



# **Burgher Association Australia**

## **Summer Community Newsletter December 2020**



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## **The 2019/20 Burgher Association Australia Donations Pledge**



The Burgher Association Australia Incorporated (BAA) is passionate about supporting the community and is proud to be helping make a difference in the area of health and wellbeing. It is our goal to empower wellbeing and healthy lifestyles across Australia and Sri Lanka. The BAA is pleased to have considered charitable contributions, donations and sponsorships to children's education in Sri Lanka and other charitable donations/sponsorship based in Australia

The BAA has announced following their November 2019 Committee Meeting that for the forthcoming year donations and sponsorships will be granted to the following.

- **Sponsorship of education to children via the Dutch Burgher Union of Sri Lanka for up to 21 Children doing year 11 and 12 studies**
- **Donation to Deaf/Blind Australia**
- **Donation to the Fred Hollows Foundation Australian Aboriginal Fund**

The General Committee will continue to assess carefully all incoming requests for assistance from the various Charities during the course of the committee year with a view to target better the resources made available for the purpose.



## From the Editor .....



Dear Member And Friends .....

Greetings! and Welcome to the December 2020 Newsletter. It would appear that there is light at the end of the tunnel and, a sincere expectation that the lifting of restrictions is imminent and we can mix & mingle with friends and, relatives again.

Amidst all the angst, depression, loneliness, frustration and, anger brought upon some of us by the powers that be; to control this viral pandemic, one must admit that it is better to be safe and well than suffer from the serious debilitating symptoms of Covid-19. In the midst of this, those of you who may have read about the plagues of yore and, the millions of lives lost, can only imagine what life for us could have been without good leadership, modern medical facilities, an understanding of the need for quarantine restrictions and vaccines in this modern age. Wow! How lucky are we who adhere to the medical advice of our experts?

To keep you in the loop, the Committee has not made any firm decisions on functions in 2021 except a tentative Australia Day celebration; but ... watch this space! We are hopeful that things will be back to normal sooner rather than later. I would urge those of you who have an email address or mobile phone to please update your member record so we can contact you regarding any upcoming function/s at short notice. Please respond to either Breeda Foenander or Hermann Loos. Don't we just want to meet, greet and, enjoy each other's' company again?

Stay well & Safe

Your Editor

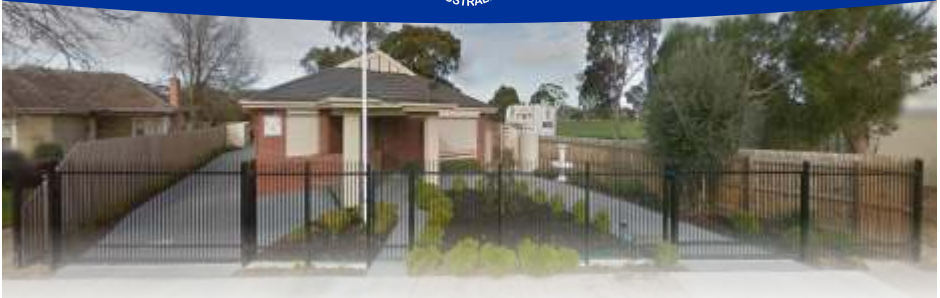


***“Confession is good for the soul, but bad for your career.”***

***~ Anon ~***

## Burgher Association (Australia)

358 Houghton Road, Clayton VIC 3168



The Burgher Association of Australia Centre is available for private hire (**Dances, Birthday parties, Anniversaries etc**). The BAA Centre is located within a short walk from Clayton railway station. The hall is licensed to hold 150 people. Tables and chairs for this number of attendees are provided. There is usually plenty of parking across the road and a few spaces on the property. Disabled access via ramps is available to both the front and rear doors and a disabled parking space is available. There is also a 'horseshoe' driveway permitting the dropping off of attendees under cover.

