



## *UNITED INDIAN ASSOCIATIONS Inc.*

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

## ***The India Australia Friendship Fair 2007***

**ORGANISED BY: United Indian Associations Inc.**

### **A Grand Success (Biggest and Finest Ever)**

Athletic Centre , Sydney Olympic Park came alive on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2007 with the aroma of Indian Curry and the pulsating sounds of Bollywood Music and the beauty & color of Indian dance. An estimated 22,000 people attended the Fair filling the whole arena. Celebrities, Cricket superstar Brett Lee, home grown Bollywood actress Tania Zaetta and man with the golden voice Kamahl were mobbed as they made their appearance at the Fair.

The largest celebration of Indian culture, the country and its people, the ***India Australia Friendship Fair*** (IAFF) brought thousands of people from the Indo Australian community together in celebration of 60<sup>th</sup> Year of Indian Independence. Indian and Australian flag waving children could be seen as far as the eye can see.

As the sun shone brightly on the Sydney Olympic Park, the official ceremony attended by the premier of New South Wales, Hon. Morris Iemma, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Hon. Kevin Andrews and Ex. Premier Neville Wran and a host of federal and state parliamentarians and several dignitaries started off with children clad in traditional Indian dresses singing the national anthems of Australia followed by India with great fervor.

President of United Indian Associations, Mr. Raj Natarajan welcomed the fair attendees as well as the invited Guests and spoke about the emotional attachment Australians of Indian background have for their country of birth, India and the vital role they can play in enhancing the trade, sporting, cultural and commercial ties between India and Australia. Premier paid tribute to the great traditions of India and also commended the Indian Australians living in NSW for their contribution to the state of NSW in particular and Australia in general.

Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Hon. Kevin Andrews acknowledged the hurt Dr.Haneef's case has caused to the Indian community and reiterated that this issue in no way diminishes the high esteem in which the Indian Community is held in Australia and at the same time praised the great work India doctors, in particular, are doing in Australia for the last 50 years. He further stressed his Government's commitment to non-discriminatory Immigration program.

Indian culture was truly on display with demonstrations and workshops in yoga, and the main stage showcasing Bollywood Spectacular of music and dance. Other attractions included AFL Clinic, Kanga Cricket, Camel Ride, Children fun rides which kept every one entertained and busy.

An icon amongst the Indo Australian community, the ***India Australia Friendship Fair 2007*** lived up to it's reputation as a versatile and unique event where people from both the Indian community and the Australian community at large can share in celebration of the diverse, magical and colorful Indian cultural heritage.

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