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Diwali Dhoom 2015 is Presented by:

Indian Australian Cultural Association – Illawarra, Inc.

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Diwali Dhoom 2015!

PROGRAM BROCHURE



Saturday, 7 November 2015

5:30pm – 11:00pm

The Illawarra Grammar School

Powell Street, West Wollongong, NSW 2500



The Doctors and Staff at Wollongong Diagnostics wish our dear Community and Friends a very bright and prosperous Diwali.

With best wishes

Dr Alok Gupta

Dr Arunima Gupta

Dr Dharmesh Modi



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Menu

Entrée



Samosa



Harabhara Kebab



Cheese Fingers

Mains

Tava Sabzi



Kashmiri Angoori Kofta



Panch Ratan Dal



Kadhai Paneer



Bread/Rice

Puris



Jeera Rice



Sides



Cucumber Raita



Pickles



Bagicha Salad

Dessert & Beverages



Boondi Ladoo



Jalebi



Masala Chai

Dear Community Member

On behalf of the IACAI Management Committee, I welcome you all to the IACAI Annual Diwali Celebrations tonight.

I wish you all a very Happy Diwali. The 5 days of Diwali, besides being full of fun and enjoyment have a lot of social, religious and cultural significance. The first day signifies the prevalence of good over evil. Next follows Lakshmi Puja when the families have an opportunity to thank the Goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, for all the prosperity and good fortune bestowed on the family. On the day of padwa, the bond between husband and wife is renewed with a small ceremony at home. It is also the Business New Year. At night, all business' have a Puja ceremony followed by lots of fire crackers and distribution of sweets. It is a really big evening. Next is the day of Bhau-beej when the brother visits the sister. It is a reminder of their ever-lasting loving bond and the brother's protection of his sister. Even though all these customs are more than a few thousand years old, they still apply to our modern day society and indirectly remind us of the importance of the family unit as well as the significant role women play in our lives and that their contribution to the family unit is second to none. You may read more on the significance of this festival in the "Diwali – My Favourite Festival" article in this Program Brochure.

As you know, this year, Dr Manilal Daya resigned as the President of IACAI. On behalf of IACAI and our community, I once again take this opportunity to thank him for doing such a marvellous job of bringing together our diverse community.

Tonight you will enjoy lots of wonderful performances, highlighted by the Kathputli show, which I'm sure you will enjoy.

Please take this opportunity to meet and welcome our newer arrivals to the Illawarra area.

Dr Sharad Tamhane

President

Indian Australian Cultural Association – Illawarra, Inc. (IACAI)





Wish you and your family a very happy Diwali

**May God fulfil all your wishes in
wealth, health & happiness in your life**

Happy Diwali

Dr Lata Tamhane & Dr Sharad Tamhane

**May this Diwali bring to You, Your Family & Friends
Happiness, Joy, Peace & Prosperity
HAPPY DIWALI!**

Josh, Smita & Ashutosh Agarwal

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Interesting Diwali Facts

- Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains and while the religious significance varies, they all spiritually mark the victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, good over evil, hope over despair!
- Sikhs celebrate Diwali to mark the BandiChhor Divas, when Guru HarGobindJi freed himself from Jahangir's prison and arrived at the Golden Temple in Amritsar!
- It is believed that Lord Mahavira, the last of the Jain Tirthankar of this era, attained Nirvana or Moksh on this day at Pavapuri on 15 October 527 BCE!
- In West Bengal, India Goddess Kali is worshipped and the festival is called Kali Puja!
- In other regions, people celebrate legends about Lord Krishna!
- In South, certain parts of Northern India and Western India, Diwali also marks the start of a new Hindu year!

Happy Diwali and the New Year!

IACAII Management Committee

**May the Divine Light of Diwali Spread Peace,
Prosperity, Happiness into your Life
Happy Diwali!**



Dr. Atul Rakheja, Dr. Namita Rakheja, Aanya Rakheja & Aahan Rakheja

What's New This Diwali?

This year, IACAI has initiated an art competition for our young community members. This competition is for the children between 5 to 12 years age group. The theme of this year's art competition is "Diwali the Festival of Lights".

A large number of children participated in this year's art competition. The entries will be displayed on the video in tonight's program. Winners will also be declared and prizes will be given.

