



Radha Govinda News

Quarterly Newsletter

Executive Summary

With the blessings of Srila Prabhupada and GBC, ISKCON West Sydney celebrated four years since its inception as Hare Krishna Community and Cultural Centre (HKCCC). With six preaching centres across Western Sydney attracting more than 850 members on a regular basis, we have doubled our congregation members in 2022 compared to the previous year. We celebrated all eight festivals with a highlight of Janmashtami 2022 attracting more than 4000 people across Sydney and dignitaries / VIPs including councillors from Western Sydney Councils.

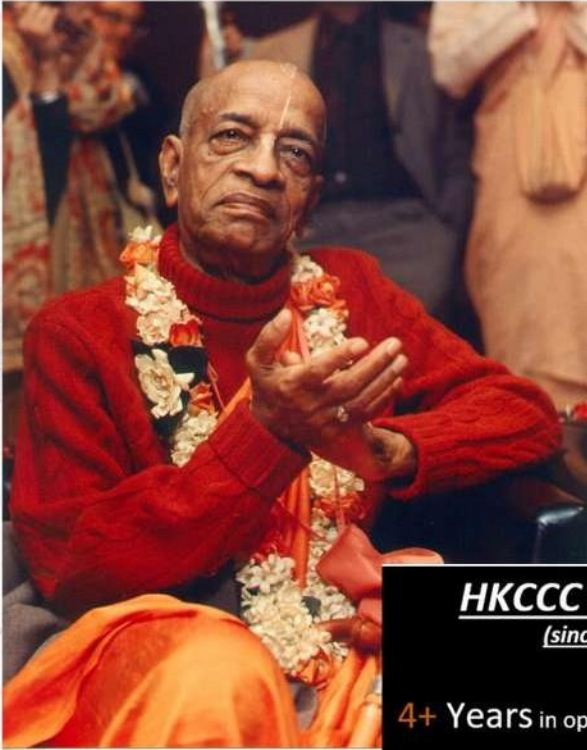
We conducted four Shiksha ceremonies in 2022 registering over 60 members taking commitments at various levels. We recommended 15 devotees for first initiation and 1 devotee for second initiation under the shelter of HH Jayapataka Swami Maharaj, HH Bir Krishna Goswami Maharaj, HH Indrayumna Maharaj, HH Kadamba Kanana Maharaj and HH Radhanath Swami Maharaj. We have ongoing:

- Three successful years of First Nationals people (Aboriginal) Preaching programs in Moree, NSW
- 30 weekly programs covering Gurukul with 200 kids, Youth Program, Bhagavad Gita Introduction, Bhakti Vriksha, Bhakti Shastri, Nityam Bhagavat Sevaya, Weekly Bhagavad Gita, BTC to BTG (Be The Change to Go Back to Godhead introspection forum)
- 25,000 plates of prasadam distributed since HKCCC's inception
- Attendance of more than 30 devotees in daily 5 AM Japa and Mangala Aarti programs on weekends
- Regular street Harinama in leading suburbs

We led a silent protest related to the attacks on Hindus and ISKCON devotees in Bangladesh. This was joined by 50 ISKCON West Sydney devotees and HOTA (Hindu Organisations, Temples & Association) members at Hyde Park in Sydney. We have also cited our views on the Darpan radio channel against religious intolerance.

Our newly constituted Executive Committee has been operational for more than a year. This has provided leadership support to our stream leads and community members across major initiatives including outreach, devotee care, book distribution, prasadam distribution and fund raising for the new Temple Project.

Work on the foundation of the temple continues despite increased scope, labour shortage and cost escalations throughout the construction industry. A detailed update can be found on page 4.



HKCCC Key Highlights

(since inception, 2019)

4+ Years in operation, **12,823** books, **166**
(Bhadra Purnima), **261** , **7928** , Monthly
Sankirtan Festivals (**MSF**), **25,000+** Plates of
Prasadam distribution, **2,500+** Damodar Lamps
Offered, **HKRC** – Regional Preaching to First Nations
People, **400+** families, **850+** members, **55+**
Team Leaders, **200+** Kids, **85+** Youth, **40+**
Weekly Programs, **20** Fund Raising Dinners raising
\$2.69M in pledges, realized **\$1.83M**, **32+**
Major festivals, **32,902+** extra rounds chanted by
the community, Launched **Food for Life** in May-
2022, Supporting minority groups in **Bangladesh**



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HKCCC Strategic Planning Workshop

26th Jan 2023

The HKCCC Strategic Planning Team (HKCCC SPT) serves the HKCCC Executive Committee (HKCCC EC) by offering strategic advice, guidance, and solutions for the benefit of the whole of HKCCC.

