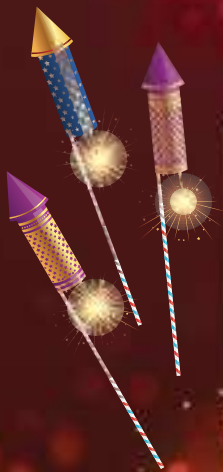




THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC



Diwali
2024



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THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC. (FICQ)

The Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland Inc. (FICQ) was formed as a secular, not-for-profit peak body to play a leadership role in 1998 by passionate Queenslanders of Indian origin to bring all the various regional, cultural and linguist Indian groups in Queensland together under the one umbrella organisation.

► Recognition as a peak body

FICQ is recognised by all levels of Government, the non-government sector and the private sector as the peak body in Queensland for all associations, organisations and societies representing people of Indian origin from countries around the world, including India, Fiji, South Africa and Malaysia.

► Who can become a member?

Membership of FICQ is open to all incorporated, constitutionally structured organisations representing communities who are of Indian origin or identify with India in Queensland. The President of each member organisation or their nominee represents their organisation on FICQ. Individuals are not eligible for membership in FICQ.

► How does FICQ work?

All Indian member organisations that are eligible are elected to the executive body to run FICQ. Member organisations can influence the directions of FICQ by joining the Executive Committee (EC) and participating in Governing Council (GC) meetings. EC members have the scope to influence the broader national agenda through amending interim meetings of the Confederation of Indian Associations in Australia being held in major cities in Australia.

► Benefits of joining

FICQ creates a platform for all Indian organisations. FICQ provides important networking opportunities with senior Ministers, elected representatives from local, state and federal governments, senior executives of key government departments, members of other community organisations and leaders from the private and non-government sectors. More recently FICQ has introduced the Chai series to facilitate a networking opportunity for member organisations.

FICQ also provides a platform to contribute to Government policy debates by supporting eligible individuals from member organisations to nominate for the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council and participate in other significant discussions with all levels of government and non-government organisations.

FICQ works closely with the Indian Government and its representative for the High Commission of India in Australia (HCI) in Canberra and has regular meetings with visiting Indian dignitaries and Government officials to discuss ways to strengthen ties between Indian residents in Australia and their country of origin.

Through FICQ members can also participate in important one-off events such as G20, meetings with the HCI in Australia and other officials to voice matters of concern for the Indian communities.

FICQ plays a key role in encouraging all members and key individual and Indian organisations representatives to participate in the annual Premier's reception in Queensland Parliament.

Diwali 2024

► Showcasing cultural heritage and talent to the broader community

Member organisations can showcase their cultural heritage and talents of members to the broader Australian community through participation in annual FICQ-organised events such as:

- Annual Diwali Celebrations in King George Square, Brisbane CBD, one of the signature calendar festivals in Queensland.
- Annual Joint Australia - India Day celebrations in various locations to commemorate Indian Republic Day and Australia Day.

FICQ also supports showcasing community heritage through EC members attending events organised by member organisations and other community organisations.

► Cost reduction

Members can receive significant cost savings through FICQ's group public liability insurance cover scheme. FICQ can negotiate with wholesale suppliers and event management companies to supply goods and services for discounted rates for member organisations. Members can also access FICQ's Public Address (PA) system for their events and celebrations through a simple registration process and a nominal security deposit.

► FICQ Inc Toastmasters Club Initiative

FICQ Inc has partnered with the renowned Toastmasters International to create a Toastmasters Club inside FICQ Inc exclusively for our Member Associations. The ability to Communicate effectively has always been an important skill set, especially important for migrant communities, like ours, where English is not our first language. FICQ Inc, through this Toastmasters Initiative is looking to provide an opportunity for Member Associations to gain this important skill set. Access to this Toastmasters Club will be heavily subsidised by FICQ Inc to provide this as a benefit for our Member Associations. FICQ Inc vision is to have multiple Toastmasters Clubs inside FICQ inc – exclusively for women, Students etc and also to assist Member Associations with the formation of such initiatives within their own Associations.

► Event Promotion

Member organisations can publicise their events in FICQ's web portal. FICQ also promotes member associations' events with other organisations through using FICQ web, emails and social media pages.

► Support for applications and important initiatives

If requested, FICQ can provide supporting or reference letters for member organisations' grant applications or important initiatives and events.

► THROUGH FICQ THE INDIAN COMMUNITY PRESENTS A STRONG AND UNITED FRONT!

The Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland Inc. (FICQ)
PO Box 157, Spring Hill, QLD - 4004, Australia

Disclaimer: This paper is a guide for information only. FICQ will do its best to fulfill as described in the handout. However, FICQ is not legally liable/ or responsible for fulfilling its stated obligations. FICQ EC will review and continue to improve for the benefit of meeting

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Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC



THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC. (FICQ)

Editor's Message

As the festival of Diwali approaches, the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland (FICQ) extends its heartfelt wishes to the entire Indian diaspora. Diwali, the festival of lights, is a time to celebrate not only with family but also as a united community, reflecting on the values of togetherness, generosity, and goodwill.

FICQ is dedicated to fostering a spirit of community and belonging among the Indian diaspora in Queensland. We believe that by coming together in celebration and collaboration, we can strengthen the bonds that connect us and create a positive impact on society. Our organization serves as a platform to unite our diverse communities, promoting cultural pride, mutual support, and shared purpose.

In this spirit of Diwali, let us continue to embrace the values of kindness, unity, and compassion. By extending a helping hand to those in need and standing together as a strong, resilient community, we can light the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Queensland State Government and Brisbane City Council for their ongoing support towards the Indian diaspora. Their commitment to supporting our community has helped strengthen our bonds and empowered us to contribute meaningfully to the multicultural fabric of Queensland. Further, we also wish to extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors and all the organizations and individuals who have contributed to our annual Diwali Souvenir booklet. Your continued support allows us to celebrate our heritage and share it with the broader community, ensuring that the festival's spirit reaches far and wide.

May this Diwali bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to you and your families, and may the bonds of goodwill and community spirit continue to grow.

Happy Diwali!

Mokhtiar Singh

Public Relations Officer - FICQ

Diwali 2024



THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC. (FICQ)

ABN 89 440 569 10

President's Message

As we gather to celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all communities here in Queensland. Diwali is a time of joy, hope, and the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness. It is a celebration that transcends religious and cultural boundaries, reminding us of the values of unity, peace, and harmony that bind us together.

As the first women President of the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland, I am deeply honored to witness the tremendous growth and spirit of collaboration among our member organizations. Our collective efforts in preserving and promoting our rich heritage and traditions have brought us closer, not only within the Indian community but also in fostering a deeper connection with the wider Australian society. We ought to also appreciate what Australia is to all of us, a country that has welcomed us and is our new home to us and our future generations.

Diwali is not just about the lighting of lamps, but also the illumination of our hearts and minds. It encourages us to spread kindness, generosity, and understanding, making the world a brighter place for all. In this spirit, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our sponsors, volunteers, and community leaders who have dedicated their time and resources to make this year's celebrations truly special.

As we look towards the future, let us continue to work together to strengthen our bonds and contribute positively to the multicultural fabric of Queensland. May this Diwali bring happiness, prosperity, and success to each one of you and your families.

Wishing you all a very Happy Diwali!

Warm regards,

Dr Preethi Suraj

President

The Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC



Patron's Message

Friends

Diwali is the festival of lights – the triumph of light over darkness.

As we celebrate Diwali we should demonstrate compassion for the millions of disadvantaged and homeless due to war, famine, ill health and persecution

I am encouraged that we have this great annual event that brings everyone together to proclaim the joyous celebration of life, relationships and compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Diwali is celebrated by about a billion people. In some instances, Diwali is also celebrated by other religious groups who have a very strong friendship and affinity with the Hindu community. It is on joyous events like this that we have to think of the less fortunate and disadvantaged members of the world community, who are suffering on very many fronts. Let us join and support them to give them some joy and happiness.

We should take this opportunity to appreciate what Australia is to all of us, a country that has welcomed us and is our new home and that for our future generations.

I wish you all a very joyous festival and may this be a sign that what binds us together is what makes us a great community.

Together, let us celebrate reconciliation and inclusiveness.

As Mahatma Gandhi says – “Let us be the change that you wish to see in the World”.

My very best wishes to all of you.

Dr Maha Sinnathamby

Diwali 2024



Senator the Hon. Katy Gallagher

Minister for Finance
Minister for Women
Minister for the Public Service
Manager of Government Business in the Senate
Senator for the Australian Capital Territory

Dear Federation of India Communities of Queensland

As the lights of Deepavali shine across Australia, I'm delighted to send my best wishes to you for your celebration.

Deepavali is a cherished part of Australia's cultural calendar and a testament to the importance and strength of our Indian-Australian community.

As the Indian community in Australia has grown to be over 700,000 people strong, we treasure the value that that is bringing to cities and regions around the country.

The spirit, the warmth, the vibrant festivals and the strong communities that contribute greatly to local communities.

These are the threads that are weaving themselves into the fabric of Australian society.

Our proud multicultural nation is strengthened by exposure to cultural traditions from around the world and from the contributions and connections from all of the organisations like yourselves.

So today, as we celebrate the triumph of light over darkness, I'd like to thank each and every one of you and your loved ones, for enriching our nation with celebrations like this.

As the diyas burn, know this: each and every one of you plays a part in illuminating our shared future.

Happy Deepavali and all the best for your celebrations.

