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Cairns Indian community celebrates 10th Durga Puja festival at Edge Hill State School

The annual Durga Puja festival offered a colourful window into the diversity of the food, music and culture of the Cairns Indian community. Read about the festival, see the photos here.

Alison Paterson

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Families and friends enjoyed the colourful, cultural fun – and the delicious Bengali menu – as the Cairns Indian community celebrated its [10th annual Durga Puja Festival](#) on Sunday.

Jaydip Sengupta, one of the festival organisers, said the event held at Edge Hill State School attracted roughly 200 guests.

He said the group were “very pleased” with the response.



Ivy Roy, Mridula Kayal and Donna Sengupta perform a traditional West Bengalese folk dance with other Indian women at the Durga Puja Indian Festival, held at Edge Hill State School on Sunday. Picture: Brendan Radke

“We were very happy with how it all went with so many people turning up and supporting the festival,” he said.

“I think the folk cultural event which included children dancing was well received too.”

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Ivy Roy, Mridula Kayal, Donna Sengupta, Sayantane Saika and Biyanka Biswas perform a traditional West Bengalese folk dance at the Durga Puja Indian Festival, held at Edge Hill State School on Sunday. Picture: Brendan Radke

Mr Sengupta said the complimentary lunch was very popular with guests.

“We served Bengali cuisine and as this is a festival it was vegetarian food,” he said.

“The menu included spiced rice, dal, a mixed vegetable curry and cottage cheese.”



Donna Sengupta, (centre) leads a traditional West Bengalese folk dance at the Durga Puja Indian Festival, held at Edge Hill State School on Sunday. Picture: Brendan Radke

The diversity of guests from different backgrounds and communities across the Cairns region added to the festival, Mr Sengupta said.



A traditional West Bengalese folk dance is performed at the Durga Puja Indian Festival, held at Edge Hill State School on Sunday. Picture: Brendan Radke

“It was a really good community turnout, lots of inclusiveness and support and appreciation we received was lovely.

“We certainly want to continue with this annual festival into the future.”

Cairns Regional Council Cr Cathy Zeiger said the city’s diverse groups were woven into the multicultural fabric of the community.

“It’s colourful, vibrant and friendly and I love how they love to share with our community.”



Members of the Indian community watch a traditional West Bengalese folk dance performance at the Durga Puja Indian Festival, held at Edge Hill State School on Sunday. Picture: Brendan Radke