

ORISCON

NEWSLETTER JULY 2025

Issue 12



ORISCON
ORANA RESIDENTS OF INDIAN
SUB-CONTINENTAL HERITAGE

NATIONAL INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF AUSTRALIA - DUBBO



NIFFA
REGIONAL
National Indian Film Festival
of Australia

Dubbo



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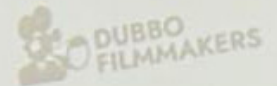
NFDC

29 JUN
22 JUN
2025

THE FIRST AND ONLY
NATIONAL ANNUAL CELEBRATION
OF INDIAN CINEMA IN AUSTRALIA

NIFFA
REGIONAL
Dubbo

DUBBO PRESENTERS



DUBBO SPONSORS



**LIGHTS, CAMERA, CULTURE:
DUBBO NIFFA BRINGS
STORIES TO LIFE**

LIGHTS, CAMERA, CULTURE: DUBBO NIFFA BRINGS STORIES TO LIFE

The Dubbo NIFFA (National Indian Film Festival of Australia) project was a vibrant celebration of culture, creativity, and community, made possible by the dedication and energy of local volunteers. Their outstanding contribution helped bring to life an event that wasn't just about cinema—it was about connection, storytelling, and shared experience.

This year's festival brought to Dubbo a rich and diverse array of Indian cinema, including short films, documentaries, and feature-length productions—both from Australia and overseas. These films offered thought-provoking narratives that explored themes of identity, migration, tradition, and modernity, creating a space for reflection and conversation.

The partnership between ORISCON, Dubbo Film Makers, and NIFFA demonstrated the power of collaboration—locally and nationally. While NIFFA brought national expertise and a strong curatorial vision, local support and coordination ensured the event resonated with regional audiences.

Beyond the screen, the festival also provided a platform for cultural celebration and dialogue. The DJ and Bollywood Night was a standout highlight, showcasing high-energy music and dance performances that brought people together in joyful celebration. Thoughtful panel presentations further enriched the festival experience, offering insights into regional issues and the lived realities of diverse communities, sparking important conversations about inclusion, identity, and opportunity.

We are proud of what was achieved through the Dubbo NIFFA project—a truly collaborative celebration of film, culture, and community. To everyone who contributed and participated, thank you for helping us bring these stories to life.



ORISCON SHOWCASES LOCAL TALENT AT NIFFA DUBBO CLOSING CEREMONY

ORISCON has always championed opportunities for local talent to shine, celebrating the vibrant cultural expressions of the Indian subcontinent within our regional communities. As part of the NIFFA Dubbo closing ceremony, ORISCON proudly presented a special performance by Sarayu and Solanki, two young local artists who captivated the audience with a stunning fusion of classical and contemporary Indian dance styles.

Their performance was more than just entertainment—it was a moving tribute to tradition, creativity, and the evolving identities of young multicultural Australians. The audience was visibly moved, with many praising the grace, energy, and confidence the dancers brought to the stage. It served as a reminder of the incredible talent that exists in our region and the power of the arts to bring communities together.

By nurturing and showcasing emerging performers, ORISCON continues to be a vital platform for cultural expression, inspiring pride in heritage while fostering intercultural appreciation and understanding.



FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL: POWERFUL PANELS CELEBRATING FILM, CULTURE AND REGIONAL TALENT



As part of the NIFFA Dubbo program, a dynamic panel discussion titled “From Global to Local” brought together influential voices in cinema, storytelling, and creative industries. The session offered a rare platform where global insights met local perspectives, shining a spotlight on the richness of regional talent and narratives.

Among the panellists was Dubbo-based filmmaker and creative visionary Sanjay Chandran, who shared his experiences in telling local stories with a global appeal. He was joined by celebrated personalities such as Achala Datar, a champion of Indian cinema and culture; Anupam Sharma, renowned producer and advocate for Australia-India film collaboration; and Nathan Shooter, a creative strategist passionate about regional innovation and storytelling.

