

AUM MURUGA

President's Report – 28th September 2014

Dear Thirumurugan Devotees,

"Vanakkam", A very warm welcome to all of you. Our Management Committee sincerely and wholeheartedly thank you all for your presence this morning for our Annual General Meeting (AGM).

We are greatly delighted and pleased to inform you that with the grace and blessings of our Lord Murugan, we have built a permanent residence to our Lord Murugan and also shrines to all other deities in 145 Church Street, Otahuhu, in accordance with Saivite agamas and traditional norms. The society's goal has always been to construct a fully-fledged temple that would serve our community as well as the future generations.

Balasthapanam (Stage-1)

As notified to you all in the last AGM, we shifted the deities from Marua Road, Ellerslie to Church Street, Otahuhu on 13th December 2013, an auspicious day for "Balsthanam." Religious ceremonies were conducted by our temple priests with the guidance by a specialist priest from Sydney, Nirmaleswara Kurukkal. Lots of Thirumurugan devotees attended this ceremony. Our temple youth also contributed a great deal in shifting all the items from Marua Road, Ellerslie to Church Street, Otahuhu. On behalf of Thirumurugan Management Committee, I would like to thank all the devotees and the youth for their generous support in making this "Balasthapanam" a great success. Our sincere thanks to all our priests who conducted the ceremony to a grand success. Stage 1 construction works for "Balasthapanam" were completed as planned to this date by a specialist Contractor.

All happened as planned by the grace of our Lord Murugan. "He is the doer".

Construction of Shrines (Stage-2)

Stage2 construction works commenced in February 2014 and continued till June 2014 at a rapid speed. Building Committee and Finance Committee worked hand in hand to complete the shrine works. The tremendous support we received from our Finance Committee is immeasurable. The Project Manager coordinated all the works with contractors and spent all his time in organising the materials and decorative items for the construction of shrines. We fully completed the Pillair shrine and opened it for devotees to view on the New Year Day. We received positive feedback from our devotees and with those appreciations and blessings we continued building all other shrines. Contractors worked day and night and completed majority of the works in the mid of May 2014.

In the meantime, Management Committee decided a date for "Maha Kumbabhisegam and arrangements were made to organise the priests, buy the pooja and decoration items for this special function. A few selected committee members worked in the Kumabhisegam committee to organise the materials, volunteers, etc for this special day.

The Building Committee was put under immense pressure to complete all the works before this date. The success of an organisation like ours is entirely dependent on the devotees and volunteers. The tremendous support I received from our management committee members and devotees during this period was immeasurable. Auckland Council and Auckland Transport staff also helped me to expedite the work and complete the project in time. My sincere thanks to all of them for their technical advice and signing off the works completed. I would like to mention the great job done by our Project Manager, Main Contractor Bruce Jenks, "BootLeg" (Fibre Glass items) and sub-contractor

Mr Chris and family in making the decorative items with local talent. Shrines were made ready just a day before Kumbabhisegam date.

Also, I have to mention here the support given to us by Mr Umaharan in the installation of dieties on the kumbabhisegam day and also for the final finishing works he completed after Kumbabhisegam.

Again all these miracles happened with the grace of our Lord Murugan.

Kumbabhisegam

On the 8th June 2014 Sunday, our temple kumbabhisegam was held to all the deities on the auspicious time. Group of priests, under the leadership of Nirmaleswara Kurukkal, chanted the vedas and mantras for all five days. All Hindu communities from all over New Zealand attended this special function. This day was a remarkable mile stone in the history of New Zealand Thirumurugan Society in Auckland and also a memorable day for all our devotees. Now we have a traditional Saiva Agama temple in Auckland with all the facilities to our devotees.

A long day dream comes to true, all due to His grace.

Mandalabhisegam poojas were conducted for 48 days with abisegams to all the deities. Maha prasadam was also served for all devotees during this period.

Kumbabhisega Malar was released on the Sangabhisegam day and all the books were sold out on the same day. We also received congratulatory messages from the Honourable Governor and Honourable Prime Minister of New Zealand for inclusion in the Kumbabhisega Malar. The valuable articles and information given in the Kumbabhisega Malar will help us to understand the importance and value of the temple in our lives. Our management Committee would like thank the Kumbabhisega Malar's sub-committee for their valuable contribution in the preparation of the Kumbabhisega Malar.

Youth participation

The contributions our youth are making by participating regularly in the temple devotional singing, the various dramas and musical items they have been taking part in such as Pannum Parathamum, Innisai Thendral and others, their participation on Waitangi sports meet and also their valuable assistance in shifting the temple items from Marua Road to Church Street are all to be mentioned in this report. Our sincere thanks for our youth and our Management Committee would welcome their active involvement and their greater responsibilities in future.

Outstanding Works

I may have missed out to thank some of you in this report. Overall, we would not have achieved this task without the support from you all financially and physically. Even though the work is not fully completed yet, now we have a proper temple in Auckland to perform our prayers. Due to financial constraints we have not started the Rajakopuram work. Once our financial situation improves, we will be able to complete the Kopuram work also on a later date.

Again I have to mention here, our lord Murugan will have his own plan.

I conclude this report with a phrase touched my heart:

"O LORD take my everything and let it may be an instrument to work for THEE"

"Velum Mayilum Thunai"

Kumari

(Kandiah Kumarasamy)

President

New Zealand Thirumurugan Temple Society

Auckland.