

# India Club celebrates Diwali

In November, India Club organised a belated Diwali function for its members to enjoy an evening of fun, food and entertainment. The concept of a video clip of old songs being played as the artists performed items on some notable old Hindi numbers clicked well with the crowd. It was a relaxed evening along with entertainment: sipping wine and drinks and tasting delicious entrées, people enjoyed songs and dances that included new and old Bollywood styles, Spanish bolero, Cha-Cha and Can Can and consisting of jig, jive, jota, quickstep with a lot shuffle and stomps.

Shiva transformed the stage with his belly dance. He left everyone in awe as he belly danced, especially when he did a whole tabla jugalbandi that matched the rhythmic movements of his belly. His taut body skillfully produced a dance repertoire which set a different benchmark of what belly dancing can be. It was a delight to watch each and every artist - Indian dances by Cheryl Khurana and Annie Pathania enticed all with their vigour. The Spanish dancers were just exquisite in their demure dresses as they shuffled around the stage with



*(From left) Aishverya Nidhi; Akshay Kumar; Mike Thomas, Deputy Mayor The Hills Shire Council, Mrs Shubha Kumar, President India Club; Michael Richardson, MP Member for Castle Hill; and Lauri Ferguson, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services.*

their partners in beautifully designed costumes. Dancers switched from one item to another with new costumes in a matter of minutes and the sight was a riot of colours as they swirled and gyrated randomly. Aishverya Nidhi

compered the program with shairo-shayari as an interlude. Food came fast, plentiful and tasty, served by Maya Da Dhaba catering - a name that has become synonymous with Indian entertainment of such kind. Soon everyone

was on the floor to show their dancing skills while some sat around and watched. They mixed and mingled wishing every one a happy Diwali and best wishes for the start of new Indian financial year. Hardly anyone left the hall

before midnight, having thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The Chief Guest, Federal MP Laurie Ferguson, spoke glowingly about the Indian community as well as Shubha Kumar, the India Club president.