



Health & Views

Supplementary issue to commemorate the 71st Independence Day of the Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Well attended 71st National Day Celebrations in Sydney

The event was held at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Hall on the 4th February, starting at 7pm and ended at 9pm. Between 6.15 and 7pm refreshments, including wines were freely served and enjoyed by over 400 invitees.

The programme started with a piano performance by Agra Premaratne. After National anthems were played, there was two minutes silence in remembrance of all who sacrificed their lives to the Nation.

Lighting of the candles by the invited VIPs was the next traditional custom for the beating of Magul Bera & Ves Natum performed by Dinesh Perera.

First address was given by Hon Scott Farlow MLC MP, representative of Minister for Multiculturalism.

Multifaith religious observances were next chanted by a Buddhist monk, Hindu, Catholic and Muslim priests.

Welcome speech by the Hon. Consul General Mr. Lal Wickrematunge followed.

Independence Day messages of H.E. the President and Hon. Prime Minister was read by the Consul. Mr. Abdul Raheem Consul/Commercial read a message in Tamil.

There was a speech by Mr. Ryan Neelam, Director, NSW State Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Next followed a speech by Mr. Peter Almeida.

Between speeches there were entertaining cultural performances-Song "Nidahase Diyawel by Mr. Upul Mahen, Cultural performance – Dance by Maatra, A song-" Jayaboom Sri Lanka ma priyadara by Ms.Ishi Yogya and lastly, a cultural performance- Dance by Vidhu Narthana.

Message from Hon. Lal Wickrematunge

Consul General of Sri Lanka for NSW and Queensland



It is a wonderful thought by Dr Harold Gunatillake to compile a collection of articles on Health & Views to coincide with the 71st National Day of Sri Lanka.

Dr Harold is a well-known fixture at all Sri Lankan diaspora events and his skills extend to recording such events on his cellular phone much to the delight of all.

Dr Harold is a regular contributor on health and good food to Sri Lankan newspapers, blogs and social media. The large followings he draws is testimony to the popularity of his articles.

With the rapid advances in technology, health sciences too keep changing with the old beliefs being replaced with new findings. Dr Harold has kept his audience well abreast of such changes and the newsletters that will be published to coincide with the 71st year of Independence which falls on the 4th of February 2019 is a very useful addition to the celebrations.



The way we Celebrate our Independence- Good Luck Sri Lanka



A great moment for the invitees to chit-chat with friends in the foyer before refreshments were served



Enjoying a variety of short eats and other foods with a variety of wines -part of the Celebration



Chittysamy was bold enough to say, "why not doc. You are never in the pictures, let me take a snap with your smartphone" - good thinking!



71st National Day Celebration



<https://youtu.be/5w9X-J5oE64>

Captures of song sung by Upul Mahen was corrupted. My apologies to Upul



Cultural Performance at the Celebrations

4th February 2019 – Celebrating 71 Years Of What?

By [Sharmini Serasinghe](#) –

An Open letter to Minister [Mangala Samaraweera](#) by Sharmini Serasinghe on behalf of the Voiceless & Faceless Citizens of Sri Lanka

Dear Minister Mangala Samaraweera,

Hope you don't mind me not referring to you as Hon. Mangala Samaraweera because those of us who know you are honourable don't need a reminder. Also, many of your colleagues – MPs – also referred to as Hon. bla bla bla are extremely dishonourable dolts, hence it is more of an insult to you than an honour.

The reason I decided to appeal to you on behalf of the **Voiceless & Faceless Citizens of Sri Lanka** is because unlike our Prime Minister who appears to have his head permanently in the clouds, and that shameless man who continues to masquerade as our 'Chief Servant', you my friend have your head screwed on right and above all, you have a conscience. Hence my utmost faith in you to do what is right by the people of our country.

So, here goes!

