



The West Australian Hindu

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Lot 41, Warton Road, Canning Vale WA 6155

E-mail: Editor@Hindu.org.au

December 2002

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

New Management Committee

The Annual General Meeting was held on 20 October 2002 and elected to office a new Management Committee (MC) for 2002/2003, and I continue for another year to lead the Hindu Association. On behalf of the new MC I take this opportunity to thank all outgoing members of the MC for their dedicated service to the Temple. As we now have six new Members, I request all Devotees to lend their support to make this transition as smooth as possible.

I will be failing in my duty not to thank you, the devotees for the continued support given to the Temple in all forms. Hope more devotees will be forthcoming with their help during the final stage of the construction of the new Temple.

Sub-Committees

Sub-Committee chairpersons have been appointed to help in the smooth functioning of the Temple and the new Temple project (refer page 3). To contribute I urge you to join a Sub-Committee. We also look forward to the participation of our younger members so that they can move into the MC sometime in the future.

Fundraising

Tenders have closed for the entire brickwork and are being evaluated now. The response has been discouraging and the labour rates are very high due to the very strong nation-wide demand for brick-layers. This is expected to ease by February 2003 with consequent reduction in labour rates.

With the completion of the brickwork, the *Sthapathi* and his team of Sculptors can commence work when funds are available. We will be contacting all devotees to raise further funds so that we can start on the next stage soon. Your support last year to raise a record sum of money is very much appreciated.

Our thanks are due to the Malayalee Community, the group of devotees who volunteered to manage the two Temple stalls at the recent Deepavali festival at Murdoch University and the usual 2nd monthly food fair at Mandala Hall. The entire proceeds of these events have been donated to the Temple. The Malayalee dinner and the evening were well organised and it was a memorable event that netted just over \$6000. The Thosai and Puri stalls netted around \$3,700 whilst the average monthly contribution by the 2nd Sunday Group is around \$900.

We need your continued support to raise funds through similar events to complete the new Temple.

The next major event, the 9th Indian food & cultural fair is scheduled for 30 March 2003 and we look forward for your help and support. A car raffle to be drawn at the Fair is being planned and sale of tickets will commence soon.

Constitutional Changes

There were two proposals at the recent AGM to hold a Consultation Workshop under the Chairmanship of the Vice President to look at (1) any changes to the Constitution that may be required if the need arises for the appointment of a second Priest for the new Temple and (2) to consider the current requirement for a maximum duration a Priest can be employed.

Currently, the Constitution allows the employment of only one Priest. After the last amendment to the Constitution in year 2000, a Priest can be employed for a maximum of two terms of three years each after that a break of two years is required before the same Priest can be re-employed.

A preliminary workshop was held on 17 November 2002 and subsequent workshops are scheduled for 12 January 2003 and 9 March 2003. If any Member wish to comment on these topics or wish to contribute at the workshops please contact Mr Atul Garg on 9310 9161.

Membership

A gentle reminder to those members who have not renewed their current membership to do so at their earliest. There are many new families who have come to Perth to settle down. If you are aware of any new arrivals please advise them about the activities in the Temple and bring them along when you come next to the Temple.

Sunday Opening

Further to my advice in the recent newsletter and newsflash the Temple is now open on the 1st Sunday of every month from 6:15am to 12:00 noon. Our Priest will perform Arachanas and other religious ceremonies during this period. *In lieu* of this day our Priest will not perform Temple duties on the 4th Sunday of every month. On this day volunteer relief Priests will perform the normal *Abhishekam*, *Poojas*, etc. in the morning and evening.

The first Sunday in January and February 2003 are 5 and 2 respectively. Please pass this information to your relatives and friends.

New Archana Charges

Due to increases in cost over the last few years the MC felt it was appropriate to increase the charges for *Archana* to \$10 from the previous \$5 which was in place since 1990. I hope you will appreciate the reasons for this increase. The increase came into effect on 7 October 2002.

