



2018 - 2019  
ANNUAL REPORT

*Brisbane Chapter  
Vedanta Centre of Sydney*





## Our Mission

The Vedanta Centre is a branch of the Ramakrishna Order of India. The **Ramakrishna Math** and **Ramakrishna Mission** are worldwide, non-political, non-sectarian spiritual organisations which have been engaged in various forms of humanitarian, social service activities for more than a century.

**Motto:** The motto of the twin organisations is:

*“For one’s own liberation and for the welfare of the world”*



**Ideals:** *Work as service, potential possibilities of the individual and harmony of religions* are three of the noteworthy ideals on which our organisation is based. It is this ideal of service to man as service to God that sustains all our social service activities.

## *Our Vision - Harmony of Religions*

We believe in the unity of existence and harmony of religions. All religions teach man to fill his being with the glory of God and to transcend selfishness. All people, of whatever nation or faith, are children of God. If we look upon life from the Divine point of view, then all outer differences and misunderstandings recede away and perfect peace resides. True spiritual growth consists in expansion not in contraction; it is inclusive not exclusive - for True Love always unites never divides.



## *Our History*

The Vedanta Centre of Sydney, Brisbane Chapter commenced its activities in the new Ashram building at Vedanta Drive, Springfield Lakes on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018. This was a great milestone achieved by the Vedanta Movement in Australia, which traces its history back to 1898 and the founding of the Ramakrishna Mission in India on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1897 by Swami Vivekananda, Sri Ramakrishna's foremost disciple.





# Contents

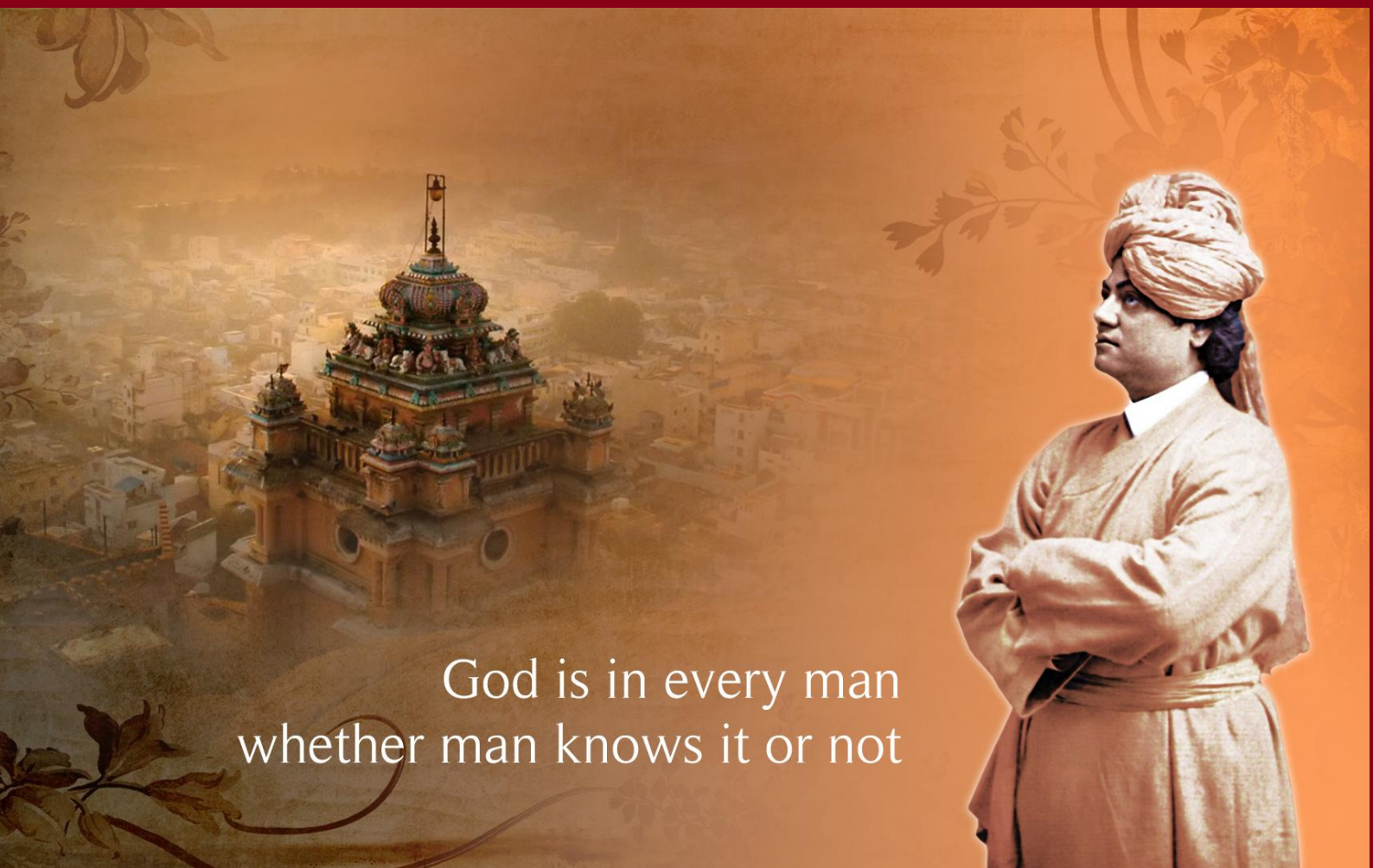
Our mission	1
Our vision	2
Our history	2
<b>Section 1 – Overview of Vedanta Centre of Sydney, Brisbane Chapter</b>	
About us	6
Our people	6
<b>Section 2 – Governance</b>	
ACNC Registration	8
Secretary's report	9
Special programmes	12
<b>Section 3 – Our Finances</b>	
Financial statements	18
Grants and Funding	18
<b>Section 4 – Other important information</b>	
Acknowledgements	19
How you can help	19
Looking to the future	20
Contact us	21



