



# Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc.

World Hindu Council of Australia Inc. ABN: 78862155168, Reg No: Y2898719, Charity No: CFN10709

## PRAMA प्रमा

### Quarterly Newsletter from Australia

Issue 1, 2017

1<sup>st</sup> January 2017

धर्मः तस्माद्धर्मात् परं नास्त्य् अथो अबलीयान् बलीयाँसमाशंसते धर्मेण यथा राजैवम् ।

यो वै स धर्मः सत्यं वै तत् तस्मात्सत्यं वदन्तमाहुर् धर्मं वदतीति धर्मं वा वदन्तं सत्यं वदतीत्य् एतद्ध्येवैतदुभयं भवति ॥

Nothing is higher than Dharma. The weak overcomes the stronger by Dharma, as over a king. Truly that Dharma is the Truth (Satya); Therefore, when a man speaks the Truth, they say, "He speaks the Dharma"; and if he speaks Dharma, they say, "He speaks the Truth!" For both are one.

#### IN THIS ISSUE

##### National Hindu Conference

5<sup>th</sup> Hindu Conference at Brisbane

##### VHP in Western Australia

Western Australian Chapter  
launched

##### HOTA Forum

Raksha Bandan program organised  
in Melbourne

##### Children Camps

Report on NSW Children camp

##### Vedic Centre

Vishnu Sahasranama Laksharchanai

##### Date to Remember

- ⇒ 6<sup>th</sup> Australian National Hindu Conference on Saturday 9 September 2017 in Adelaide
- ⇒ 28th January 2017, Shree Hayagreeva Pooja, Sydney and BSK SVP Open Day

#### Message from our National President

I am delighted to present you with our second newsletter for Australia in its new look.

Prama is a Sanskrit name which refers to true knowledge and was annointed as the name of our newsletter by Joint General Secretary of VHP Swami Vigyananand ji. .

Prama also refers to knowledge, true knowledge and knowledge of truth. Prama finds reference in Mahabharata, Arthav Veda and Sushrut (सुश्रुत) where it means to measure, mete out or estimate. This name is also found in Rig Veda where it is used for arrange, create, to form or to make ready. Prama is mentioned in Harivansh, Hitopadesh, Maitri-Upanishad (मैत्री-उपनिषद्) where it signifies correct knowledge or understanding.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and community members who make Vishva Hindu Parishad a successful community organisation. Our volunteers have been working tirelessly since 1996 to bring the community together for the common purpose of protecting, propagating, nurturing the principles of Sanatan Dharma within our communities and most importantly our children. Our volunteers not only serve the Hindu community but also contribute to the country as well.

Finally I would like to wish all VHP schools and divisions all the very best as they work towards the end of another successful calendar year and I look forward to seeing you all build many more successes throughout 2017.

**Shri Subramanian Ramamoorthi, JP**  
**National President**

रथस्यैकं चक्रं भुजग-यमिताः सप्त तुरगाः, निरालम्बो मार्गश्चरण-रहितः सारथिरपि ।  
रविर्गच्छत्यन्तं प्रतिदिनमपारस्य नभसः, क्रिया-सिद्धिः सत्त्वे भवति महतां नोपकरणे ॥

His chariot has just one wheel. The seven horses are reined in by serpents. The path (sky) is without a support. Even his charioteer (Arun) is without legs. Yet the Sun travels every-day to the end of the infinite sky...

#### Clean up Australia Drive

**‘When there is both inner and outer cleanliness, it approaches godliness.’ - Mahatma Gandhi**

“Shaucha” is considered as one of the vital elements in leading a Dharmic life. The Hindu scriptures time and again stress the importance of Shaucha. Daksha Smriti states that a person should ever try maintain Shaucha in whatever work he engages in and without such an adherence to purity, all actions and works becomes fruitless. “Shaucha” literally means both cleanliness and purity. The Yoga-Sutras of Patanjali describe Shaucha as-

शौचात्स्वाङ्गजुगुप्सा परैरसंसर्गः ॥ (2.41) सत्त्वशुद्धिसौमनस्यैकाग्र्येन्द्रियजयात्मदर्शनयोग्यत्वानि च ॥ (2.41)

Shaucha is that from which there arises dislike i.e. dispassion towards one’s body and detachment towards contact with others. Shaucha gives rise to purity of mind, contentment, one-pointedness, conquest of the senses and competency to attain Atma-Darshana (Self-Realization).

Every year Australia wide, hundreds of thousands of Australians get stuck in and clean up their local environment by collecting and removing rubbish. This year volunteers of Vishva Hindu Parishad Australia will again come together on the morning of Sunday 5 March 2017 at various places in Australia to clean up the public places and contribute to keep Australia and our community beautiful.

Source: <https://nithinsridhar.wordpress.com/2014/12/29/the-concept-of-swacchata-in-hindu-dharma/>



# PRAMA प्रमा



## VHP AUSTRALIA SANSKRIT SCHOOL, NSW

### Waitara Public School, NSW Presentation on 23 November 2016

VHP Australia Inc, VHP Sanskrit School have great pleasure in handing over the award to Mrs Webber which was forwarded to us by the Department of Education.

Previously few years back Mrs Dianna O Conner from Nuwarra Public School Principal received this award from us.

Mrs Akila Ramarathinam and Mrs Amita Saxena along with other volunteer teachers from VHP Australia Sanskrit School and Hindu Dharma Teachers were handed over the appreciation award to Mrs Webber.

VHP Australia Inc, and VHP Sanskrit School once again extending its sincere thanks to Waitara Public School staff and the Principal for their continuous support in promoting and spreading Hindu Culture and the Sanskrit Ancient Language of India to our generation next in Australia.



The school has provided two slots one in Sunday and one in Friday for us to teach Sanskrit Language.

While addressing the gathering Ms Webber appreciated all the volunteers for their dedication and continuous service to the society.

Ms Webber also appreciated VHP Australia Inc for their Hindu Dharma classes and the Sanskrit Language classes in her school.

She also congratulated Mrs Amita Saxena for her continuous service in Waitara School for more than 15 years. All the staff and the Deputy Principal were also

present and appreciated the service.

The Deputy Principal requested Mrs Akila Ramarathinam to say few words, when she expressed her sincere gratitude, team work, working in partnership with the school.

The school staff and the principals support is very important for us to extend our services in many ways.

We look forward to work more years to come.

with all of you for many





## VHP Children Residential Camp—Heathcote Scout Camp, NSW

Vishva Hindu Parishad's Children's Residential camp was conducted from 6th October 2016 to 9th October 2016 at Heathcote Scout Camp, 2 Freeman Road, Heathcote. The core theme of the camp was "UNITY". As scheduled, camp registration commenced at 5.30pm sharp followed by camp book distribution, allocation of cabins & segregation of children into groups. More than 85 children participated in the camp.



At 7:00 p.m. the camp activities opened with the auspicious lighting of the lamp, signifying the removal of darkness followed by a prayer.

Mrs Pooja Sashi, the camp co-ordinator announced the camp's house-keeping rules covering the safety of the camp & its activities for the duration of the camp. The children had their dinner and assembled in the hall for a very inter-active fun filled icebreaker session.

Friday, Day 1 started with the camp participants waking up at 6am and all set to go with their yoga mats. Yoga and Meditation session was conducted by Mrs Deval Patel of Art of Living who explained the need of yoga and meditation in their day to day lives followed by games supervised by Kiran with support from Jishnu Thangallu.

