

## AUM MURUGA

### President's Report – 27 September 2015

Dear Thirumurugan Devotees,

"Vanakkam" and 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 very delighted and pleased to inform you that with the grace and blessings of our Lord Murugan, we have built a permanent residence for our Lord Murugan and also shrines to all other deities at 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.

**All happened as planned by the grace of our Lord Murugan.**

#### Construction of Shrines

Construction works commenced in February 2014 and continued till June 2014 at a rapid speed. The Building Committee and the 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 the works with contractors and spent all his time in organising the materials and decorative items for the construction of shrines. Contractors worked day and night and completed majority of the works by mid May 2014.

In the meantime, the Management Committee decided a date for "MahaKumbabhisegam" and arrangements were made to organise the priests, and buy the pooja and decoration items for this special function. A few selected committee members worked together as a 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 on time. My sincere thanks to all of them for their technical advice and signing off the works completed.

**Divine grace facilitated the completion of this project.**

#### Kumbabhisegam

On Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2014, our temple Kumbabhisegam was held for all the deities on the auspicious time. A group of priests, under the leadership of Nirmaleswara Kurukkal, chanted the Vedas and mantras for all five days. Hindu communities from all over New Zealand attended this special function. The day was a remarkable milestone in the history of the New Zealand Thirumurugan Temple Society and also a memorable day for all our devotees. Now we have a traditional Saiva Agama temple in Auckland with a congenial atmosphere for our devotees.

**A distant dream comes to fruition, all due to His grace.**

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

Auckland Council has granted extension of time to complete all these works before 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

Minimum of \$400,000 funding is required for all these works. Even if we leave Raja Gopuram for future years, we need \$200,000 for all other works to complete. We could apply for Council's COC after completing items I) to IV) and leave the Gopuram for a later stage.

### Youth participation

The contributions our youth are making have been widespread and diverse. These include regular participation in devotional singing at the temple, various dramas and musical programs such as Pannum Parathamum, Muthucharam and Innisai Thendral, and also their participation in the annual Waitangi sports meet. It must be recognised here that sports and music have been designed to confer health and happiness on youths. Physical fitness and mental health are equally important. Three unique benefits can be derived from sports and music; Team spirit, mutual understanding, and joy. Hence sports and music should be encouraged. It should be mentioned in this report; a young Engineer has happily joined our management committee without any hesitation and helping us in the temple web site development and coordinating youth activities etc.

Our management committee is encouraging our youths to participate in music, sports and also in temple activities. Our sincere thanks to our youth. Our Management Committee would welcome their active involvement and potential greater responsibilities in future.

### Appreciation & Acknowledgement

Our Management Committee would like to appreciate and acknowledge in particular some of our devotees for their great support and enormous contribution in the temple activities:

- The regular financial donors without whose support we would not be able to meet our on-going costs of construction works and maintenance/operational costs.
- Our priests Brammashri Raja Rajeswara kurukkal and Mayuranatha Kurukkal for their commitment in conducting poojas and special festivals at the highest standard.
- Our Honourary Auditor Mr S Navaneethan for his auditing services and recommendations.
- Our temple devotees who regularly volunteer their time to look after the reception are and help out with pooja proceedings.
- The devotees who voluntarily provide food on Fridays.
- The ladies who make garlands for the temple every week on Fridays.
- The volunteers who support our food parcel and other fund raising activities with order taking, purchasing, donations, cooking, packing, delivering and cleaning.
- The music teachers, students and parents for their contribution of singing Thevarams, particularly every Friday night. ✓
- The volunteers taking responsibility for on-going maintenance, and regular cleaning after poojas.

My humblest apologies if I have not thanked some of you in this report. Overall, we would not have achieved this task without the support from you all financially and physically.

## MahaUtsavam (Annual Thiruvizha)

In the November monthly meeting, the Management Committee made a decision to celebrate the annual Mahautsavamin during the months of January/February period (including Thai Poosam). With the advice from our chief priest, dates were fixed to celebrate this festival, Kodietram in January 2015 and Poogavanam in the first week of February 2015. 15 days' festivals were delegated to 15 Local Board areas. Area coordinators were appointed to all 15 areas to organise these poojas and thiruvizhas. These festivals included MampalaThiruvizha, Sapparam, Theroddam, Thaipooam and Poogavanam. Devotees from all over Auckland participated in this Utsavam and the support given by them was memorable. With the generous support from our devotees we were able to generate \$39,000 from this festival. This money was used to settle contractor's payments for the works completed before the Utsavam. Our Management Committee sincerely thank you all for your generous support towards this festival. My sincere thanks to all volunteers who helped to build the THER, SAPPARAM & WELL for THEERTHAM in time, for this festival.

This was a milestone in the Auckland Thirumurugan history.

**All these miracles happened with the grace of our Lord Murugan.**

## Works Completed during 2014/15

The following works were completed after Kumbabhisegam:

### I) Roofing of the Temple and of the Community Hall

It will be useful if we provide some background information in this regard. When we purchased the building the condition of the roof was subject to much discussion with the vendor. Following negotiations, the vendor made an allowance in the purchase price with respect to the roof. After attempting to repair the roof several times, it was decided that replacement was the only viable long term option. Accordingly, we have replaced the roof over the temple and the community hall side of the building and that included some changes to the design of the down water pipes. The replaced new roof has a long life time of over 30 years.

The roof over the administrative blocks also needs some repairs in the short term and may have to be replaced in the long term when funds permit.

### II) Concreting the outside path (VeliVeethy)

### III) Main Front Entrance door and a temporary Canopy and steps.

All these works were completed before MahaUtsavam with donations you all contributed towards these activities. The Management Committee would like to thank all who worked hard to complete these works in time.

**Once again, our plans fell into place by the grace of our Lord Murugan.**

## Balance of the works to be completed in the Temple Area

The outstanding works need to be completed as per building consent in the temple area are:

- I) Roof ceiling & Insulation
- II) Heating and Air conditioning
- III) Gibbing, insulation and finishing East and West end wall
- IV) Front Fencing.
- V) Raja Gopuram

The outstanding urgent works needed to be completed are:

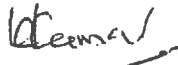
- i) Insulation and ceiling
- ii) Heating/air conditioning
- iii) Gibbing and insulation of west and east end walls
- iv) Community Hall development as per Council approved drawings

Even though the work is not fully completed yet, now we have a proper temple in Auckland to perform our prayers and celebrate all annual festivals. Due to financial constraints we have not started the Raja Gopuram work. Once our financial situation improves, we will be able to complete the Gopuram work at a later date. Again, we humbly request you all to contribute towards the completion of these outstanding works.

**"Our Lord Murugan will have his own plan" "He is the doer".**

I conclude this report with a phrase that touched my heart recently.

**"YOU HAVE TO DREAM BEFORE YOUR DREAMS CAN COME TRUE" (A.P.G ABDUL KALAM) ✓**



**(Kandiah Kumarasamy)**

**President**

**The New Zealand Thirumurugan Temple Society**

**Auckland**