All roads lead to God



God is in every man  
whether man knows it or not





# Section 1 Overview of Vedanta Centre Of Sydney Brisbane Chapter

## Management Committee

Swami Sridharananda	President
Dr Maha Sinnathamby & Mrs Yoga Sinnathamby	Patrons
Dr Ashim Majumdar	Senior Vice President
Swami Atmeshananda	Vice President
Prof Prasad Yarlagadda	Vice President
Mr Shyam Das	Hon Secretary
Mr Unni Nair	Assistant Secretary
Jayshree Kapadia	Treasurer
Monica Gupte	Assistant Treasurer
Raynuha Sinnathamby	Public Officer

## Committee Members

Mr Biswadeep Basu	Mr Shankar Kotha
Dr Bodapatie Naidu	Mr Suresh Radhakrishnan
Dr Bram Singh	Prof Tapan Saha
Mr Gaurang Naik	Dr Tapas Das
Dr Gopal Krishna Bose	Mrs Thevagy Radhakrishnan
Mrs Menaka Thomas	Dr Unnikrishnan Pilla
Mr Nahendran Subramaniam	Mrs Krishna Newma
Mrs Parames Navaneethan	Miss Sally Kinnaid
Dr Preethi Suraj	Mr Rajiv Shekhar







## Section 2 Governance

The Vedanta Centre of Sydney, Brisbane Chapter is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).

		<b>ACNC Charity Register Summary</b>
<b>Vedanta Centre Of Sydney</b>		
<b>Charity Details</b>		
<b>Name</b>	Vedanta Centre Of Sydney	
<b>Other Name</b>		
<b>Charity ABN</b>	<a href="#">26745853272</a>	
<b>Charity Address for Service</b>	vedasydney@gmail.com	
<b>Charity Street Address</b>	2 Stewart Street Ermington NSW 2131 AUSTRALIA	
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.vedantasydney.org">www.vedantasydney.org</a>	
<b>E-Mail</b>	vedasydney@gmail.com	
<b>Phone</b>	02 81977351	
<b>About the Charity</b>		
<b>Date Established</b>	01/01/1989	
<b>Who the Charity Benefits</b>	Aged persons Children Communities overseas Ethnic groups General community in Australia Women Youth	
<b>Size of Charity</b>	Large	
<b>Financial Year End</b>	30/06	

#### Using the information on the Register

Information on this Register has been provided to the ACNC by the charity or transferred from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) and the Australian Business Register (ABR). If information is not shown, this may be because the charity has not yet provided the information or because the ACNC is progressively confirming and uploading information received. The ACNC may also approve information be [withheld from the Register](#) in certain circumstances. The Register will be updated over time as we work through the information received and any applications for information to be withheld. Read more about [information on the Register](#).



