

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

**ADDRESS: 81 RATCLIFFE CRES, FLOREY, ACT 2615**

**WEB: [WWW.HTCC.ORG.AU](http://WWW.HTCC.ORG.AU)**

**PHONE:6259 3057**

**Email:htccfloreytemplegmail.com**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**

## **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 2013 to 30 June 2014\* 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 2013 to 30 June 2014 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

Namaskar Dear HTCC members and Devotees,

First of all let me offer my humble pranams to Goddess Mahalakshmi for giving me the health and opportunity to serve the humanity. It is an honor and blessing to be the president of our Mandir HTCC. The principle of Sanatan Dharma and Hinduism drives humanity towards the universal harmony through acceptance and tolerance. We are blessed to have number of volunteers at HTCC who are dedicated to serve the community adhering to this principle. I also sincerely thank my executive committee members for their efforts, cooperation and guidance throughout my tenure.

This year we appointed our resident priest Pandit Prakash Pandeyji. Panditji arrived in Canberra in October 2013 and is now well settled with his family. Our EC has also planned and completed a number of infrastructure projects which include installation of new carpet, hot water system, installation of timber flooring at multipurpose room, patchwork for parking, etc. EC with the help of volunteers also developed a new email system and Facebook page for up-to-date information about upcoming events at HTCC.

With your kind support, this year EC has planned and celebrated number of festivals and cultural activities. Your continued support is very important for progress of the Hindu community in the Canberra. Your regular visits to the temple are very important to us. We want you, your family and your friends to participate and volunteer at temple programs and events. So far, all major religious events have been celebrated with great community participation. In addition, the temple also hosts spiritual, education and cultural activities. We earnestly request you to renew your membership if you have not done so already and at the same time, we encourage those who are not members to join.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve the temple and the Hindu Society. Finally, I conclude my message by seeking your assistance to work together for our HTCC temple

President

Bhagwati Khannah

## **HTCC Office Bearers:**

The following is the list of current HTCC Office bearers for 2013-14

- **President : Mr Bhagwati Khannah**
- Vice President : Mr Pankaj Puri**
- Manager : Mr Dinesh Sadyal**
- Secretary : Mr Heramb Bal**
- Assistant Secretary : Mr Sachin Marwaha**
- Treasurer : Mr Raman Bhardwaj**
- Public Officer : Mr Hatinder Sharma**

### **Committee Members:**

- Mr Bhagwan Dutt**
- Mr Amit Gupta**
- Mr Karamjeet Singh**
- Mr Gurmukh Singh**
- Mr Vamshi Goturi**
- Mr Passang Bhutia**

## **Major tasks completed by Executive Committee in year 2013-2014**

- **Appointment of HTCC's Priest - Pt Prakash Pandey ji**  
HTCC's new priest Pt. Prakash Pandey ji was appointed in September 2013.
- **Timber flooring of the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) and finishing touches in the toilets**  
The Timber flooring of the MPR was installed by the Executive Committee with the help of devotees. The MPR is used for educational classes, meetings and serving Bhojan Prasad. Finishing touches e.g. mirrors and light fittings were completed in the toilets.
- **Carpet Replacement**  
The Temple Hall carpet was over 10 years old and due to rain water leakage during big storms needed replacement. The total cost of the installed carpet was \$13,900 including insurance claim. Our appeal for the donations reaped rewards and we received flood of donations. Our sincere thanks to all devotees for their generous donations because of which we were able to replace the carpet. Car park patching:
  - Car parking within the HTCC premises was patched up to enhance safety of public.
- **Facebook Page created**  
Our sincere thanks to Mr Kiran Chavali who has designed the HTCC Facebook page which can be accessed via <https://www.facebook.com/htcc temple>. This page is updated frequently with the upcoming events information etc. Please "like" this page so that you can get notifications for the upcoming events.
- **Hot Water System replaced**  
Hot water system in the Temple stopped working and was replaced.
- **Temple Fridge replaced:**The fridge in the temple was not working efficiently. Our sincere thanks to Mr and Mrs Narendra Chowdhury for donating a new fridge to the Temple.
- **MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL 2014:** HTCC participated in the Multicultural Festival 2014 by providing stage performances in the City and by running a food stall. Despite of the extremely hot weather and the bad location we were able to raise \$2455 on the day. Our heartfelt thanks to the performers and the volunteers who helped us raise funds for HTCC.
- **HTCC'S NEW EMAIL SYSTEM AND NEW BOOKING SYSTEM**  
EC has received numerous requestes from the members that they were not receiving emails from the yahoo group. To overcome this problem HTCC EC has

