

Fair Director's Speech-14-8-2005



Fair Director Mr. Raj Natarajan, speaking during India Australia friendship fair 2005 At Sydney Olympic park
As part of the Indian independence day celebration
Sunday 14th Aug 2005.

Thank you Sreenadh and Very good afternoon. India Australia Friendship Fair 2005 has grown in stature and I consider myself very fortunate to be involved as the Fair director for the second year in a row. This fair provides a perfect platform to showcase Indian Culture and thus recognise and celebrate the contribution of Indian Migrant Community to Australian multicultural society over the last 4 to 5 decades.

This Fair's central theme is celebration of Indian Independence Day and Australian & Indian Friendship. Fair also recognises the common values India and Australia share – the strong democratic institutions, Multicultural society, mutual respect for other cultures and that everlasting love of sport, especially the game of Cricket.

That is why one of the special features of this Fair is “Kanga Cricket” – kids cricket clinic which is organised thanks to Cricket NSW. Other special features include the Indian Cuisine, Bollywood and Yoga/Meditation – some of the exciting things Indian Migrants have brought to Australia. Above all we have brought the Mahatma Gandhi's message of “Non-Violence, Love and Compassion”.

Could I now request the President of United Indian Associations, Dr.Siddalingeswara Orekondy to welcome the special and guests and tell us more about the organisation behind this mega event.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend our warm welcome to some special Guests:

Hon. Louise Markus, Hon. Barbara Perry, Hon. Paul Lynch, Mr. John Ferguson, David Richmond of Sydney Olympic Park Authority. I wish to specifically

acknowledge assistance and support John Ferguson has continuously provided for this Fair.

Warm Welcome to all our major Sponsors:

- **Kylie Menzies** of Qantas,
- **Paul Crawford, Chris Cruzado, Leeann Ellison** of Western Union
- **Subhas Shetty** of Xpress Money
- **Kumar Mahadevan** of Abhi's and Aki's Indian Restaurants
- **Mark Brady** Organiser of Merchants of Bollywood
- **Mr. David Gilbert** CEO of Cricket NSW
- **Meera and Ajoy Joshi** of Nilgiris Indian Restaurant, Crows Nest
- **Kwang Lu & Jay Kumar** of SBS Radio
- **Sri of HSBC and Taj Indian Restaurant**

Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes the official ceremony.