



## FIRST VHP AUSTRALIA CHILDREN CAMP SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISED IN ADELAIDE

South Australian chapter of Vishva Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council) organised the first children camp in Adelaide on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

62 children and young people attended the camp which confirmed that many Hindu families acknowledge the need to inculcate Sanatan Dharma and Hindu Samskar's within our children.

We are confident that by helping our children learn about their heritage and retain the values, will help them reap the benefits of a healthy, rewarding, loving and productive life.



The Member of Parliament, Ms Katrine Hildyard who inaugurated the camp, representing the Minister of Multicultural Affairs Hon Zoe Bettison. Ms Katrine was delighted to learn about Hindu Sanatan Dharma and praised the efforts of VHP.

The opening session of the camp was a talk by Shri Yogacharya Devidasan on Sanatan Dharma. The children learned about the glory of our ancestors and India's rich cultural heritage and values.



Subsequently, classical dancer Ms Geetha Sadagopan described the science behind classical dance and demonstrated a routine 'Pushpanjali' for the children.



Yoga Guru, Raj Pandey then taught several yoga asana's to children.



This was followed by a session on classical Hindustani music by maestro Priya Ghoshal.



After these sessions, children played traditional games before having their lunch and at each step they were learning Hindi, Sanskrit, shlokas and the importance of saying prayers before eating food etc.



Post lunch activities included clay modelling, art and craft, practicing dance and drama. Children learned democratic values by reminding themselves that we all hail from the world's largest democratic country, Bharat.



At the end of the day, all children demonstrated what they had learned in front of their parents.

It was impressive to see so many 7 to 12 years olds had learned to perform surya namaskar so perfectly within such a short span of time and demonstrates that we must introduce our culture and values at a young age. This camp connected our next generation and the future of Australia to their roots with rich traditions and unique identity.



Almost all parents gave their weekend and sat through the entire camp, encouraging and supporting all the children. It was also promising to see some young leaders emerge as they successfully managed the event, from managing the registration desk to leading the clay modelling session.

No community event can ever be successful without the help of volunteers, and this camp was a good example of this. The parents stepped up and took responsibility of food distribution and actively participated by helping children practice dance steps and learn their songs.



VHP has received very positive feedback from children, parents and other community organisations and everyone has demanded more such camps.

This has encouraged VHP to organise, a three day residential children camp in 2017. Currently, the tentative date of the camp is **11 to 13 March 2017**.