food Fair 17<sup>th</sup> March

### **April 2013**

30. TRIVENI's Satsangs at HTCC - Mata Ki Chowki on Friday 5th April

31. The Navratris celebration started with Bhai Ajayji (TRIVENI) reciting Ramayan  
on 11 April

32. Mahavir Jayanti Sat 20<sup>th</sup> April

33. Ram Navami and Pran Pratishtha (Foundation Day) Sat 20<sup>th</sup> April

34. Hanumaan Jayanti – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April

### **May 2013**

35. Buddha Statue Ceremony - Sat 25th May

## June 2013

36. Shani Jayanti Sat 8<sup>th</sup> June

37. Vat Savitri Purnima Puja – Sat 22 June

The EC appreciates contribution from various groups/organisations/community members/sponsors in helping us organising and celebrating these events/activities and at the same time raising funds for the HTCC.

## Food Stalls

HTCC participated in the Multicultural Food Festival and Diwali Mela and held various food fairs in Civic and at the Temple during this reporting period.

## MYOB

MYOB was continued to be used for financial recording and reporting during the year.

## ATM

The HTCC procured the electronic Eftpos machine this year as agreed at the AGM last year.

## Membership

Membership fees was revised as agreed at the AGM last year. We extend a very warm welcome to all new members who joined the membership of the HTCC this year. A special welcome to the ones who arrived in Canberra recently and took the membership of the HTCC. We hope that HTCC will serve as a home away from home and continue to grow as a centre for a wide spectrum of devotional, spiritual, cultural and social needs of people in Canberra and the activities to meet the needs of the new and old alike. Our activities have made a positive impact, thanks to unwavering effort and dedication of some of the members.

HTCC is able to provide services to the community with the continuous support from its members. Please consider becoming a member (if not already) for a worthwhile cause and objective.

<b>Life Membership</b>	<b>\$251*</b>
<b>Family Membership</b>	<b>\$31</b>
<b>Single Membership</b>	<b>\$15</b>

\* can be paid in 4 instalments over 2 years. For details please contact any of the EC members.

## Volunteering at HTCC



**‘Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has’**

We have a steady group of members amongst ourselves who are committed to their time and efforts. We really appreciate the help and support of our volunteers and look forward to their continued support.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at HTCC please contact any of the Executive Committee members. Contact details are on [www.htcc.org.au](http://www.htcc.org.au).

## **Other Projects Undertaken**

### **Painting and tiling inside the Temple Hall**

The brick area around the main shrine and the deities on the side was tiled. The existing tiles on the stairs were painted to blend the colour of the tiles. These tiles were donated by Rivoland. We thank Rivoland for their kind gesture.

### **Tiling Gazebo for outdoor havan**

The area on the side of the temple was paved in preparation for Vishnu Maha Yagna by Raju Khiani and his team. We thank Mr Khiani and his team for their wonderful efforts.

### **Shantiniketan**

Phase 1 of Shantiniketan (MPR) was completed.

### **Donations**

We are grateful to those who donated generously in cash and/or kind. Details of these donations were gratefully acknowledged in the Shanti Newsletter every quarter except for the ones who requested for their names not to be published. We sincerely apologise if we missed anyone in particular. If you missed viewing any Shanti, please visit our website on [www.htcc.org.au](http://www.htcc.org.au).

### **Contribute generously to HTCC**

As you contemplate making donations to HTCC, please consider the following facts:

- HTCC is a non-profit organisation
- Donations to HTCC over \$2 are tax deductible
- All funds collected for HTCC are used for HTCC only.

Let us develop a culture of regular small donations at the HTCC. You can celebrate birthdays, anniversaries or other functions to make regular donations to the HTCC. As they say when it comes to donations every penny counts so your donation will make a difference and help us provide you better services.

## **Statutory Auditor**

At the Annual General Meeting last year it was agreed to appoint Ms Caralyn Bauerle as statutory auditor again for this year as she provided excellent voluntary services to HTCC last year. Ms Bauerle accepted this task again this year for which we are very grateful to her.

## **Regular activities at the Temple**

At HTCC we have a lot of regular devotional, spiritual, educational, sports and recreational events e.g. Bhajans, Hatha Yoga, Kriya Yoga, Katha, Havan, Poojas, Purnavidya classes, Language Classes and Vollyball etc. All members of the community are welcome to join in OR provide volunteer services for any of the activities to help others.

For details about our regular events and activities please visit our website on [www.htcc.org.au](http://www.htcc.org.au).

## **Priest services**

HTCC priest performs pooja and other religious services for the community as endorsed by the HTCC. We are thankful to Punditji Dr Shailesh Diwedi for performing his role professionally as the main Priest at the Temple and at Devotees' places etc. during the year. Punditji's advice for religious activities and contribution for language and Purnavidya classes is very much appreciated.

In order to cater for the increasing demand for the priest services and to cover absences Pt Rama Sharma continued to provide voluntary services on the needs basis during this year. We really appreciate Pt Rama Sharma's help in this regard.

For normal Temple opening hours please visit our website [www.htcc.org.au](http://www.htcc.org.au)

## **Acknowledgements**

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who provided help, support, advice, constructive feedback, volunteer services, sponsorships, donation in cash and/or kind. The list is far too long and we do not want to miss anyone's name by mistake. Because of the contribution of these

people/organisations this year HTCC is able to make a significant financial achievement for which the EC will remain indebted.

## **EC Activities**

The EC meetings were held on a regular basis, agenda items were requested from the EC members, minutes of the meeting recorded, draft minutes circulated, and the minutes finalised. The quorum system was adhered at all times.

The EC established sub-committees for various tasks. The Sub-Committees submitted their recommendations where relevant to the EC who made the final decision on the matters affecting HTCC and its funds. Email system was used by the sub-committees/EC to discuss issues and make urgent decisions.

E-mail broadcasts to its members were sent via Yahoo Group at least every week announcing the forthcoming activities and on important issues.

The HTCC Website was updated as required.

The EC applied for most of the available Government Grants, where possible. The grants successfully obtained this year was \$8979.

Finally on behalf of the Executive Committee I thank you all for providing us an opportunity to serve your needs. Look forward to your continued support to the upcoming Executive Committee.

### **Original signed**

Tushar Gupta  
Secretary HTCC  
04 September 2013