

Waipuna
Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton Community Board
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Tuesday 9 June 2026
Time: 4.30 pm
Venue: Horoeka Room, Rārākau: Riccarton Centre,
199 Clarence Street, Riccarton

TABLE OF CONTENTS NGĀ IHIRANGI	PAGE
4.2. Public Forum - Durga Utsav Festival 2026	
A. Presentation - Durga Utsav Festival 2026.....	3



WAIPUNA HALSWELL-HORNBY-RICCARTON COMMUNITY BOARD

Durga Festival 2026

Christchurch's Bengali multicultural festival

Bangaliana Multicultural Christchurch Inc. · NZBN 9429053481900

THE EVENT · 6TH YEAR

Sat 17 Oct 2026 · 11am–5pm

Venue: Templeton Community Hall, Christchurch · A free, all-ages community celebration

01 · ABOUT US

From a few families to a citywide celebration

Bangaliana Multicultural Christchurch began end of 2019 as a small group of Bengali families. In just five years it has grown into one of the city's most loved multicultural festivals — **recognised in 2025 with a Community Service Award from the Christchurch Community Board**. Durga Festival now welcomes people of every background to share in Bengali art, music, food and tradition. Bangaliana is now a registered **Incorporated Society** (NZBN 9429053481900).

“

This festival is not just a tradition — it is about bringing people together, celebrating culture, and creating a sense of belonging in our adopted home.

— Bangaliana Multicultural Christchurch



6th year

of celebration — growing every year since 2021



2025

Community Service Award, Christchurch Community Board



All welcome

performers & visitors from wider NZ communities

03 · SIGNIFICANCE

At its heart — honouring women

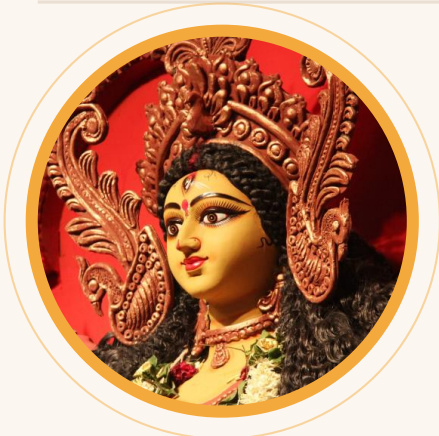


Image: AKS 0055 - Wikimedia Commons

Shakti

the divine feminine

source of strength, courage and protection · honoured for over 2,500 years

The festival's central figure is **Durga** — warrior, mother and protector — and the embodiment of **Shakti**, the divine feminine. Her story has for centuries placed women at the heart of one of India's largest cultural traditions. In Christchurch, **women lead the organising of Bangaliana, year after year.**



Mahishasura Mardini

The goddess defeats evil — a story of feminine triumph retold every year by communities worldwide.



Sindoor Khela

Women bid farewell with vermillion — a joyful sisterhood ritual that spans generations.



Women in leadership

Bangaliana Team is organised by women — Mukta, Ritu and Sushruti.

02 · THE FESTIVAL

A full day of culture, food & belonging

Saturday 17 October 2026 · 64 Kirk Road, Christchurch · 11am–5pm · a free, all-ages community event



01

Cultural rituals & ceremony

Traditional Bengali ceremonies including dhaak drumming, floral offerings and the vermillion ritual.



02

Multicultural performances

Rabindra Sangeet, Bharatanatyam, Bhangra and the Dekaworwor West African Drum Group.



03

Community bhog lunch

A shared Indian feast — Pulau, Vegetable curry, papad, jalebi, gulab jamun — plus food stalls.



04

Family & children's zone

Face painting, arts & crafts, a bouncy castle and a much-loved fire-truck visit.

ON THE DAY



12:00

Pushpanjali



12:30

Community lunch



2:00

Cultural performances



4:00

Sindoor Khela & Dhaak

Bangaliana Multicultural Christchurch · Durga Festival 2026

3

04 · Pictures and Videos



YOU ALL ARE INVITED TO DURGA FESTIVAL AT TEMPLETON COMMUNITY HALL ON 17TH
OCTOBER 2026