



Bengali Cultural Association



Fortnightly Newsletter
18/09/2009

Issue 5

BCA runs on community participation

Web address:-www.bcacan.org

Sri Sri Durga Puja Celebrations

Sri Sri Durga Puja Celebrations
2009



Bengali Cultural Association (Canberra) cordially invites you to the 2009 Durga Puja Celebrations on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th September at Mawson Temple. (10am start both days)

Venue

Mawson Temple

82 Mawson Drive Mawson ACT 2607

Come and join us along with your family and friends in the fun filled celebration of Durga Puja.

For further information and donations please contact Mr. Sandeep Das on 0401 483 722 or Mrs Chandana De on 62598179 or 0433169562.

Origin of the autumnal ceremony 'Sharadiya'

The actual worship of the Goddess Durga as stipulated by the Hindu scriptures falls in the month of Chaitra, which roughly overlaps with March or April. This ceremony is however not observed by many and is restricted to a handful in the state of West Bengal.

The more popular form, which is also known as Sharadiya (Autumnal) Durga Puja, is celebrated later in the year with the dates falling either in September or October. Since the Goddess is invoked at the wrong time, it is called "Akaal Bodhon" in Bengali.

The first such Puja was organised by Raja Nabakrishna Deb of the Shobhabazaar Rajbari of Kolkata in honour of Lord Clive in the year 1757. The puja was organised because Clive wished to pay thanks for his victory in the Plassey. He was unable to do so in a Church because the only church in Kolkata at that time was destroyed by Siraj-ud-Daulah. Indeed many wealthy mercantile and Zamindar families in Bengal made British Officers of the East India Company guests of honour in the Pujas. The hosts vied with one another in arranging the most sumptuous fares, decorations and entertainment for their guests. This was deemed necessary since the Company was in charge of a large part of India including Bengal after the battles of Plassey and Buxar.



Old painting of Durga Puja in Kolkata at Shobhabazar Rajbari.

(Cover design— Ms. Beta Chakraborty, information on origin and evolution and pictures taken from website-history of Durgapuja in Kolkata).

Special Dates for your Diary:-

20 September— social walk organised by kuntala.

26 & 27 September - DURGA PUJA

26 September- Social Festivity - Hughes Community centre.(6pm-11.30pm)

Evolution of the Community or Sarbojanin puja

Initially the Puja was organised by affluent families since they had the money to organize the festival. During the late 19th and early 20th century, a burgeoning middle class, primarily in Kolkata, wished to observe the Puja. They created the community or Sarbojanin Pujas.

These Pujas are organized by a committee which represents a locality or neighbourhood. They collect funds called "chaanda" through door-to-door subscriptions, lotteries, concerts etc. These funds are pooled and used for the expenses of pandal construction, idol construction, ceremonies etc. The balance of the fund is generally donated to a charitable cause, as decided by the committee. Corporate sponsorships of the Pujas have gained momentum since the late 1990s. Major Pujas in Kolkata and in major metro areas such as Delhi and Chennai now derive almost all of their funds from corporate sponsorships. Community fund drives have become a formality.

Despite the resources used to organise a Puja, entry of visitors into the Pandal is generally free. Pujas in Kolkata and elsewhere experiment with innovative concepts every year. Communities have created prizes for Best Pandal, Best Puja, and other categories.

“EXOTIC AND EXTRAVAGANT” DURGA PUJA PANDAL



Please remember

We want you all to contribute to this newsletter consistently. Send your articles to

podeakin@grapevine.com.au

NEXT FORTNIGHT, IF YOU ARE CELEBRATING YOUR BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY, PLEASE SHARE IT WITH US. PLEASE ALSO SHARE YOUR JOKES, RECIPES, HOLIDAY TRIPS ETC, MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOUR PRECIOUS EVENTS IN YOUR LIFE- **SHARE IT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY.**

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL WALK

Research shows social walk enhances community engagement and develops "Social Capital". People participating are likely to know and understand their community, more socially engaged and physically fit.

After all, to enjoy your wealth, you need good health.

Please RSVP to Kuntala @0409158145 or ajit@62862380.