Yours sincerely

Katy Gallagher
Minister for Finance
Minister for Women
Minister for the Public Service

9 October 2024

Parliament House, CANBERRA, ACT, 2600 • PHONE: (02) 6277 7400
senator.katy.gallagher@aph.gov.au • www.katygallagher.com.au

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

Milton Dick MP

Federal Member for Oxley

Speaker of the House of Representatives



Friday 11th October 2024

Federation of India Communities of Queensland,

RE: Diwali – "Festival of Lights"

I begin by acknowledging and thanking Federation of India Communities of Queensland Inc (FICOQ) President Dr. Preethi Suraj, all members and volunteers for making this such a fantastic event and for bringing this wonderful celebration to the heart of Brisbane.

Diwali is one of the biggest Hindu festivals celebrated around the world, and I thank all those involved for tonight's celebrations for their time and hard work. This Festival of Lights signifies the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

The Federation of India Communities of Queensland has continued to grow since its foundation in 1999 and represents 100,000 Australian citizens – permanent residents and students of Indian descent. As a non-profit, they are a peak administrative body which provides a common platform in representing the Indian Community at all levels of government and through our community.

I know that the Federation has been doing incredible work in the multicultural space, ensuring the many Indian communities throughout Queensland can celebrate their cultural diversity and be proud of their heritage.

Your work does not go unnoticed, and I thank you for everything that you do for our community and the many Indian families who call the electorate of Oxley home.

May you all have a fantastic night to celebrate the Festival of Lights, and I look forward to celebrating the night with you.

Kind Regards,

MILTON DICK MP

Federal Member for Oxley

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Phone: (07) 3879 6440

Email: Milton.Dick.MP@aph.gov.au

@MiltonDickMP

Authorised by M Dick ALP 255 Forest Lake Blvd, Forest Lake QLD 4078



Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

DIWALI 2024

On behalf of the Coalition, I send my best wishes to the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland, as well as Australians of Hindu faith, as you celebrate Diwali.

As you know, Diwali is a tradition stretching back to ancient India and the Hindu epic, the *Ramayana*. The story tells the journey of prince Rama – his exile from his city, the rescue of his wife Sita from the demon king Ravana, and his return home to rule as king which was welcomed by his people with their lighting of rows of lamps – a tradition which continues to this day.

The Festival of Lights – with its lighting of diyas and display of vibrant colours – is symbolic of the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Similarly, the story of the *Ramayana* – recounted by parents to their children – is a reminder of the need for resilience, stoicism and optimism in difficult and testing times.

The celebration of Diwali – enjoyed by many Australians – is testimony to the achievement of modern Australia: we are a people of many backgrounds, of many faiths, who practise many cultural traditions. Despite these differences, we are united as Australians by the things we have in common: our love of family, our appreciation for friends and colleagues, our attachment to community, our sense of duty, our aspiration and optimism, our respect for law and liberty, our pride in our country, and our desire to protect democracy.

On the occasion of Diwali, I commend the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland for your 26 years of service. And I congratulate you on the Diwali festival celebrations you are hosting in King George Square, Brisbane, on 1 November, which will be enjoyed by thousands of people.

I also thank the more than 684,000 Australians of Hindu faith for your contributions to your communities and our country in many fields of endeavour. I wish you happiness in the company of family, friends and neighbours as you pray, exchange gifts and enjoy meals together to mark Diwali.

Shubh Diwali.

Hon Peter Dutton MP
Leader of the Opposition

October 2024

Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Diwali 2024



SENATOR PAUL SCARR

Liberal National Senator for Queensland

As the vibrant festival of Diwali approaches, I want to take a moment to extend my heartfelt greetings to each of you. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is not just a celebration; it is a time for reflection, renewal, and the reaffirmation of our shared values.

This festival signifies the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. It reminds us that even in challenging times, hope and positivity can guide us toward a brighter future. As we illuminate our homes with diyas and decorate our surroundings, let us also strive to illuminate our hearts with kindness and understanding.

In our diverse community, Diwali serves as a beautiful reminder of the strength that comes from unity. It is an opportunity to come together, celebrate our differences, and embrace the values that bind us. Let us reach out to our neighbours, share in the festivities, and create an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

During this festive season, I encourage you all to engage in acts of generosity and compassion. Whether it's sharing a meal, donating to those in need, or simply extending a hand of friendship, each small act can make a significant impact. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community.

As an LNP Senator for Queensland and Shadow Assistant Minister for Multicultural Engagement, I am committed to fostering an environment where everyone can thrive. Let us work hand in hand to overcome challenges and celebrate our successes. This Diwali, may we all find the courage to pursue our dreams and the wisdom to support one another in this journey.

I wish you and your families a joyful and prosperous Diwali filled with love, laughter, and light. May the coming year bring you peace, happiness, and opportunities to shine.

Yours faithfully,

Senator Paul Scarr
Shadow Assistant Minister for Multicultural Engagement
LNP Senator for Queensland

Queensland Office: Lvl 6, Springfield Tower, 145 Smithsby Blvd, Springfield Central, QLD 4100 Phone: 07 31869330
Postal: PO Box 4287, Springfield Central, QLD 4100 Email: Senator.Scarr@qld.gov.au

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC



GOVERNOR OF QUEENSLAND



Message from the Governor of Queensland

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide this message of support for the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland.

On behalf of Queenslanders, I extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for the duration of the Diwali Festival, and beyond.

Diwali is a symbol of justice, peace and happiness. It is a time of joy, when we can come together, share the richness of Indian culture, and reaffirm the bonds of community.

The Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland has played a vital role in fostering this sense of togetherness, supporting the Indian diaspora in Queensland, and promoting cultural exchange. Your efforts have not only strengthened the Indian community but also enriched the cultural tapestry of Queensland.

May this Diwali be filled with the warmth of family, the joy of shared traditions, and the hope of a brighter future.

I express my wholehearted support for the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland and encourage your continued efforts in building bridges and strengthening the bonds of community.

Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young AC PSM
Governor of Queensland

Diwali 2024



OFFICE OF THE
LORD MAYOR
Brisbane



**Message from
The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Brisbane
Councillor Adrian Schrinner**

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this year's Diwali - Indian Festival of Lights.

One of our city's greatest strengths is that we respect and embrace cultural diversity. Brisbane is a vibrant, inclusive city that is home to a number of successful festivals. I am especially proud of the significant contribution that Brisbane's Indian community makes to enriching our city's multicultural identity.

Diwali Festival of Lights celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and hope over despair. This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for family, friends and the wider community to come together in harmony and move forward with positive energy.

I commend the important role the Federation of India Communities of Queensland (FICQ) plays in promoting multiculturalism and inclusivity in the wider community. Diwali remains a significant part of Brisbane's rich multicultural landscape and is highly anticipated every year. I have no doubt that this year's event will follow on from the success of previous years, offering a wide array of culinary delights and artistic performances for everyone to experience.

Brisbane is a great place to live, work and relax. I am committed to making the Brisbane of tomorrow even better than the Brisbane of today and together, with the efforts of organisations such as FICQ, we can achieve this.

Please accept my best wishes for Diwali 2024.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Schrinner
LORD MAYOR

Diwali 2024



**MULTICULTURAL
AUSTRALIA**

it's who we are

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07 3337 5444 (fax)
welcome@multicultural.org.au

www.multiculturalaustralia.org.au

Namaste,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of Multicultural Australia, to join you in celebrating Diwali, the cherished Festival of Lights, alongside the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland Inc. This event holds great significance for more than 88,000 Queenslanders of Indian heritage.

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, represents the triumph of light over darkness, wisdom over ignorance, and goodness over evil. It encourages us to reflect on these timeless values and their importance in our everyday lives. The vibrant celebrations of Diwali offer us a unique opportunity to immerse ourselves in the richness of Indian culture and its community spirit.

The Indian community is a vital part of Queensland's economic, social, and cultural landscape. Those of Indian heritage contribute significantly across academia, the arts, sports, business, and government. But their impact goes beyond these areas – their compassion is equally commendable. Members of the Indian community lead efforts that address social challenges, working to uplift individuals and families across Queensland's cities and regions. Their dedication to fostering positive change is truly inspiring.

At Multicultural Australia, we are proud to work in partnership with the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland Inc. Together, we strive to build communities that embrace diversity, promote inclusivity, and nurture a sense of belonging for all.

Diwali ki Shubhkamnayein – Wishing you all a joyful, harmonious, and prosperous Diwali.
Thank you for sharing your beautiful culture with us.

Dhanyavaad,

Christine Castley
CEO, Multicultural Australia

ABN: 41 372 481 029 ACN: 188 203 032

www.multiculturalaustralia.org.au

Multicultural Australia is privileged to have Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeannette Young MSM, Governor of Queensland as Patron of our organisation.

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC



Namaste and Happy Diwali!

On behalf of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, I extend my warmest wishes to the Federation of Indian Communities Council of Queensland and the entire Indian community as we celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights. This joyous occasion reminds us of the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Diwali is a time for reflection, renewal, and togetherness, and it beautifully reflects the strength and vibrancy of Indian culture within Queensland.

The Indian community has made a remarkable contribution to our state's cultural diversity, enriching our society with its values, traditions, and festivals. Diwali is a perfect reflection of these values, as families and friends come together to celebrate love, unity, and hope for a brighter future.

As we light the lamps this Diwali, may we continue to strengthen the bonds of community and foster understanding and inclusiveness across cultures. We are proud to stand alongside the Indian community, sharing in the joy and spirit of this festive season.

Wishing you all a prosperous, peaceful, and luminous Diwali!

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Ward'.

Lisa Ward
Chief Executive Officer

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Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

AGARWAL PARIWAR QUEENSLAND INC.



Agarwal Pariwar Queensland Incorporated, called "APQI" is a community group of all Agarwal's residing in Queensland; belonging from all parts of India following similar cultural and traditional values representing dynasty of our king "Agrasen Maharaj". "Agarwal" is umbrella family surname which constitute primarily 17 and half Gotras, i.e., few popular are Bansal, Garg, Goyal, Jindal, Kansal, Mittal, Singhal and so on. Agarwals are the most prominent ethnic group among business communities in India with a population of about 25-30 million.