The conversation explored how regional stories can resonate on international platforms, the challenges faced by creatives outside metropolitan hubs, and the importance of collaboration across cultures and geographies. The panel also discussed the growing momentum for local talent to connect with wider audiences through initiatives like NIFFA and community-led platforms.

The session not only inspired budding artists and storytellers in the audience but also reaffirmed the value of storytelling as a tool for cultural exchange, identity building, and global dialogue, rooted firmly in the local.

ORISCON'S APPRECIATION TO DUBBO SHOW SOCIETY

ORISCON extends our heartfelt appreciation to the Dubbo Show Society and especially to the leadership of Sue Hood for their generous contribution supporting our cultural performances during the 2025 Dubbo Show. This support not only enabled us to share the rich and diverse traditions of the Indian subcontinent with the wider community, but also strengthened the spirit of inclusion and celebration that makes the Dubbo Show so special.

We look forward to many more years of collaboration and partnership, working together to create memorable experiences that bring people from all backgrounds together.



MELA TEEYAN DA

Date: Saturday, 2nd August 2025

Venue: The Pastoral Hotel

Timings: 4pm onwards * *
DJ Party!

Ladies only event - 13+ ages

Gatepass - \$20 per person

Dress code: Traditional Indian

Please note:

Tickets are non refundable.



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Contact info:

Amrita Verma: 0406 641 595

Jas Thind: 0459 106 957

STEERING TOWARDS SAFETY: ORISCON'S DRIVER AWARENESS FORUM EQUIPS MIGRANTS FOR REGIONAL ROADS

On a crisp winter evening, 25th June 2025, over 70 community members gathered at Charles Sturt University in Dubbo for a vital Driver Awareness Training Forum – a project proudly funded by Transport for NSW and facilitated in partnership with NSW Police and Transport for NSW. Hosted by ORISCON, this interactive and family-inclusive event provided a much-needed educational experience for newly arrived migrants and culturally diverse communities who are unfamiliar with the unique driving conditions of regional New South Wales.

For many who settle in places like Dubbo and surrounding areas, driving is not a luxury – it's a necessity. Accessing employment, education, healthcare, and even groceries often require travel across long distances. Yet many new migrants come from urban environments where public transport is the norm, and the concept of driving through black ice on early winter mornings, navigating flooded roads in summer, or contending with dust storms and heavy fog is completely unfamiliar.

This training forum aimed to bridge that gap—not just by delivering information but by empowering participants with practical knowledge and situational awareness. Topics covered included:

- Road rules and traffic signs specific to NSW
- Safe speeds on rural roads and highways
- Night driving and animal hazards
- The impact of long grass, which can obscure visibility at intersections
- How to respond to emergency vehicles, accidents, or wildlife crossings
- Navigating gravel roads, single-lane bridges, and unsealed surfaces
- Seasonal risks like black ice, flooded causeways, and bushfire smoke
- What to do during dust storms or when visibility drops suddenly

The session was delivered in an engaging, interactive format, encouraging participants to ask questions, share experiences, and even take part in scenario-based demonstrations. NSW Police officers brought both authority and empathy, addressing concerns from participants who may feel intimidated by unfamiliar laws or enforcement systems.

Meanwhile, Charles Sturt University played a crucial role in making the event a success, generously providing the venue and logistical support. This collaboration demonstrated the power of community partnerships in building safer and more connected regions. Recognising that many parents would be attending, ORISCON also created a child-friendly experience, with entertainment, educational games, and resources provided for children so that parents could fully engage in the session. It was not only a learning opportunity—it was a celebration of community empowerment and inclusion.



Importantly, the driver awareness training is just one component of ORISCON's broader commitment to road safety. As part of the same initiative, ORISCON is facilitating free professional driving lessons for eligible participants, particularly women and young adults from migrant communities. These lessons are designed to build confidence behind the wheel and provide a pathway to obtaining a licence—ultimately supporting independence, employment, and wellbeing.