Commercial kitchen facilities are available including stainless steel splash walls, a commercial glass washer, dishwasher, stove, oven, hot water boiler, large freezer, refrigerator and a bain-marie. There also is an alfresco area at the back that can be used for making the famous Sri Lankan Hoppers, BBQs or other activity that requires a shielded outdoor space. There are multiple reverse-cycle heating and cooling units servicing the main hall and kitchen. There are separate male, female and disabled toilets. More pictures are available on our website <http://burgherassocn.org.au/baa-centre/>

How to make a booking: Call Breeda Foenander on 0423 844 101 to enquire whether the date, you wish to hire the hall for is available. If you are a member of the BAA, the price of hiring the Centre costs \$350 per day; Non-members \$400 per day. Minimum booking is 5 hours (\$300). Hours of operation Friday/Saturday 11AM to 12 Midnight, other days 10AM to 10PM. All bookings require a bond of \$250 that is refunded if the centre is handed back to management clean and undamaged. (**\$2000 for age 21+ and under**). A payment of \$100.00 will be deducted



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Q: What do you call a snowman with a six pack? A: An abdominal snowman

Q: What kind of Christmas music do elves like? A: "Wrap" music

My husband and I were daydreaming about what we would do if we won the lottery. I started: "I'd hire a cook so that I could just say, 'Hey, make me a sandwich!'" Thomas shook his head. "Not me. I already have one of those."

Q: How much money does a pirate pay for corn? A: A buccaneer.

Don't interrupt someone working intently on a puzzle. Chances are, you'll hear some crosswords.

Q: What has T in the beginning, T in the middle, and T at the end? A: A teapot.

What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind? A Maybe

What do you call a pig that does karate? Pork chop

A priest buys a lawn mower at a yard sale. Back home, he pulls on the starter rope a few times with no results. He storms back to the yard sale and tells the previous owner, "I can't get the mower to start!" "That's because you have to curse to get it started," says the man. "I'm a man of the cloth. I don't even remember how to curse." "You keep pulling on that rope, and it'll come back to you."

My neighbor texted me, "I just made synonym buns!"

I texted back, "You mean like grammar use to make?" I haven't heard from her since.

# THE TUNNEL WHICH HID A HISTORIC LOVE STORY

## Mt Lavinia Hotel

The story of one of the most renowned 4-star hotels in Colombo starts in the year 1805, with Sir Thomas Maitland, a gallant military General, who sailed to the island of Ceylon (as Sri Lanka was known at that time) to assume duties as the second British Governor. He was better known by the sobriquet "King Tom". King Tom had the desire to build a grand country mansion for himself, as he was very dissatisfied with the accommodation provided to him on arrival, which he regarded as hardly fitting for a man of his rank and stature. On his travels around the island he discovered the perfect location for a stately house, on a promontory overlooking the sea in the village of Galkissa, not too far from the capital, Colombo.

It was in the year 1806 that King Tom built his new residence, a symbol of the power and authority vested in him, as His Majesty's Governor of the island of Ceylon. Indeed, King Tom built a house fit for a king, wherein he fulfilled his greatest desire of creating a pleasure-dome filled with excitement and entertainment to escape the inevitable pressures upon his freedom as Governor, within a rigidly circumscribed colonial English society. Here within the portals of this house, King Tom first set eyes on a beautiful mestizo dancer, Lovina Aponsuwa, the half Portuguese and half Sinhalese lead dancer of her father's dancing troupe. As she danced before him, enticing him with her long flowing jet-black tresses and fixing his attention with her large, expressive, hazel brown eyes, King Tom was mesmerised. He fell instantly in love with Lovina, for nowhere had he seen such perfection, such beauty, and such grace. Lovina and her dance troupe became regular performers at the Governor's house. Flattered by the attentions of this high-ranking official, Lovina, the lowly dancer was further elated when, as a token of his growing affection, she learned that he was to name his grand country mansion Mount Lavinia, after her. Before long, King Tom and Lovina were engaged in a clandestine romance, their deep passion for one another flourishing in secret, away from the disapproving eyes of the English society in Colombo, and the moral imperatives of such a closed community.

