

Friendship Day 2007

Report by: Organisers of Friendship Day 2007

Once again Bangladeshi families lifted the spirit of friendship up with colour and performance.

Friendship Day 2007 was organised on Sunday 2 September 2007 at Charlie Bali reserve of Doonside. Nearly 80 Bangladeshi families living in Blacktown Council and around participated in the program. The day celebrates the friendship spirit of individuals through performance in arts, culture and sports.

The athletic field of Charlie Bali reserve was a perfect setting for an all round performance. Our national anthem of Australia and Bangladesh brought the whole place alive with a huge chorus.

This year, a great range of events was on offer. The Art competition was held on two topics: *we are friends* and *we are a team*. About 50 school children participated in the art competition. We are thankful to **Bangla Academy Australia** for their involvement in organising the Art competition.

Results of Art Competition:

Group	Topic	Age Group	1st	2nd	3rd
A	<i>We are friends</i>	Upto 6 Years	Asha Hossain	Farheen Ahsan	Joyeta Barua
B	<i>We are a team</i>	7 Years and above	Aadib Ahsan	Nowshin Alam	Deepa Alam
Judges : Naznin Haider		Mishu Rahman	Farhana Meem		
Coordinator - Anwar Akash					

The athletic tracks were mostly busy with races. Participants started their race from the **Bangla end** (the west side of the field). The finishing line was set at the **Aussie end** (east side of the field). Tug of war and Shot put have been extremely popular among the participants. Relay race was a new event this year and made a big mark on the event list. Over 100 participants competed in the sporting events.

Now in its fifth consecutive year, the Friendship Day 2007 has grown in popularity and reputation to become one of the most popular community programs in the west and is recognised as a key family get together for the development of friendship, solidarity and understanding.

We are pleased to advise that this year we will be donating an amount of \$300 to the 500bed under construction **Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital** in Bangladesh. Thanks to the volunteers who have given their personal time and effort to a number of activities for making it a success.

We congratulate the record number of people who participated and especially to the winners and placegetters.

We appreciate the valuable feedback from a number of people. We will try accommodating them where possible. We welcome any further feedback in improving our future programs.

Finally we thank you all who attended the program. It is you all who made a big difference.

We hope you enjoyed the 2007 Friendship Day. We look forward to a bigger event with a wider participation in our next Friendship day to be held on **Sunday 12 October 2008**.