Next week, Sri Lanka will be "celebrating" 71 years since the British fled our shores for their dear lives. And, for 71 years since then we the people of this country have been led down the garden path by our noses, by successive governments of the two dominant political parties who used us, fooled us, abused us and now, driven our country down into the debt-ridden dark hole it is in today. You, as the Minister of Finance know exactly how deep and dark that hole is.

As a sensible and wise man I'm sure you would agree, Mangala, February 4th should actually be a day of mourning for us Sri Lankans. 71 years since the British fled our shores which we call "independence" and where are we today? We the people of Sri Lanka have achieved nothing, really. We have lost far more than we ever gained, really!

The only ones who benefited are the politicians who we, our parents and grandparents voted for over the past 71 years, who in turn made an utter mess of our lives by polarising all of us based on language, ethnicity, religion etc. which ultimately led to a war amongst our own people. Well, that's hopefully history now. Further, we have had and still have those we voted into power to serve us – our servants – who in turn served and keep serving themselves, their families and sycophants at OUR expense, used and abused the Buddha Sasana in this country – the cradle of Theravada Buddhism – made racist idiots of many gullible Sinhalese – an obvious joke in the eyes of the Other – destroyed our ancient and sacred values, polluted the Buddhist clergy, created divisiveness, communal and religious disharmony, brainwashed our youth with a racist Sinhala-Buddhist ideology – the future generations of our country – by introducing and encouraging a culture of vile and disgraceful behaviour.

What we will be "celebrating" on 4th February?

On this day – 4th February – we will witness yet another annually repeated spectacle – 'Independence Day celebrations' – for which WE the people of Sri Lanka must eventually foot the bill. Do we want OUR money spent on this senseless performance to boost the egos of our 'Servants', WE voted into power? NO, we DO NOT! The star performer of this show will be our 'Chief Servant' – the traitor, [Maithripala Sirisena](#) – who ought to have been shoved into the dustbin of history and the lid tightly shut after he repeatedly violated our Constitution with obvious impunity. The 6.25 million of us who voted for this onetime political nonentity and who betrayed us on the 26th of October, 2018, do we want OUR money spent to boost the ego of this treacherous servant of ours? NO, we DO NOT!

As the Minister of Finance you are well aware that Sirsena's act of treason which unconstitutionally brought the Rajapaksa oligarchy back into power through the backdoor cost our debt ridden country – us, its citizens – billions of Rupees, directly and indirectly, during the 51 days of illegal Rajapaksa misrule. Also, as the Minister of Finance you know only too well that the financial losses of Sirsena's treachery will ultimately have to be borne by US – the people of Sri Lanka. Hence our cost of living will undoubtedly rise in leaps and bounds in the near future under all kinds of guises. Very soon, we will be asked to tighten our belts further, which incidentally is so tight now it's about to disjoin us at the waist. So, how about setting the example at the top – Sevaka Sirisena downwards – and start tightening all your belts for a change? A great place to start would be to cancel all plans to "celebrate" the nonsensical 71st anniversary of independence. After all, it is OUR money that will be squandered on this senseless event, rehearsals et al, isn't it? I don't recall any of our servants in government requesting our permission to spend OUR money on this spectacle. **WE the people of Sri Lanka, much rather have that money of OURS spent on something far more worthwhile viz. build and equip schools for the children of our less fortunate.**

Now getting back to "celebrating" February 4th, again I ask for the final time on behalf of the **'Voiceless & Faceless Citizens of Sri Lanka'**, what in heaven's name are we celebrating?

On behalf of the Voiceless & Faceless Citizens of Sri Lanka and their reflections on celebrating 71 years- of what?

The Independence we obtained in Sri Lanka from the rule of the British Empire was a peaceful political movement for self-rule in the nineteen forties-to be exact 4 February 1948. India got it through blood shed but we inevitably were given on a plate and was peaceful. We became a Dominion status and 24 years later became a republic.

Sharmini Serasinghe in an open letter to Minister Mangala Samaraweera writes about the recent political upheaval focussing on our present president, and she refers to him as the 'shameless man who continues to masquerade as our Chief Servant'.