# *Secretary's Report for 2018-2019*

*Respected Swamijis and friends,*

*It is with joy that we place before you the activities of the Brisbane chapter of the Vedanta Centre of Sydney for the year 2018-2019. The daily activities continued, which are almost fixed as it were, such as the morning puja and evening vesper services and devotional activities.*

Swami Atmeshananda conducted the following activities at the Vedanta Centre:

## *Daily*

- Prayer and meditation from 6.15 to 7.15am
- Vesper prayers from 7 to 8pm On Saturdays and Sundays it was held from 6.30 to 7.30pm

## *Weekly*

- Srimad Bhagavad Gita Study Class
- Yoga Class
- Bala Sangha- classes for children

## *Fortnightly*

- Scripture Classes – On Meditation and Spiritual Life, Ashtavakra Samhita
- Ramanam Sankirtan on Ekadashi days

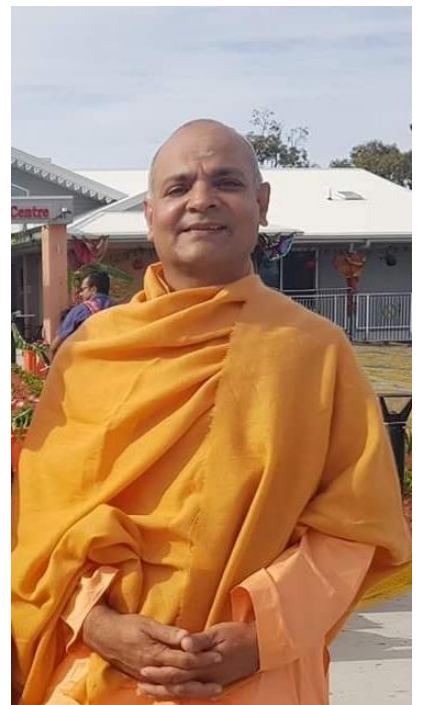
## *Monthly classes*

- On Vivekacudamani at Toowoomba.
- Discussion on spiritual topics, Sunnybank hills

## *Monthly prayer meetings consisted of*

- Prayers & devotional songs
- Discourse by Swami Atmeshananda
- Meditation

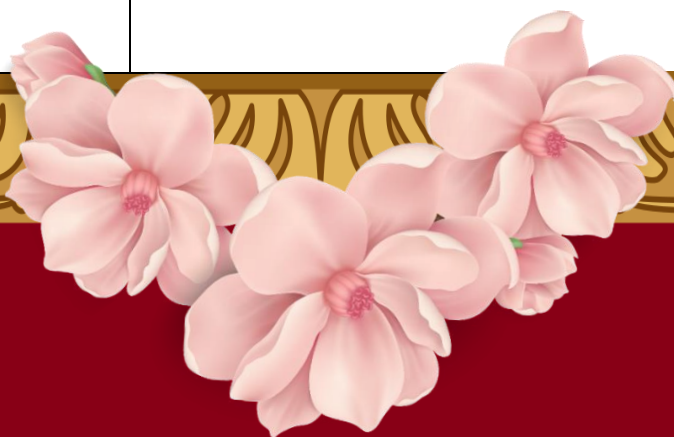
*Occasional* Satsangs at residences of devotees





In addition to the above mentioned regular programmes, the following celebrations were held by the centre during the financial year 2018 – 2019

<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Date</i>
Guru Purnima	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
Sri Krishna Janmashtami	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2018
Sri Sri Durga Puja	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2018
Birthday of Holy Mother Sri Sarada Devi	28 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2018
Kalpataru day	1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2019
Birthday of Swami Vivekananda	27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2019
Sri Mahashivaratri	4 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2019
Tithipuja of Sri Ramakrishna	8 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2019
Sri Rama Navami	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2019
Sri Shankaracharya Jayanti	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Buddha Purnima	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2019
Annual Multicultural programme	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2019





# Special Programmes

**Meals distribution** Volunteers from our community kitchen – Maa Sarada's Kitchen - cooked and served meals at all special event. The meals consisted of nutritious vegetarian food; typically rice, 3-4 vegetable dishes, 2-3 curries/dhal, roti/naan, sweet and fresh fruit. Meals were served free to all.