APQI has been officially incorporated in early 2023 and our objective is to bring together Agarwal community in Queensland, to organize & celebrate Indian/ Hindu events and participate in charity, volunteering and cultural activities with other communities. These objectives motivated us to be part of Indian community premier organization "FICQ".

Our main Annual event is Agrasen Jayanti cum Diwali Celebration, every year mostly in the month of Nov. Other key events are Annual Picnic, Holi, Yoga cum Sports Day, Teej Festival. We actively participate to support other community events APQI trust in community support to grow together for a healthy overall community.

APQI wishes everyone a very Happy & Prosperous Diwali 2024 and highly grateful to FICQ for this opportunity to represent our group.

On Behalf of APQI Management Committee

Parveen Gupta

President, APQI

Email: comm.apqi@gmail.com



Diwali 2024

Arya Samaj Queensland Inc.



Embracing Our Heritage: The Role of Indian Culture in Australia's Multicultural Landscape

On behalf of Arya Samaj Queensland Inc, we wish you all a joyous and prosperous Diwali and a happy New Year!

As Australia continues to evolve into a vibrant tapestry of cultures, the Indian community plays an increasingly pivotal role in shaping our national identity. With over 700,000 people of Indian descent residing in Australia, the influence of Indian culture is more pronounced than ever.

From festivals and cuisine to art and music, the richness of our heritage not only enriches the Australian cultural landscape but also fosters a deeper understanding of diversity among all Australians.

One of the most visible manifestations of Indian culture in Australia is the celebration of festivals such as Diwali and Holi. These events not only bring together the Indian community but also invite participation from people of all backgrounds. The dazzling lights of Diwali and the vibrant colours of Holi create an atmosphere of joy and unity, highlighting the importance of community and togetherness. These festivals serve as a reminder of the values we hold dear: respect, compassion, and the joy of sharing. By participating in these celebrations, Australians of all backgrounds can experience the warmth of Indian traditions and the spirit of inclusivity that defines our multicultural society.

Culinary contributions from the Indian community have also made a significant impact on Australia's food scene. From the spicy aromas of curry houses to the fusion of traditional Indian dishes with Australian ingredients, the culinary landscape has been transformed. Indian cuisine is not just about food; it embodies a philosophy of hospitality and sharing. As Australians increasingly embrace these flavours, they are also engaging with a culture that celebrates diversity and the joy of communal eating. This exchange enriches our collective palate and fosters a deeper appreciation for the stories behind each dish.

Moreover, the arts and entertainment sectors have seen an influx of Indian talent, contributing to the Australian narrative. From Bollywood-inspired dance performances to Indian classical music, these art forms not only entertain but also educate audiences about the complexity and beauty of Indian culture. Initiatives like the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne highlight the contributions of Indian filmmakers and artists, creating a platform for cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. This artistic exchange is crucial in fostering connections between communities and breaking down stereotypes, helping us appreciate the nuances that make us unique.

As we celebrate these contributions, it's essential to recognize the challenges that the Indian community faces in Australia. Issues such as racism, discrimination, and the struggle for representation in various sectors continue to persist. It is vital for us, as a society, to confront these challenges head-on. Building a more inclusive Australia requires not only celebrating our differences but also actively working to dismantle barriers that prevent equality. Initiatives promoting multicultural education and awareness can play a significant role in fostering understanding and empathy among diverse communities.

Finally, the Indian community's contributions to Australia are vast and multifaceted. As we embrace our heritage, we also celebrate the values of diversity, respect, and community that are fundamental to the Australian identity. It is crucial that we continue to engage with one another, fostering dialogue and understanding. By doing so, we not only honour our individual cultures but also strengthen the fabric of our shared society. As we move forward, let us work together to create a future where every culture is valued, and every voice is heard. Together, we can build an Australia that reflects the richness of its multicultural heritage—a true testament to our shared humanity.

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

Australians of Indian Heritage War Memorial QLD Inc.



India played a significant role in both war and peace towards democracy at home and worldwide.

About 4 million Indians fought and about 90,000 lost their lives in the World Wars.

World War I (1914-1918):

In WW1 about 1.3 million Indian soldiers fought and 74,000 lost their lives in the WWI. At Gallipoli 15,000 Indians fought and 1,500 lost their lives (1915 –1916).

The war effort drained India's resources, leading to widespread poverty, famine, and political unrest.

World War II (1939-1945):

About 2.5 million Indians fought and 87,000 lost their lives.

India served as a major supply base and staging area for Allied operations in the region.

The war weakened British colonial rule, paving the way for India's independence movement.

Field-Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from 1942 asserted that the British "couldn't have come through both wars if they hadn't had the Indian Army."

In addition to Indians from India, several Australians of Indian Heritage also fought in both the World Wars and their sacrifices are also not recognised.

With a view to remember the sacrifices of Indians, the Australians of Indian Heritage War Memorial QLD Inc (Indian War Memorial) was formed as an incorporated body with the following objectives:

- (1) To act as a body of people to commemorate the fallen defense people of Indian Heritage in all Wars that Australia and other allied nations participated
- (2) To develop and maintain War Memorials for the defense people of Indian Heritage, and to pay respects at the Memorials on important national days of Australia and India
- (3) To educate greater Australians of the role Indian diaspora played in all the Wars
- (4) To foster mateship with members of the War Memorials for Indian diaspora in other states of Australia and overseas.

The committee urges all Australian Indians to join us to construct a Memorial for Indians who sacrificed their lives to get the freedom we enjoy in India and democracies enjoyed worldwide.

Mr. Surendra Prasad OAM (Chair)
Dr. Naidu Bodapati (Secretary)
Mr. Vignesh Narayan (Treasurer)

Diwali 2024

**Basava Samithi of Australasia
Brisbane Branch Inc.**



II OM SHREE GURU BASAVA LINGAYA NAMAHA II

Basava Samithi has been in the forefront in propagating Basava philosophy of life and the teachings of Basavanna and other contemporary Sharanas of 12th Century across the world. Basava Samithi of Australasia Brisbane Branch Inc. came to existence on 18th June 2005. It was inaugurated by Dr P.S.Shankar, Director, Gulbarga Medical College, Karnataka, India. Basava Samithi was set up with a view of propagating the Basava philosophy which is all about wishing well of all living beings irrespective of their caste, gender, colour or creed.

Basavanna, the founder of Lingayath faith, was the first person in the world to invent and practise democracy in the 12th century A.D. Basavanna spread social awareness through his poetry, popularly known as Vachanaas. He rejected gender or social discrimination, superstitions and rituals but introduced Ishtalinga necklace, with an image of the God (Ishta Linga) to every person regardless of his or her caste, creed and gender, to be a constant reminder of one's bhakti (devotion) to Lord Ishtalinga. A strong promoter of ahimsa or non-violence, he also condemned human and animal sacrifices. As the Chief Minister of King Bijjala's empire, Basavanna introduced the world's first parliament known as the 'Anubhava Mantapa' ("The Hall of Spiritual Experience"), which welcomed men and women from all socio-economic backgrounds to discuss spiritual and mundane questions of life, in the open. His 'Anubhava Mantapa' was the driving force and inspiration for our beloved Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi in building India's new Parliament House 'Central Vista' and 'Bharath Mandapam', the venue of the recently concluded G20 Summit in New Delhi.

Basava Samithi centres are established all over the world in order to bring about communal harmony, inculcate social values among individuals which lay the foundation for a strong social, economic, moral society. We organise events like, Basava Jayanthi, Vachana Shravana, Basava Mahamane and actively participate in events like Clean-Up Australia day, Indian Day Parade and blood donations.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact (Sharana Basavaraj Basapur on 0432470072 or Sharane Hema Tumkur on 0408 404 712) on (basavasamithibrisbane.bsoa@gmail.com) or check out their Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100010134513769> or visit their website: <https://basavasamithibrisbane.org/>

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

BASAVA SAMITI ASIA PACIFIC LTD



As we celebrate Diwali, it's fitting to reflect on the wisdom of Guru Basava, whose teachings continue to illuminate the path to equality and compassion.

ಜ್ಞಾನದ ಬಲದಿಂದ ಅಜ್ಞಾನದ ಕೇಡು ನೋಡಯ್ಯ
ಜ್ಯೋತಿಯ ಬಲದಿಂದ ತಮಂಧದ ಕೇಡು ನೋಡಯ್ಯ.
ಸತ್ಯದ ಬಲದಿಂದ ಅಸತ್ಯದ ಕೇಡು ನೋಡಯ್ಯ .
ಪರುಷದ ಬಲದಿಂದ ಅವಲೋಹದ ಕೇಡು ನೋಡಯ್ಯ.
ಕೂಡಲ ಸಂಗನ ಶರಣ ಅನುಭಾವದ ಬಲದಿಂದ ಎನ್ನ ಭವದ ಕೇಡು ನೋಡಯ್ಯ!
(ಸಮಗ್ರ ವಚನ ಸಂಪುಟ #842)

Basava Samiti of Asia Pacific Ltd (BSAPAC) is an Australian-owned, non-religious, non-political, not-for-profit international charity. Guided by Guru Basava's 12th-century teachings, we promote education and empowerment within our diverse, multi-linguistic, multicultural communities. Guru Basava, a visionary from Karnataka, India, was a philosopher, poet, and social reformer who championed equality and inclusivity, rejecting all forms of discrimination.

The above Vachana, knowledge is the light that conquers ignorance, truth triumphs over untruth and the alchemy can transform metals, similarly the wisdom imparted by Sharanas through the vachanas (words of introspection) can enlighten individuals in this world

Our core values —Engage, Educate, Empower, and Enlighten—are at the heart of everything we do. We foster personal growth, embrace diversity, and work collaboratively to build a more inclusive and compassionate world. Since our inception in 2020, we've expanded across New Zealand, Perth, Adelaide, Brisbane, and Cairns, within 12 months of establishment. In our third year of operations, we aim to establish three more chapters nationally.