She further states "that we will be celebrating 71 years since British fled our shores and the people of this country have been led down the garden path by our noses, by successive governments of the two dominant political who used us, fooled us, abused us and so on".

I would like to disagree with such bold utterances when the truth of our political history reveals a different variegated picture.

When we were young in the thirties and forties before independence, were treated like second class citizens in our own soil by the 'white rulers. That is exactly what I felt as a young fellow. We could not patronize the big shops like Cargills and Millers, they were exclusively for the whites. We had to purchase our household requirements and other necessities from boutiques on the way side. We couldn't enter any of the clubs where the whites were members. In short, we were not given the privilege of even having clubs of our own. We had to travel third class in the crowded trains whilst the whites travelled in comfort in the first-class compartments. I remember, in Kandy we were not allowed to walk on the side of Queens Hotel, a hotel exclusive for the whites, and had to walk on the bund by the lake on the opposite side of the road.

Contd: next page

Even the native planters who worked as SD's in tea plantations were not allowed in the planter's clubs, and a drink was sent to the jeep for the black SD who sat down for hours till the master enjoyed a good club life evening with the white mates. This story was related to me by the late Denise Ratwatte, who was later, after the British left was invited to become a member of the same club and he declined.

The roads were Macadamised up to the planter's bungalows and beyond to the villages were sand tracts.

We gained true independence and the freedom to feel that Ceylon was our country only after the whites left. Don't you feel that we should celebrate that freedom annually on the 4th February, globally?

We had good governance after the British left, because the well-educated class of the society with good backgrounds and means were elected to the parliament.

Wasn't its Mr Bandaranaike who turned the apple cart to the worse by bringing his "Sinhala in 24 hours policy" that was the beginning of the present-day problems in our dear country?

Shamini talks about our country is being driven down into the debt-ridden dark hole. That is true but visiting the rural areas most village folk seems to be contended, not suffering from malnutrition, and the village supermarkets are crowded. During the time of the British rule the villages were thoroughly neglected, and the people did not have even the basic amenities and had to depend on their garden produce and the yields from rice fields. Today, most of the relatives of the rural folk are working abroad and foreign exchange that comes into the country helps the relatives to have a better lifestyle and benefit the country.

They have the right to elect their respective leaders democratically, and they cannot be called the "Voiceless & Faceless Citizens Shamini talks of.

The annual spectacle deserves to be celebrated with pride, dignity, for the health of the people and the country.

The recent upheaval Shamini quotes regarding Sirisena's act of treason and bringing in Rajapaksa back into power through the backdoor, should not deter us the people in not rejoicing our independence. Those episodes will be forgotten soon till another issue erupts.

Immense progress of the country is immeasurable: more high rising buildings, apartments, entertainment centres, parks are coming out in the main cities and country towns.

Presently, Sri Lanka is building a 15 billion metropolis meant to rival cities like Hong Kong and Dubai.

We have some of the best five-star hotels as good as the best in the world. Our seasonal tourism booms and our island ranked as top country for travel in 2019 by Lonely Planet.

We are proud of our country whether we are in or abroad. Whilst being abroad the expat Sri Lankans feels more for the land of birth and home-sick. We are proud of our cultures, traditions, the mix of religions, the timeless temples, the rich wild life, the surf scenes in spots like Arugambe, our national parks, enthralling train rides through the tea plantations in the hills, the city of the hill climbers-Elle where back-packers congregate. We are proud of our Buddhist monuments, well maintained ruined cities with a proud written history, among others. We are proud of our people who welcome and extend their hospitality and friendliness to foreigners.

So, forget the black hole and let's celebrate our Independence where ever you are with pride, dignity, spirit, with food and wine, and pray for a better future.

Dr harold Gunatillake-Sydney



Dinner at
Seven

<https://youtu.be/MQX--GIUvY4>



Anantane Holiday resort
Chilaw

Gus Mathew comments from London-

Thank you for emailing Sharmini Serasinghe's article and your reply to her selective criticism of Sri Lanka (see below).