- |                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| • Guru Purnima                     | 150 meals |
| • Krishna Janmashtami              | 170 meals |
| • Durga Puja                       | 250 meals |
| • Swami Swatmaramananda visit      | 80 meals  |
| • Birthday of Sri Ramakrishna      | 150 meals |
| • Birthday of Holy Mother          | 120 meals |
| • Birthday of Swami Vivekananda    | 150 meals |
| • Mahashivaratri                   | 120 meals |
| • Swami Suhitananda visit          | 120 meals |
| • Breakfast fundraiser for Farmers | 50 meals  |

Community meals were also prepared for participants at fortnightly and monthly prayer meetings/classes. Volunteers also prepared meals for sale at two fundraising events during the year.

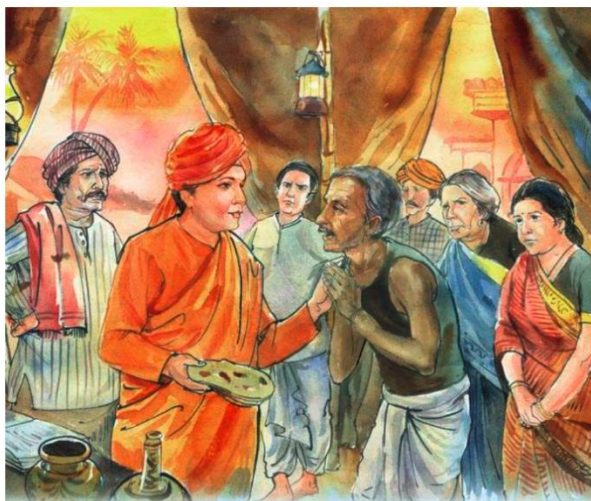
At present, volunteers cook in their homes and serve the food at the Centre. A kitchen facility with commercial equipment is needed to serve the requirements of the Centres meal distribution programmes. The Centre recognizes a growing need for food assistance, particularly cooked frozen meals, for the needy and vulnerable in the western Brisbane area.







## Thankyou to all our Maa Sarada's Kitchen volunteers



One day Swami Vivekananda was about to take his meal, a group of boys rang the bell. The boys had not eaten and were feeling hungry. Vivekananda asked them to take food at his house. But, he had prepared a meal for himself only and nothing was left for him after the guests had eaten. An American lady, present in the house at that time was surprised. She asked, "When there was not sufficient food why did you invite the boys to eat at your home?"

Swamiji replied, "The need of the soul is greater than the hunger of the body. If I had taken meals myself, while there were hungry persons around me, my soul would never have forgiven me for my selfishness. By feeding these hungry children, I satisfied the hunger of my soul. The memory of satisfaction on the faces of these hungry children after they had taken meals will always make me happy."





### *Mental Health Workshops*

Power of Us, an initiative started by the Centre and supported by the Wesley Mission, organised workshops on positive mental health and suicide prevention. Apart from monthly meetings held at different venues, the network also participated in many events throughout the year, bringing awareness about suicide prevention to the community. The network was formally registered as an incorporation in August 2018 and is going to apply for charity status in future. Shyam Das was elected as Chairperson of the network and Menaka Thomas as the Secretary. A few youngsters are made as office bearers and members of this network. We wish the entity success.

*Special Talks* Swami Atmeshananda was invited to give talks and attend festivals, events and fairs by different groups throughout the year. He gave a talk during the Brisbane Kannada Sangha's Ganesha puja utsav at the Griffith University Multifaith centre on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

The Theosophical Society Brisbane lodge invited Swamis to give a talk on Sri Ramakrishna and Swami Vivekananda at their centre in Brisbane city on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Swami Vireshananda gave the talk which was much appreciated.

### *Ganesha Temple Prayer and Image Care*

Members and devotees of the centre took turns regularly to conduct daily evening prayers at the Centre. They also helped maintain the statue of Sri Ramakrishna at the Sri Selva Vinayakar Koyil (Ganesha Temple) at South Maclean by cleaning, dressing and offering worship. We are grateful to all of them for their service.