Lovina's life could not have been more different from that of her exalted paramour. She was from the lowest caste among the Sinhalese, the Rodiya community, looked down upon by the higher castes. She lived in humble dwellings a short distance from the Governor's grand mansion. An underground tunnel allowed the Governor and his beloved to keep their trysts secret. The mouth of this tunnel was a disused well near Lovina's dwelling place, and

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the underground passage led to the cellars of the Governor's House. Their romance continued for six years with Lovina a regular visitor at King Tom's private residence. The duties of conscientious Governorship soon took their toll on King Tom, however, and poor health forced him to leave the island of Ceylon and his adored Lovina. The Governor, an honourable man, who wanted to do the very best for Lovina within the social mores of the time, presented her with a parting gift: a large piece of land in Attidiya, a village some distance away from Galkissa. Although the departure of King Tom was to naturally seal the end of their love affair, Lovina's name is remembered as providing the inspiration in naming the Governor's house. Indeed, it is believed that her descendants still live in the vicinity of Mount Lavinia. The legend is the story of Lovina, how she fervently held the attention, and captured the heart of a distinguished British Governor of Ceylon.

By about 1920, the secret tunnel from Governor Maitland's palace to Lavinia's residence was sealed and the village surrounding the mansion became a well-developed modern city. The city was named 'Galkissa', after the Sinhalese word "GalVissa" – meaning twenty boulders. Galkissa was then renamed to "Mount Lavinia" as a mark upon the beautiful dancing girl named Lavinia.

The massive country residence of the British Governor was then transformed into a hotel and named "Mount Lavinia Hotel". To this day, the secret tunnel remains, keeping alive the memory and spirit of the beautiful mestizo dancer, elevated in the popular imagination to "Lady Lavinia".

Credit – Mount Lavinia Hotel, Tripadvisor, Blue Lanka Tours, Bandi's Blog



## The Burgher Exodus.

The Sunday Times

### **Changes in the educational policy shut out the Burghers contends Deloraine Brohier.**

There are very few Burghers left in Sri Lanka today. As for the Dutch Burgher, fair of skin and Europeanized in style of dress, they are taken to be by the general mass of the island's people today, foreigners- tourists or expatriates from the West. "What country do you come from?" is the often-repeated question. When speaking on the occasion of a farewell to an outgoing Ambassador for the Netherlands, our Foreign Minister said: "Alas! there are very few Dutch Burghers in Sri Lanka. They began to melt away perhaps most markedly in the 1950s and in the decade that followed."

The exodus of the Burghers saw them emigrating to Australia, Canada or the U.K. In the years between 1948 and the late 1960s, against a total population of which kept growing in leaps and bounds, the Burgher community kept shrinking. In the General Census 1963, the statistics of the Burghers as against the total population figure of 12 million (12.7) had dropped to 0.4 per cent. By the General Census taken in 1971, the statistic while remaining at 0.4 per cent, saw that the total population had risen to 14 million (14.8), indicating a still further drop in the statistic of the Burgher community.

Undoubtedly the two post-Independence decades saw this falling ratio as against the increase of the island's total population. This was due to the departure of many Dutch Burghers. It must be remembered that at this time a "white Australia" policy prevailed and tended to restrict a free and open entry in emigration to the country. Thus, those Burghers who could prove by genealogy their European origin had an advantage. There were church and family records to substantiate their claim. So, with the early exodus of the community, it was the Dutch Burgher who went.

Why? The question might be asked: Why did the Burghers go? Four centuries had elapsed since, as foreigners, the Burghers had come to Ceylon between 1656 and 1796, when the Dutch East India Company had occupied the maritime regions of the island. As Company servants and free citizens, who were designated "the Burghers", they had emigrated from Europe and decided to strike their roots in this tropical land. When the time for change came with the island becoming a Crown Colony of Great Britain, for reasons personal, about 900 families chose to remain in Ceylon. For 150 years thereafter, in the period of British occupation of by then the entire island, the "Burghers" (as the European-Dutch overflow came to be popularly known), were considered as part of the mix of the island's people.

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The Burghers blended easily with the many races and communities of the population and endeared themselves to all. They entered every sphere of activity in the country and worked toward its development - also in the struggle for Independence. "In literally every walk of life in Sri Lanka, the Dutch Burgher made an outstanding contribution and showed that our national life could be enriched," said the Foreign Minister on the occasion earlier referred to. So, what could have prompted these people - the community, Burghers, and more specifically the Dutch Burghers, to betake themselves away from the land of their birth? Having engaged in many a discussion on the subject this writer is inclined to sum up the reason to - compartmentalization into language streams in our schools.