There are many journalists of the ilk of Sharmini Serasinghe whose crowning glory is the negativity of her thoughts with regard to the nation state of Sri Lanka.

You have by your considered reply demolished her arguments that despite some of the difficulties encountered in governing a multi-faceted country such as Sri Lanka it is nevertheless an island paradise for a majority of its citizens. What the minority literati and the cognoscenti of Colombo do not realise is the strides that Sri Lanka has made in the last 71 years, with regard to health, gender equality, infant mortality, education and literacy in comparison not only to its neighbouring countries but also the world at large. Despite its inherited ex-colonial shackles, the 'glass is 'half full' and not 'half empty' as Sharmini Serasinghe would have us believe.

The majority of Sri Lankans live in rural communities and villages and the benefits of achievements are seen in the rural folk who exercise their plebiscite with alacrity and a deep sense of belonging to the nation state of Sri Lanka.

Sharmini, talks about the 'Sinhala only' policy and its detriment. This to me is a red herring and is not only misunderstood but utilised as a rod by the enemies Sri Lanka to beat and discredit its majority community (who constitute nearly 75 percent of its citizens).

It must also be remembered that the 'Swabasha' legislation also encompassed the 'reasonable' use of Tamil in the North and East. Prior to the 'Swabasha' legislation the ordinary citizens were ruled by an English educated elite from both the majority Sinhala and minority Tamil communities. The civil service too was also English educated and a remnant of the colonial elite who looked down disparagingly on those who spoke the language of the majority.

SWRD's attempt was to redress this balance in favour of the majority of ordinary citizens of the country who underwent this discrimination through the century and a half of colonial rule. Needless to say that there was also a political advantage for SWRD and its SLFP party, but the main thrust of the argument was that it gave a voice to the voiceless. Many would argue that loss of the English language in the annals of government was too a disadvantage. English is the language of commerce, science and aviation in the world though it is diminishing with the rise of China in the 21st century. While the latter is true the main objective of the legislation was to empower the rural masses and their cognisant behaviour in the democracy of the country. Is it not surprising that despite all the political hullabaloo of the past 71 years Sri Lanka is still a democracy and has changed governments through the ballot box many times in comparison to its neighbours - is this not partly due to the empowerment of the people through a language that they are comfortable to express their political desires?

In conclusion I can only foresee progress in Sri Lanka despite the hiccups. We have leaders who attempt to emulate the 'West' and pay deprecating adulation to anything especially political interference from the West. The West is only interested in its hegemony of smaller nations like Sri Lanka for their economic, political and military advantage. Unfortunately some politicians regard this interference as altruism - nothing could be further from the truth.

Prithipee comments from Colombo-

Gus. Whilst we should rejoice 71 years of independence, we have also to reflect upon our achievements and progress ever since.

Without such reflection and criticism, as a country, we cannot progress. We are yet to bring about the needed reconciliation and strengthen our national identity. Corruption has been a debilitating Culture for the country through successive governments, with 90% of the GDP going on debt servicing and major revenues coming from low labour domestic exports, whilst poverty levels have not shown any improvements. Although the richness of our country's natural beauty still remains (but also gradually being eroded by haphazard development without due regard to its preservation) and our rich cultural diversity being polarized by politicians. And as compared to many of our Asian counterparts, our progress since independence is nothing to be proud of. It is therefore natural for the Lankans who live here on a daily basis to vent their frustrations at the lack of our progress since independence, particularly due to bad governance and massive corruption. Many of our young Lankan talent are looking for greener pastures, despite the boast of comparatively good HDIs. Even the urban and rural poor are trying to migrate illegally and Sri Lanka has one of the highest suicide rates in the world. Isn't something wrong in paradise.??? This is not just a lament of some journalists or that of the minority literati or the so called cognoscenti of Colombo as you call them, but, the non partisan ordinary folk, as also, the thinking populous of the country that are truly patriotic and lives in Sri Lanka , (including those who have returned to live in our beloved motherland after decades of living overseas), who are truly concerned. Good luck to the others who are overseas and enjoy our country's natural beauty and it's culture, reminiscing the good old times and sentiments of the days gone by, through periodic forays into the country to spend their dollars which are on a high in Paradise !