Children assembled at the dining hall for breakfast at 8.30 am and then moved on to their next Boudhik session with Pundit Rami Sivan "Homa/Yagna", indeed a very interactive session with a lot of questions from the children.

They were curious to know the science behind the rituals.

At 10.45a.m, the group dispersed for the morning tea, followed by a craft session with Mrs Leelamma, Ms Kushi and Ms Mili. Children enjoyed the craft session; they learnt how to make flowers on a disc, birds on a foam cup and other such smaller crafts. Sumptuous lunch was served by the volunteers headed by Mr Vijay Srinivas after which children rested for an hour.



The Boudhik session part two for the high school goers, headed by Mr Mohan Vijaya Raghavan explained about the pancha bhoothas and a debate on vegetarianism/non-vegetarianism, another much enjoyed activity by the children.

Concurrently, a Boudhik session was conducted by Mrs Pooja Sashi for the primary school children "work as one". They had plenty of fun through different activities learning how to work together in achieving the goal.

The children were given a task, asked to construct a story from the task, then convert it to a drama which they continued to practice in their next session. Then came the afternoon break followed by the Bharatheeya game.





# PRAMA प्रमा



## VHP Children Residential Camp—Heathcote Scout Camp, NSW

Day 2 yet again started at 6a.m followed by Yoga, meditation, games and breakfast. The Boudhik session started with the worship of “Ashta Kanya” conducted by Mrs Shalini Verma whereby children understood the importance of women and how to respect them and treat them with love and affection.

Mrs shalini Verma explained the scientific reason behind keeping “Gollu”.

This session was followed by “Holi”, throwing coloured water on one another and the children loved it. In a parallel session, on the other side, was a teacher’s training session conducted by Mr Venu Kusoori and Dr Ashit-Mohit and well received by the teachers. Children then dispersed for lunch and then gathered for a puppet story telling session conducted by Ms Lenka which captivated the children immediately followed with the question and answer session by Mr. Mohan Vijayaraghavan.

An Art-Excel session was conducted by Mrs Deval Patel of Art of Living and explained to them about the importance of Pranayamam in their life followed by Bharatheeya games. Through these games children learnt to be great team players.

At 6. 30p.m the children assembled at the hall to again light the lamp and sing songs of the Devathas followed by a camp fire inside the hall as the weather did not permit us being outdoors. Children had their dinner & headed back to the hall again for a movie night, thus concluding their second day at camp.

The last day of the camp again started at 6a.m with yoga and meditation followed by Bharatheeya games. Children were asked to do seva & with a little guidance did a fantastic job. The children were taught how to help others when in need followed by a little program to demonstrate what each group learnt in the last three days of the camp. Parents who arrived in the morning were taken bush walking, then enjoyed watching their children’s programme & ended their day with a delicious lunch.

Dr Nisha Manoj thanked the children, parents, camp authorities, sponsors and VHP, HYA, SEWA and AOL team. This was the end of a meaningful three-day residential camp which underlined the importance of Unity.



*May our intentions and aspirations be alike, so that a common objective unifies us all.*





# PRAMA प्रमा



## 2016 Year end Picnic – Royal National Park, Heathcote, NSW



On the 27th of November, BSK and SVP branches from across NSW came together for the annual picnic day. This year, it was decided that in conjunction with having a picnic and playing games, families would also get to experience the walk at the Royal National Park, located next to Waterfall Station.

Families were instructed to gather in the carpark of the station between 8.15am and 8.30am, which was further pushed to 9am. Vijay uncle and Kiran uncle then instructed both the children and parents of the program for the day, as well as the order in which everyone would travel through the trail. A count was taken for the purposes of not losing anyone while the walk was taking place, with 25 kids (pre-school to univer-

sity students) and 30 adults being accounted for. People who attended came from Ponds BSK, Hornsby BSK, Waitara BSK and Nuwarra BSK.

Viswanathan uncle, Prakash uncle and Deepak uncle headed the group; Priya and I led the children in the middle and the group was flanked by the rest of the adults. The start of the walk was fairly narrow and required a single file, however, we soon came into a grassy field. Here we broke off into two groups – one with the children and one with the adults – and introduced ourselves to our respective groups. In the children's group, everyone had to say their name, what year they were in, what school they went to and what BSK/SVP they were from. The adult's group played a game, where in order to get to know each other, they had to scream out a person's name and move to said person's spot. Everyone then chanted a small mantra and we resumed the walk.



Majority of the walk from this point was on flat ground, with the trail being quite wide. However, there were also many stones on the ground, proving to be a little challenging for the younger children. Having a wide variety of ages also proved to be challenging as we had to continuously stop and start in order to make sure that everyone was together, which made the walk a little tiring. It was still a very fun experience though, especially because all the younger children had so much excitement in them and while we walked, we also sang songs to pass time .



During our second rest stop, Rama aunty gave all the children a small task, which consisted of everyone identifying at least two man-made items that they saw while walking. She stated that while some man-made items were necessary on walking trails – such as signs and maps – others, such as food wrappers and plastic bottles, were harmful to the environment. This task doubled as both a way for the younger kids to see the repercussions of littering as well as a way for us to clean up the environment.

We walked for about an hour and a half, after which the group turned around as it had begun to drizzle. On our way back, the group stopped in an area which had big rocks that we could sit on. Here we split into two teams – with a mix of adults and children – and played a classic Indian game, known as Anthakshari. Everyone joined in with the singing and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, with many of the

children even being surprised at the number of songs their parents actually knew. After playing for a while, we packed up and continued to walk back.





# PRAMA प्रमा



## 2016 Year end Picnic – Royal National Park, Heathcote, NSW

Reaching the open grass area we had first introduced ourselves at, everyone sat down and set up the area for lunch and relaxation. Tarps were laid out on the grass, the food was brought down from the cars by the parents and served.

We had a selection of rices – puliogare, vegetable biryani and curd rice – chapaathi, potato curry, chips, juice and mango lassi. After thoroughly enjoying ourselves on the yummy food made by the volunteers and parents, we sat down to finish up the day.



Rama aunty consolidated the activity that was given to everyone at the beginning of the walk; Chechi aunty briefly spoke about what happens in BSK and SVP classes; and Shilpa aunty finished it off by thanking everyone for coming and getting everyone revved up for next year's annual day, which will hopefully be bigger and better. As everything was being packed up, a few adults and children mustered up some more energy and played a game of lagore, after which everyone departed their own ways.

Although there weren't many people who were able to make it to the walk, in my opinion, it was still a huge success because children from all the different branches of BSK and SVP were able to make new friends and create new connections. They may have been a little hesitant at first, but as the day went by and they got more comfortable with each other, everyone was laughing, talking and playing with each other and that I think, is the real purpose of having events like this.

### HINDU SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT

Every year VHP Australia organises special camp for our special people on 4<sup>th</sup> December each year, to coincide with the International Day of People with Disability.

This year we will be helping families of special children to attend conferences, information sessions and seminars on various health issues, which will help them face their challenges and seek advice. More information will be shared soon.

Dr. Shobha Kumar  
Coordinator— Hindu Social Services Foundation  
VHP Australia Inc.