IACAI will continue to strive to come up with more innovative ways to engage our community especially the young members, the future of our community.

We strongly encourage all community members to participate in these initiatives and help us keep our culture thriving!

Happy Diwali and the New Year!
IACAI Management Committee

Please Keep the School Hall Clean!



Cultural Program

5.30pm onwards

WELCOME

Prerna Samtani and Riya Wadhwa - MCs

1: GANESH VANDANAM

Performed by Nishka Sharma, Reyansh Sharma, Pranjali Agalgaonkar & Shilpa Sharma

2: KALALAYA DANCE SCHOOL – "JAYA JAYA DEVI & GANESH VANDANAM"

Performed by Ashika Bahl, Gowri Babwaj, Ameesha Gogulan, Bhaavya Gupta, Rithanya Jeyachandran, Sirichandana Sampalli, Nishka Sharma, Saniya Sharma, Lavanya Chavda, Rhea Khanna, Diya Mehan, Aaba Mundada, Sadurshi Prabakaran and Radha Vyas

3: NACHLE DANCE SCHOOL – "NACHLE DANCING SITARE"

Performed by the kids team, consisting of Abia Jayesh, Arya Cherukuri, Caitlin Sinoy, Dia Chunackara, Evana Najendran, Gloria Augustin, Jenna Sojan, Jennifer Jogen, Joanane Siby, Ketzia Jomon, Livy Dhires, Nayana Jayesh, Shreya John, Shreya Saju, Simran Pala, Alisha Manoj, Arshia John, Grace Peter, Jaqueline Jogen, Maria Siby, Neelav Chakraborty, Rhani Hira, Risha Kana, Sheryl Saju, Siya Mittal and Shawn John

4: GUITAR

Performed by Kamy Shah

5: KATHPUTLI /STRING PUPPETS

Jashn Events & Entertainments

6: IACAI – PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Presented by Dr. Sharad Tamhane

7: BOLLYWOOD XCLUSIVE – "NATANAM ADINAR"

Performed by Smt. Kalavathi Vedaraman, Smt. Viji Venkatand Kumari Rithika Yanamandram

8: GARBA

Performed by Aarti Suka, Harita Mehta, Dimpal Valera, Anuradha Chavda, Vidiya Ramachandran and Madhuri Vandara.

9: KALALAYA DANCE SCHOOL – “ NATESHA GOWTHUVAM”

Performed by Bharthi Mundada, Aanya Rakhja, Jai-dev Vyas, Bhargav Vyas, Sri Lekha Lankela and Sri Harisha Lankela

10: THE ILLAWARRA GRAMMAR SCHOOL – HEADMASTER’S ADDRESS

Presented by Mr. Stephen Kinsella

11: BOLLYWOOD XCLUSIVE – TELUGU AND TAMIL DANCE

Performed by Rithanya Jeyachandran, Surabhi Parab, Phalakh Gargh, Riyah, Renu Vyshnavi Vemulapalli, Vansika Sai Daruvuri and Asniya Aziz Moughal

12: NACHLE DANCE SCHOOL – “NACHLE THUMAKDA”

Performed by Amirtha Jeyarathan, Kamyah Shah, Nima Mathew, Priyanka Lakshmaiah, Rachael Stanley, Sherin Alex, Swapna Vijaya kumar, Sushma Siddhi, Vidiya Ramachandran and Widya Wijaya

13: GIDDHA/BHANGRA

Performed by RiteshBarua, Nitish Sharma, Sanjeev Gambhir, Anita Gambhir, Verdaan Gambhir, Armaan Gambhir, Mehar Gambhir, Ashish Agalgaonkar, Pranjali Agalgaonkar, Prathamesh Agalgaonkar, Damyanti Sharmi, Mukesh Sharma, Shilpa Sharma, Rashmi Gupta, Twinkle Gupta, Shardul Gupa, Saurabh Soni, Ambika Soni, Sonal Shah and Avani Shah

14: VIDEO – “THE IGNORANT INTERVIEW”