## Cultural Programmes

On September 1, 2018, the Centre organised a Sitar and Tabla recital featuring Saikat Bhattacharya on the Sitar and Pandit Hindole Majumdar on the Tabla. The event was well attended by the community.

Nritya Bharati school of kathak dance dedicated its annual programme on the 6<sup>th</sup> April to the Vedanta Centre. Profit from the event was donated to our Centre.



A music extravaganza by Shankar Mahadevan was conducted by RKS foundation in aid of the Vedanta Centre on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Brisbane Convention centre and Sydney Hillsong Convention centre, respectively.

## Benevolent Activities and AGM

### BREAKFAST IN AID OF FARMERS' DROUGHT RELIEF

Come and join us for a breakfast programme in aid of the **Farmers' drought relief fund**

In attendance:

- Swami Sridharananda, President, Vedanta Centre
- Charis Mullen, MP for Jordon



Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 | 8.30 am to 9.30 am

Venue: Vedanta Centre, 96 Vedanta Drive, Springfield Lakes

Breakfast is **FREE**

Contributions **WELCOME**  
towards the Farmers Relief is



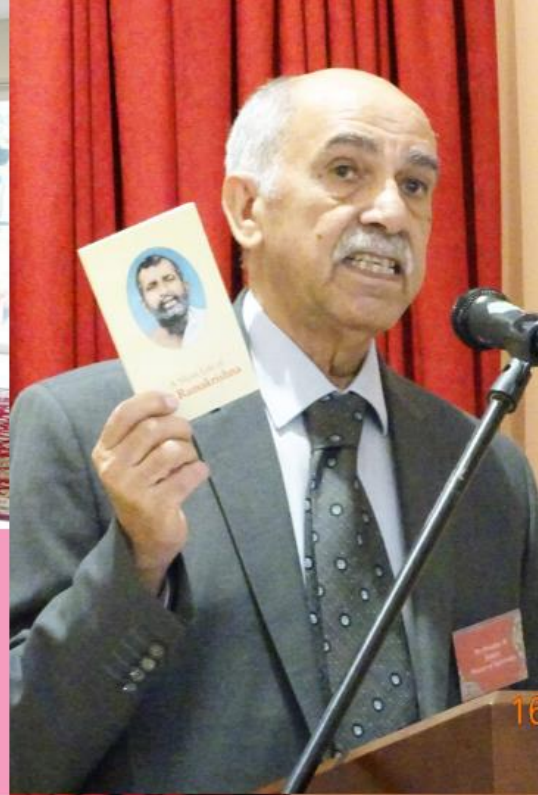
Following the breakfast, there will be Puja (worship) from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Centre will take place after the worship

The Centre held a Breakfast programme with Charis Mullen, MP and Sen. Milton Dick, MP on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to raise funds towards the Qld Premier's Farmers' drought relief fund. A sum of \$6000 was donated towards the fund by the Centre.

The AGM of the Centre was conducted on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018. Swami Sridharanandaji officiated as the Chairman of the Meeting. A special puja was also held on the occasion and Swami Sridharanandaji thanked all volunteers and supporters of the Centre.





## MULTIFAITH PROGRAMME MARCH 2019





***Yoga Retreat*** Mr.Rajendra of Vasudevakriyayoga, Melbourne, conducted a two-day long yoga retreat from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Dr.Madhavi Kathiria gave demonstration talk about healthy Ayurvedic cooking to the participants.

***Spiritual Retreat*** A live-in spiritual retreat was held during Easter at Mount Glorious from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2019. Swami Sridharanandaji gave a talk and Swamis Vireshananda and Atmeshananda gave two talks which was attended by about 20 devotees.

***Picnic and bushwalk*** The Centre held bushwalk on a prearranged day during a fixed day in a month in 2018-19. Yoga, meditation and chanting as well as bushwalk comprised of this regular programme.



***Bala Sangha programme (childrens classes)*** Menaka Thomas and Atul Deshpande conducted children's Sunday classes regularly during school terms. The children are taught yoga, hymns, devotional songs, and significance of religion, play enacting and allied subjects. The centre acknowledges the significant contribution of the devotees towards this activity.

***Hinduism was taught*** at the West End Primary School every week during school term by Jeyamala Nahendran and Jayshree Kapadia.