Our programs encompass a wide range of initiatives, including international and inter-state exchanges, conferences, community activities, youth opportunities, educational talks, and employment training, all dedicated towards empowering and uplifting individuals. In line with our themes of Engage and Enlighten, the charity hosts discussions and explorations of the profound wisdom embedded in the vachanas—poetic reflections—of the 12th-century Sharanas. These insights, can be enhanced through istalinga meditation and selfless service to society, reflect the core values of Guru Basava.

Basava Samiti's impactful Learn2Grow program provides accessible training in technology and graphic design, utilising Microsoft and other hi-tech tools. Tailored for individuals eager to learn but facing financial barriers, the program fosters creativity through a dedicated sandpit area for innovative ideas. With a focus on industry preparation, participants benefit from awards, recognition, and references, all while advancing digital literacy in alignment with government STEM goals. We have effectively assisted individuals in obtaining placements in universities, private sectors, not for profit organisations in the field of technology, human resources, finance, legal, governance and administration.

In just under the first two years of operation, our Sharanas have invested more than \$1 million dollars in Services, resulting in smooth operations, expansion, and encouragement of our Charity. Through their tireless efforts, our volunteers have not only advanced our mission but have also fostered a culture of service, innovation, and inclusivity. This Diwali, as we light the lamps, let us also light the lamp of wisdom in our hearts and mind through the adoption of Guru Basava's message of equality and compassion, and continue working together to make a positive difference in society. For more information about our programs, volunteer opportunities, and partnerships, please visit our website at basavasamitiapac.org.

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

Bengali Society of Queensland



Brisbane came alive over the weekend of 04-06 October 2024 as the Bengali Society of Queensland (BSQ) hosted a vibrant Durga Puja event at Coorparoo Secondary College, bringing together diverse communities to celebrate culture, unity, and tradition. It was a colourful spectacle of rituals, performances, and prayers, with Indian Consul General, Neetu Bhagotia and other distinguished guests from the local community joining the festivities. As the first Indian Consul General in Brisbane, Neetu Bhagotia's presence reinforced the growing connections between India and Queensland, Australia. Her involvement was warmly received by attendees, further cementing her role in bridging cultures between India and Australia.

The BSQ has been central to preserving Bengali traditions in the region since its founding in 1998, with Durga Puja standing out as one of the most anticipated events in the annual calendar. The celebration was a chance to honour Goddess Durga's triumph over evil and an opportunity for the community to come together, reconnect, and share their heritage with a broader audience. Celebrations started with setting up the decorations and serving dinner for attendees on Friday evening. Saturday morning was all about the puja, prasad and lunch, followed by cultural performances and dinner in the evening. Sunday morning started with a fashion show and sit and craft competition for the younger ones while others enjoyed the puja. Lunch was served for all later in the day. The event concluded on Sunday evening with 'sindur khela', a ritual that symbolises the strength of women in protecting their families from harm, and the crowd danced to the beats of the drummers before everyone headed for another sumptuous dinner.

With Queensland's Bengali-speaking population reaching around 5,000 people, the event's cultural significance extends beyond just the diaspora. Approximately 3000 people participated in the event, including members and non-members across Queensland and from varying cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Durga Puja has evolved into a celebration that welcomes participants from all walks of life, encapsulating the spirit of inclusivity and cultural exchange that underpins the overarching goal of not-for-profit organisation BSQ and defines Queensland. As the community grows, events like this are a testament to the enduring bond between generations, traditions and modern multiculturalism.

Diwali 2024

Bhartiya Samaj



Bhartiya Samaj, a proud member of the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland (FICQ), is committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for migrants in Queensland. Our mission is to empower individuals by providing them with the resources, connections and opportunities needed to thrive in their new home.

One of our most successful initiatives this year was the "Empowering Migrants - Expo," held in August 2024. This event brought together various community organisations, government agencies, and service providers to offer vital information and support to migrants. The Expo featured information dissemination on employment, education, health and legal services, all tailored to meet the unique needs of migrants. Attendees had the opportunity to network, seek advice, and access resources that would help them navigate their settlement journey.

The success of the Expo was a testament to the strength of collaboration within our community. By working together, we created an event that not only informed but also inspired participants to take charge of their futures. Bhartiya Samaj is proud to have played a key role in this initiative and remains dedicated to continuing our efforts in empowering migrants across Queensland.

As we approach the Diwali season, we reflect on our achievements and look forward to future opportunities to serve and uplift our community.

Best regards,

Abhishek Sharma

President - Bhartiya Samaj

78 Splendour Street, Rochedale - QLD, Australia

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Diwali 2024

Brisbane Bayside South Indian Association Inc.



Brisbane Bayside South Indian Association Inc. (BBSIA) is a non-political, non-religious, independent, and multicultural organization with the primary goal of promoting Indian heritage and culture through community integration. Our mission is to foster unity, inclusion, and mutual respect, creating opportunities for cultural exchange within the diverse Redlands community.

One of our signature initiatives is the Diwali – Festival of Lights, which we proudly organize as a free, outdoor celebration in Redlands City. This marks a historic achievement, as it is the first-ever Indian festival of its kind held in the Redlands. Diwali, an important festival in Indian culture, symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Our Diwali event brings together a wide range of activities, including vibrant performances, delicious Indian food, and traditional cultural showcases.

Since our first Diwali event, we have received incredible support from the local community. This has encouraged us to continue hosting the festival annually, growing it into a highly anticipated celebration that reflects the multicultural nature of the Redlands. Each year, the event attracts a larger audience, drawing people from various backgrounds who come together to share in the joy and beauty of Diwali.

In 2024, we are excited to announce that Diwali Festival will be held on November 2nd at the Capalaba Bulldogs Football Club, Sam Sciacca Sports Fields. With the proud support of Redlands Coast, this year's festival promises to be bigger and better, featuring traditional Indian dance performances, music, food stalls, and a variety of activities for all ages. The event's official inauguration will take place from 6 PM to 6:30 PM, and we invite the entire community to join us in this celebration of light, culture, and togetherness.

The success of this event is a testament to the support we've received from the Redlands community, and we are committed to continuing this tradition for years to come. As a growing association, we look forward to expanding our reach and impact, creating more opportunities for cultural engagement and collaboration.

We invite everyone to be a part of this special journey—whether by attending our events, volunteering, or offering support in any form. Together, we can celebrate and share the cultural richness that makes Redlands a diverse and thriving community.

Thank you to all our supporters for making Diwali a truly remarkable event, and we look forward to seeing you at this year's festival!

Our Executive Community -2024-26

Vinod Manuel
President

Stella Raj
Vice-President

MuthuKannan Paulvannan
Secretary

Arun Kumar
Assistant Secretary

Joseph David Sebastiraj
Treasurer

Anil Babu
Assistant Treasurer,

Sooraj Raj
Cultural Coordinator

Diwali 2024

Club de Goa



Club de Goa is a non-profit organisation formed with the aim of preserving and promoting the culture and traditions of Goa—a State in southern India. It encourages social, educational, cultural and sporting activities to keep alive the old traditions, and build ties with Australia in a friendly spirit of understanding and co-operation. Membership is open to anyone, regardless of religion, who subscribes to these objectives.

Goa was a former Portuguese enclave (for over 450 years), and is one of India's foremost tourist destinations. It combines Portuguese architecture and flavour to a lifestyle, which manages to co-exist with the Indian lifestyle even after being incorporated into India over 60 years ago. Goa is a tiny wonderland; a unique tropical paradise half way down India's West Coast (approximately 600 km. south of Mumbai), on the shores of the Arabian Sea. The State has been lavished endless praise for her natural loveliness and serenity. Palm fringed beaches, miles and miles of golden sand dotted with tourist cottages and international resorts, vast rice paddy fields, slumbering villages, churches, temples, shrines, forts, ruins and ancient caves all contribute to the charm. Goa is often referred to as the 'Rome of the East', and in fact the abandoned area known as Old Goa was once a thriving city. This place still boasts a complex of ancient churches, convents, temples and monasteries unique in the Eastern world. Herein lies the famous Basilica Bom Jesus, where the miraculously preserved remains of St. Francis Xavier, the patron saint of Goa, is enshrined in a silver casket. The major industries in the state are the mining industry, followed by tourism and hospitality industry.

CDG is active in many areas. It participated in the opening of the Southbank Parklands in 1992 by presenting the Kunbi dance and the Mando; at the UTSAV festival organised at the Chandlers auditorium; presented the Dekhni, a traditional cultural dance. Besides these public presentations, members often dance the Mando and Currodinho at the feast of its patron saint - St Francis Xavier.

The Club organised the GOALYMPICS, an interstate games tournament with its NSW counterpart in Brisbane in April 2001, and Sydney the following year. The Club also participates with other communities in sporting events. It hosts long weekend camps, usually in remote areas, which many members look forward to, to get away from the city buzz.

The Club has grown and flourished; thanks to the dedicated committee members through the years who have 'let the show go on'. Members have grown, and the Club continues to welcome new members each year, and build stronger ties with other associations that share similar values. Many members have a record of continuous membership for three decades and more.

With the increased immigration, the Club has created a familial atmosphere where the spirit of care, support and friendship has flowed – which was the vision when the Club was formed. If one could encapsulate this into one truism it would be that the Club has kept the **Goan Spirit Alive in Brisbane.**

Diwali 2024

THE GOLD COAST SIKH ASSOCIATION



The Gold Coast Sikh Association (GCSA), established in 2004, serves as a vibrant hub for the Sikh community on Australia's Gold Coast. Founded to provide spiritual, cultural, and social support, the association has grown significantly over the years, becoming an integral part of the local community.

