



A forum for Non Resident Telangana people to educate others & themselves about Telangana problems
To strengthen cultural identity of Telangana among Telangana people living Australia

Program:

Bathukamma Decoration: 11am

Lunch & Games: 12pm

Share your knowledge: 2pm

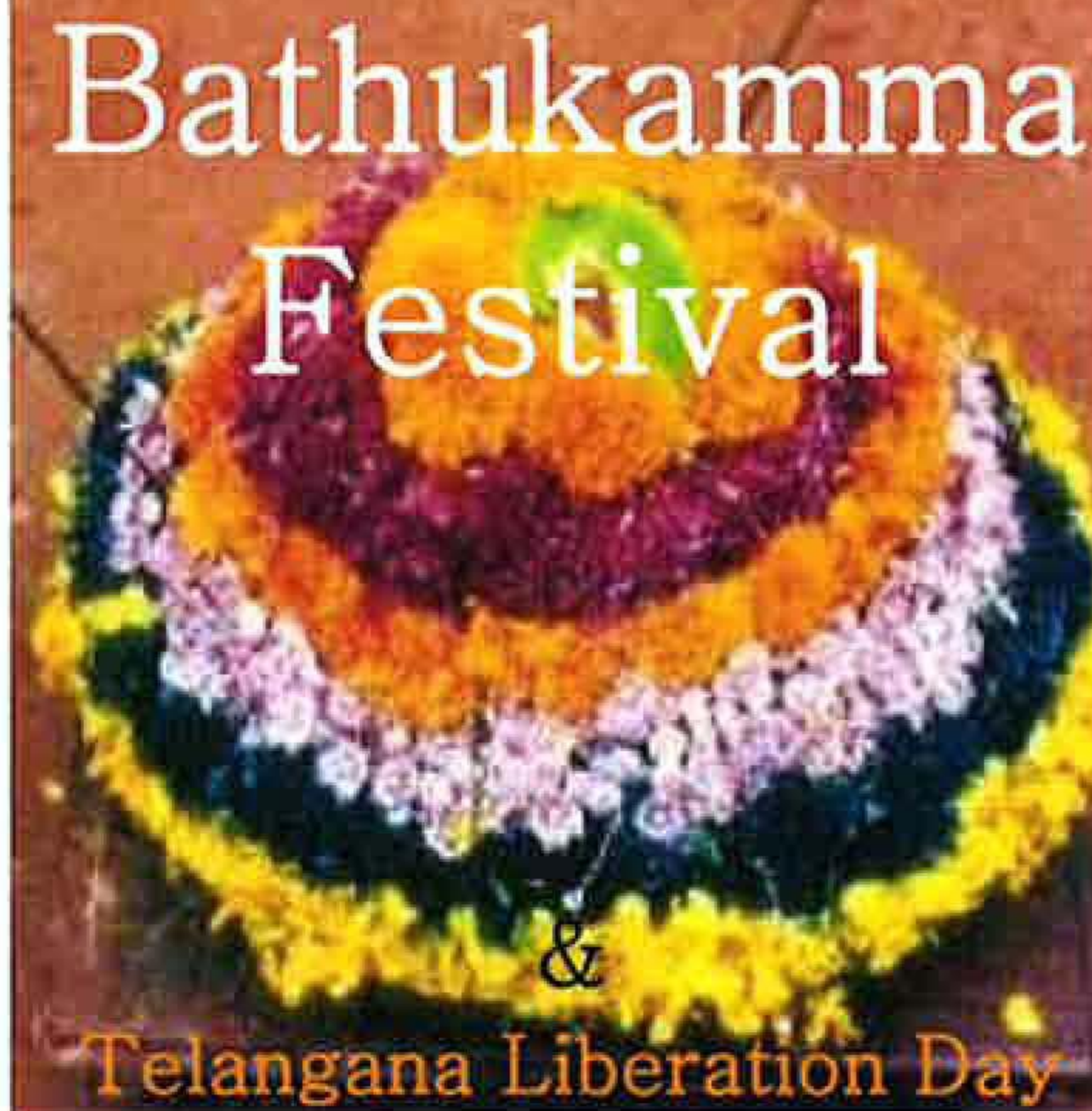
Bathukamma Pooja: 3pm

Bathukamma Immersion: 4pm

Time: 11am to 4pm

Date: 17 September 2006

**Venue: Meadowbank Park
Meadow Cr, Meadowbank, SYDNEY**

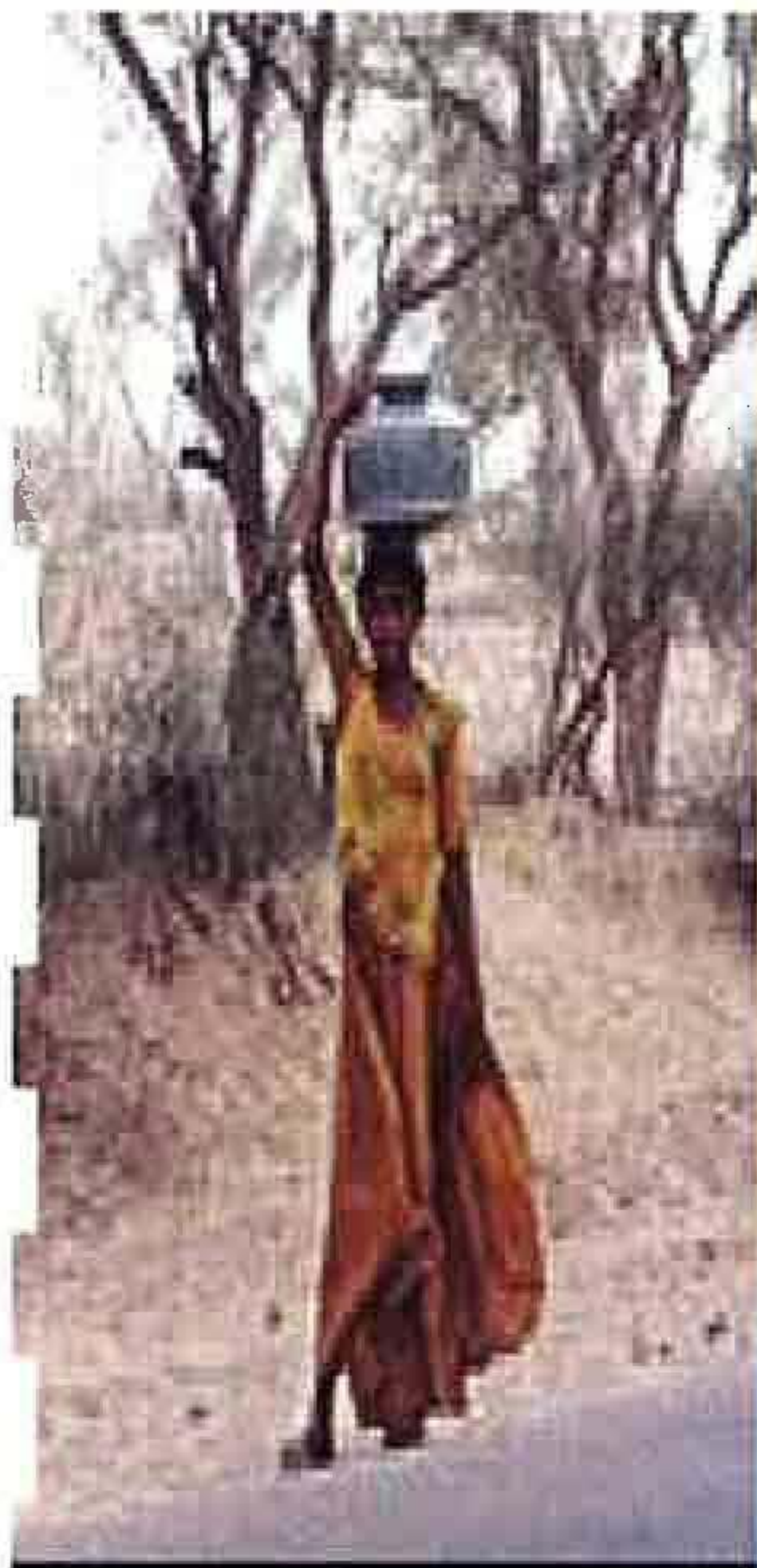


Please bring your choice:

- Food & Drinks to share
- Flowers for Bathukamma
- Telangana Folk songs
- Bathukamma songs
- Disposable plates/cups

Please share your knowledge:

- Telangana problems
- Telangana development
- www.telangana.org



The unique festival of Bathukamma of Telangana is celebrated nine days leading up to Dasara.

It is the time when married women return to their mothers' homes, when the earth, fully sated with the monsoon rains, wears shades of green and preens as blossoms of various hues shoot from its breast to reach for the sky. Celebration is in the air and married women call upon Bathukamma to shower her blessings on their husbands. Unmarried girls beseech Bodemma, or Girl Bathukamma, to give them good husbands.

Bathukamma is a pyramid-shaped structure fashioned from mud and decorated with flowers that are found in plenty in the semi-arid Telangana: the bright yellow Tangedu, the white Gunugu, and the golden Banti or marigold. To make the Bathukamma more colourful, the white flowers are dyed in different colours and arranged in layers, one bright colour alternating with another flaming one till Bathukamma rises tall in all its glory. The festival is celebrated for nine days and on the final day; every household makes its Bathukamma and decorate it lavishly with flowers. The higher it is in height, the greater the glory for the household. Depending on the tradition, several Bathukammas are placed at one place or near the pond where they will be immersed subsequently, and women, wearing their best, dance round the grouped Bathukammas, singing Bathukamma songs, with one woman leading and the rest joining in the chorus. They invoke the blessings of various goddesses like Lakshmi, Parvati, Saraswathi, Sita and so on. When the celebrations over, the Bathukamma is immersed in water. Women smear themselves with haldi and smear other women too.

Environmentalists tell us that the flowers used in this festival have unique cleansing qualities; hence they are put in village ponds.

When Telangana was facing a seven years of drought, there were no blooms to decorate Bathukamma. Undeterred, people used paper flowers! As all the ponds were dry, Bathukammas were left in a corner or were taken back home.

