



# DIWALI

## CULTURAL LUMINANCE

By Arun Sharma

“Diwali” – more popularly known as the “Festival of lights” in the western world is one of the most colorful, glamorous, & fun filled festivals of India.



Diwali is truly a reminder of the beauty of this world and all things in it – what a great message of hope and optimism this is for our children.

At Diwali time in India, there is a feeling of “unity in diversity” regardless of religious or other differences.

In towns and cities, public buildings are illuminated and throughout India homes are decorated with oil lamps and candles. People wear their smartest new clothes. Families come together for meals and exchange gifts or sweets. Prayers are offered to Lord Ganesha – the Lord of Wisdom and Goddess Laxmi – the Goddess of Wealth.

The atmosphere is one of joy and goodwill. Children look forward to Diwali in India in much the same way as they look forward to Christmas in the west.

At the end of the day, the sky is lit up by fire crackers and sparklers.

This festival signifies the “victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance”.





Visitors will be treated to an extraordinary range of activities such as the following:

- Bollywood performances and dance workshop
- Traditional dancing
- Live Band
- Activities for children
- Visit by Ranger Roo
- Henna (Traditional hand Painting)
- Variety of Indian cuisines, crafts and fashion stalls
- Diwali Boat on Yarra
- Fusion of Greek & Bollywood dancing would be some of the highlights of the event.
- Spectacular Fireworks at Yarra along with many surprise items
- Charity partner- National Breast Cancer Foundation.

## A Program Set to Delight

This year, Australia celebrates one of the largest Diwali festival events outside of India on Saturday, 30th October 10 at the Federation Square.

In past years, the Melbourne event draws in excess of 60,000 people attracted by a program featuring many local and overseas artists as well as dignitaries connected to the Indian communities of Australia.

The Festival will start with a five day Film Festival beginning from Monday 25th – till Friday 29th Oct 10.

A main feature of Melbourne's event is a 14 member Troupe from the colorful state of Rajasthan, India which is set to rock Melbourne with its powerful folk music and dance performances.



To mark the occasion, many of Melbourne's iconic buildings will be illuminated on this day including The Victorian Parliament, Museum, Exhibition Building, Federation Square, Consulate General of India, Melbourne Airport's (Arrival & Departure Lounge) along with many Indian homes and business premises.

This event is sponsored by the VMC, City of Melbourne, Melbourne Airport, Commonwealth Bank, Air India, Parks Victoria, Federation Square and many Corporate Groups.

More details will be available on our website [www.celebrateindia.org.au](http://www.celebrateindia.org.au)