

ORAN PARK

Lights go up for festival

Bollywood fun and dancing comes to town

Daniel McGookin

BOLLYWOOD dance will headline Camden's first cultural festival, with the Festival of Lights ready to sparkle at Oran Park.

The cultural influences of India will be showcased, as the inaugural festival merges taste, performance and vibrant traditional dress.

Festival of Lights committee member Sana Al-Ahmar, from Macarthur Diversity Services Initiative, said it was a chance for the community to unite.

"There are a lot of people from the Oran Park area with Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi background and its great to celebrate their culture," Ms Al-Ahmar said.

"It's the first time a cultural festival has been done in Oran Park, aiming to promote inclusiveness and bringing people together."

Almost 20 per cent of residents in the Camden region

Dharma Inavolu, 13, Lara Symkowiak and Eashtha Inavolu, 7, prepare to celebrate a touch of Bollywood at the Festival of Lights. Picture: Matthew Vasilescu



are born overseas, with more than one in 10 residents born from a non-English speaking background, with a majority from India.

"There will be Indonesian, Vietnamese, Japanese

and local dance groups with a DJ playing Bollywood music," Ms Al-Ahmar said.

"It doesn't matter where you come from, it will be a fun day out for everyone."

Camden Mayor Lara

Symkowiak said she was proud to host the vibrant and dynamic event.

"The Camden area is home to people from all cultural backgrounds and our community continues to

change as it grows at a faster rate than almost anywhere else in Australia," she said.

The free event is on this Saturday, from 10am at Town Park, Oran Park.

• Details: camden.nsw.gov.au