Youth

We encourage the participation of youth in the activities of the Temple. The new Temple is being constructed for the benefit of all especially to the future generation. Therefore, we as parents and elders have to spend time teaching and explaining to them the richness and importance of our religion in our daily life. Every year the Temple also helps by arranging workshops, educational camps, co-sponsoring the TRAC programme, etc. If you have any suggestions or willing to help achieve this please contact me or the Chairperson of the Education and Seminars Sub-Committee. ❖

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	President's Report
3	Religious Activities Reports
4	Temple Events/Calendar of Events
5	New Management Committee
5	Forthcoming Religious Festivals/Events
7	Advertisements

T Krishnarajah
President

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Editor

Shri J Atrie

Editorial Committee

Dr R Gururajan, Dr K Thiagarajan, Dr S Rath, Shri A I Parameswaran, Shri P Nallan, Shri T Krishnarajah

Comments to

E-Mail: Editor@Hindu.org.au

Disclaimer: *Opinions expressed in this Newsletter of the Hindu Association of Western Australia Inc are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Management Committee or the Editor. ❖*

RELIGIOUS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT (OCT – DEC 2002)

Puratasi Sani-varams (Navagraha homams/havans) –

Navagraha Homams (Havans) were performed at the temple on the 21st and 28th Saturday of September and the 5th Saturday of October. The last *Sani-varam*, which fell on 12 October 2002, was not be observed as it occurred during the Navaratri festival. On each of the three Saturdays *Navagraha Homams (Havans)* were performed at the temple at 10.00am with *sankalpam* starting at 9.30am and completed with special *Kalasha Abhishekam* to all nine *Navagraha Murthis* and *Purnahuti* around 12.30pm.

Navaratri Pooja Celebrations – *Navaratri*, an important Hindu festival, was celebrated in our temple for 10 days during October 2002 with *Navaratri Kolu*. During Navaratri festival days, prayers were started with *Sankalpam*, *Abhishekam* and finished with Bhajans and Arati. *Sahasranama Archanas for Goddesses Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswathi and Mata Lalitambigai* were performed. Colourful cultural items were presented by our enthusiastic young participants. On the seventh day (13th October 2002) *Chandi Havan* was conducted with special prayers for peace and happiness for all. All attendees had an opportunity to participate in *Chandi Havan* offerings and got the blessings of Goddess Durga. *Kanya Pooja* celebrations were also carried on the same day with nine girls representing nine forms of Devi. The untiring and dedicated work by our priest and volunteers during the Navaratri season made the celebration a memorable annual event.

Deepavali – Special prayers were held at the temple to celebrate *Deepavali* on Monday, 4 November 2002. Special *abhishekams* were performed to all five deities in the morning. The devotees celebrated *Deepavali* with *prasad* at the temple.

An Koot – The annual *An Koot* celebration took place on Sunday, 17 November 2002 at the temple from 9.30am. Nearly 500 devotees attended the celebration.

Skanda Sashti Vratam – The *Skanda Sashti* Festival dedicated to *Lord Muruga (Kartikeya)* was celebrated over six days from Tuesday 5 November 2002 and concluded with *Sooran Phor* on Sunday, 10 November 2002. The *Thiru Kalyanam* (Divine Marriage) for *Lord Muruga* was conducted on Monday, 11 October 2002.

Annamalai Deepam/Kartikai Vratam/Sarvalaya Deepam – This year the above festival was celebrated on Wednesday, 20 November 2002 at the temple in the evening with special prayers, *bhajans* and *aradhana*. The temple was decorated with several beautifully arranged *deepams*.

Kartikai Somavaram Poojas – Special poojas were conducted on all four Mondays between 18 November and 9 December (inclusive). *Abhishekams* and *Kartheeka Somavara* special prayers were offered to *Lord Shiva* in the evenings.

Thiruvembhavai Celebrations – *Thiruvembhavai* celebrations commenced on Thursday, 12 December 2002 and continued for ten days to conclude with *Aarudra Dharshan* on Saturday, 21 December 2002. ❖

Shri A Selvakumar
Chairman, Religious affairs Sub-Committee

SUB-COMMITTEES 2002-2003

Any devotee who desires to be either part of or wish to contribute positive ideas to improve any of the functions of the Sub-Committees listed below are requested to contact the Chairperson or the President. The telephone numbers are found in the Newsletter/notice board at the Temple.

The names of Chairpersons from the Management Committee heading the Sub-Committees are:

1. **Technical/new Temple building complex:** Shri C Kangatheran
2. **Religious affairs & purchasing it's requirements:** Shri A Selvakumar
3. **New Temple fund raising:** Shri T Krishnarajah & Dr Sitaram Vij
4. **Operating fund raising:** Shri Srinivas Sitaramrao
5. **Asset Management & purchasing it's requirements:** Shri Bimal Bosmia
6. **Editor: Newsletter:** Shri J Atrie
7. **Web site development & maintenance:** Shri Prasanth Nallan
8. **Membership, Welfare & Constitution:** Shri A Garg
9. **Cultural, Education, Seminars & Youth Liaison:** Kumari R Modgill & Kumari S Gunalan
10. **Cleaning - Temple (indoor) including lamps, pots, etc & purchasing it's requirements:** Shri S Shastri & Shri P Pandalaneni
11. **Gardening & Temple(outdoor) cleaning & purchasing it's requirements:** Shri A T Pathmanathan
12. **Library & song books used at the Temple:** Shri V Senathirajah
13. **Radio programmes:** Shri A I Parameswaran & Shri Atul Garg
14. **Media liaison:** Shri T Krishnarajah