# PRAMA प्रमा



Dr Smt Girija Seshadri ji's and Shri Vedantam ji's visit to Australia

**RESPECTED SHRI VEDANTAM JI**  
**EX VHP'S INTERNATIONAL WORKING PRESIDENT & EX-TAMIL NADU VHP PRESIDENT**  
**DR SMT GIRIJA SESHADRI**  
**CORRESPONDENT AND PRINCIPAL OF HINDU VIDYALAYA HIGH SCHOOL CHENNAI**  
**DURING BSK VOLUNTEER TEACHERS TRAINING AND INFORMATION SESSION AT ROUSE HILL**



**Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Incorporated**

ABN:78862155168 Incorporated Association No: Y 2898719 Regd Charity No: CFN10709





# PRAMA प्रमा



## VEDIC AND CULTURAL CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA, NSW

The Vedic and Cultural Centre of Australia division of Vishva Hindu Parishad regularly organises various vedic rituals and ceremonies. One of the flagship activities of VCCA is the recital of Vishnu Shasranama. It is humbling for adults to see young children reciting the entire Vishnu shasranama by memory, which is challenging to even read.

Sahasranāma ( सहस्रनाम ) is a Sanskrit term which means "a thousand names". It is also a genre of stotra literature, usually found as a title of the text named after a deity, such as Vishnu Sahasranāma, wherein the deity is remembered by 1,000 names, attributes or epithets.

As stotras, Sahasra-namas are songs of praise, a type of devotional literature. The word is a compound of sahasra "thousand" and nāman "name". Laksharchana means reciting the Lord's names 100,000 times (collectively).

VCCA organises this puja by inviting group of families in greater Sydney area. All devotees are invited to join in performing the puja alongside and receive the Lord's blessings as each devotee is able to do puja for himself/herself.



Vedic and Cultural Centre of Australia (VCCA) conduct their regular annual program. As per VCCA's annual schedule for the fifth year in a row Sri Vishnu Sahasranama Lakshaarchana was held on 24<sup>th</sup> Sep 2016 at Quakers Hill Community Centre, Quakers Hill, NSW.

Saturdays of Bhadrapada month (Purattasi Sanivaram) are of special significance for Lord Mahaavishnu and Mahaalakshmi and this event was perfectly aligned to mark the significance. The event was well attended with over 60 families participating in the chanting of Sri Vishnu Sahasranamavali and Sri Mahaalakshmi Sahasranamavalli.







# PRAMA प्रमा



## VEDIC AND CULTURAL CENTRE OF AUSTRALIA, NSW

As always, volunteers of VCCA greatly helped and supported the event starting from opening of the hall doors at 2pm to the closing of the halls around 9pm, including decoration of the stage and preparation for the Puja. The afternoon program started as per the normal custom with "Vigneshwara" Puja, followed by "Maha Sankalpam" and "Poorvaanga Upachara Puja". This was followed with Vedic chanting by Rithviks covering Purusha Suktham, Narayana Suktham and SriSuktham. The main part of the program Sri Vishnu Sahasranamaavali was performed in 2 batches with 60 devotees. This was followed by Sri Krishnaashtakam Shloka recital by Bala Samskara Kendra children. The second part of the program was reciting of Sri Mahaalakshmi Sahasranamaavali by 50 ladies performing Kunkuma Archana. All the participants were provided with copies of the scripture to be able to chant with the priests.

The Puja part of the function was concluded after rendering of a few Carnatic classic songs by some participants, Dhoo-pam, Deepam, Navedyam and Mangala Haarathi. The evening program was performed and conducted under the able leadership and guidance of Shri Venkatraman, a freelance priest.



Sumptuous dinner in the form of "Prasadam" provided by volunteers was served after the conclusion of the Puja to all the attendees, bringing the curtain down on the program.

The program could not have been a success without the support and assistance of all the volunteers, sponsors & devotees and VCCA would like to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their valuable contribution.

To know about the next event of VCCA for the year and for program details of all the activities, please visit our website – [www.vcca.org.au](http://www.vcca.org.au).

**Om Namo Narayanaya!**

Please visit [www.vcca.org.au](http://www.vcca.org.au) & [www.vhp.org.au](http://www.vhp.org.au) for more details & registration.

**We have BSK and SVP classes in many suburbs in Sydney . Kindly visit our web site or kindly contact Jayanthit@vhp.org.au for more information regarding various classes.**

**For Veda classes and Vishnu Sahasranamam classes at Vedic Center please contact - Subbu@vhp.org.au**





# PRAMA प्रमा



## BSK/SVP Annual Day 2016 — Sydney, NSW

Vishva Hindu Parishad's **Sanskrit School** (recognised by the Education Department of NSW as Community Language Programme) **Bala Samskar Kendra** (BSK) and **Sydney Veda Patasala** (SVP) annual day functions were celebrated on 03rd September 2016 at Castle Hill High School.

The event was declared open at 3 pm with Mrs. Jayanthi Thilak, Joint General Secretary welcoming everyone. She then handed over to the MCs of the day, Lavanya Vishwanathan, Nikita Rao, Sanjana Sridhar and Aishwarya Anilkumar who introduced themselves & commenced by acknowledging the traditional custodians of this land.

Mr. Subramanian Ramamoorthi JP, President of VHP Australia was invited to give a speech in which he emphasized the importance of Guru placing an analogy on Gurus as directors and students as performers. He also pointed out that the students from a young age are expressing interest in Sanskrit related activities. He then ended by welcoming all the dignitaries & moved on to the inaugural lighting of the lamp whilst the MCs explained the significance of it.



A child from each branch was called upon to light the lamp glorifying "Light is Knowledge". The MCs then briefly introduced the audience to the main objectives & activities of VHP highlighting the Hindu Dharma Scripture classes in NSW Public schools & the Sanskrit classes conducted at BSK and SVP.

The cultural performances commenced with BSK Ponds **Vedic chanting** which created a divine atmosphere through **Gayathri mantra**. It underlined the benefits of Vedic chanting through vibrations which act as a therapy to calm the mind. Aaditya Bajad from BSK Waitara and Hornsby South group recited **Ganesha Stotram** followed by various other Sanskrit stotrams by the entire group.



BSK Carlingford then presented **Sanskrit number song 'Ekam Ekam'** which was informative. This was followed by the performance of BSK Toongabbie chanting **Bhagavat Gita chapter 15** which portrayed Lord Krishna advising Arjuna how to keep the mind calm in 'Sukha and Dukha' and how important it is to perceive these moods equally.

BSK Nuwarra dramatized daily activities in a Sanskrit parade which surely would have taught the audience some Sanskrit words. BSK Ponds portrayed a skit which explained different terms used in our everyday life in Sanskrit.

Amidst this, **Shuklam Bharadaram** was chanted by Arun Rudrakumar, BSK Carlingford which received a big applause from the audience.







# PRAMA प्रमा



## BSK/SVP Annual Day 2016 — Sydney, NSW



Tiny tots of BSK Nuwarra performed **Chataka Chataka** dance, an adorable performance about the spontaneous relationship of children connecting with nature. BSK Toongabbie portrayed Bhagwan Rama's life from childhood to marriage, termed as "**Nama Ramayanam**".

**Vishnu Sahasranamam** presented by BSK Toongabbie praised Lord Vishnu. Its simple explanation in English helped the audience to understand the gist and importance of Bhagawan Vishnu and Vishnu Sahasranamam.