Objectives and Mission

The GCSA aims to promote the teachings of Sikhism, foster community spirit, and encourage cultural integration. Its mission includes:

Spiritual Growth: Providing a place for worship and spiritual education, including regular prayer services (Gurdwara), classes, and discussions on Sikh philosophy.

Cultural Preservation: Organizing cultural events and festivals, such as Vaisakhi and Diwali, to celebrate Sikh heritage and share it with the broader community.

Community Support: Offering social services, including educational programs, youth engagement activities, and support for newcomers to Australia.

Facilities and Activities

The association operates from a community center that includes a Gurdwara, community hall, and classrooms. Key activities include:

Weekly Services: Regular prayers and community gatherings allow members to come together for spiritual reflection and fellowship.

Educational Programs: Classes for children and adults focusing on Sikh teachings, history, and the Punjabi language.

Cultural Events: Organizing events that highlight Sikh traditions and encourage participation from the broader community, fostering multicultural understanding.

Community Outreach: Engaging in charity work, food drives, and community service projects to assist those in need, regardless of background.

Community Engagement

The GCSA actively promotes inclusivity and community integration. It collaborates with local organizations and participates in interfaith dialogues to build bridges with other cultural and religious groups.

Since its establishment, the Gold Coast Sikh Association has played a crucial role in nurturing the Sikh identity, promoting community welfare, and fostering understanding across cultures. Its commitment to spiritual growth, cultural celebration, and social responsibility continues to resonate with both its members and the wider Gold Coast community.

President

Manmohan Singh

President

Gold Coast Sikh Association

Email: goldcoastsikhassociation@gmail.com

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin



The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) is a prominent platform that connects the Indian diaspora around the world. The Gold Coast chapter, like others globally, serves to unite individuals of Indian heritage, fostering a sense of community and cultural identity while promoting social, educational, and economic development.

GOPIO Gold Coast aims to serve as a bridge for people of Indian origin in the region, helping them connect with one another and the broader Australian community. The organisation focuses on several key objectives:

Cultural Preservation: Promoting Indian culture, traditions, and values through various events and programs.

Networking: Creating opportunities for professional and social networking among members.

Community Support: Assisting new immigrants and the Indian community in integrating into Australian society.

Charitable Activities: Engaging in philanthropic efforts to support both local and international causes.

The GOPIO GC hosted several events in 2023-2024 to engage the Indian as well as the wider community on the Gold Coast. These events were Seniors Wellbeing Celebration, Diwali Festival of Lights Fair, Family Christmas Picnic, GC's first Indian Art Exhibition, 75th Indian Republic Day celebration, Australian Citizenship Ceremony, International Women's Day High Tea, International Yoga Day Demonstration and GOPIO Charity Gala Dinner. The GOPIO GC also received grants in the year from Gold Coast City Council, Ministry of Multicultural Affairs, and Ministry of House of Affairs.

The GOPIO GC supported events organised by various community groups across Gold Coast and Brisbane. The team worked with FICQ, IHC, ICGC, TMC, and MCCGC.

The GOPIO GC executive committee also participated in events organised by various community organisations across Gold Coast and Brisbane. Events participation in 2023-2024 included Indian Community Reception by QLD Premier, TMC Harmony Cup, FICQ Gandhi Jayanti, India Day Fair by GOPIO QLD, Diversity and Multicultural Awareness Day – Aged Care, Santoor & Tabla: Mystic Music of the Mountains and MCCGC Greet Meet and Eat Event.

The present GOPIO GC 2023-2025 office is held by Mr. Pradip Gorasia (President), Mr. Mokhtiar Singh (Vice President), Mr. Preetham Krishna (2nd Vice President), Ms Madhuri Soni (Secretary), Mr. Paddy Krishnan (Joint Secretary), Mrs. Jessy Kaurah (Treasurer), Ms. Varsha Badhe (Asst. Treasurer) and Ms Janvi Makanjee (Youth Ambassador).

Appointed Advisors of GOPIO GC 2022-2025 – Mr Pushpinder Oberoi & Ms Seema Chauhan

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

GREATER SPRINGFIELD INDIAN ASSOCIATION INC.



The Greater Springfield Indian Association (GSIA), founded by local resident & community leader of Greater Springfield Mr. Mukesh Dubey, GSIA stands as a beacon of cultural preservation and celebration, dedicated to upholding India's vibrant heritage. This non-profit organization, nestled in the heart of Greater Springfield, serves as a unifying platform to safeguard, and share the cultural treasures of India.

A Mission of Enchantment and Preservation

At GSIA, the mission is clear: to share the enchanting tapestry of Indian culture with fellow citizens in the Greater Springfield area while ensuring that this rich heritage remains alive and thriving for generations to come.

Cultural Showcases and Celebrations

One of GSIA's primary objectives is to introduce the diverse and colourful celebrations of India to the melting pot of Greater Springfield. Throughout the year, GSIA hosts a series of events that provide an immersive experience into India's cultural riches.

Mukesh Dubey

Founder/ President

Greater Springfield Indian Association INC (GSIA)

gsindianassociation@gmail.com

Diwali 2024

GUJARATI ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND



"Diwali is a symbol of hope for humankind. May it bring universal compassion, an inner joy of peace, love and the awareness of unity to all." HT

**GAQ Wishes all
HAPPY DIWALI!**

ચાલો આપણે ઉત્સવને સાચા અર્થમાં ઉજવીએ અને,
આનંદ પ્રસન્ન સાથે દુનિયાને પ્રકાશિત કરીએ.
દિવાળી ની હાર્દિક શુભેચ્છાઓ ને નૂતન વર્ષાભિનંદન

The Gujarati Association of Queensland (GAQ) is a dynamic non-profit organization founded in 1993, committed to preserving, maintaining, and celebrating our rich cultural heritage. We provide valuable education about the traditions and values of Gujarat, the region in India from which we proudly trace our roots.

Currently, GAQ serves over 1,000 Gujarati families in Queensland, representing a diverse membership from India, Africa, the United Kingdom, Fiji, New Zealand, and beyond.

Our mission is robust and multifaceted. We host a wide array of family-oriented events, including monthly gatherings for seniors, annual picnics, bhajan sessions, Valentine's Day dinners, children's sports activities, and dance classes. Additionally, we celebrate significant cultural and religious occasions such as Navratri, Sharad Purnima, and Diwali meet-and-greets. With the support of our dedicated members, we have successfully organised fundraising initiatives, contributing to essential causes like bushfire recovery, flood relief, drought assistance, and COVID-19 appeals for India.

We wholeheartedly encourage all like-minded individuals to engage in our events and invite everyone who hasn't yet joined us to become a part of our vibrant community. Together, we can make a meaningful impact.



Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

Gujarati Community of Queensland



The Gujarati Community of Queensland Inc. (GCQ) was established with the vision of preserving and promoting Gujarati culture, language, and traditions in Queensland. Over the years, GCQ has created a vibrant platform for individuals and families to come together, celebrate, and engage in various cultural, social, and sporting events.

Our annual highlights include the Navratri Garba nights, Diwali celebrations, community picnics, and sports tournaments, which foster unity and cultural exchange among community members. Additionally, GCQ runs a Gujarati language school and a library, providing members with resources to stay connected to their heritage.

At GCQ, we believe in the power of togetherness and actively encourage members to volunteer, participate, and take pride in celebrating our rich Gujarati heritage. Through our events and initiatives, we aim to build a stronger, supportive, and culturally enriched community.

Diwali 2024

Indian Community of Gold Coast



Indian Community of Gold Coast (ICGC), a Not For Profit Organisation, founded in 2018.

ICGC's vision has always been to foster a sense of unity and belonging among the Indian diaspora in this beautiful City of Gold Coast. We have strived to create a platform where individuals from Indian origin can connect, share their experiences, and contribute to the vibrant tapestry of our community.

Our objective is to provide a platform for people of Indian origin

- To participate, share and demonstrate the culture heritage for an inclusive social development
- To energize the professional and intellectual resources to realize their maximum potential

Over the years, ICGC has organized several cultural events, including the Holi Festival, Kite Festival, Diwali Festival, and Christmas Dinner. These events have not only provided opportunities for celebration and enjoyment but have also served to introduce our rich Indian heritage to the broader Gold Coast community.

One of our most significant achievements has been the overwhelming participation of residents from all walks of life in our events, such as the Kite Festival. This demonstrates the growing acceptance and appreciation of Indian culture in the region.

We release monthly newsletters that reaches more than six thousand community members and leaders. The newsletter is a place where the community members can author wonderful articles, businesses can advertise their products and services.

Beyond our cultural endeavours, ICGC has also been actively involved in community service initiatives. We have taken pride in celebrating Mother's Day, recognizing the invaluable contributions of our mothers and caregivers. Additionally, our grand execution of the Holi Festival has been a testament to our ability to bring people together and create lasting memories.

We take pride to welcome India's first consular to Queensland, strengthening the ties between our two countries. Furthermore, our participation in multicultural community events and our support for other community-serving organizations have underscored our commitment to fostering harmony and understanding.

As we look ahead, we are excited to prepare for the upcoming Diwali festival, a celebration of light and hope. This event will undoubtedly be another highlight in our calendar.

ICGC welcomes likeminded volunteers who are interested to serve the community.

<https://www.facebook.com/INCGC/> <https://www.instagram.com/incgc3/>

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

INDIAN SENIOR CITIZEN ASSOCIATION INC.



The festival of lights is indeed a beautiful time to celebrate with our loved ones. The glittering lights, diyas and lanterns fill the sky as this festival is celebrated all over the World where Hindus live.

Also known as Deepawali, this festival of light is a very auspicious occasion that is celebrated with much fervour, cheer and joy. Diwali symbolises positive and happy spirits. People dress up in beautiful, traditional attires and look their absolute best while donning accessories or jewellery. People cook delicious meals and sweets that make Diwali even more delightful. The fresh aroma of sweets are mouthwatering and people exchange gifts with each other on this occasion.