## *Library and book stall*

The Centre arranged book stalls during the financial year at the FICQ's Diwali celebrations at King George Square, Brisbane on 25th October 2019. A permanent book stall and a reading library is located at the Centre.

## *Guest house at the Ashram*

Devotees from Australia and overseas visited and stayed at the guest house during the year. They also made use of the extensive land for their spiritual practices. A few Swamis from overseas and from Australia also visited.

## *Addition to the building*

A patio was added to the lower ground floor connecting the hall with the outside space. A sum of \$12,000 was spent towards this purpose.

Further, we wish to set up a kitchen to cater to the community's needs. At present, volunteers cook in their homes. A kitchen facility with commercial equipment is needed. The kitchen will be used for the Centres meals distribution programmes. With such a facility, we hope to expand the meals distribution to reach the needy and vulnerable members of the wider community in western Brisbane.

## *Obituary*

With deep sorrow, we wish to put on record the passing away of some of our members. Mrs. Thevagy Radhakrishnan, Richard Weingarten. Both contributed much towards the development of our Centre. May their soul rest in peace.

*The Centre is lucky to have very committed volunteers. Regular maintenance and upkeep of the building is carried out by the volunteers. Their selfless and untiring work helps the centre to carry on its activities with ease. The management of the Vedanta centre express its indebtedness to all the donors, supporters and volunteers for their selfless service.*

*Shyam Das, Secretary*

*Unnikrishnan Nair, Asst. Secretary*





## Section 3

## Our Finances

### Financial Statements

Prepared by:  
Suresh Lakshmanan, CA  
Registered Tax Agent

**Brisbane Chapter Of The Vedanta Centre Of Sydney**  
**A.B.N. 26 745 853 272**

**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

	Note	2019	2018
Revenue from Ordinary Activities	2	306,520	174,217
Administration Expenses	3	(365,250)	(84,161)
Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities		(58,730)	90,056
TOTAL CHANGES IN MEMBERS FUND		(58,730)	90,056

Prepared by:  
Suresh Lakshmanan, CA  
Registered Tax Agent

**Brisbane Chapter Of The Vedanta Centre Of Sydney**  
**A.B.N. 26 745 853 272**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2019**

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	145,776	124,569
Trade and other receivables	5	19,763	61,043
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		165,539	185,612
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6	65,939	42,077
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		65,939	42,077
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		231,478	227,689
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade Creditors and other payables	7	160,309	97,790
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		160,309	97,790
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		71,169	129,899
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained Profits	8	71,169	129,899
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		71,169	129,899

### Grants and Funding

During the financial year we received \$5000 grant from the Ministry of Multicultural Affairs, Queensland, towards holding of the Multicultural Annual Programme. We sincerely thank the QLD Government for their continued support and assistance.

## *Section 4                      Other Important Information*

### *Acknowledgments & Thankyou*

The management of the Vedanta centre express its indebtedness to all the donors, supporters and volunteers for their selfless service. We acknowledge the generous donation of all the members of the community to ensure that our activities are conducted in a befitting manner.

Our organisation values the commitment of volunteers who contribute their time, energy and resources towards the smooth running of the Centre activities.

### *How you can help*

*Become a Member* Annual membership is open to anyone who appreciates the concept of Universal Religion as embodied in the Vedanta Philosophy, the theme of India's Spiritual Culture.

*Volunteer Your Time* The Centre is run by volunteers who support all facets of its operations. New volunteers are welcome. We particularly need help in our meals distribution program, gardening and cleaning/maintenance.