BSK Homebush recited **Ganesh Pancharathnam**, 2000 year old Sanskrit poem composed by Sri Adi Shankaracharya addressing Bhagawan Ganesha. BSK Waitara and Hornsby South portrayed the story of **Gajendra Moksha** which reiterated the importance of Bhakthi and surrender towards the Bhagwan. BSK Waitara and Hornsby South then continued on to their next performance, **Madhurashtakam** describing the lovely attributes of Sri Krishna, The Great Kind of Dwaraka master of sweetness and sweetness personified. Sri Narayan Krishnamurthy and Sri. Srikanth Parasuram were invited to come on stage.

Sri. Narayan Krishnamurthy conveyed his thanks to BSK parents and teachers for building Sanskrit culture. Both of them were honoured for their extraordinary contributions towards teaching Sanskrit. The Youth who appeared for the Pravesha exam, conducted by Samskrita Bharathi, Bharat also were honoured.



BSK Nuwarra drama, '**Uttaradaayitva**' meaning responsibility explained the significance of setting and working towards a goal. BSK Carlingford presented **Ganesha Dwadashanam** comprising shlokas praising Bhagwan Ganesha. SVP Carlingford and Homebush recited **Narayana Suktam** worshipping Lord Narayana. BSK Ponds presented **Thiruvathira dance**, a popular folk dance of Kerala, establishing an inevitable relationship between culture and our Rashtra, the Bhaarat. This was followed by BSK Pond's drama illustrating Sanskrit usage on different occasions.

BSK Homebush chanted Gayathri Mantra to invoke the Devatas. BSK Toongabbie then chanted **Loka Veeram stotra of Lord Ayyappa**. The last item by BSK Nuwarra was a **Yoga dance**, choreographed by Ms. Ankita Arora, Art of Living teacher and a volunteer, was a fusion of yoga and dance forms, which got a reverberating applause from the audience.



Smt. Akila Ramarathinam, General Secretary of VHP Australia was called upon who concluded the event by thanking everyone for their great effort, valuable support & contribution to make this event a great success. She further spoke about VHPs major projects & activities in particular, the Hindu Dharma Scripture classes in NSW Public schools & the Sanskrit classes conducted at BSK and SVP.

She further accentuated that **Vedic Chanting has been declared as the "World's intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO"**. She also invited all the volunteers and teachers on stage who were honoured & had a photo session. Mr. Raj Datta, Councillor of Strathfield also invited on stage who spoke on the importance of Sanskrit and Bharathiya Culture and appreciated all the volunteers and special mention to the youth volunteers for their dedication.

The event closed with the Grand Finale Samskrutam song '**Samkritena Sambhasham Kuru**' sung by children from all branches of BSK, followed by a vote of thanks by Jishnu Thangallu of BSK Nuwarra. The celebration ended with a sumptuous dinner.





# PRAMA प्रमा



## Shri Maharudram Utsavam — Shiv Mandir, Sydney, NSW



By Parameshwara's grace and Kanchi Acharyal's anugraham, Shri Maharudra Utsavam was organized at Shri Shiva Mandir premises on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Shri Maharudra Utsavam being held at the temple premises.

The event was jointly organized by Vedic and Cultural Centre of Australia (VCCA), an initiative of VHP Australia and Shri Shiv Mandir.

On this occasion, Shri Rudram from

Shri Krishna Yajurveda Samhita was chanted 1331 times by Rithviks in the span of 4 days. Unlike previous occasions, there has been a good response on all the 4 days. Every day around 30 Rithviks participated.



Shri Rudra Homam was performed on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> day and Abhishekam was performed on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. More than 800 devotees witnessed the chanting event on the 4 days.

The organizing committee consisted of Shri Dorai Rajan, Shri Ramarathinam, Shri Venkatrama Sastry and Shri Lal Bahadur Mishra. The committee was supported by

Shri Ramachandra Athreyar and the temple priest Pandit Chetan Sharma.



More than 800 devotees witnessed the chanting



The event was graced by Pujya Swamini Atma Prakashaananda Saraswati on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day and Shri Vedantam ji, Ex International Working President of Visva Hindu Parishad, Bharat on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. Shri Vedantam ji commended everyone involved in organizing the event. Later he was honored by Shri Ganesha Lingam on behalf of Temple Management Committee.

Kanchi Mutt Silver pendant coins and temple prasadam were distributed to all the Rithviks and sponsors. Smt & Shri Sudheendra Padki and their team took care of catering arrangements on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> day.



During the evening sessions Shri Nirmaleswara Gurukkal delivered lecture on Siva Puranam one evening. Smt Hemalatha Ganesan presented vocal concert another evening. Smt Lakshmi Narendra presented a Veena Concert on the third evening. Shri Rudra Trisathi archana, Sri Vishnu Sahasranaama and Shri Rudra Krama Archana were also performed.

Sydney Shiva devotees have been witnessing Shri Ekadasha Rudra Japam and Shri Maharudram in alternate years since 2009 at the temple premises. We pray Sarveshwara and look forward to support from all devotees for years to come for conducting such events in future.

Om Namassivaaya





# PRAMA प्रमा



## Launching BSK in Singapore and Thailand

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2016, our senior karyakarta Smt Saraswathi Shashi, Joint General Secretary of VHP Australia attended the joint meeting of Vishva Hindu Parishad Association of Thailand and World Hindu Economic forum and presented the activities and emphasised on how VHP Australia is working along with the Government Department for uplifting the Hindu community and co-existing with the Australian Culture, which was positively welcomed by the audience.



On the 2nd of September various workshops were conducted on the topic "Parenting", held in three different locations (Saichol, SV City, Bile Park and Fortune), addressing the cognition behind the parenting struggle and also discussed some useful parenting tips and skills.

This topic was further raised again at dinner at the VHP & WHEF meeting.

The relationship between parents and children has existed since time immemorial but even today, parents are striving hard to foster ideal child development and solve teenage problems by establishing a reliable relationship. Parenting teenagers is one of the hardest endeavours for many parents making it difficult to be skilful without any training and guidance.

Through these workshops the women were taken through in depth practical knowledge on how to win their children's hearts and maintain the same loving parent-child relationship even during their teenage years. During this session, we had a meaningful discussion with the parents on how to instill our values and culture into their children's lives.

Discussion forum were organized with the youths to brain storm ways to strengthen parent-child relationships, inculcate our Dharma and fulfil our duty as children.



In these workshops the women volunteers learned the art of positive parenting by which parents can interact with their children through nurturing blend of pure love, equanimity, and spirituality.

Classes were conducted for the children at two different locations in which both the parents and children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions ultimately inspiring and leading them to start up Bala Samskar Kendra in three different suburbs.

The dedicated volunteers learned to focus on our Hindu Dharma and heritage by imparting the greatest knowledge given by our Rishis and by listening to the Gurus within themselves







# PRAMA प्रमा



## Launching BSK in Singapore and Thailand

A Hindu Women's forum was also held to unite women to interact and focus on their issues by learning about their inherent skills & allowing them to empower themselves and one another and develop leadership qualities with the ultimate aim of contributing to the society.

Talks on duties and responsibilities of each individual based on our Scriptures were delivered at Geeta Ashraram, Shastras behind our Hindu Rituals were explained at Dev Mandir and Lakshmi Narayan temples were well received by the audience.



