

## CRAIGIEBURN



Rama Kandel, Madhuri Maskey, Sital Poudel, Shobha Poudel, Pratichha Bhattari and (front row) Nayana Bhandari and Harmanpreet Dhaliwal took part in a multicultural festival.

Picture: KYLIE ELSE

## Women join in a celebration of cultures

A CELEBRATION of colour and culture has helped foster harmony among women in Craigieburn.

For the first time, the Nepalese and Indian communities came together for Teej to Teeyan, a women's-only multicultural event embracing diversity.

The festival was organised by Dianella Community

Health in conjunction with the Craigieburn Nepalese Community and Oorja Foundation, with the women clad in red and green saris and kurtas.

Co-organiser Madhuri Maskey said the three-day celebration enabled the two communities to come together and enjoy different foods, participate in a full

day of fasting and wish for good health and prosperity for their families.

"We never crossed that boundary of societal cultural isolation," she said.

"It's the very first time we are breaking it and we are promoting cultural harmony.

"(There are) very few days women are so free from their

houses to express themselves.

"They enjoy music and dance and having the best food ... they are free from any household burden, they are free from any kind of discrimination."

The celebrations included group dances and briefings on the significance of Teej and Teeyan festivals.