Beautiful serene destination to relax with your family on your next visit to Sri Lanka



Liyya Water Villas by Signature Oak Ray located at Dambulla Sri Lanka an ideal location to be stress free with the beauty of nature



Fish market, Kandy

When February 4 dawned 71 years ago

By Kumudini Hettiarachchi, Oshani Alwis and Ruqyyaha Deane

As church and temple bells pealed, guns boomed and ship sirens shrieked, 7.30 a.m. on the dot, a formally-dressed gentleman entered the august Audience Hall of Queen's House in the Fort as Governor and exited a few minutes later as Governor-General (GG). This seven-minute ceremony — an oath taken before Chief Justice Sir John Howard heralded the birth of a free nation! It was Wednesday, February 4, 1948, seventy-one years ago when history was made at Queen's House (now President's House). With Sir Henry Monck-Mason Moore taking oaths as the GG of Ceylon, the power to rule was officially handed over by the British to the first Prime Minister (PM), Don Stephen Senanayake, who had been voted in by the people at the first parliamentary election after Ceylon attained dominion status the previous year, in August 1947. The oath-taking over, the eminent personalities retired to the drawing room to drink a hearty toast proposed by the GG to the PM, his Cabinet and Ceylon



<https://youtu.be/6UxJilbuv7U>

<https://youtu.be/wCmOKth4YEE>



<https://youtu.be/FKD7XzmTNnU>



If you need filling any occasion with great food and innovation Siva will be your privileged choice -catering for such occasion



Desmond and clan

Lotus Tower to commence operations in March



Pic by Sudarshana Lakmal

Operations of the Lotus Tower is scheduled for March, the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (TRC) said.

Finishing touches for the 350m tower, the second tallest in South Asia once completed, has already begun.

Project Director Shantha Gunananda, speaking to the Daily Mirror said that the finishing touches and landscaping work was nearing completion.

The Lotus Tower was initially expected to be completed by October 2017. It will house telecommunication antennas, offices and other leisure activities and will be the tallest building in Sri Lanka.

Construction of the tower costs USD 104 million and eighty percent of the cost will be funded by the EXIM Bank of China.

The tower is to have a telecommunication museum, a restaurant, supermarkets, food courts, conference halls with seating for 400 people, a 1,000-seat auditorium, luxury hotel rooms, ball rooms and an observation gallery.

Constructed on a 10-acre land, the first few floors of the tower will be allocated for malls, parks and parking facilities, while the upper floors are to be provided specifically for telecommunication purposes.

Under phase two, plans are being made to construct a theme park, shopping mall and car park.

A committee was also appointed to set up the tender process to allocate communication units at the Lotus Tower.

Initial reports of the tower stated that facilities could be provided for 50 television service providers, 50 broadcast service providers and 10 communication

providers. **(Darshana Sanjeewa) Daily Mirror**



KANNELIYA FOREST COMPLEX

Nishaji is a first year student doing a nursing degree at Matara. She is the monitor of her class and has an excellent command of English. She visited this forest complex recently – designated as a biosphere reserve in 2004 by UNESCO – the last remaining rainforest in the Galle area.

AUSLMAT have supported Nishaji and her family ever since we met her father Nishantha - a fisherman at Weligama soon after the 2004 tsunami.

Nishaji has come a long way and got an A+ in English in her advanced level examination. She was a member of AUSLMAT's medical team to Sri Lanka last year.

AUSLMAT is proud to have assisted children in their English with donations of laptops etc.