In line with our Mission statement, "To Develop and Nurture a Caring Krishna Conscious Community in which all members are practicing and propagating the Sankirtana-Yajna", HKCCC held its 7th Strategic Planning Offsite on 26th Jan this year in the beautiful Govinda valley. Strategic Planning commenced on the same day two years back in 2021 and since then the community has grown rapidly in all areas.

Highlights from 26th Jan 2023 Strategic Planning Workshop

1. Overall, 25 stream leads participated in a day-long workshop discussing the HKCCC Growth Strategy for 2023.
2. Fun filled team building exercise helping the teams to understand the importance of communication and performing devotional services together as teams.
3. Collectively spent more than 200 hours brainstorming.
4. Collective prayers to the magnificent Deity of Lord Narsingh dev.
5. Great show from our youth members who actively participated and enriched our experience.
6. It is also seen as a mature platform for budding leaders amongst our youth and meet aspirations of other stream leaders too.



TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

(ISKCON West Sydney)

New Temple Project continues to receive strong support from our community. The temple land has been paid off in full and surplus funds provide future pathways for construction. We have a Development Application (DA) valid for life which is a key milestone to ensuring successful completion despite some delays. With the foundation slab design review incorporated in the current plan, we are progressing with the completion of the remainder of the slab targeted to finish by the end of this year.

It is worth noting some key challenges. Construction industry is facing major bottlenecks post covid with mounting supply chain issues, cost escalations by 15-30% and acute labor shortages. Our Temple project has not been an exception to this industry wide challenge. Adding to this were the uneven weather patterns witnessed late last year which significantly impacted the construction progress.

Sydney and other parts of NSW also witnessed severe flooding and the rear of our temple site was flooded in a 1 in 100 year flood event. On one hand this brought the project to a grinding halt, but on the other hand this provided us the opportunity to commence a design review of the slab structure to withhold such repeat occurrences of extreme flooding events in future. This was indeed a blessing in disguise! Our design review highlighted an urgent need to bolster our foundations with additional support through slab thickening and additional piers to support the slab from damage caused by such extreme weather events.

We are now commencing the remainder of the slab work with a view to complete this later this year.

Key highlights:

- Valid Development Application (DA) for life – This allows us to construct the temple without any restrictions around expiry of DA.
- Execution of Construction Certificate 1 (CC 1) in progress – With the foundation slab design review incorporated in the current plan we are progressing with our plan to complete the remainder of the slab.
- Go-ahead for super structure as per original design – In consultation with the MP of Hawkesbury council we have recommended to GBC that we build the Temple as per the originally approved design. This allows us to get the temple up and running without further council approval delays.
- Onsite Sewer Treatment application in progress – We are actively resolving Council's clarifications on the onsite sewer treatment.



Finance



We have experienced and qualified devotees with Finance background and an extremely enthusiastic Fund-Raising team who have successfully implemented innovative and consistent Fund-Raising ideas and events.

In Year 2022, with Lord Govinda's Mercy we had 5 fundraising dinners with an aggregate pledge of \$918k. With the efforts of our dedicated Fund-Raising team members we managed to raise about \$840k as donations in the year 2022 out of which about \$683k was towards the new temple construction and about \$72k from book distribution.

Hare Krishna Regional Connect (HKR – Every Town and Village

- In continuation to our endeavors to take Krishna Consciousness to the First Nations people of Australia, last year in December we visited the town of Moree for the 3rd Year in a row.
 - In alignment with Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's prophecy of spreading Krishna's holy name in every town and village, Moree a regional town known for its agriculture richness and unique geographical advantage was identified for spreading Krishna's message under the banner of ISKCON West Sydney.
 - This year we met with great success in this town which hosts 40% aboriginal community. The leaders of this community have shown great interest to take up Krishna Consciousness.
- Distributed about 150 small and big books.
 - About 350 plates of prasadam to first nation people
 - Street Harinaam was a big attraction in this town.
 - Prasadam (sanctified food) was served to the Aboriginal community, and they partook in our functions with great enthusiasm.