Historically, this festival marks the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after He, Sita Mata and Lord Lakshman spent 14 years in Exile, and so, people commemorate this festive occasion even more and so, we bring to you some wishes, messages we could all share with others this Diwali. Its also and occasion to celebrate victory over evil, light our darkness, awareness over ignorance and also an occasion to celebrate life.

May the supreme light illumine our minds, enlighten our hearts and strengthen the human bonds in our homes and communities and wish and hope you all have a blessed, healthy and prosperous Diwali and may this auspicious Day light up your happiness, joy and peace.

A very happy Diwali to you all and prosperous New Year!

Sincerely

Tirath Achal

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Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

KAIRALI BRISBANE INC.



Kairali Brisbane Inc. is established and incorporated in 2009 by a group of Malayalee people to serve community. Kairali Brisbane gain its popularity within multicultural community after organizing community focused programs and cultural festival celebrations. It is one of the most prominent social, cultural, and literal organisations with a motive to bring Kerala to Brisbane and exchanges and supports rapidly growing Malayalee community especially Southeast Part of Brisbane

Kerala is a land of cultural diversity, and culture of Kerala can be compared to a chain made of different coloured beads. Brisbane is our Home Away Home for all the Malayalee community and hence the integration of our culture is important so that our next generation inherits and follows the same tradition and keep our culture alive.

As part of support to community, Kairali Brisbane has hosted multiple cultural and sports events. This year, Kairali Brisbane successfully celebrated many festivals, stage shows, boat race and multicultural events with stunning array of cultural programmes. Kairali Brisbane is always at the forefront in offering help and assistance at times of humanitarian needs arising from the unfortunate events whether natural or otherwise.

To support our vibrant young generation, Kairali Brisbane has organised a Soccer Tournament and have included the girl's tournament first time this year. Along with all other festivals, Kairali Brisbane add colours to the Malayalee community by celebrating Easter, Vishu, Eid and Christmas and keep the tradition, customs, and culture alive in Brisbane. Kairali Brisbane also extend their support to other organisations and played an integral part in the multicultural community events.

Multicultural Fest, another successful event put forward by the Kairali Community in June 2024 attracted all multicultural communities in Queensland. As a part of this event, we also hosted the citizenship ceremony. This whole day program was well coordinated and applauded by all who have attended this event.

Now that we are in Diwali festive spirits, It's the time we can illuminate our minds and hearts just like the "Dee-pa-Avali" to promote much needed peace, harmony, and brotherhood in our community. Despite any religion or race, this festival unites every home and every heart. Kairali Brisbane extends warm Diwali Wishes for all the wholehearted supporters and all community members a very happy Diwali.

Kairali Brisbane commit to every possible opportunity to incorporate all the community members either personally or through digital media platform to ensure the members are stay- in connected. We would like to Thank FICQ for the support in past and willing to support in future to organize activities to beneficial for the community and upholds the value of our tradition and culture.

HAPPY DIWALI TO ONE AND ALL

From Kairali Brisbane Team 2023-2024

Diwali 2024

Kannada Sangha Queensland



For nearly three decades, Kannada Sangha Queensland (KSQ) has been uniting Kannadigas in, offering a platform to celebrate our rich culture and heritage. Through a variety of events and initiatives, KSQ has brought together generations under one roof, fostering a sense of belonging and pride in our language and traditions. Our commitment to supporting and connecting the community remains as strong as ever.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the long-standing residents, past committee members, and all our supporters whose efforts have shaped KSQ into what it is today. Your dedication and unwavering support have made KSQ a thriving hub for Kannadigas in Queensland, and we look forward to continuing this legacy together for many more years to come.

Diwali 2024

Malayalee Association of Queensland Inc.



The Malayalee Association of Queensland Inc. (MAQ Inc.) is one of the oldest Indian community groups in the Greater Brisbane Area. Since our incorporation in 1997, we have been continuously serving the Malayalee and broader Indian community in Brisbane for over 26 years. As a founding member organization of the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland (FICQ), we have actively collaborated with FICQ to promote multiculturalism and community well-being for many years.

For those unfamiliar with us, Malayalee refers to a person whose mother tongue is Malayalam, the language spoken in Kerala, a southern state in India often known as "God's Own Country." The term Malayalee is commonly used for anyone who speaks Malayalam or has ancestral roots in Kerala.

The Keralite diaspora in Brisbane has made significant contributions to Australia's multicultural fabric. From medicine to education, entrepreneurship to the arts, Malayalees have excelled across various fields, enriching Australian society with their talents and expertise.

With over 1,000 members, MAQ Inc. is a progressive, secular, and highly active organization. We are dedicated to preserving our cultural heritage while integrating into both the Indian and Australian communities. We celebrate our traditions through festivals such as Onam and Vishu, along with global festivals like Christmas, Easter, and Eid throughout the year.

Beyond cultural celebrations, we take our responsibilities to the wider society seriously. Through the RED25 program in collaboration with the Australian Red Cross, MAQ Inc. has contributed to blood and plasma donations, helping save lives. We also work closely with the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) and have conducted drives that registered members as potential donors. We are always seeking volunteers to join us in supporting these essential causes.

We believe in fostering strong community relationships and work collaboratively with other community groups. Our motto, "Friendship through Sport," reflects the spirit of inclusivity in our sporting events, which are open to the wider Indian and Australian communities. The Brisbane Indian Open Badminton Tournament, now in its 12th year, brings over 250 players and their families together at Calamvale Community College for two days of exciting competition. We have also pioneered cricket tournaments such as the MAQ Sixers Cup and the MAQ Cricket Tournament, which are open to all. We believe that relationships built on the field or court create lasting bonds.

On behalf of MAQ Inc., I wish the Indian community a very happy and prosperous Diwali. May the spirit of Diwali bring light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and goodness over evil, guiding you to success throughout the year.

If you would like to get in touch with MAQ Inc. regarding any of our events or programs, please visit our website at www.maq.org.au or email us at admin@maq.org.au.

Warm regards,

Jayarajan Chaladan

President

MAQ Inc. 0433 318 091

Diwali 2024

Navodaya Australia



Navodaya Australia is a community organization established by Malayalees living in Australia. Founded to promote progressive and secular values, it provides a platform for diverse ideas and initiatives, uniting the Indian community nationwide. Navodaya operates as a non-profit organization with branches across all Australian states and plays an active role in community welfare, cultural celebrations, and humanitarian efforts.

The Beginning of Navodaya Australia

Navodaya began in 2016, with its official inauguration held in 2018 by former Indian Parliament Member, Mr. M. A. Baby. The event included a reverse quiz program hosted by Indian Grandmaster G.S. Pradeep, broadcasted on Indian media. Since then, Navodaya has become a vital force within both the Indian and Australian communities.

Community and Humanitarian Initiatives

Navodaya Australia leads various social welfare campaigns, such as promoting organ and blood donation awareness. During natural disasters like floods and landslides in Kerala, India, the organization provided aid by donating to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and building homes for those affected.

In Australia, Navodaya extended support during the bushfires and COVID-19 pandemic, especially in Queensland and New South Wales. They provided groceries and rent assistance to international students and donated televisions and tablets to disadvantaged children. The organization also collected over 300 books from its members and donated them to a village library in Idukki, Kerala.

Navodaya has further supported healthcare in India by donating a patient transport vehicle for Kanivu Pain and Palliative Care in Ernakulam.

Cultural and Educational Contributions

Navodaya is dedicated to preserving culture and the arts. The organization regularly conducts art workshops, literature and drawing competitions, and celebrates cultural festivals like Onam, helping keep Kerala's traditions alive among the diaspora.

In addition, Navodaya organizes seminars and webinars on a variety of topics, including public health and social justice, to educate and raise awareness within the community.

Engagement with Local Causes

Navodaya also engages in Australian community initiatives. It actively participated in the Australian Indigenous Voice Campaign, aiming to work with Indigenous and Aboriginal communities. The group has taken part in local efforts like the Mud Army 2.0 cleanup after floods, conducted winter clothing drives for the homeless, and initiated community clean-up efforts.

Promoting Language and Literature

Navodaya Australia has taken a special interest in promoting the Malayalam language by starting a library focused on Malayalam books. This initiative aims to help future generations of Malayalees in Australia stay connected to their linguistic and cultural roots.

Moving Forward Navodaya Australia continues to serve as a platform for cultural enrichment, social welfare, and progressive values, both locally and globally. Through its dedication, the organization has established itself as a pillar of the Indian-Australian community, fostering unity and compassion.

Diwali 2024

Organisation of Hindu Malayalees



Organisation of Hindu Malayalees (OHM) was established 10 years ago, 2012 with the aim to promote Hindu culture among Malayalees, education of Hindu philosophy and classical languages among the community by being inclusive and supportive of friendship, respect, peace and tolerance.

In particular, the Not-for-profit association was created to promote and foster Hindu cultural activities, classical literature, music, dance and spiritual education by providing resources and practical training for kids, youth and adults. We foster friendship with other communities, exchange and share ideas and beliefs with them and enhance quality of life. We extend a helping hand to any member who is in distress or is in need of financial help.

The membership of the organisation is open to all Hindu Malayalees and their family members, students regardless of their age, gender, race, and political background, residing temporarily or permanently in Queensland.

Every third Saturday of the month, we provide a platform for all Malayalee Hindus in Queensland to meet and celebrate their interests and uphold their cultural and artistic values. The activities include singing devotional songs, spiritual talk by professionals and celebrations of respective Hindu festivals falling on each month.