Created by Divya Murthy

15: KATHPUTLI SKIT

Jashn Events & Entertainments

16: AALAAPANA

Sandhya Kalvacharla& Satya Srinivas

End of cultural programme

7.50 – 9.00 pm: Dinner

9.00 pm onwards: DJ/Disco

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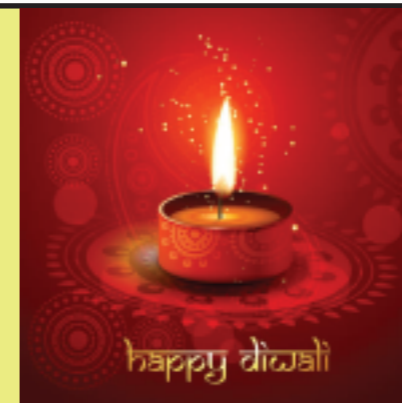
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and bring joy and prosperity to you

HAPPY DIWALI

**Usha Fernandez &
Dr Cedric Fernandez**



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Happy Diwali!
May the lights of this Diwali
bring you joy & happiness!

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**Wish you a Happy Diwali and a
Prosperous New Year!**
May this festival of lights bring a
world of sparkling joy, happiness &
contentment to you to last you the
whole year through!

Dr Manilal, Urmilla & Pranita Daya

Wish You a Happy Diwali & a Prosperous New year !

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Happy Diwali



Dr Bheem Rajpal, Sonam Rajpal and Family
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May Deepavali, the festival of lights illuminate
your life & shower you with glory, prosperity,
health & peace!

With Compliments
Raghu, Rashmi, Divya
& Sameer Murthy

Wishing you the brightest & happiest moments that Diwali can bring
Happy Diwali!

Prashant Mohan, Jaya, Kusum & Sanjeev Mohan



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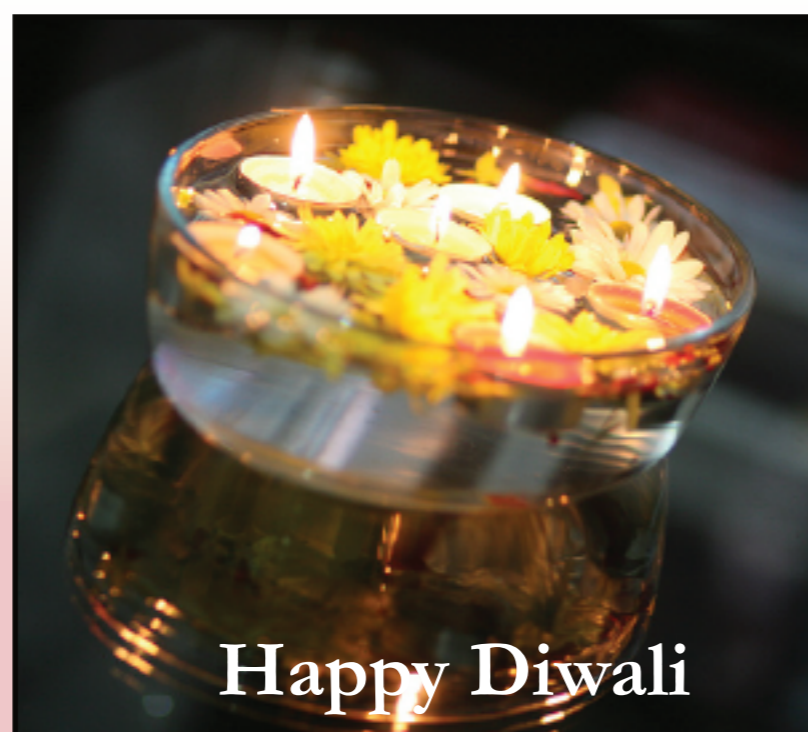
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Dr Arney Aurangabadkar, Dr Deborah Raper, Dr Chris Nikolich & Dr Ray Blumgart.