Quintus de Zylva

Consulate General of Sri Lanka, Sydney

January 3 at 4:47 PM ·

The Sri Lanka Consulate in Sydney celebrated the New Year with the unfurling of the national flag followed by singing the National Anthem and observing two minutes silence as a mark of respect to our national heroes.

The oath to serve with honesty and diligence was taken by the entire staff prior to treating visitors to breakfast including kiribath (milk rice).



Consulate General of Sri Lanka, Sydney

December 20, 2018 ·

'Consultancy services to provide face to face consultations in Sri Lanka, to meet the growing need for skilled migrants in Australia. These advisory services will be available in January 2019 for Sri Lankans interested in relocating to Australia.'

Australian Presence Legal set to launch migration strategic advisory services in Sri Lanka



Australian Presence Legal Director Tamsin Johnston with Consul General of Sri Lanka in Sydney Lal

Australian Presence Legal (APL), an established full-service commercial and immigration law firm based in the central business district of Sydney, Australia, is set to continue the expansion of its consultancy services to provide face to face consultations in Sri Lanka, to meet the growing need for skilled migrants in Australia. These advisory services will be available in January 2019 for Sri Lankans interested in relocating to Australia.

As a top migration destination of choice, Australia has received tens of thousands of visa applications in 2017 alone. Owing to the complexities of the laws and procedures surrounding Australian migration, a significant proportion of these applications are requisitioned, or refused

Having successfully delivered face-to-face consultancy services in South Africa in November, APL is seeking to include Sri Lanka in its expanding global footprint in early January 2019. By doing so, APL intends to provide both individuals and companies in Sri Lanka with access to experienced Australian lawyers who have a strong commitment to providing independent and trusted legal advice.

[Abridged version- Full article in Sri Lankan Consulate website](#)

Consulate General of Sri Lanka, Sydney

December 12, 2018 ·

The New South Wales Catholic Association recently presented a programme of Christmas Carols. A team representing the Consulate General sang Sinhala carols for the occasion.



Image-Dr. Iresha and family.

THE BERALIHELA CLINIC

Dr. Eresha runs an excellent medical service for the residents of Beralihela

- a small village close to Tissamaharama. We have visited this village many times and have seen more than a hundred patients on each occasion. She lives close to the dispensary and has been grateful for the many donations we have made of medical instruments and drugs. Her husband is the school principal at a local school.

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Quintus de Zylva



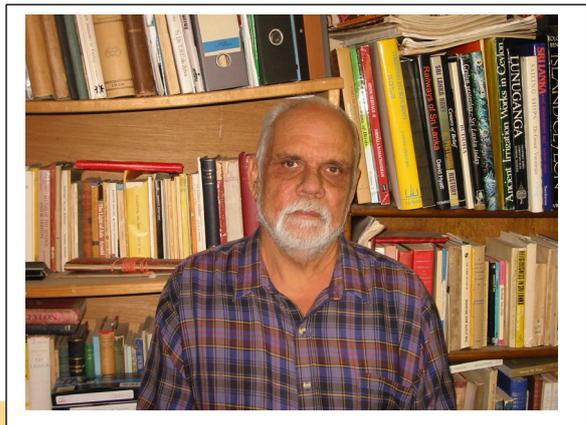
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDsKKfUENXc>

Please click on the link to open the film on Sri Lankan 70th Independent Celebrations in Sydney

Victor Melder's Remarkable Sri Lanka Library in Melbourne

Courtesy of the web journal CONFLUENCE
at <http://www.confluence.mobi/blog/unique-sri-lanka-library/>

A unique library on Sri Lanka, perhaps the only one of its kind overseas, exists in Melbourne, Australia. This library was begun by Victor Melder in 1968, when he migrated to Australia. Victor, who had only one book with him then, [has today accumulated over 4,600 books, 2000 magazines and journals, 25 years Sunday newspapers and a collection of video and audio tapes all on Sri Lanka.](#)