PLEASE LISTEN TO BANGLA RADIO

@ 98.3 FM 2-3PM

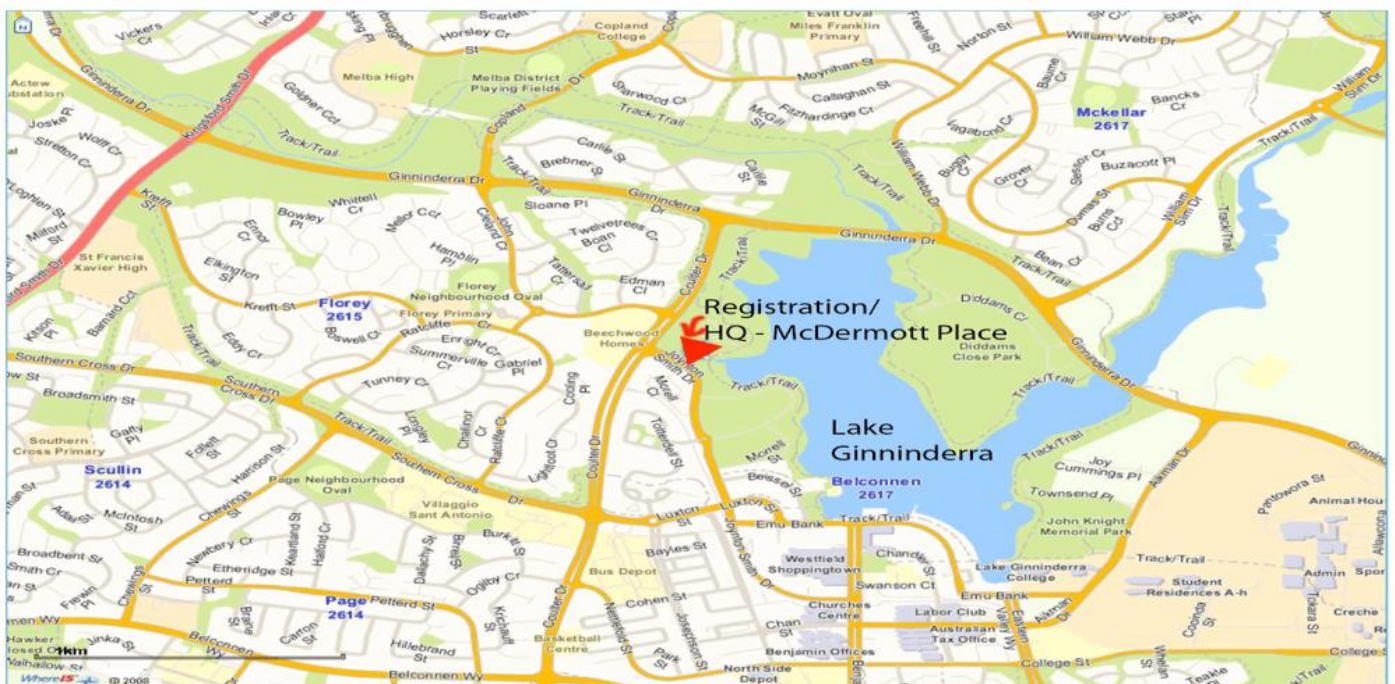
Saturday 19 SEPTEMBER 2009

Social Walk– Sunday 20 September 2009.

Meeting Point:- Macdermott Place, car park.(off Joynton Smith drive).

Time:- 10.30 for 11.00am.

Macdermott Pl, Belconnen, ACT 2617



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

SIDDHARTHA DE

siddhartha.de@abs.gov.au

SECRETARY

ARNAB GUPTA

arnabgupta71@gmail.com

TREASURER

SANDEEP DAS

Sandeep.Das@ato.gov.au

MEMBERS

DAVID WILLIAMS

kuntala.david@netspeed.com.au

MEMBERS

APRATIM CHAKRABARTY

apratim.chakrabarti@gmail.com

MEMBERS

SATARUPA DASGUPTA

sssddasgupta@primusonline.com.au