Swami Swaroopanad Ji will conduct an interesting and interactive discussion session with children of all age groups at Hindu Temple on Sunday 05th January 2003, between 10am to 12 noon. Please come along with your children at 9:50am SHARP and be benefited. For more details, please contact Shri V Senathirajah on 9389 1538.

REGULAR TEMPLE EVENTS

SANSKRIT CLASS FOR BEGINNERS

For details of time and frequency of the classes please ring 9354 4844.

BHAGAVATHAM (IN HINDI)

Venue: Temple

Time: First Sunday of every month 3.00pm–4.30pm

Contact Shrimati Usha Nigam on 9386 1238

HINDI BHAJAN CLASS

Time: First Sunday of every month 4.00pm–5.00pm

Contact Shrimati Poonam Garg on 9310 9161

YOGA CLASS

Venue: Temple

Time: Saturday 4.00pm–5.30pm

Teacher: Uncle Skantha

Contact Shri Shankar Madan on 9332 5872

YOGA FOR HEALTH & VITALITY

Venue: Mandala Hall, Electra Road, Batemen

Time: Sunday 6.00pm–7.30pm Teacher: Shri Shankar Madan

Contact Shri Shankar Madan on 9332 5872

This session is especially for TRAC youth – so do come, and discover the benefits of yoga

HOSTING OF EVENING ABHISHEKAM AND POOJA

1 st Friday	Tamil Association of Western Australia
2 nd Friday	North Indian Community
3 rd Friday	Kerala Community
4 th Friday	Temple Youth Group
5 th Friday	Available for a Community group. Contact the Management Committee for details.
1 st Saturday	Kannada Koota
2 nd Saturday	Telugu Group
3 rd Saturday	Marathi Mandal
4 th Saturday	Arpan
5 th Saturday	Available for a Community group. Contact the Management Committee for details.
3 rd Sunday	Gujarati Community ❖

TEMPLE OPENING AND ABHISHEKAM TIMES

Mornings (Daily)

6.15 am	Open
6.30 am	Abhishekam
7.00 am	Pooja
8.15 am	Close

Evenings (Daily)

6.30 pm	Open
7.00 pm	Abhishekam
7.30 pm	Pooja
8.30 pm	Close (8.00pm from May through August unless devotees are present)

Evenings (Friday)

6.30 pm	Open
7.00 pm	Abhishekam
7.45 pm	Pooja
9.00 pm	Close

Note: On festival days the above opening hours will vary, and will be advertised. ❖

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2003

January

2 nd	Amavasya
8 th	Sashti Vratam
10 th	Lohri
13 th	Karthikai Vratam
14 th	Ekadasi Vratam/Bhogi
15 th	Pradosha Vratam/Sankranti/Thai Pongal
16 th	Kanu Pongal
18 th	Pournami Vratam
19 th	Thai Poosham and Temple anniversary.
28 th	Ekadasi Vratam
30 th	Pradosha Vratam
31 st	Bodayana Amavasya

February

1 st	Amavasya
5 th	Chaturthi Vratam
7 th	Shashti Vratam
8 th	Ratha Saptami
9 th	Kartikai Vratam
12 th	Ekadasi Vratam
13 th	Sankranti
14 th	Pradosha Vratam
16 th	Pournami Vratam
17 th	Maasi Magham
20 th	Sankatahara Chaturthi Vratam
27 th	Ekadasi Vratam
28 th	Pradosha Vratam

March

1 st	Maha Shivaratri
2 nd	Amavasya
7 th	Chaturthi Vratam

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

OFFICE BEARERS

President

Shri T Krishnarajah 9493 3945

Vice-president

Shri A K Garg 9310 9161

Secretary

Shri J Atrie 9457 2071

Assistant Secretary

Dr S Vij 9438 3300

Treasurer

Shri P Ratnasingham 9259 5267

Assistant-treasurer

Shri A Patmanathan 9314 1794

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Shri C Kangatheran 9387 1418