VHP Australia representative, Saraswathi ji participated in the Ganesha Festival and Ganesh Visarjan on 10th and 11th September organised by VHP, where she emphasised on Hindus uniting for a greater cause.

In Singapore, she met people from Hindu Centre and Hindu Web and exchanged views on how to effectively network with teachers and how to share resources with the aim of passing on the knowledge to the next generations.

A teacher's training workshop was organized at Ramakrishna Mission for Hindu Centre Teachers and Ramakrishna Mission Bala Samskar Kendra teachers.



Our representative also met Shri Bhupendra Kumar Modi and Shri Rajesh, General Secretary Global Citizen Forum, and briefly explained the activities of VHP in Australia and discussed about how each and every Hindu Karykartha should working towards bringing Bharat a Vishva Guru.



They spoke about World Hindu Economic Forum that was being organized in California and about representatives who will represent Singapore at the conference in November 2016.

Discussions with Bharathi Shakha, Sri Shankara Shakha and the devoted volunteers from Mata Amritanandamayi Matam was fruitful and inspiring and views were exchanged on how to work and empower our Hindu population who are working in Singapore and other nearby Islands.

Through this session, we became aware that Seva and Knowledge (Kriya Shakthi and Jnana Shakthi) should go hand in hand in order to elevate the individual. By passing on our Bharatheeya Sam-skriti to the next generation, we are educating ourselves and also the children of the present & the future generations.



The outcomes of the visit can be summarised as below:

### **Bangkok:**

- Initiated three Balasamskar Kendras in Bangkok
- Hindu Women Forum to address the issues of Women
- Empowered Women to focus on their skills and potentials
- Senior citizens forum re-initiated.

### **Singapore:**

- Hindu Centre, Hindu Web, Singapore network to help the Hindus to learn the Hindu literatures in a systematic way
- Balasamskar Kendra Teachers training. More branches to be opened to help the children who are in need to learn values and ethics.





# PRAMA प्रमा



## Other Activities in VHP NSW

### Children Camp



### The Speed of Light and Purāṇic Cosmology

Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Louisiana State University

April 18, 1998

#### Abstract

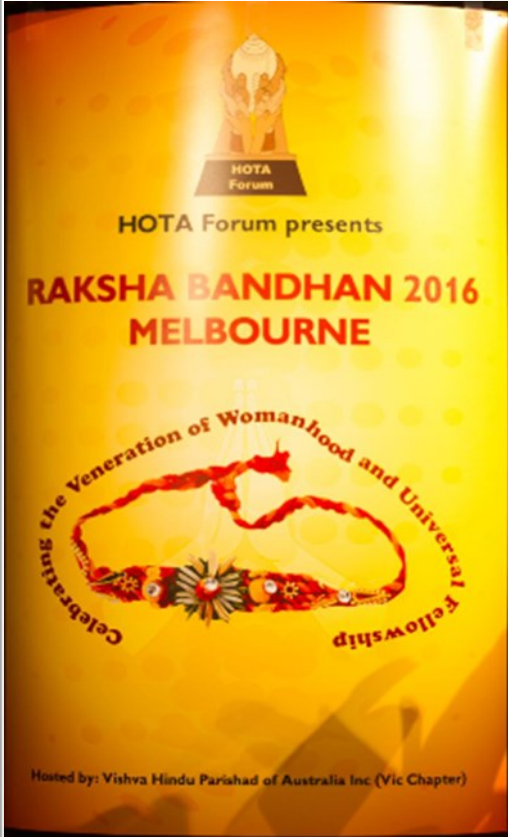
We survey early Indian ideas on the speed of light and the size of the universe. A context is provided for Śaṅkara's statement (14th century) that the speed is 2,202 yojanas per half nimeṣa (186,000 miles per second!). It is shown how this statement may have emerged from early Purāṇic notions regarding the size of the universe. Although this value can only be considered to be an amazing coincidence, the Purāṇic cosmology at the basis of this assertion illuminates many ancient ideas of space and time.

**Keywords:** Speed of light, Ancient Indian astronomy, Purāṇic cosmology

[www.guruprasad.net](http://www.guruprasad.net)



## VHP Victoria HOTA Forum Raksha Bandhan 2016



On Saturday the 25th of September Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc - Victoria Chapter, HOTA VIC forum host for 2016 organised a very successful Raksha Bandhan celebration with a gala dinner night at Encore Events Centre, Melbourne.

Chosen due to its strong focus on family values, female empowerment and the celebration of universal fellowship, the Raksha Bandhan theme was enjoyed by all in attendance.

HOTA (Hindu Organizations, Temples & Associations) VIC forum was formed in 2015 at the 4th Australian National Hindu Conference organized by VHP of Australia Inc. The aim of the forum is to facilitate interconnectivity among the various organizations and to create additional value with greater focus on the needs of the local Hindu community.

Raksha Bandhan event was the first public HOTA VIC forum event and was attended by over 50 partners and supporting organisations. With over 250 community leaders and representatives present, the event was hosted by two youth and first time MC's Ramya Annavarapu and Sameer Betanabhatla featuring a series of presentations and performances by local artists.

After the Deepa Prajwalan (lamp lighting) by a group of esteemed female community leaders, introductory

prayers by Madhuri Vasa opened the evening.

In the formal welcome speech, VHP Victoria President Smt Geeta Devi explained the idea behind Raksha Bandhan event with the concept of unity in diversity and respecting women -

"With over 85,000 Hindus in Victoria alone, we strive to nurture the cultural identity. Raksha Bandhan makes us to relook at the actual significance of the festivals and apply it to the contemporary society around us."



A major focus of the evening was the "Tejaswini - Woman of Substance" award. This year it was presented to Smt Rohini Kappadath, Chair of the Multicultural Ministerial Business Advisory Council and the 2015 Telstra Victorian Business Woman for the Corporate and Private sector.

A national advocate for Australia's engagement with the Asian region, Smt Rohini shared how she keeps the rakhie traditions alive and cherishes the memories.





# PRAMA प्रमा



## VHP Victoria HOTA Forum Raksha Bandhan 2016

The Special Guest for the evening was the Victorian Multicultural Commissioner Dr. Mimmi Claudiene Ngyum Chi Watts. In her delightful speech she mentioned how she kept her ancestral names as well as given names and proud of her African heritage. She also emphasized on the role of migrants in the betterment of Australia as well as the role of all of the cultural organizations present in the room.



Following on, the tone of the evening shifted slightly as the next event was a step-by-step run through of the Rakhi ceremony by Smt Mahitha Cherukuwada. Dr. Ngyum Chi Watts, Cr Gautam Gupta, Victoria Police community Engagement Manager Ms. Rosa Rossi and Ms. Pushp Sidhu participated in this ceremony with Hindu community youth performing the rakhi tying ceremony.



Bringing the focus back to the organizer of the evening, HOTA VIC forum secretary Sri Naga Bhushan Sharma Betanabhatla presented a brief overview of HOTA VIC forum and thanked all the organisations that took the responsibility for various champion roles.

The second segment of the night was the cultural performances, which were in three different art forms - singing, dancing and martial arts. Each art form was mesmerizing and technically brilliant. The dance was a classical dance performance of Bharata Natyam by Smt Meghala Bhat, where she portrayed the female form of Shakti.

