



UNITED INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS Inc.

ABN 56 436 329 807 Reg No Y 2133 744 * Suite G5, 162-172 Church St. Parramatta NSW 2150

Postal Address: PO Box 575, Strathfield, NSW 2135 Australia

www.uia.org.au

MEDIA RELEASE

UIA Australia Day & Indian Republic Day Celebrations 2009 – Glittering and Successful

The Port Orient venue with full view of beautiful Darling Harbor provided the perfect setting for combined Australia Day & Indian Republic Day Celebrations 2009 hosted by United Indian Associations. The UIA functions have become show pieces of the Indian community and these celebrations lived up to those UIA standards, attended by Politicians, both State and Federal, Celebrities and Dignitaries.

Among the guests were Hon. Barbara Perry, representing the Premier of NSW, Hon. Barry O'Farrell, Leader of Opposition, Hon. Louise Markus, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, Minister Hon. Graham West, Parliamentary Secretaries Hon. Laurie Ferguson and Hon. John Murphy, Acting Consul General of India Consul Mr. Yadu Dayal. We can not separate Indians from Cricket and some of the very big names of Cricket were in attendance - Chairman of Cricket NSW Dr.Harinath, CEO of Cricket NSW David Gilbert and Stuart McGill, one of the finest leg spinners of contemporary cricket who donned the baggy green in more than 40 tests taking more than 200 test wickets.

Raj Natarajan, President of UIA welcomed the gathering and said this is a unique day for Indian Australians because it happens to be the national day of the country of our origin and the country we call home. He said this is a perfect opportunity for us to feel proud of our heritage and at the same time celebrate as proud Australians.

Indian Australians, Raj Natarajan said have been able to pick the best of both worlds - from Western world attributes like the sense of adventure, structured thinking and action, quality consciousness and disciplined social behavior and from India family values, creativity in Arts and Science and the Gandhian values of non-violence, peace, love and compassion. This intelligent selection has lead, over the years, to a community of law abiding and socially responsible citizens. This has contributed to the success story of Indian migration to Australia over the last 50 years. On 26th January every year, Raj said, we reflect on these great positives and look forward to a brighter future as Australians of Indian heritage.

In today's world, Australia and India face similar challenges like global terrorism and unprecedented Economic downturn. Raj further added that Indian Australians through United Indian Associations stand ready to help both NSW and Federal Governments to build those bridges with India to tackle the problems and challenges confronting the two countries.

Hon. Barbara Perry, Hon. Barry O'Farrell, Hon. Laurie Ferguson and Hon. Louise Markus all spoke glowingly about the strong bilateral ties between India and Australia and also acknowledged the contribution of the Indian Migrants to Australia and role played by UIA in helping the community. Mr. Yadu Dayal was this year's recipient of UIA Australia Day & Indian Republic Day honor for his help and contribution to the Indian Australian Community during his tenure at the Office of Consul General of India, Sydney.

The highlight of the evening was on-stage interview conducted by Raj Natarajan with Cricketer Stuart McGill who talked about possibility of the Australian Cricket Team losing it's number 1 status, India emerging as Cricket super power and some of the controversies surrounding the cricketing world. Sonia of GoWyld provided the event management and UIA thanked for Sonia's contribution for the success of the event.
