



Hindu Organisations, Temples and Associations Forum

(Coordinated by Vishva Hindu Parishad of Australia Inc – www.vhp.org.au / www.vhpnsw.org.au)

Hare Krishna

The Hindu community of New South Wales came together for another eventful HOTA Annual meeting on 22nd May 2021 at Rouse Hill Community Centre, Rouse Hill, NSW. The event was organized in a grand style by the incoming host Hare Krishna Community and Cultural Centre, a division of ISKCON Sydney. This year marked 7th year of HOTA Forum Annual meeting that was launched in 3rd National Hindu Conference in Sydney in 2014.

HOTA (Hindu Organisations, Temples and Associations) is a forum of Hindu temples and other Hindu organisations working together to discuss and deliberate various topics of common interest, issues, ideas and opportunities with the objective of enhancing community service and preservation of Hindu culture.

Since the HOTA launch year, the following organizations have hosted the event.

- 2014 - Sydney Sri Ayyappa Temple
 - 2015 – Shri Shiv Mandir, Minto
 - 2016 - Shri Venkateswara Temple, Helensburgh
 - 2017 – Shri Ram Krishna Temple, Austral
 - 2018 – Mukti Gupteshwar Mandir, Minto
 - 2019 & 2020 – Sydney Shri Sai Mandir, Regents Park
- (In the year 2020, the event was not organized due to Covid-19 pandemic)

As many as 55 representatives from Hindu Organizations comprising Temples, community language schools, community-based organizations and associations came together and presented their contributions and future ideas for community service, which will never be possible by working individually in isolation. Quoting Swami Ji, “*HOTA demonstrates that there is definitely added strength and value in sharing resources, networking, collaborating and working together...*”.

The proceedings of the day were well managed by Prabhu Vijay Gopikesh Das and Prabhu Janardhan with their wonderful group of volunteers. The special guests for the event included Hon Kevin Conolly, Member of Parliament (Liberal) for Riverstone and Ms Durga Owen, representing Hon Julie Owens, Labor MP.

The event started with Prayer and Lighting the Lamp. This was followed by a brief speech from the chief host Prabhu Vijay Gopikesh Das who heads the ISKCON Sydney chapter. It was followed by quick address from Shri Subramanian Ramamoorthy (VHP President). Shri Subramanian Ramamoorthi spoke on the vision, benefits of conducting HOTA Forum as an annual project by networking and collaborating on a common platform. He highlighted the joint effort of all HOTA members during Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 when food, accommodation, medical, visa, job, academic and emotional support were provided for 1000’s of Australian families free of cost. Smt. Akila Ramarathinam (General Secretary, VHP) subsequently spoke about how the HOTA members’ joint representation against David Shoebridge’s allegation on VHP Australia SRE, helped achieving the motion being passed against him in NSW Parliament.

VHP Australia Inc. http://www.vhpnsw.org.au / vhp.org.au	VHP Sanskrit School - Sanskrit Language, Indian Culture and Heritage classes for children SRE - Hindu Scripture classes in NSW Public Schools HOTA – Hindu Organisations, Temples and Associations VCCA – Vedic and Cultural Centre of Australia HSSF – Hindu Social Services Foundation - Special Need Programmes in Australia For more details contact Subbu (President) 0425 284 501 / Akila (Secretary) 0450 117 372	1 of 3
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During the chief guest address to the gathering, Hon Mr. Kevin Conolly, Member of Parliament acknowledged the services offered by all the HOTA member organizations at no cost to the Government. He was proud of the Indian community who have been contributing to NSW's multi-culturalism in a big way. In his remarks, he congratulated ISKCON for constructing their temple in the North West suburb of Vineyard which will serve the entire North West Sydney community and he assured he will provide full support for construction of the temple.

Ms Durga Owen conveyed the greeting message on behalf of Hon Julie Owens, Federal MP. She appreciated the contributions of HOTA members during Covid-19 pandemic in 2020.

As a part of the proceedings, Mr.Suresh Bangalore representing Shri Sai Mandir (HOTA host for 2019 & 2020), handed over the HOTA baton to Prabhu Vijay Gopikesh Das (ISKCON) the incoming host for 2021. Hon Mr. Kevin Conolly presented a certificate to Shri Sai Mandir acknowledging their services over 2019. and 2020.

Following a sumptuous vegetarian lunch, the host organization ISKCON headed by Prabhu Pranav Agarwal and Prabhu Vikesh Luharuka conducted a thought-provoking workshop under the theme "Securing our real Identity". Several fruitful ideas and action plans came out of the workshop. It was agreed that the outcome of the workshop will be documented and followed up with participating members on a regular basis in the coming months.

Finally, the hosts ISKCON took the HOTA members to the construction site in Vineyard suburb where Radha Govinda Temple is being built by the initiative of Hare Krishna Community and Cultural Centre (HKCCC), a division of ISKCON.

The major outcomes of the 7th Annual HOTA meeting were

- Hon MP Kevin Conolly's assurance to provide full support for the temple construction
- Ensuring the regular communication amongst HOTA members through VHP Australia's Newsletter

Please watch the space when ISKCON will announce a date for Raksha Bandhan in August 2021. A formal invite will be sent to all HOTA member organizations when the date is finalized.

Here are a few photos taken when the meeting was in progress. In the coming days we will forward a link to view all the photos.

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