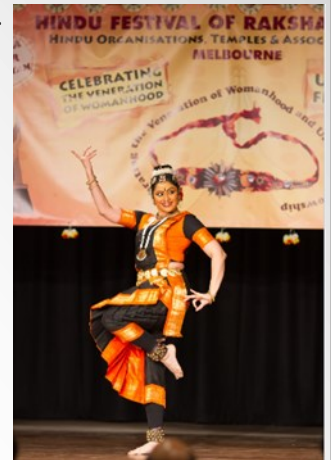
A demonstration of the martial art of KalariPayattu followed this. This ancient art form of Kerala was showcased by members of a Melbourne School called Kalari Healing led by Ms Ramona Lalita Yagnik and also featuring her students.



The final act, a medley of songs by the esteemed Mr. Sriram Iyer, was the thumping finale that would close the performance section of the evening.



All of the performances were of the highest quality and a testament to the diverse art forms of the subcontinent. Showing a variety of different skills and talents, the artists were impeccable in their preparation and output. They made everyone in the room proud of their heritage - they deserve to be thanked for their time and effort.



As the evening draw to a close, the host for the 2017 HOTA VIC forum was announced with India Australia Exchange Forum led by Sri Vijeth Shetty accepting the HOTA VIC forum baton. Smt Krishna Sharma, Secretary VHP Victoria thanked all volunteers and especially the Be the Change team for their support of the Raksha Bandhan gala dinner night.

From the time of its inspection by Sri Swami Vigyananand Ji in 2015, the HOTA VIC forum has grown into a very real and tangible platform for the Victorian Hindu community. All the member/partner organizations and supporters are to be commended for their support and positive commitment to this notion of a more dedicated community.







# PRAMA प्रमा



## 5<sup>th</sup> Australian National Hindu Conference, Queensland

Conference theme: 'United communities, United Australia'



The 5th Australian National Hindu Conference – United Communities, United Australia, was organised by the Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc., (VHP of Australia) and hosted by its Queensland Chapter at the Mercure Hotel on Saturday 27th August 2016.

This conference was an unique and historical event for Hindu Australian Community in Queensland. This was the first time an event on this scale and participation was organised in Queensland. There was good representation of government officials from the State and local governments.



On behalf of the Queensland Government, Mr Peter Russo, State member for Sunnybank representing the Hon Grace Grace, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing, and Multi-cultural Affairs, Mr Joe Kelly, State Member for Greenslopes attended.



At the local government level, Councillor Angela Owen, Chairman of Council, Councillor for Calamvale Ward, Brisbane City Council represented Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and Mayor Paul Pisasale, Ipswich City Council attended.

The inaugural session commenced with Shri Subramanian Ramamoorthy, National President, VHP of Australia Inc., welcoming the delegates and dignitaries. This was followed by the keynote address by Dr Manonmanii Krishnamohan, President of the Queensland Chapter of VHP Australia. The keynote address was on the vision and contributions of the Hindu Australian Society. In her keynote address Dr Manonmanii Krishnamohan noted that according to Australian Bureau of Statistics (2011) Hinduism is the fastest growing religion in Australia and that Hindu Australians had higher educational qualifications and were occupying high profile professions. The presentation provided statistical evidence that Hindu Australians were a contributing community.



This was followed by a presentation by Shri Rajendra Pandey, President, VHP of Australia, South Australia chapter, on the services of the VHP of Australia to the society.

Plenary session 1 was on Working with Government Agencies. The delegates were told that Government agencies have a number of opportunities available for multicultural community groups. But to utilize the opportunities available, the Hindu community has to build a relationship with these agencies.

The Plenary session 2 – Collaboration among Hindu Organisations Temples and Associations, was chaired by Swami Vigyananand, International Coordinator and Joint General Secretary, VHP Bharat. He explained the purpose of HOTA (Hindu Organisations Temples and Organisations). Ms Pritika Sharma, Joint General Secretary VHP New Zealand presented on the successful experiments of organising the Hindu community in New Zealand through HOTA. Dur-







# PRAMA प्रमा



## 5<sup>th</sup> Australian National Hindu Conference, Queensland

He also stressed that while we came to Australia from many different countries and we hold many geopolitical linguistic, denominational and sectional identities, the current time demands that we have to present one common identity - a Hindu Australian identity. He later formally launched the HOTA forum in Queensland. It was encouraging to see more than 20 Hindu organisations, temples and associations attending the conference. VHP of Australia Queensland chapter agreed to host the first HOTA forum.



Plenary session 3, Youth- Developing future leadership. This session comprised seven presentations by youth on a range of diverse and important topics such as, the need for providing future leadership to Hindu community in Australia to the value of networking among Hindu youth for sustaining Hindu Dharma in Australia.

Plenary session 4, 'Bridging the gap among Hindus from different countries' was a panel discussion. The panellists included Australian Hindus from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Fiji, and United Kingdom. The panel discussion discussed on how to bridge the gap between Hindus from

different countries.

This generated a lot of interest and discussion among the delegates. It was unanimously agreed that it is the community's responsibility to bridge the gap between Hindus coming from various countries, denominations and community groups by participating in each other's programme, supporting each other, sharing resources without diluting the diversity which is the hallmark of Hindu community. An innovative idea that was well received was to use sport to unite the Hindu community, such as forming a Hindu premier league. A group will be formed to make this idea into reality.

Plenary session 5, Hindu Organisations Temples and Associations' service to the society. In this session 20 organisations including organisations such as Art of Living, Hindu Swayam Sewak Sangh (HSS), Mata Amritanandamayi Center Brisbane, Jeer Education Trust Brisbane participated and presented their activities and services to the Australian Society. The highlight of this session was a presentation by Dr Rama Jayaraj of Charles Darwin University, Darwin, on the connections between the Australian Aboriginal culture and the Hindu and Tamil culture.



Overall the conference provided a common platform for Hindus from various countries, organisations, temples, associations in Queensland to come together to share a sense of belonging and bonding. The conference also provided opportunity for networking, collaborating and sharing ideas thus contributing and strengthening the multicultural fabric of Queensland and Australia. All delegates agreed that there was a need for the Hindu community in Queensland and Australia to unite and work for the welfare of the Australian society.



Smt Akila Ramarathinam, General Secretary, VHP Australia, provided the way forward. A significant outcome from this conference was that as Hindus we have adopted Australia as our home land, therefore a common Hindu Australian identity transcending geopolitical linguistic, denominational and sectional identities was accepted.





# PRAMA प्रमा



## “Bala Utsav” Celebration by the Bala Samskar Kendra – Queensland

Bala Samskar Kendra (BSK) is the children’s activity wing of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc. BSK Queensland has been conducting regular activities in Brisbane for the past six years. The objective of BSK is to impart Hindu cultural values, heritage and language to young children. The activities are conducted in an environment where the children feel that they are part of an extended family, can interact with their own age group and also learn from elders. A wide range of activities are conducted to provide all-round personal development, for example, Sanskrit shloka chanting, scripture class, language, yoga and games.

Children in this information age like to learn through joint participation and by doing things, so they all enjoy performing in dramas and dance. To satisfy this need, BSK Queensland conducts annual Bala Utsav’s. Through this activity the children also learn the Hindu scriptures and heritage as all the scripts are derived from them. The dances are also taught by professional classical dance teachers.



