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Cairns Indian community welcomes all to free family-friendly festival

The Cairns Indian Community welcomes everyone to attend the 10th annual Durga Puja festival on Sunday which includes delicious food, wonderful music and dance. Read what's on offer.

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0 comments



The Edge Hill State School will feature a rainbow of saris, fragrant foods and Bollywood dance moves on Sunday as the Cairns Indian community gathers to celebrate the 10th annual Durga Puja Festival.

According to one of the organisers, Jaydip Sengupta, this [free family-friendly event](#) is marvellous opportunity to bring your friends and enjoy a fun event.



Last week Mr Sengupta and other organisers gathered at the Esplanade in their beautifully designed traditional festival attire to promote the event.

As many visitors stopped to admire the kaleidoscope of colour in the women's saris and the men's dohtis, Mr Sengupta explained the festival's origins.

"The festival starts at 9am, and commemorates the victory of the goddess Durga over a demon," he said with a smile.

"It is one of India's grandest annual festivals and is also one of the most inclusive, being participated by everyone across all communities and we look forward to seeing lots of locals and visitors."



The Cairns Indian community including (L-R) Donna Sengupta, Ivy Roy, Priyanka Biswas, Kripa Roy, Mridula Kayal, warmly welcome one and all to the 10th annual Durga Puja Festival at Edge Hill State School on October 2. Picture: Nuno Avendano

“This festival has been celebrated in Cairns for the past 10 years,” Mr Sengupta said.

“The celebrations include not only the Indian diaspora in Cairns and neighbouring regions, but being an open invitation to everyone across all communities.”



The Cairns Indian community welcomes one and all to the family-friendly 10th annual Durga Puja Festival on October 2. Here (Front L-R) Riana Roy, Ayushman Biswas, Iona Nandi and (Back L-R) Eshana Saikia, Kiara Roy, Kritika Biswas, Imon Nandi, show off their dance moves. Photo: Nuno Avendano

Mr Sengupta said while Durga Puja was celebrated in Australia’s capital cities, for the festival to have an ongoing presence in regional communities was very special.

“Currently multiple celebrations happen in the large metropolitans like Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth,” he said.

“It’s not very common in regional towns like Cairns, so this is quite unique.”