For someone new to Australia's vast and sometimes harsh terrain, getting behind the wheel can be daunting. But with the right education, support, and encouragement, it can also be a turning point—a step toward freedom, belonging, and resilience.

As one participant shared, "I didn't know what black ice was or that kangaroos might jump in front of your car at night. This workshop opened my eyes—and now I feel safer and more prepared."

ORISCON is proud to stand with Transport for NSW, NSW Police, and Charles Sturt University in helping our community drive forward—safely, confidently, and together.

LOOKING FORWARD

New Beginnings Towards Safety Driving Safety Awareness Forum 2

Welcome to the New Beginnings Towards Safety Driving Safety Awareness Forum 2! Join us at Room 120, 121, Building 901, Charles Sturt University for an informative event focused on promoting safe driving practices. Our forum will feature expert speakers, interactive workshops, and engaging discussions to help raise awareness about the importance of road safety. Don't miss this opportunity to learn valuable tips and strategies for staying safe on the road. Let's work together towards creating a safer driving environment for everyone!

When: 24 July 2025 from 530pm

Where: Charles Sturt University

Free Event Registration required: Tickets available through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-beginnings-towards-safety-driving-safety-awareness-forum-2-tickets-1466057229639>

Chai and chat a time to relax meet new people learn and share

Welcome to the New Beginnings Towards Safety Driving Safety Awareness Forum 2! Join us at Room 120, 121, Building 901, Charles Sturt University for an informative event focused on promoting safe driving practices. Our forum will feature expert speakers, interactive workshops, and engaging discussions to help raise awareness about the importance of road safety. Don't miss this opportunity to learn valuable tips and strategies for staying safe on the road. Let's work together towards creating a safer driving environment for everyone!

When Friday July 18 from 5pm to 730pm

Where: Salvation Army Orana 112 Gipps Street Dubbo

Free Event Registration required: Tickets available through Eventbrite:

Ticket Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chai-and-chat-a-time-to-relax-meet-new-people-learn-and-share-tickets-1466051141429>

For ORISCON members and friends



ORISCON RECEIVES SPARK & COMMUNITY EVENTS FUNDING FROM DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL

ORISCON is proud to have received two grants under Dubbo Regional Council's SparC and Community Events Funding programs—one to support the vibrant celebration of Teej and Teeyan, and another to deliver the culturally enriching Ramayana Dolls Storytelling Exhibition.

These grants have had a significant impact on ORISCON's capacity to respond to community aspirations, particularly in fostering belonging, cultural expression, and intergenerational learning within the Indian subcontinental and broader migrant communities.

The Teej and Teeyan event will provide a safe, joyful space for women and families to connect, celebrate heritage, and pass on traditions through music, dance, and ritual. It will strengthen social bonds and helped bridge cultural gaps by welcoming the wider community to learn and participate.

The Ramayana Dolls Storytelling project will create a unique educational and artistic experience that brings mythology and values-based storytelling to life through curated displays and performances. It will spark curiosity and conversations across age groups, offering young people a deeper understanding of their roots while inviting others to explore shared values across cultures.

Both projects will contribute to elevating ORISCON's ability to deliver high-quality, culturally grounded events that promote inclusion, wellbeing, and identity, while strengthening Dubbo's profile as a truly multicultural and creative city. We thank Dubbo Regional Council for recognising the importance of culture in community development and for walking alongside us in building a more connected and vibrant region.





YOU ARE INVITED TO



Dubbo TEEJ MELA 2025



PRESENTED BY:

Bjay Paul – Raine & Horne Leppington | Australia

Friday, 8th August 2025

Gates open: 4:00 PM | Program starts: 5:30 PM

Venue: Dubbo Regional Council

Platinum Sponsor:
Platypus Conveyancing

Silver Sponsors:

- Tilicho Consulting Group
- Maya Conveyancing

Supported by:

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- Dubbo Regional council
- Australian Government
- Kimmel house dubbo

Dubbo Nepalese Community Australia
A celebration of culture, community &
togetherness