The BSK Queensland has been conducting the Bala Utsav celebrations for the last four years around the Diwali festival. Over the years at least 60 children have performed and benefited through these Utsavs. Bala Utsav 2016 was held on 12 November 2016 at the Queensland Multicultural Centre, Kangaroo Point. The attraction of the Utsav was a drama, “Bharat Milap” and a skit “who broke Janaka’s bow” both from the Ramayan. The venue provided the children with a professional well equipped theatre. The Utsav was attended by over 150 guests. During the 2 hour program, the guests were well entertained by the children. All the performers for the day were below the

age of 15 years of age, however they all provided a professional performance. This was evidenced by the numerous applauses and laughs throughout the show. All the participants put in a lot of effort and hard work in preparing for this event as the drama scripts were memorised and spoken by the children during the performance.

At the end of the performance all the participants were encouraged with Certificates of Participation. Performers who excelled in various disciplines throughout the year, for example, shloka chanting and rangoli were appreciated. Special mention was also made of children who showcased exceptional qualities throughout the year, for example sacrificing birthday gifts for a good cause.

Bala Utsav is the climax of all the activities for the year. After the Utsav children have a short breather in preparation for yet another year full of activity. That way our “sadhna” (endeavour) of nurturing disciplined, organised and knowledgeable children continues.



For further details on activities of the BSK please contact us on:  
<https://www.vhpqld.org.au/>  
<https://www.vhp.org.au/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/VHPAustraliaQLD>  
email - bskqld@live.com.au





# PRAMA प्रमा



## VHP Sanskrit School – South Australia

Bala Samskar Kendra (BSK) is the children's activity wing of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc. and as a part of this activity VHP also runs Sanskrit classes for children and young people.

VHP South Australia chapter has become the first Ethnic School in South Australia to formally teach Sanskrit language. <http://www.esasa.asn.au/languages.html>

The classes start with prayer, meditation and Yoga sessions to get the focus up and the positive energy flowing, which prepares the children for the session ahead while introducing them to thousands of years old traditions and knowledge.



Currently, two classes held every week where primary school students are taught to read and speak Sanskrit language.

The curriculum also includes teaching some elementary Vedic scriptures.

One class is held on Saturday evening at Adelaide Secondary Schools of English Language in West Croydon from 5 pm to 7 pm .

The second class is held on Sunday mornings from 11 am to 1 pm at Goodwood Primary School in Goodwood.



Here in this picture on the left, you can see the students playing the act of the story from Panchtantra.



In this picture on the right you can see the students learning about Ganesha through drawing and colouring.

If you wish to enroll your children in this class, please call 0469 570 186 or write to [Rajendra.pandey@vhp.org.au](mailto:Rajendra.pandey@vhp.org.au)

For more information visit:

<https://www.vhpsa.org.au/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VHPSouthAustralia/>





# PRAMA प्रमा



## VHP South Australia Children camp

### First Children camp in South Australia Goodwood Community Centre, Goodwood SA 5034

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 Sanatana 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 & 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 another children camp in 2017.







# PRAMA प्रमा



## Inauguration of the Vishva Hindu Parishad, Western Australia Chapter

The Inauguration of the Vishva Hindu Parishad, Western Australia chapter in the Butler Community Centre, Butler WA6036, Perth, was launched successfully on the Auspicious occasion of Diwali, the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, 2016 .

The registration opened at 3:00pm and around 65 people showed up to support this launch. Everyone was greeted at the desk by volunteers and directed to the seating area in the hall. At 3:30pm, the chief guest, honourable mayor, Tracey Roberts from the City of Wanneroo council graced the occasion with her presence.

The evening started with a prayer to Lord Ganesha, "Ganesh Vandana" by Durba ji on her harmonium and Pandey ji on the tabla. She enthralled the audience with her melodious bhajan and set the stage for the evening.



Shrimati Neha Shinghal, President VHP Western Australia Chapter did a presentation about the Vishva Hindu Parishad, Australia (VHP Inc.) in the service of the society. She spoke about the work that this 53 year old institution does, not only in Australia but around the world and the fact that VHP Australia believes in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam which means that the "The world is one family".

In her speech she mentioned how important it was to bring together people from India so that they can still feel connected to their roots and rich cultural heritage while living abroad. Neha talked about integrating Indian values in the Australian lifestyle and raising responsible children who would become contributing citizens of the society. She concluded with a mention of working closely with Aboriginal communities, getting more active in social services, establishment of Hindu Schools and working in partnership with the local Government as the future plans.



Lord Mayor Tracey Roberts did an emotional speech about how she felt being a part of the evening. She also did recognise the fact that Indians were really well integrated with the local community.

She mentioned about the importance of the work being done by the VHP and that if the smaller groups were doing well, it would benefit the society at large. To show her respect for Indian culture, she dressed up in the traditional salwaar kurta for this event.

In her speech she commended on the work that VHP has been doing in Australia and how wonderful she felt that the launch of the WA chapter was happening in her council. Both the mayor and her husband enjoyed the evening with traditional Indian and Bollywood dance performances and classical bhajans .

The mayor lighted the lamp in front of the deity of Lord Ganesha as he is the God for auspicious beginnings and officially inaugurated the evening. Neha presented her with a scarf as a mark of respect and welcomed her for being a part of this event.

The first dance of the evening was a group performance by Disha, Nirjari and Hazel who learn dancing at the Academy of Indian Classical and Bollywood Dance on "Hanuman Chalisa". It was followed by another beautiful performance by a very talented duo- Khushi and Nahla on "Chittiya Kalaiyan". The third dance was a solo performance by Gayatri on a Gujarati garbha song called "Dhol Baaaje". It was followed by the final dance "Prem Ratan" by Avni, Janvi, Bianca and Khushi. All these young talented girls from the dance performances were called once more on stage for another round of applause.

The dances were followed by 2 more bhajans by Durba ji on "Meera" and "Payoji Maine Ram Ratan Dhan Payo". Mayor Tracey Roberts was so moved that she did another speech recognising VHP's work, a word of thanks and her appreciation for the event.

Then everyone got together for a group photograph and some broke up after for more with the mayor. Evening tea was served right after with mouth watering samosa's, pakora's and chilli paneer.



A children's workshop was organised at the very end where they had to colour in and make Diwali related bookmarks. There was a choice of three different ones from which the children could make. This concluded the evening and the effort to bring this evening together was greatly appreciated by all.





# PRAMA प्रमा



## Other Events and Activities in VHP Australia

First HOTA meeting in Melbourne



Scripture classes being held in Sydney



### Acknowledgements

Mr Subramanian Ramamoorthi JP, **National President**  
Mr Venkataraman Iyer CPA, **Treasurer**  
Mr Satish S Mane, MBP, FIPA, **Independent Auditor**







# PRAMA प्रमा



## DATES TO REMEMBER

### 6<sup>th</sup> Australian National Hindu Conference

The sixth National Australian Hindu Conference is scheduled to be organised in Adelaide.

**Theme** 'Stronger Communities Strengthening Australia'

**Venue:** Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000

**Date:** September 9, 2017; **Time:** 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Individual delegates, volunteers and leaders of organisations, temples and associations can send their interest regarding participation in the Conference either as a group or individual to the Conference Coordinator.

Email: [Rajendra.pandey@vhp.org.au](mailto:Rajendra.pandey@vhp.org.au)  
Phone: 0416 650 525

## Volunteer for Dharma

Vishva Hindu Parishad is always looking out for volunteers who are interested in contributing their time to the community and you can start anytime by committing few hours each month.