Victor, who grew up in a village in Peradeniya, states he has [savoured village life to its fullest and attributes this to be the cause of his unpretentious love for his motherland.](#) This love, admiration and respect for this beautiful island is something he wishes to share with everyone alike in Australia. This is what gave birth to the 'Victor Melder Sri Lanka Library', which today is used by many Australia wide, as a primary source of reference on Sri Lanka. In 1968, Victor states many Australians were ignorant of Sri Lanka, most thought it to be a town in India, this annoyed him so much, that he knew he had to do something to set the record straight. He also wanted to make known its rich and diverse history, culture and social standing dating back over 2,500 years. He states, "I now knew why I was here, I had to get the message of Sri Lanka across". He was pleased when those around him at work and the neighbourhood began asking questions on Sri Lanka, and Victor states, "I could not answer them all, and so decided to get a book or two down from Sri Lanka which would assist me in this quest, and soon like an argument, where one word leads to another, one book led to another, which today is an unique library.

Over the last forty-three years its popularity has grown, so much so, that queries on Sri Lanka come from every State in Australia. Victor proudly states that the Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra often refers people to the library, for there among its collection lies an answer to every question. He describes it as a learning process, for he states, "I learn something new on Sri Lanka everyday whilst researching material for others".

This large collection has been amassed with the help of friends both in Sri Lanka and Australia, for Victor has not been back to the land of his birth, since he arrived in Australia. With a trace of a smile on his face he states, "[I cannot go back to a place I have'nt left](#)". I am here only physically, I'm there in spirit and still traverse those beaten tracks". Like his father, Victor was an Engine Driver on the CGR and has traveled to most places around the island.

A number of friends in Sri Lanka would send me books etc, and those going back on holiday would contact me prior to going to check what books were needed to be brought back, and with the help of a few individuals in Sri Lanka who have donated books from time to time, the library has grown to what it is. Since Victor retired from the workforce eighteen years ago, his 'buying power' has since dropped and he now relies on donations from individuals and organizations.

The library has its books classified into many headings, some of them being: History, Geography, Tourism, Politics, Religion, Culture, Language/Literature/Writing, Law, Sports, Poetry, Portuguese/Dutch/British Periods, Economics, Art/Architecture, Dictionaries, Year Books/Commemoratives, Agriculture, Education, Anthropology, Wildlife, Flora/Fauna, Cookery, Ethnic Conflict etc.

Students from Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Institutions use the library frequently. With Primary students, the 'lesson' begins with a giant map of Sri Lanka, which adorns the wall. Currently there are four Tertiary students using the library for research purposes for their dissertations and writings. A point in reference, 18 students accompanied by three teachers from Peninsula Grammar College, Mount Eliza, visited the library and spent the morning looking up references on Sri Lanka for a joint project oExpatriate Sri Lankans too use the library, to keep in touch and also read the Sri Lanka Sunday newspapers which are available in the library by noon on Monday. A number of NGO's and quasi government departments also use the library services. Victor spends most of his day in the library, researching material for requests or preparing news summaries etc on Sri Lanka for the various Sri Lankan Organisation newsletter Australiawide.

A number of authors writing books on Sri Lanka also keep Victor busy. He helped Paul Croucher, an Australian Buddhist who wrote "A History of Buddhism in Australia 1848-1988". Currently two Australians are using the library for novels they are writing with a Sri Lankan background. A number of schools invite Victor to display Sri Lankan artifacts at their 'open days', he also visits schools, groups, clubs and organizations giving talks on Sri Lanka and also arranges video and slide displays.

Victor's proudest possession is a copy of '*Twentieth Century Impressions of Ceylon*', which was donated to the library by the Rev Galaboda Sri Gnanissara Thero of the Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo. Another is the entire lot of the Dutch Burgher Union journals issued since 1908 to date, in bound volumes. These journals, along with the indexes of the Wolvendaal Church, Baptism and Marriage records (which the library has), help those doing genealogical research into their family history. The library also has copies of two volumes of the Dutch Company Servants in Ceylon. n Sri Lanka they were working on.