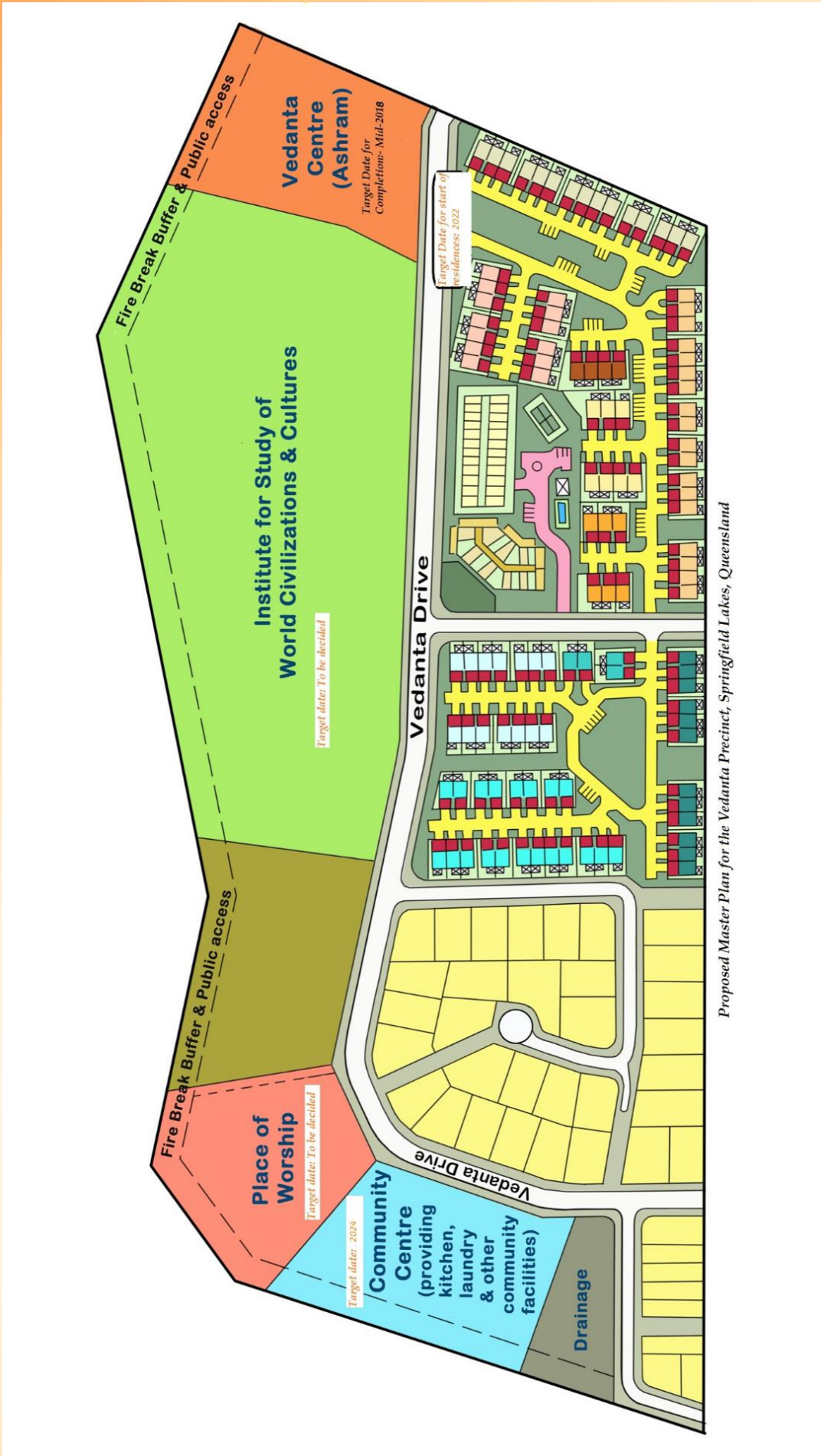
*Make a Donation* your financial support is indispensable to the successful running of the Centre. There are various ways of contributing to the mission:

- A donation
- A pledged monthly contribution via direct debit request (DDR)
- An interest free loan to the Centre for 1-5 years

*Leave a Bequest* A bequest is a gift left in a will. The Ramakrishna Mission was built on the charity and strength of generations before us. Please prayerfully consider including a gift in your Will to carry forward the mission of the Vedanta Centre so that others may benefit in knowledge and spiritual strength. For more information please contact the Vedanta Centre.



Looking to the Future





## *Contact Us*

### *The Vedanta Centre, Brisbane Chapter*

96 Vedanta Drive, Springfield Lakes (behind 2 Poppy Crescent)

4300 QLD, Australia

Tel: (07) 3818 9986

[www.vedantabrisbane.org](http://www.vedantabrisbane.org)

Email: [info@vedantabrisbane.org](mailto:info@vedantabrisbane.org)



@brisbanevedanta