



Joys of Indian summer

IF INDIA was never on your checklist of countries to visit, travel writer Ian Cochrane could well convince you otherwise.

The Sandringham resident has just released his first book, *Indian Summers: Mumbai and Beyond*, after living there for four months in 2007.

Uncovering the country which often divides opinions

The travel memoir has 13 stories, 100 photographs and two maps, including one detailing Mumbai's hundreds of temples.

Cochrane said India was a place people either hated or loved. "There are no medium feelings

about it, some people hate it and some people find it absolutely intoxicating. I think it's intoxicating," he said.

Cochrane, a draughtsman, said some stories in the book were quite funny while others were

sad. One tells of his visit to a mosque and the beggars, thieves and charlatans he encounters on the way there.

Cochrane said he found hidden places in India just by talking to people or by walking from place

to place because the traffic was so horrendous.

He said he was glad his book made people want to go and explore the country.

"A lot of people read it and want to go to India which I think is quite a compliment," Cochrane said.

Book details: iancochrane.com.au

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