Abridged version

There is an urgent request for clean water from a Village called Mullaiyadi in Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka.

Kilinochchi is located in the northern province of Sri Lanka, 100 km south-east of Jaffna.

Currently this village has only a few wells (photos attached) to provide water for the 232 families and when the drought season is on water becomes very scarce.

This village doesn't have clean water. A community well is one way of addressing this issue and also, they have to depend on the council Water Bowsers to get the water they need.



This well will address the basic need for their day to day and agriculture work. The village community will not have to go far to collect water.

We have started a fund to collect \$A 2,000 so that a water well can be constructed for this community of 232 families

Please contact us if you need more information or wish to make a donation towards the construction of a water well for these 232 families and be a part of this worthy cause.

Regular updates will be provided on the funds collected and the construction activity.

Thank you

Roger & Rozanne Perera - Sydney Australia
0413 713911/ 9837 0414

rogerperera67@hotmail.com

rozannemarie@optusnet.com.au

*As you know we have been helping the poor in Sri Lanka in various ways over the past years by helping them to have a better life with basic needs that we take for granted. Please visit **Jozmic Charity** on Facebook page and you will find a few projects we have done.*

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 732024

Account No: 521699

Name of Account: M R & R M Perera

Ref: well project

Kithsiri recognized



Kithsiri Karunaratne was awarded the SCATS Excellence Award under Media, Arts and Cultural category as recognition of services to the wide community

Seen in the picture, His Excellency Skandakumar, the High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in Australia on the left, with Kithsiri at the 25th Anniversary Celebrations of SCATS SCATS is one of the oldest Sri Lankan community organisations in Melbourne Since its inception in 1992, SCATS (Sri Lankan Study Centre for the Advancement of Technology & Social Welfare Inc, Australia) has grown to become the most active and established Sri Lankan community organization in Melbourne. This year is a milestone to the SCATS as its celebrating of its 25th year anniversary.



2018 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW
* CRAFTS - FIRST PRIZE *



Sriyani's Sugar craft display at the Royal Easter Show 2018

Winner of the highly commended prize



Sri Lanka Association of NSW
Seniors' outing project to Uniting Church
retirement village in Shell Harbour



Acapella Band from Sri Lanka performing at the
Blue Elephant, Restaurant, Pennant Hills,
Sydney



Open-Day Seniors get-together in Sydney.
Monthly event organized by the Sri Lanka
Association of NSW
A unique monthly event to show gratitude to
those Seniors who preserved Sri Lankan identity
in the early days of settlement in the seventies
and eighties.



<https://youtube.com/watch?v=ywcO432O86w>

Visit to the Halgolla Plantation Bungalow-
Galagedera, Kandy District



A Refreshing Retreat To Diyatalawa

December 2018



Immerse in the picturesque sights of the lush greenery and mist-covered mountains

A cool climate, stunning beauty and the aura of discipline - this is perhaps how Sri Lanka's garrison town of Diyatalawa can be best described. Nestled atop the hills in the Badulla District in the Uva Province, Diyatalawa holds a unique ambiance that is rarely forgotten.

Words and photography: Shyam Ranasinghe

The drive to Diyatalawa will require reaching one of the two popular hill country retreats located either side of it, namely Haputale or Bandarawela, both world famous for Sri Lanka's signature crop - tea. A small turn-off from the main A 16 highway either side will take one right through the centre of not a very modern and bustling city, but a modest growth of urban dwellings that holds signs of gradual development. Indeed, Diyatalawa does not race with time, instead it is capable of withstanding it.



Sri Lankan Foods & Cultural
Festival in Sydney on 25th &
26th Nov.2017



Nelum Pokuna- Colombo
[https://youtube.com/watch?v=zs
wZp-0L094](https://youtube.com/watch?v=zs wZp-0L094)

Please click on the link to open

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