Diwali Dhoom 2015 Organisers and Volunteers:

Dr Sharad Tamhane	Mrs Usha Fernandez
Mr Ashutosh Agarwal	Mr Navneet Mittal
Dr Manilal Daya	Mrs Asha Khanna
Dr Vidiya Ramachandran	Mrs Urmila Daya
Mr Nagesh Kalavacharla	Mrs Kusum Mohan
Mrs Pramila Chaturvedi	Mr Sanjeev Mohan
Dr Rashmi Murthy	Mr Rajeev Chaturvedi
Dr Rahul Mehan	Dr Lata Tamhane
Ms Prerna Samtani	Mr Deval Shah
Lotus Mart	Ms Riya Wadhwa
	Dr Alok Gupta

Happy Diwali

May the lights of Diwali bring peace, harmony and joy to your life

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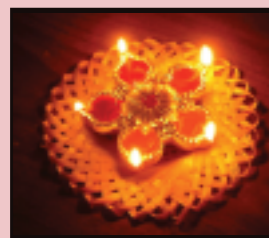
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Wishing you & your family Happy Diwali & Prosperous New Year
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Diwali – My Favourite Festival

Josh Agarwal

Diwali is the biggest Indian festival. It is celebrated in the month of Kartik according to the Hindu calendar which falls in the month of October/November every year. Diwali is also called "Festival of Lights" which signifies the victory of light over darkness.

Diwali is celebrated for many reasons. One of them is to commemorate the day when Lord Rama returned to his kingdom after his battle with the Demon King Ravana. The day Lord Rama returned, it was a moonless night. The people of Ayodhya lit diyas (small oil lamps) all over the Ayodhya. Some others believe that it is Goddess Lakshmi's birthday.

Diwali is a festival which many people around the world celebrate with lights, earthen lamps, candles, fireworks and sweets. It is celebrated over a five day period:

1. Dhanteras:

The first day of Diwali is called Dhanteras. People offer prayers to Goddess Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth) and Lord Ganesha. In some parts, people pray to Dhanvantri, as well.

2. Little Diwali:

The second day of Diwali is called Choti Diwali. This day is associated with the defeat of the demon king Naraka-sura by Lord Krishna, who freed 16,000 captive women reminding not to abuse our power and use our strength for good cause.

3. Diwali:

The third day of Diwali falls on the moonless night (Amavasya). This is the main festival day. This day is also celebrated as the New Year day.

4. Govardhana Puja:

The fourth day is associated with reconciliation and forgiveness. On this day, Lord Krishna is worshipped with offerings of food arranged in the form of Govardhana, a hill in Vrindavana city.

5. BhaiyaDuj:

The fifth and the last day of the celebrations, is dedicated to celebrating the relationship between a brother and a sister. According to one legend, on this day, Lord Krishna after slaying Narakasura, a demon, goes to his sister Subhadra's home who welcomes him with a lamp, flowers and sweets, and puts a holy protective tika on Lord Krishna's forehead.

Diwali is a time of happiness and love which I think should be shared by everyone. I and my friends look forward to receive gifts on the Diwali Day.

Happy Diwali to You!

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*Wishing Everyone
a Happy Diwali*

HAPPY DIWALI

From Dr Nisha & Team

Indian Australian Cultural Association – Illawarra, Inc.

IACAI Management Committee

Your association was born in early 1970s. A small group of friends informally came together and celebrated various festivities while maintaining their rich heritage and educating their children about their culture and reminding them of their roots.

The informal group of friends became an informal association and now a formalised body which you know as the Indian Australian Cultural Association of Illawarra Inc. (IACAI). Our community South of Sydney continues to grow exponentially and IACAI continues to be a great source of enjoyment and cultural education to hundreds of people every year.

As every other year, over the last 12 months, IACAI has hosted/organised Holi celebration in early 2015, India's Independence Day in August 2015 and now, this Diwali function. IACAI is at a stage where the demand for our Diwali function tickets is much more than what our current venue can accommodate.

IACAI is always looking for ways to make our programs a better experience for our community members. This year is no different. A lot of emphasis has been placed on the quality of our program, entertainment, facilities and of course, the food.

Every voluntary association relies on its volunteers. Most of our volunteers are also our advertisers/supporters. IACAI continues to encourage our community members and local businesses to support IACAI, without which we cannot offer better programs.

IACAI continues to send email newsletters, announcements and photos as well as where relevant, uploads these on its website from time to time. Sincere efforts are made to send email to all community members that are on our email database with all local events, news and other relevant information. Those who wish to be included or excluded from this list, please feel free to send your request by email on the address given below.

We wish you all a very happy, prosperous and peaceful Diwali and the New Year.

Indian Australian Cultural Association of Illawarra Inc.

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