been successful (with the help of Mr. Kiran Chavali) in creating a new e-mail system "mailchimp". In order to join to email system of HTCC devotees need to visit HTCC website (<http://www.htcc.org.au/newsletter.html>) and fill in their details. After submitting their details devotees will receive a confirmation email from the mail system. Upon confirmation email from the mail system devotees will start receiving the HTCC emails. Devotees are requested to contact their web administrator or check their Spam folder if they don't receive confirmation email. HTCC has also created a new email address for temple/punditji booking: "**htccfloreytemple@gmail.com**"

- **HTCC WEBSITE:** HTCC Website was hacked a few times this year and every time Mr. Kiran Chavali helped HTCC to restore it. HTCC thanks Mr. Kiran Chavali for his help.
- **First Sunday puja/Monthly Puja:** This year HTCC EC has initiated monthly puja on the first Sunday of every month. With the huge response from devotees HTCC EC has been able to successfully organise the first Sunday Pujas .HTCC need the same kind of spirit from the community in order to continue such pujas in future.
- **FINAL PAYMENTS MADE TO THE EX PRIEST PT SHAILESH DIWEDI JI:** The contract with Pandit Shailesh Diwedi came to an end in August 2013. Pandit Shailesh Diwedi did not apply for re-appointment or renewal of his contract and Pandit Prakash Chandra Pandey Ji was appointed in September 2013. As advised by Fair Work Australia termination payments of \$9312 were made to Pandit Shailesh Diwedi. Pandit Shailesh Diwedi does not represent HTCC anymore.
- **Fact finding committee:** HTCC received numerous requests from members of the community in relation to the function organised by Gujrati Samaj of ACT (GSA) and HSS (Hindu Swyamsevak Sangh). In response to the requests a three members Fact Finding Committee independent of HTCC EC was constituted to investigate the incident happened during Indian Elections-Prayer for Mother India and celebrate the Badlaav organised by GSA (Gujrati Samaj of ACT) and HSS (Hindu Swyamsevak Sangh) at HTCC on Saturday 17 May 2014 chaired by Mr. Yogesh Parikh. Mr. Yogesh Parikh is expected to present the report to HTCC community at the AGM.
- **Shantiniketan update:** EC had made numerous requests to past HTCC presidents/office bearers for handing over documentation/information related to Shantiniketan project. Unfortunately EC has not received any documentation from past office bearers. However, current EC has requested ACTPLA and received Notice of Decision with number of issues because of which previous DA was refused such as:
  - Disability Code not being satisfied- Access for disabled, Bicycle parking, etc.

- No sufficient reasons given why the tree needs to be removed
  - Potential Noise related issues have not been clarified
  - Water Sensitive Urban Design which relates water reuse and storm water not being clarified.
  - External Lighting not being sufficient and other potential issues.
- Current HTCC EC will pass on information to incoming committee to resubmit the development application to ACTPLA.

