



HOME TOWN: Tania Zaetta is back in Merbein for the centenary celebrations.

Tania shines from Bombay to Merbein

By Hannah Knight

SUNRAVSA will get a taste of Bollywood today when Tania Zaetta comes to town.

The 38-year-old Bollywood star spent her childhood in Merbein and is now an internationally sought after TV presenter, actress, radio announcer and celebrity speaker.

Keeping Merbein close to her heart, Zaetta will ride behind her father Dennis on a Mule Quad Bike in today's centenary parade.

While Zaetta splits her time between her Sydney and Gold Coast homes, she said Merbein had played a big part in her life.

"It's a huge honour for me to be back for this (the centenary)," she said.

"I was on air the other day and they googled me and I was listed as one of the most notable people to come out of Merbein.

"I was giggling, blushing and so proud all at the same time. I'll be trying to stay here for as long as possible - it will be great to be home."

A media favourite around the world, Zaetta made her "daredevil action girl" debut as host of hit TV show *Who Dare Wins*.

Zaetta then turned her attention to India, conquering Bollywood with four big name productions including *Bunty aur Babli*, *Dil Apna Punjabi*, *Salaam Namaste* and *Mr White, Mr Black*.

Zaetta arrived in Sunraysia yesterday and will appear in the Merbein Parade this afternoon.

She will also party at O'Malley's Irish Tavern tonight before meeting her fans at the Langtree Mall between 11am and 1pm tomorrow.

Ruby relives history

Paddle steamer calls in for centenary

By Sam Murdoch

THE PS *Ruby* made history yesterday as it travelled upstream from Wentworth to land at Merbein for the first time in 80 years.

It's been 14 years since the old girl has left the Wentworth area.

But the restored paddle steamer made a grand sight cruising the river with steam billowing from her stacks as she

made stately progress to the landing.

Captain Leo Wagner said the last time the *Ruby* had come past Merbein she was being towed by the Wentworth Lions Club as they shifted her down stream to her current resting place in Wentworth.

"We've been working on the *Ruby* for the last 14 years," Mr Wagner said yesterday.

"Since we've got her ready we've only had a couple of lit-

tle trips and today we are taking her upstream to Merbein as a part of the centenary celebrations.

"It would have to be at least 80 years since she has done this trip by her own steam."

Mr Wagner said it had been a great day to see the *Ruby* making the trip again.

"It's going pretty well," he said.

"We're running a little bit slower than I thought."

The boat was hitting a cruising speed of about six kilometres an hour, slower than they hoped thanks to a sticky throttle.

"She has an old 20 horse power Robie steam engine, Mr Wagner said.

"Anything of value had been stripped from the boat in the 1920s, we basically had to bring it all in by scratch."

But the grand old dame is made of stern stuff.