Shri P Pandalaneni 9332 2034

Shri A Selvakumar (co-opted) 9455 5676

Shri S Nadarajah (co-opted) 9448 0996

Shri N Prasanth (co-opted) 9361 7958

Kumari S Gunalan 9310 2219

Kumari R Modgill (co-opted) 9472 4443

Shri B Bosmia (co-opted) 9317 1864

Shri Srinivas Sitaramrao 9259 4653

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Shri V Senathirajah 9389 1538

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairman

Dr M L Sharma 9385 8315

Members

Shrimati M Chatterjee 9332 7633

Shrimati U Kale 9310 2860

Dr K Vijayan 9389 9801

Shrimati H M Patel 9457 2016

Shri P Nagaratnam 9354 1039

Dr V Sakarapani 9386 2028

HINDU YOUTH GROUP

Shri Arun Satgunasingam 9459 5916

PRIEST

Shri Subrahmanya Bhat 9455 2097 (Temple)

9490 5470 (Residence)

FORTHCOMING FESTIVALS/ EVENTS

WESTERN NEW YEAR

Wednesday, 1 January 2003

Morning

6.30am *Abhishekam* for all Deities to welcome New Year

7.30am *Pooja* and *Arati* followed by *Archana* and *Prasad*

10.30am Temple door closes.

Evening

5.00pm Commencement of New Year special *Homam/Havan*

7.00pm *Abhishekam* for Shiva followed by *Pooja* and *Arati* for all Deities

Please contact Shri T Krishnarajah(9493 3945) or Shri V Senathirajah (9389 1538) for details (costs \$21 per family).

VAIKUNTHA EKADASI

Tuesday, 14 January 2003

Vaikunda Ekadesi is observed in the month of Maargazhi (Dec-Jan). Devotees undertake a fast and keep themselves awake throughout the night participating in kirtans/bhajans and doing *dhyana*. A gateway in the temple (*sorka-vaasal*) is thrown open on this day and devotees pass through this symbolic gate of Heaven or Vaikuntha, the abode of Lord Vishnu. It is ordained that devotees who fast on this day would be freed from all fetters and is admitted to Heaven.

THAI PONGAL/ MAKARA SANKRANTI

Wednesday, 15 January 2003

5.30am Pongal for Suryadeva in the front entrance to the Temple followed by special milk and *Kalasha Abhishekam* for Ganesha and milk *Abhishekam* for Shiva and Devi proceeded by *alangaram*, *pooja* and *pooja* for Suryadeva in the forecourt.

7.00pm *Abhishekam* for Shiva and *Pooja* for all Deities followed by *Arati* and *Prasad*.

Please contact Shri A Selvakumar for further details.

THAI POOSAM/ TEMPLE 13TH ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, 19 January 2003

Morning

6.00am Special *Kalasha Abhishekam* for Lord Muruga, Ganesha, Shiva and Devi followed by *alangaram*, *pooja* and *arati*.

10.00am Gayatri Havan/Homam (\$21 per family) followed by *Prasad* at 12.30pm.

Evening

6.00pm Special *Abhishekam*

7.00pm *Abhishekam* for Shiva.

7.30pm Lord Muruga goes around the Temple on a chariot. Please contact Shri A Selvakumar on 9455 5676 to help with the decorations.

8.15pm *Arati* followed by *Prasad*.

Coordinators: Shri V Senathirajah (9389 1538)
Shri C Kangatheran (9387 1418)

MAASI MAGHAM

Monday, 17 February 2003

6.30am Milk *Abhishekam* for Ganesha and Special *Abhishekam* to Lord Shiva and Devi followed by and Pooja and Arati for all Deities. This has very special significance to those devotees born under the Star of *Magham*.

MAHA SHIVRATRI

Saturday, 1 March 2003

7.00pm 1st KALA *Abhishekam* for Shiva and Pooja for all Deities followed by devotional songs and Havam/Homam.

8.25pm Cultural Offerings and devotional songs.

10.45pm 2nd KALA *Abhishekam* with milk and 108 Sangu (Conch) for Shiva.

12.15am Shiva sahasra nama (1008) pooja.

2.00am 3rd KALA *Abhishekam* for Shiva, Pooja for all Deities followed by devotional songs.

4.00am 4th KALA *Abhishekam* for Shiva, Pooja for all Deities followed by Arati.

Following Evening

7.00pm Milk *Abhishekam* for Shiva, Pooja for all Deities followed by Arati.

Devotees wishing to sponsor a Conch/*sangu Abhishekam* (\$15 per family) are requested to contact Shri T Krishnarajah (9493 3945) or Shri A.Selvakumar (9455 5676).