HARE KRISHNA COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTRE
(ISKCON West Sydney)





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(ISKCON West Sydney)



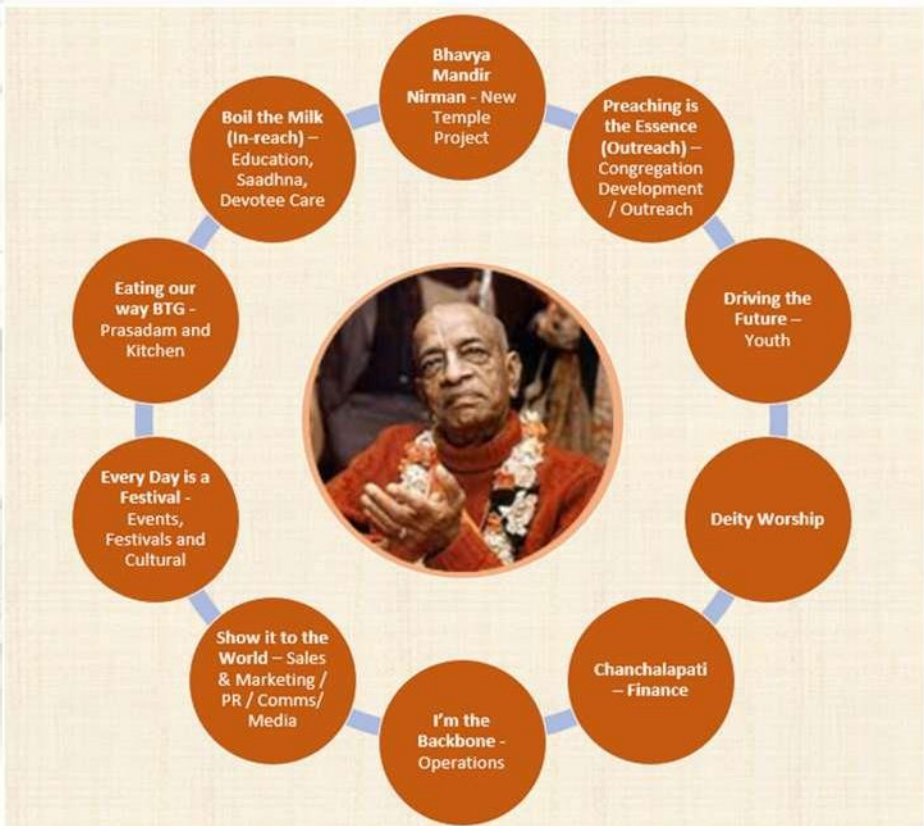
Community Development

What does Petal represent?



The petal represents the part of whole beautiful lotus flower wherein every petal has its own unique contribution towards the beauty and solidarity of the flower.

HKCCC is structured around 10 distinct petals below.





No.	Petal	Key Highlights
01	Bhavya Mandir Nirman- New Temple Project	The achievements of these devotees are highlighted in the above under the column "New temple construction- Sri Sri Radha Govinda"
02	Preaching is the essence (Outreach)- Congregation development / Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outreach team has opened 6 new hall programs in the Western region of Sydney. The key centres of operation are in Rouse Hill, Pemulwuy, Hornsby, West Ryde and Blacktown.• All the above centres are running Gurukula classes. There has been a sharp increase in the numbers of our congregation members because of the Gurukula classes as devotees want their children to participate in this wonderful opportunity to inculcate deep spiritual values in their children.• Active participation in the Bhadra Purnima Campaign and Gita Jayanti festivals.• This team has an astounding record of 12000+ book distribution .
03	Driving the future - Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth petal has not only constructively harnessed youth in Krishna Consciousness activities and services but has also been able to guide them through career counselling and planning by practically tuning their material needs without compromising on Spiritual importance.• ISKCON West Sydney has a vibrant youth group which actively participates in areas of Kirtans, Book Distribution, Prasadam Cooking and distribution and preaching.
04	Deity Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We had two seminars on Deity workshop imparted to HKCCC leaders by HG Narsimha Kavaca Prabhu. Many aspiring devotees are ready to take second initiation.• We held four Abhishek on major festivals.• Introduced Srila Prabhupada's Deity in HKCCC.
05	Chanchalapati - Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highlights of our Enthusiastic FR Team achievements presented in the above under the column "Finance".• Our 2022 Fund raising realised the record funds because of their relentless focus on Temple Building.