Our events include:

- Attukal Pongala (Annual festival that takes place at Attukal Bhagavathy temple, Kerala)
- Shivarathri bhajan (Lord Shiva's birthday celebration)
- Vishu (the harvest festival and the astrological New Year of the Malayalees)
- Karkidaka vavu (Hindu rituals performed on a specific monsoon day in Kerala for the deceased ancestors)
- Onam (Annual harvest festival in Kerala)
- 9 days long Navarathri celebrations concluded by vidhyarambham (a rite for the children aged between two and four years is introduced to the world of education)
- Diwali (festival of lights) and
- Thiruvathira (an auspicious festival marking the birthday of Lord Nataraja, the dancing form of Lord Shiva).

OHM wishes all families and friends a very Happy Diwali and celebrate our culture.

For enquiries or membership please contact ohmqueensland@gmail.com

Diwali 2024

POWER OF US SPN INC.



Reach out, you are never alone

On behalf of Power of Us SPN Inc., I wish you and yours a happy and peaceful Diwali. May the light of Diya bring brightness and joy to everyone's life. Diwali is the message of peace and love, and the colourful Diwali represent Unity in Diversity. We, the members of Power of Us SPN Inc., would like to extend our support and commitment to the well-being of our transcultural community. Our perseverance and dedication will continue to foster awareness and create visibility in the community on positive mental health.

Since 2017, we are working on the stigma concerning mental health in our transcultural community to bring about transparency and visibility into existence in our multicultural society. Still, we have a long way to go to eradicate such stigma from the root. Together, we can make it possible, and we will. Building a progressive and cohesive community through the promotion of mental health and suicide prevention. Frustration, depression and anxiety are the standard features in our daily life. We must not take any drastic adverse action to overcome such temporary problems. Remember, the world is your family, and you are not alone. We are here, to listen.

Power of Us Suicide Prevention Network Inc. continuously works with other organisations, like Wesley Mission, StandBy, Transcultural Mental Health Centre and Brisbane City Council. We thank Vedanta Centre of Queensland and Wesley Mission for their continued support. We are thankful to FICQ and other member organisations for their immense support.

We have taken many new projects on board with great potential and positivity. In 2024 so far, the representative of Power of Us attended the Regional

Conference in Townsville and National Conference on Suicide Prevention Network. On 14th August we held a training session on Suicide Prevention conducted by Wesley LifeForce with the support of Vedanta Centre of Queensland, Wesley Mission and FICQ. It was a great session and well appreciated by the attendees. We are going to have another training session on Suicide Prevention on 5th February 2025. Two more events on Mental Health one was Social Stigma and Mental Health supported by Power of Us and co-hosted the session "Connection is the key" on 5th October 2024, on the occasion of Mental Health Week. We will keep on striving to deliver robust and evidence-based session to educate the community about mental health and suicide prevention.

Your participation in such training session and workshop on suicide prevention and positive mental health can save a life. Every life matters!

SHYAM DAS

CHAIRMAN

Mobile No. 0412031301

Email: targettt@bigpond.com

Website: www.powerofus.org.au

<http://www.facebook.com/powerofus>

Diwali 2024

Queensland Kannadigas Cultural & Sports Society Inc.

A Beacon of Culture and Community Spirit

The Queensland Kannadigas Cultural & Sports Society Inc. (QKC&SS) has emerged as a vital organization for the Indian diaspora, particularly Kannadigas, living in Queensland, Australia. Founded with the vision of uniting individuals through shared cultural heritage and sports activities, QKC&SS has played a pivotal role in fostering community spirit while promoting the rich traditions of Karnataka in this distant land.



A Hub for Cultural Exchange

The primary mission of QKC&SS is to connect Kannadigas and the broader Indian community in Queensland through various Multicultural programs. The organization has successfully provided a platform for individuals to celebrate Karnataka's traditions, language, art, and music. Through vibrant Multicultural festivals, musical performances, and dance events, QKC&SS ensures that the Kannada language and Karnataka's heritage remain alive among the diaspora and are passed down to future generations.

One of the standout events organized by the society is the annual Kannada Rajyotsava celebration. This occasion marks the formation of the Karnataka state and serves as a platform for community members to showcase their artistic talents. It is an event filled with traditional dance, music, and regional cuisine, offering a taste of home for many. Additionally, QKC&SS organizes Naatyotsava, an Indian classical dance event, which has gained wide recognition for its representation of India's rich performing arts.

Empowering Through Sports

In addition to cultural initiatives, the organization places significant emphasis on sports. QKC&SS believes in the power of sports to unite people and build a healthy community. It regularly organizes sporting events and competitions, from cricket tournaments in the name of Dr Puneeth Rajkumar Multicultural Cricket Cup every year, engaging participants of all ages. By promoting sports, QKC&SS nurtures physical health and fosters camaraderie, teamwork, and leadership among community members.

A Commitment to Humanitarian Services

Beyond culture and sports, QKC&SS is dedicated to giving back to the community through various humanitarian initiatives. The organization has actively participated in blood donation camps and has extended support to international students, ensuring they receive the help they need to adjust to life in Australia. These efforts reflect QKC&SS's commitment to the values of compassion and service.

World Kannada Cultural Convention

A milestone event spearheaded by the society is the upcoming 18th World Kannada Cultural Convention, which aims to gather Kannadigas from around the globe to celebrate Karnataka's culture. As the host of this prestigious event, QKC&SS continues to gain recognition for its contributions to preserving the essence of Kannada traditions and promoting cultural exchange on a global scale. This convention will spotlight Karnataka's artistic and cultural legacy and strengthen the bonds between Kannadigas worldwide.

Leadership and Vision

At the heart of QKC&SS's success is its dynamic leadership. Mr. Preetham Krishna, the Founder and President of the society, is a driving force behind its various initiatives. With a deep-rooted commitment to promoting Karnataka's culture and heritage, he has successfully steered the organization toward creating a multicultural solid community in Queensland. Under his leadership, QKC&SS has continued to grow, expanding its influence across cultural and sports domains.

Conclusion

The Queensland Kannadigas Cultural & Sports Society Inc. has become an indispensable part of the Indian community in Queensland, acting as a bridge between generations and cultures. Through its rich array of cultural programs, sports activities, and humanitarian efforts, the society has created a vibrant space for Kannada-speaking individuals to thrive while staying connected to their roots. As the organization continues to grow, it remains dedicated to nurturing the spirit of unity, celebration, and service among the Kannadiga diaspora in Australia.

Diwali 2024

Queensland Telugu Association



Queensland Telugu Association wishes all the readers a very happy Diwali.

In Telugu speaking states (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) in Southern India, this festival is called as Deepavali and is one of the top three festivals widely celebrated by the Telugu community of these two states. Deepavali literally means Row of Lights.

According to Hindu scriptures, Deepavali being the festival of lights depicts the classic truth of the victory of good over the evil. However, in the contemporary world, it is to be deeply understood and practiced that “Deepavali means lighting the lamp of knowledge within us and to be in touch with the divine spirit of love, peace, happiness and compassion. This is too further channelise these thoughts into our everyday lives by spreading the joy of living with one another”.

Deepavali is celebrated on the day when Lord Krishna defeated Narakasura. Narakasura, whose name literally means 'hell,' symbolizes the negativity that can consume human life. As Krishna's victory over Narakasura put an end to this malevolence, people celebrate by illuminating their homes with lamps.

The tradition of celebrating Deepavali has been passed onto many generations with the same devotion, respect and delight that our ancestors used to celebrate centuries ago. Since it is a once-a-year celebration, people of all ages look forward to celebrating the festival with great devotion and enthusiasm. The whole family wear new clothes and together offer prayers to Goddess Lakshmi for prosperity, health and happiness.

Diwali is a celebration that goes beyond the physical act of lighting lamps. It is a profound metaphor for illuminating the inner self. Just as the lamps disperse the darkness outside, the light within brings clarity to one's vision and dispels inner obscurity. It symbolizes the triumph of knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, and the inner awakening of consciousness.

Diwali is celebrated across towns, cities, and villages with the illumination of thousands of lamps. It serves as a vivid reminder that we can always overcome our inner demons and bring forth our inner light. The act of lighting lamps is not just a symbolic gesture; it is a powerful statement that encourages us to rise above inertia, negativity, and darkness.

The sky will light up with magnificent fireworks and the families celebrate the festival with harmony, tranquility, love and compassion. In both the Telugu speaking states - Andhra and Telangana the Deepavali night resembles the city of Ayodhya as if Lord Rama just came back from his 14 years of exile.

Diwali 2024

Indian Medical Association of Australia



Indian Medical Association of Australia
Queensland Chapter

"I'd like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today. I would also like to pay my respects to Elders past and present."

The Indian Medical Association of Australia, Queensland Branch (IMAQ) was Established in 2017, IMAQ is registered under the QLD Associations Inc. Act (IA 57004) as a not-for-profit organisation. We are a community of doctors of Indian origin based in Queensland, and we are proud to call Australia our home. We deeply appreciate and celebrate the multiculturalism of Australian society, which has not only embraced us but also allowed us to become an integral part of it.

With over 600 members, including Specialists, General Practitioners, and Junior doctors, our membership represents a diverse and highly skilled group of professionals dedicated to achieving excellence in healthcare. Many of our members work in the public and private sectors, while others hold academic positions in Queensland's esteemed medical universities.

IMAQ is committed to both social and academic activities in Queensland. Our initiatives, such as organising Domestic Violence Symposiums and providing online health clinics during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic, exemplify our dedication to community welfare. Additionally, we have had the privilege of hosting teams during the World Games for Children with Intellectual Disabilities.

Our monthly radio and Social Media program, "Ap Ki Sehat, meaning "Your Health", health-related articles in the local Indian Newspaper and Continuing Medical Education meetings highlight our commitment to education, awareness, and the professional growth of our members. We maintain close ties with esteemed medical associations such as the

(AMAQ) Australian Medical Association, Queensland, and Specialist professional colleges such as RACGP

IMAQ Celebrated Diwali the Festival of Lights, on the 12 th of October 2024 at Stamford Plaza Gardens in Brisbane.