PANGUNI UTTARAM

Tuesday, 18 March 2003

The Panguni Uthiram festival is an important day in the Hindu Calendar. The Puranas state that on this day Shiva took the form of Sundaeswarar and married Meenakshi (an avatharam taken on by Sakthi) in the city of Maduari. The festivities at the Temple will include a Thirukalyanam, marriage ceremony for Shiva and Sakthi in the evening. It is customary for married couples to observe the ceremony as a re-enactment of their own marriage. At a philosophical level, the "marriage" is seen as the merger of each soul (*atma*) with the Supreme Soul (*Paramatma*).

6.30pm *Abhishega* for Lord Shiva and Divine Mother Shakthi

7.00pm Bhajans

7.30pm Pooja & Thirukalyanam

8.30pm Aarathi, Prasadam & "Wedding Feast"

Devotees who wish to co-host the festival are requested to contact Shri T Krishnarajah (9493 3945) or Shri A.Selvakumar (9455 5676).

Devotees may also bring "wedding presents" (seer varisai) for the Bride and Groom - flowers, fruits, sweets, pattu, donations (moi) etc. or prasadam to be shared with the other "guests" at the wedding. ❖

WISH TO CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES?

We encourage articles related to Sanathana Dharma and the people and places associated with these great ever-evolving philosophies of that One Truth.

For the next few issues we wish to reach out to the Indian community to participate in a project entitled *Know Your Indian Heritage*.

The objective of this challenging exercise will mainly be informational in nature covering topics such as demography, geography, culture, history, language, practices and beliefs of the people of each state.

Through a series of articles we intend to highlight the rich heritage of this remarkable sub-continent. It is intended especially for those who would like to get a broader understanding of the diversity that was and is India.

In addition, we also hope to have original or reviewed articles on the various aspects of *Sanathana Dharma*. As Sri Aurobindo in his book *The Upanishads* writes that in the Indian Scriptures "... philosophy and religion and poetry are made one, because this religion does not end with a cult nor is limited to a religio-ethical aspiration, but rises to an infinite discovery of God, of Self, of our highest and whole reality of spirit and being ... Truth seen, felt, lived, held by the inmost mind and soul in the joy of utterance of an assured discovery and possession".

If you have an interest in the above topics, and would like to get more information on the content plan please contact the editor.

If you wish your article or commentary to be considered for the next issue of the Newsletter due on **Friday, 14 March 2003**, then please ensure that you forward it to the editor at the following address no later than **Saturday, 22 February 2003**.

The Editor
The West Australian Hindu
PO Box 53
WILLETTON WA 6955

Please note that an electronic copy on a 1.44mb diskette in MS Word 97 format should accompany all mailed articles. Kindly virus check contents on diskette. Alternatively, the articles may be sent electronically to the following e-mail address:

Editor@Hindu.org.au

Please provide name and complete return address (including a contact telephone number) to enable the editor to seek clarification (if required) and return diskette. ❖

ADVERTISING RATES IN THE WEST AUSTRALIAN HINDU NEWSLETTER OR NEWS FLASH

Details of cost (includes GST) to advertise in each issue of The Hindu Association of Western Australia's Newsletter or News Flash are as follows:

<i>Full page (inside back cover page)</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>
<i>Half page (inside back cover page)</i>	<i>\$65.00</i>
<i>Half page (back cover page)</i>	<i>\$82.50</i>
<i>Half page (inside front cover)</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>
<i>Full page (advertising section)</i>	<i>\$110.00</i>
<i>Half page (advertising section)</i>	<i>\$55.00</i>
<i>Quarter page (advertising section)</i>	<i>\$27.50</i>
<i>Classified for members – 3 column lines (advertising section)</i>	<i>\$11.00</i>
<i>Classified for non-members – 3 column lines (advertising section)</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>

Please note that if the advertisement contains photographic images, which are not screened for printing, an additional fee will be charged. The next issue of the Newsletter is to be published on **Friday, 14 2003** and all advertisements along with a cheque payable to *The West Australian Hindu Association* for the appropriate amount **must** reach the Editor no later than **Saturday, 22 February 2003** at

The Editor
The West Australian Hindu
PO Box 53
WILLETTON WA-6955.

Please note that only MS Word documents will be accepted. To place an advertisement or to seek clarification, please contact the Editor on **9457 2071** or send an e-mail at Editor@hindu.org.au The Editor reserves the right to publish an advertisement.

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