If you are interested, please get in touch with contacts listed below in your state.

NSW— Akila Ramarathinam  
[akilar@vhp.org.au](mailto:akilar@vhp.org.au)

QLD— Dr. Manonmanii Krishnamohan  
[mano.Krishna@vhp.org.au](mailto:mano.Krishna@vhp.org.au)

VIC— Geeta Devi  
[geeta.devi@vhp.org.au](mailto:geeta.devi@vhp.org.au)

Rajendra Pandey  
SA— [rajendra.pandey@vhp.org.au](mailto:rajendra.pandey@vhp.org.au)

Rama Jayaraj  
NT— [rama.jayaraj@vhp.org.au](mailto:rama.jayaraj@vhp.org.au)

Neha Shingal  
WA— [neha.shingal@vhp.org.au](mailto:neha.shingal@vhp.org.au)

## Bala Samskara Kendra Toongabbie and Ponds, NSW



## Raksha Bandhan Celebrated in schools all over Australia



Saraswati Veda Pathshala  
South Australia

Bala Samskara Kendra, Ponds, NSW

## VHP students participated in SA Children's Day Parade



"Don't see others doing better than you, beat your own records everyday, because success is a fight between you and yourself."

— Chandra Shekhar Azad



Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia in association with VCCA cordially invite you with your family and friends to celebrate



## SRI HAYAGREEVA POOJA VASANT PANCHAMI 2017

Sri Hayagreeva is a form of Vishnu with Horse face and radiant energy symbolic of glowing knowledge that is pure. He is the protector of the Supreme Knowledge, Vedas.

As part of kids going to schools to gain knowledge this year, VHP would like to invite all kids and any knowledge seeking adults for this Pooja.

**WHEN:** Saturday 28 January 2017  
**TIME:** 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm  
**WHERE:** Quakers Hill Community Centre  
Lalor Rd. Quakers Hill  
NSW 2763  
**What to bring:** Pooja Plate, flowers,  
Fruits, Akshadai, Kumkum  
**Contact:** Jayanthi Thilak  
M: 0414 349 196  
E: jayanthit@vhp.org.au  
Subbu Ji  
M: 0425 284 501  
E: subbu@vhp.org.au



Family Event – Pre Registration required  
Donations are welcome.



Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc.  
(World Hindu Council of Australia)

(ABN: 78862155168, Reg No: Y2898719, Charity No: CFN10709)

[www.vhp.org.au](http://www.vhp.org.au)





# Saraswati Veda Pathshala

PO Box 460, Goodwood 5034, South Australia



हमारी नागरी लिपी दुनिया की सबसे वैज्ञानिक लिपी है: राहुल सांकृत्यायन

## Hindi Classes

Date and Time	Location	Contact
Every Tuesday 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Goodwood Primary School, Goodwood SA 5034	Dayawati Pandey 0469 570 186
Every Thursday 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Goodwood Primary School, Goodwood SA 5034	Deepti 0428 174 699

प्रान्तीय ईर्ष्या-द्वेष को दूर करने में जितनी सहायता इस हिंदी प्रचार से मिलेगी, उतनी दूसरी किसी चीज़ से नहीं मिल सकती: सुभाषचंद्र बोस

## Hindi / Samskrit / Vedic Chanting / Yoga

Date and Time	Location	Contact
Every Sunday 11:00 am to 1:00 pm	Goodwood Primary School, Goodwood SA 5034	Rajendra 0416 650 525

## Adelaide Secondary School of

Every Saturday 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	English, 253 Torrens Rd, West Croydon SA 5008	Pundit Om Prakash 0431 408 359
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**विद्या ददाति विनयं विनयाद्याति पात्रताम् ।**

**पात्रत्वाद्धनमाप्नोति धनाद्धर्मं ततः सुखम् ॥**

*Knowledge gives discipline, from discipline comes worthiness, from worthiness one gets wealth, from wealth (one does) good deeds, from that (comes) joy.*

**Vedic chanting has been declared as the World's Intangible Cultural heritage by  
UNESCO**

Bala Samskar Kendra & Saraswati Veda Pathasala  
division of Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc. (World Hindu Council of Australia) ABN: 78862155168 Reg  
No: Y2898719 Charity No: CFN 10709

**Approved by  
South Australian Government,  
Department for Education and Child Development (as Ethnic School)**



# Spreading the knowledge of Ancient Rishis



**BALA SAMSKAR KENDRA**



**SYDNEY VEDA PATASALA**

**Culture is the highest expression of what it means to be human**

**Sanskrit language, Bharathiya Culture & Heritage Teaching Programme at BSK  
Vedic Chanting and Sanskrit language Programme at SVP**

Date/Time	Bala Samskar Kendra (BSK) & Sydney Veda Patasala (SVP)	Contacts
Every Saturday 3 to 5.00 pm	Ponds High school (BSK/SVP) 180, Riverbank Dr, The Ponds	Jayanthi Thilak 0414349196 Akila Ramarathinam 88147016
Every Sunday 1.30 to 5.00 pm	Nuwarra Public school (BSK/SVP) Mckay Ave, Moorebank	Shilpa Srihari 02 87296110 Uma Rajesh 02 9753 4021
Every Sunday 1.30 to 4.15 pm	Metella Road Public School (BSK) Toongabbie	Jayanthi Thilak 0414349196
Every Sunday 4.15 to 7 pm	Roselea Public School (BSK/SVP) Carlingford	Ramarathinam 0418407843 Vijayendra 0430 182 234
Every Sunday 5.30 to 7.30 pm	Crestwood High School (BSK/SVP) Baulkham Hills	Subramanian 0425284501 Mr Rajagopal 0421808858
Every Sunday 3.15 to 6 pm	Homebush Boys High School (BSK/SVP) Bridge Road, Homebush	S Ramarathinam 0418407843 Uma Sreenath 0411673714
Fri: 3.15-5.15 pm Sun: 2 - 4 pm	Waitara Public school (BSK) 68, Edgeworth David Ave, Wahroonga	Amita Saxena 02 94895949 Kala Rao 0424 154 283
Every Monday 3.15-5.15 pm	Hornsby South Public School (BSK) 57-63 Clarke Road, Hornsby	Amita Saxena 02 94895949
Every Sunday 2.00 to 4.00 pm	Westmead Branch (SVP) 10 Berith Road, Greystanes	Subramanian 0425 284 501
Every Monday 6.30 to 8.30 pm	81 Elizabeth Street (SVP) Ashfield	Subramanian 0425 284 501 Dr Krishn Bala 0488244868

**Vedic chanting has been declared as the World's Intangible Cultural heritage by UNESCO**

॥ धर्मो रक्षति रक्षितः ॥ यतो धर्मस्ततो जयः ॥

Approved by NSW Dept of Education (as Community Language School)

Bala Samskar Kendra & Sydney Veda Patasala, a division of Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc  
(World Hindu Council of Australia Inc) ABN: 78862155168 Reg No: Y2898719 Charity No: CFN 10709 [www.vhp.org.au](http://www.vhp.org.au)

समानी व आक्

ति: समाना हृदयातन वः।समानमस्िु वो मनो यथा वः सुसहासति

May our intentions and aspirations be alike, so that a common objective unifies us all