This event has special significance for us, as Diwali marks the triumph of Good over evil

Happy Diwali Greetings to All...

Thank You

Dr Cyril Fernandez,

MBBS, FRACGP

President (IMAQ)

Diwali 2024

Shree Sanatan Dharam Hindu Association of Qld Inc.



Celebrating the Spirit of Diwali with FICQ

As we join hands to celebrate the vibrant festival of Diwali, our organization is proud to contribute to the Federation of Indian Communities of Queensland's (FICQ) Diwali souvenir, a tribute to unity, tradition, and cultural diversity. Diwali, the festival of lights, symbolizes the triumph of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. This occasion gives us the perfect opportunity to reflect on the values that guide our organization and our commitment to the community.

At Shree Sanatan Dharam Hindu Association of Qld Inc, we believe in the power of collaboration and community engagement. Over the years, our work has been focused on fostering inclusion, empowering individuals, and creating platforms where diverse voices can thrive. Diwali, with its rich traditions of togetherness, is an event that resonates deeply with our mission to bring people from different backgrounds together in the spirit of joy and celebration.

Our organization has always placed a strong emphasis on social responsibility. Through various initiatives, we aim to contribute meaningfully to the communities we serve. Whether it's through supporting local businesses, offering educational programs, or organizing charity events, we have consistently sought ways to uplift those around us. In many ways, Diwali embodies the essence of our goals. The lighting of diyas is not just a symbolic gesture it is a reminder that even the smallest light can drive away darkness, a principle we strive to follow by making a positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities.

We are also immensely proud of our association with FICQ, an organization that has been a beacon of cultural unity and pride for the Indian diaspora in Queensland. FICQ's efforts to promote and preserve Indian culture through events like Diwali are invaluable, and it's an honour to be a part of this journey. The Diwali souvenir is not just a booklet but a representation of our shared history, values, and aspirations for the future. It reflects the spirit of the Indian community in Queensland, its resilience, and its contribution to the wider multicultural fabric of Australia.

As we light the lamps this Diwali, let us also light the way forward—towards a future where inclusivity, kindness, and community well-being take precedence. We are committed to supporting initiatives that align with these values and will continue working towards building a more harmonious and prosperous society.

This Diwali, may the light of hope and happiness brighten the lives of all, and may we continue to strengthen the bonds of friendship, compassion, and respect within our communities. From all of us at Shree Sanatan Dharam Hindu Association of Qld Inc, we wish everyone a joyful and prosperous Diwali.

Happy Diwali!

Pandit Anant Ram Sharma

President

Diwali 2024

Tamil Association of Queensland



Message from the President- Tamil Association of Queensland

Since 1986, the Tamil Association of Queensland (TAQ) has been a cornerstone for Tamil Australians, fostering unity among the Tamil diaspora from Sri Lanka, India, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa, and beyond. TAQ has preserved Tamil culture while supporting new migrants through cultural events, educational programs, and community services. Our first-ever Deepavali celebration in Brisbane has become a major event for Queensland's multicultural community. Tamil, the world's oldest language, has contributed to global literature, astronomy, and civilization. TAQ proudly carries forward this legacy by preserving Tamil traditions and values through a variety of programs and services.

In 2024, TAQ's achievements include the Anand Kutty Memorial Badminton Tournament, Australia Day celebrations, the ThinkUKnow Child Safety program, Muthamizh Vizha Festival, Wealth of Knowledge session, Winter BBQ party, a bus trip to North Stradbroke Island, the inaugural 'Femisphere' women's empowerment initiative, and our signature Deepavali celebration. We have also established a Tamil library to preserve our literary heritage.

As a democratic and community-driven organization, TAQ is committed to enriching Queensland's multicultural landscape by fostering unity and diversity through cultural and educational programs.

Message from Preeta R Singh – Convener of Femisphere

Sub-committee of the Tamil Association of Queensland

In a world where women's issues are often sidelined, Femisphere stands as a beacon of empowerment. Our women-only initiative addresses challenges faced by women by focusing on education, health, gender equality, and socio-economic empowerment, playing a crucial role in building stronger communities. Our mission is to create a society where women are respected, empowered, and have equal access to opportunities in all areas of life. We aim to foster leadership, ensure reproductive rights, and remove barriers to women's progress.

Recent Highlights

Femisphere's work has garnered government attention, with Senator Paul Scarr praising the initiative in the Senate and Queensland Health Minister Shannon Fentiman expressing support. Both officials, alongside Councillor Emily Kim, emphasized the importance of closing healthcare gaps for women.

Femisphere will continue to grow, empowering more women and expanding our programs across Queensland.

Karthick Elangovan

President, Tamil Association of Queensland

Preeta R Singh

Convenor, Femisphere

Diwali 2024



The Art of Living Australia

The Art of Living Australia, is a branch of the global Art of Living Foundation, focuses on improving individuals' mental and physical health through programs like the Happiness Program, which emphasizes Sudarshan Kriya, a powerful breathing technique for stress relief and emotional well-being. Besides its wellness programs, Art of Living Australia is involved in community service, including disaster relief, and environmental sustainability. Initiatives such as school programs, workplace wellness workshops, and local environmental projects demonstrate our commitment to fostering personal growth and social responsibility across Australia.

Art of Living programs are designed to promote mental clarity, reduce stress, and help individuals lead more balanced lives. Art of Living Australia works with diverse groups, from students to corporate professionals, to our larger multicultural community providing tools to enhance well-being and productivity. Environmental efforts include tree planting and sustainability initiatives.

Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC

THE INDIA AUSTRALIA SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.



The India Australia Society (IAS) of Queensland is a non-profit and non-political organisation established in Brisbane in 1974. The primary objectives of the IAS are to enhance friendly relationships, understanding and goodwill between Indians and Australians. India has always been synonymous with the 'Unity in Diversity' throughout the ages. The diversity and variety of India is rich and extensive.

IAS provides a forum to participate and perform, and to promote social, cultural and recreational activities to its members, member's families and friends. The founding members of IAS plays a major part in setting up the Federation of Indian Communities in Queensland in 1998 with a specific purpose of uniting all the various people on Indian background and to improve services to look after the lonely, elderly, the sick and senior and also to establish a team to tackle issues which Indians encounter when they choose to live in Australia. We have the vision for the future to develop a community centre in a centrally located position in Brisbane where retirees would have a place to meet their friends, groups would have a location to host their cultural and community events.

The IAS has been hosting events like Family Picnic, Diwali ,Christmas, Annual Seniors Outing or lunch with the support of a Grant for Senior Celebrations from the Brisbane City Council for the last 10years. The IAS first celebrated Dussehra festival with a Ram Leela in 1994 at the Yungaba Grounds. This was first of its kind in Brisbane.

Diwali is the festival of light, and the beginning of the Hindu New year and is celebrated over in India and many countries around the world. Its not only the time for lights, sweets and fireworks but also a time to strengthen existing ties with family and friends.

IAS would like to thank everyone who supported IAS in past and willing to support in future to organise community events. IAS also encourages everyone to become its financial member to strengthen its activities across the community.

Wish you all a Happy and Prosperous Diwali and New Year.

Mr Krishna Mohan Yarlagadda

President

Diwali 2024

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THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC



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Diwali 2024



FICQ Member Organisations



Diwali 2024

THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN COMMUNITIES OF QUEENSLAND INC





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Diwali 2024

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FICQ
Wishing you all a

Happy
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Springfield city holds a special place in Australia's residential history books as the first and largest privately owned and built city in the country, located south-west of Brisbane's metropolitan area in the state of Queensland. Springfield is a city encompasses a staggering 2,860 hectares (7067 acres) of land.

Greater Springfield is home to over 50,000 people, with a projected growth of 105,000 residents by 2040.

Meet the man with the vision: Maha Sinnathamby

Maha Sinnathamby is a man on a mission to build Australia's newest and largest central business district (CBD), and as the Chairman of Springfield City Group, the master developer of Springfield city, he is perfectly placed to do so.

With his vision of building a master-planned community on a 7,067-acre tract of previously inaccessible and inhospitable land, Maha is well-respected and highly regarded as one of the most celebrated visionaries of our time.

But back in 1992, when Maha Sinnathamby and his business partner, Bob Sharpless, bought the land, there were no development approvals, and approximately one-third of the land was designated for mining. "I said to myself, there is no large mass of available land outside any capital city, whether it is Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne or Sydney," he says. "And here we are, 25 to 30 minutes from Brisbane CBD and this land is here. There must be something we can do with it."

Springfield city sits 30 kilometres south-west of Brisbane. In its short history, it is already home to 12 private and public schools, a campus of the University of Southern Queensland, a private hospital currently

under expansion, child care and aged care facilities, a vibrant shopping centre, an award winning golf course, and rail and road links to Brisbane.

Its population of over 50,000 benefits from living in a city that provides approximately 20,000 jobs, predominantly in health, education, and retail, and is poised to create thousands more in the technology sector.

Maha Sinnathamby began to gradually implement his vision whilst at the same time, craft multiple jewels in the Springfield crown, including a Health precinct, the shopping precinct, and Brookwater, an exclusive residential community built on the award-winning, Greg Norman-designed Golf Course and Country Club. Brookwater has only recently released its exclusive, first-class residential quarter, Altitude Greens.

The current expansion of the Mater Hospital in Springfield will deliver:

- 174 public overnight and same-day beds, including Intensive Care Unit and Maternity Services.
- A much-needed Emergency Department in the region.
- Increased interventional spaces, such as operating theatres and endoscopy suite.
- Increased clinical capability of the service, meaning more complex care can be treated locally.
- Increased private bed capacity and services in the region.

The new hospital will also create new jobs for the local community. Visions do become reality, and dreams can be built. Springfield city is testament to both.

Live the high life.

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