No.	Petal	Key Highlights
06	I'm the backbone – Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operations petal is the backbone of all the other petals to diligently cater to the ever-increasing needs of the HKCCC operations, be it festivals, daily activities, weekly or fortnightly programs.• The team constantly gets overhauled due to current operational infrastructure and facilities status. However, despite all odds, team is rapidly expanding.• It caters to the Prasadam needs of 500+ congregation members and festivals on a weekly basis.
07	Show it to the world – Sales & Marketing / PR / Communications / Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This petal was introduced recently to fulfil the need for uniformed communication and image of HKCCC as a congregation where every devotee is a brand ambassador representing the very tenets of Krishna Consciousness and Srila Prabhupada's vision.• The team has since connected with important personalities in the council and chalking out a communications strategy for HKCCC.
08	Every day is a festival – Events, Festivals & Cultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Festivals and Events team together organized major festivals and other key Vaishnav events. Festivals team organised the Gita Jayanti, Damodar and Diwali festivals along with celebrating the 4th anniversary of HKCCC attracting many new devotees.• Festivals and Events team together organized major festivals and other key Vaishnav Events. On an average there are at least two online Vaishnav programs during weekdays.• The team has several feathers on its cap from finalizing the annual Festival Calendar for year 2023 to commencing Yoga for adults, musical and drama classes for Children and Adults.• We celebrate Eight major festivals on an annual basis.



No.	Petal	Key Highlights
09	Eating our way Back to Godhead – Prasadam and Kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prasadam team is preparing more than 500 boxes of prasadam every week and have set a goal to take this to 700+ boxes in next 6 months.• This team is fully equipped to scale up the prasadam and sweets requirements in quantity and quality. The Team achieved an exceptional status of catering to the first Nationals people in Moree, agriculturally rich town in NSW.
10	Boil the milk (In-reach) – Education, Sadhana, and Devotee Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In reach and Devotee Care teams have achieved major milestones like completing close to two years of popular platform BTC-BTG (Be the Change to go Back to Godhead) to deeply introspect our conduct based on Srimad Bhagavatam and Bhagavad Gita Teachings, daily Collective Community Prayers, and a workshop on Japa focusing on techniques to deepen faith and dependence on holy name.• We now have the following teams in place to ensure we provide robust and long-term support to our Vaishnavi community and children along with establishing a conflict resolution team:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Women RepresentativeChild ProtectionConflict resolution
		<p>Above Team will be able to direct services to Professionals if required. This team has also started formal professional training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Japa Bank – Our congregation is chanting extra rounds of the Hare Krishna Mahamantra over and above their committed 16 rounds for the Temple Project. We call this Japa Bank! The total count of extra rounds is an astounding 33,000 in number.



HARE KRISHNA COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTRE
(ISKCON West Sydney)





Upcoming Events! !

Please scan the below QR code to register your interest to participate!!!

Founder Acharya His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada
 HARE KRISHNA COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTRE
 (ISKCON West Sydney)

FESTIVAL OF COLOURS

(HOLI MELA)

Free Entry

Saturday March 11, 2023
11 am - 5 pm

Arya Samaj, 69 Shane Park Road, Shanes Park

LIVE CONCERT BY: GRAMMY NOMINATED GAURA MANI DEVI, VRINDAVAN

- Colour Throwing
- Food Stalls
- Jumping Castle
- Dance & Drama
- Book Stall
- Face Painting

www.hkccc.com.au
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RSVP


Vijay Gopikesh Das
 ☎ 0410 076 030



Other upcoming events:

1. Holi Mela on Sat, 11th March from 1 1 am at Shanes Park, Sydney
2. International Women's Day on Sun 19th March
Sat, 25th Feb 2023 – Please note the upcoming and Temple Project

Recent Visits!!!

Our community was blessed by the recent visit by His Holiness Janananda Goswami Maharaj. Maharaj was hosted by His Grace Sacinandana Prabhu (Executive Committee Member of HKCCC) at his home for more than a week and we got the opportunity to listen nectarian Krishna Katha from Maharaj.

Maharaj also led Harinaam in Sydney CBD and devotees enthusiastically participated.

We also sponsored the very First FRENCH Srimad Bhagavatam that Maharaj brought with him from France. Maharaj kindly made the donation from the funds raised to the new Temple Project.





We were also blessed to have His Grace Chaitanya Charan Prabhu deliver enlivening and deeply thought-provoking lectures in multiple program hosted by HKCCC. Prabhu is such an inspiration for devotees seriously endeavouring to understand Srila Prabhupada's mission.



Our Yatra is growing each year! Devotees are full of Enthusiasm, Patience, and Determination towards fulfilling the GBC order to build a Grand Temple of Sri Sri Radha Govinda in Western Sydney. We hope that our humble endeavour to please Srila Prabhupada through ISKCON West Sydney would also draw the blessings of all senior Vaishnavas and we welcome any feedback!

Executive Committee - ISKCON West Sydney
February 2023