## **Major events/festivals celebrated at HTCC:**

Various devotional, cultural, spiritual and recreational activities were organised by the HTCC during the year 2013/14. Details of these activities were published in our regular broadcasts and/or Facebook page. These activities include but are not limited to the following:

- Ganesh Chaturthi,
- Mata Ki Chowki,
- Ramayan path,
- Chaitra Navratirs,
- Hanuman Jayanti,
- Jagannath palaki yatra,
- Mahavir Nirvan Pooja,
- Navratris ,
- Durga Pooja,
- Ravan Dahan,
- Karwa Chauth,
- Diwali,
- Sai Sthapana Divas - 10th anniversary function,
- Lohri ,
- Makaravilakku and Ayyappa Pratishtan Mahotsavam,

Saraswati Poojan,  
Sunder Kand Paath,  
Maha Shiv Ratri, etc.

## Navrang

**HTCC organised the Navrang** function on Saturday 30 August 2014, at the Performing Arts Theatre, 23 Gozzard St. Gungahlin College, Gungahlin. The annual program presented the diversity and local culture to the broader Canberra community. HTCC pays sincere thanks to Mr. Pankaj Das and his team for providing a valuable contribution. HTCC is also grateful to all the participants and the community members for helping in making this even a successful one.

We appreciate the contribution of 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.

Some highlights of the activities organised by HTCC during the year are at the end of this report. For more photo gallery please visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/htcc temple>

## Membership

HTCC extend a very warm welcome to all new members who joined the membership of the HTCC this year. A special welcome to those 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.

Life Membership- \$251\*

Single Membership-\$21

Family Membership- \$31

**\*can be paid in 4 instalments over 2 years.** For details please contact our website [www.htcc.org.au](http://www.htcc.org.au)

## **Appointment of Statutory Auditor:**

The EC convened a SGM on 31 August 2014 to appoint a Statutory Auditor.

The auditor, Fintax Business Services of Bella Vista, New South Wales, has conveyed that they would not be able to do the audit before early October. That would have meant that the Annual General Meeting could not have been held before early November 2014. In order to avoid that and try to arrange the Annual General Meeting before 30th September 2014 OR as soon as possible after 30th September 2014, if Audit was going to take time, a new auditor had to be appointed and that could only be done at an Special General Meeting.

The SGM adopted a special motion "Resolved that Ibex Biz Consulting, 7/100 Chewings Street, Page ACT 2614, be and is hereby appointed auditor for auditing and finalising the accounts of the Association for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014, and submit their report as soon as possible"

## **Regular activities at HTCC**

At HTCC we have a lot of regular devotional, spiritual, educational, sports and recreational activities e.g. Bhajans, Satsangs, Hatha Yoga, Kriya Yoga, Vihangam Yoga, Katha, Chinmay Mission classes, Amar Sanskriti classes, Havan, Poojas, Purnavidya classes, language classes, 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). 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.

## **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.

## **Donations**

HTCC is a non-profit organisation and heavily relies on the donations from the community. Devotees are requested to put donation money in the main donation box unless a receipt is required in which case the money must be handed over to one of the Executive Committee

members OR put in a sealed envelope placed in the main donation box clearly stating your full name and address including the contact no. for any queries.

The donation boxes are opened in the presence of 2 or more Executive Committee members and the funds collected is fully documented for accountability purposes. Donations can also be made by electronic fund transfer (EFT):

**HTCC Bank Account Details:**

BSB: 062-913; A/C Number: 0090 3107

A/C Name: Hindu Temple & Cultural Centre

Branch: CBA Belconnen Mall ACT

Please provide details of your online donations to the Treasurer or any of the Executive Committee members if the receipt is required.

HTCC is thankful for your generous donations. All donations received by HTCC are broadcasted in its newsletter unless donors request to be anonymous. Any donations received so far this financial year will be published in the next newsletter unless requested to be anonymous. Please contact the EC members via email [htccfloreytemple@gmail.com](mailto:htccfloreytemple@gmail.com) if you want to remain anonymous.

Original Signed

Heramb Bal

Secretary HTCC

Original Signed

Bhagwati Khannah

President HTCC