

SAIVA MAHA SABAI of WA (Inc)

A CENTRE FOR WORSHIP, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Murugan Thunai!

முருகன் துணை!

Dear devotees

அன்பான பாலமுருகன் அடியார்கள் அனைவருக்கும் வணக்கம்!!

RE: Request for support - Project to commission Vahanas (Rides for Temple Deities) for the Perth Bala Murugan Temple

The Saiva Maha Sabai of WA Inc. [SMS] Management Committee [MC] is pleased to inform that a group of volunteers are proposing to enhance the presentation of the temple by adding more "Vahanas" for use during the annual festival and special events. Please refer to the attached proposal for further details.

The MC decided to support this endeavour as it meets our objective of developing the Temple further into a cultural centre of excellence and pass on our traditions and heritage to the next generation. This project also provides an opportunity for all devotees to come together as a community to play a part in the development of the Temple's future outlook. It is expected that the project will be completed with entirely voluntary donations made by devotees for this specific purpose.

As the first step, the project coordinators would welcome your commitments towards any of the vahanas listed in the attached proposal. If you would like to be part of this project, please send a text or WhatsApp message with your contact details to be included to the project group. You will then be able to receive regular updates on the progress of the project.

Voluntary project coordinators: S Nanthavarman M: 0420 216 087
S Nilakshan M: 0403 307 557

All donations towards this project will be received directly through the Temple bank account:
o Saiva Maha Sabai of WA INC. Operating Account No. 306-085 0170059

What is being requested currently is your commitment towards contributing to the purchase of a specific vahana(s). Once quotes / estimates are obtained and purchasing decisions are made, devotees will be provided with further details, including payment options.

SMS Management Committee coordinator is Assistant treasurer Mr Ratnasabapathy Manikandan [M: 0405 555 682]. We encourage all our devotees to be a part of this worthwhile initiative by making a generous donation. May the blessings of Lord Bala Murugan be upon you.

Yours sincerely / மிகுந்த நன்றியுடன்

Mahadevan [Jaya] Jayabalan JP / மகாதேவன் ஜெயபாலன் JP
President / தலைவர்
Saiva Maha Sabai of WA (Inc) / சைவ மகா சபை

18/11/2023

Proposal to initiate a project to commission *Vahanas* (Rides for Temple Deities) for the Perth Bala Murugan Temple

Background

Vahanas (Vehicles of Deities) form an important part of our Hindu heritage and mythology. They are the creatures that serve as the vehicle, or “carrier,” and as the sign of particular Deities. The *vahana* accompanies or serves as the seat or mount of its Deity.

At Perth Bala Murugan Temple, currently the following *vahanas* are present: *Mayil* (Peacock); *Eli* (Mouse); *Eruthu* (Bull); and *Simmam* (Lion).

Proposal

This proposal seeks to commission a project to procure additional *vahanas* for the Temple, in particular, for use at the annual festival and special events such as *Navarathri*, *Skanda Sashty* and *Thiruvembavai*. Each *vahana* could be sponsored by an individual or a family or a group of individuals and/or families.

Objectives

The project has the following objectives:

1. To enhance the cultural presentation of the Temple, especially during annual festival and special occasions.
2. Using specific *vahanas* appropriate to each special event, thus enabling the knowledge transfer on Hindu mythology and traditions to the next generation.
3. Promotion of the Temple as a Centre of Hindu Cultural Excellence to both Hindu and non-Hindu communities in Australia.
4. Direct and/or indirect economic contribution to sculptors, support workers and their families whose livelihoods may depend on this art and craft industry.
5. Preservation of our cultural heritage outside of our home countries in our new places of residences.
6. Attracting more families to take part in the annual festival and special events (e.g. those who sponsor the Temple annual festival on a particular day could expand their membership and sponsor the procurement of the *vahana* as a group).

Project outline

The temple committee would consider the proposal and if approved, promote it to devotees.

Quotes and options to procure the *vahanas* would be obtained and shared with devotees.



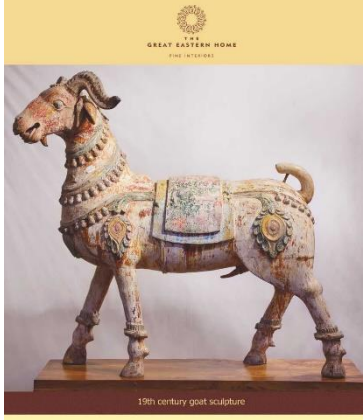

Devotees could be invited to express their interest to sponsor a *vahana*(s) and make their contribution dedicated to this project, and for the specific *vahana*.

Either the relevant group of devotees sponsoring a *vahana* or the Temple committee could assist with the procurement of the *vahana*.

If all *vahanas* are made with one provider, there may be benefits in relation to design, quality, cost and transportation. These options will be considered by the committee in consultation with sponsors.

The following *vahanas* are proposed for consideration under this project. The final list could be determined by the committee in consultation with subject matter experts, including priests and sculptors.

(Photos are for illustration only; each supplier could be asked to provide photos of *vahanas* that they have previously made)

Vahana	Appropriate festivals
<p data-bbox="204 309 421 338">Yaanai (Elephant)</p> 	<p data-bbox="722 309 1289 376">Annual Festival; Navarathri (for Lakshmi); Thiru Kalyanam (for Valli Kalyanam)</p>
<p data-bbox="204 743 400 772">Kuthirai (Horse)</p> 	<p data-bbox="722 743 1289 810">Annual Festival (Vettai Thiruvizha); Navarathri - Maanampoo</p>
<p data-bbox="204 1146 357 1176">Aadu (Goat)</p> 	<p data-bbox="722 1146 1098 1176">Annual Festival; Skanda Sashty</p>
<p data-bbox="204 1648 384 1677">Annam (Swan)</p> 	<p data-bbox="722 1648 1369 1715">Annual Festival (Theertham); Saraswathi Pooja during Navarathri</p>

Vahana	Appropriate festivals
<p>Kaamadenu (Gift granting cow)</p> 	<p>Annual Festival (Theertham); Thiruvembavai; Thai Pongal</p>
<p>Ainthu Thalai Nagam (Five headed Cobra)</p> 	<p>Annual Festival; Ekadashi; Deepawali</p>
<p>Kailasa Vahanam (Mount Kailash with Ravana)</p> 	<p>Annual Festival; Sivarathri; Pradosham</p> <p>(This may need to be a separate stage of the project as this is likely to cost more, and different options may need to be considered - with wheels)</p>

Estimated cost

As per available estimates, it is expected each vahana could cost between \$1,500 to \$2,000, excluding transportation. Competitive quotes could be obtained through multiple sculptors.

Viability of achieving the project outcome

It is considered viable to raise the necessary funds to achieve the project outcomes. For example, if one group comprising 10 families that sponsor a particular day of the Annual Festival would come forward to sponsor a vahana, the cost per family is likely to be in the range of \$200 - \$300, with transport costs yet to be estimated.

With this one off investment the project may lead to multiple positive outcomes to the community.