The decade of the 1940s saw the beginning of significant changes in the country. The emotions of nationalism brought the enactment of policy measures which reflected these trends. In 1942, while still under the British colonial government, there was introduced a ruling that in all national schools in the island, children of one ethnic group had to follow an education in their mother tongue. There was a time-lag before the private missionary schools to which the elite in society sent their children, in Colombo and other leading towns like Kandy, Galle and Jaffna, introduced this policy. So, it was only immediate post-Independence that segregation commenced its implementation island wide. Previously school-goers in all private schools, mainly run by religious missions, studied in the English language, irrespective of which community they belonged to. The latter went up their full educational years, from kindergarten through primary and secondary and then on to university, in English. Examinations in all subjects were held in English - with Sinhalese, Tamil and the older languages like Latin or Sanskrit or Pali taken as separate subjects.

With the policy change in the educational system as referred to, the child became compartmentalized. The child whose parents were both Sinhalese went into the Sinhala stream and the Tamil child into the Tamil stream. Burgher and Muslim went into an English stream, did all their subjects of study in English and took their examinations as such. Eventually the English stream in schools, in the 1960s and early 1970s (maybe due to a steady dwindling in the number of Burgher children), died out. Muslim parents chose to send their children into either the Sinhala or the Tamil streams on the geographic location in which they lived.

An educationist of our present day, Dr. Wimala de Silva, now retired Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura said that the Burghers "not being allowed to study in the national language" was a serious detriment to the community. It was not a question that the Burgher did not want to study Sinhala but that he or she was not allowed to do so by being channeled into a language stream that had lost its acceptability in public life, post-Independence. Thus, the Burgher youth emerging at the end of an educational training in English, and at a time when further political measures were being introduced to give importance to the national language, would have been placed at a distinct disadvantage.

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Moreover, it must be realised that the home language of the Burghers is English — and can be described as their mother tongue. The "mother tongue" being defined by no less a person than Sir Ivor Jennings as "the language a child speaks at his mother's knee". The Burghers were essentially middle class, by tradition coming from the salaried Public Service sector. When seeking employment, the Burgher could have faced discrimination for not having fluency and working ability in the national language - rather, in having these capacities in a foreign language. This was the apprehension of many a Burgher parent.

Entering the Public Service there were language examinations in order to be considered for advancement in one's employment - salary increments, scholarships, even promotions. In truth it should be added here, that with most Burghers the above requirement was no great obstacle and many a case can be cited of Burgher men and women who worked their way up successfully in the Public Service.

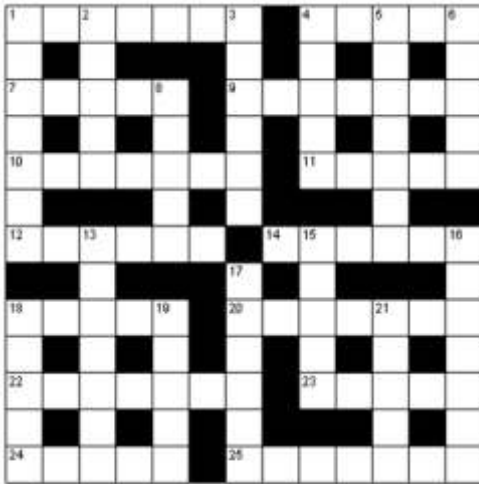
K.M. de Silva, Professor of History, University of Peradeniya once stated also that the Burghers cherished the security of the Public Service which began to come under greater challenge at the time. With the expansion of educational opportunities more Sinhalese and other minority communities were also brought into the professions. Dr. de Silva also notes that after nearly 70 years, in the Legislative Council "the arithmetic of Council membership was (at this time) definitely against the Burghers". So, there was also a political factor. These were all serious considerations in the general movement of change from a colonial era to one of Independence. Thus, uncertain of their future and the prospects in opportunity for work status and success - in the context of the above, the Burgher parent made the choice to seek other pastures. They departed in a steady flow, leaving behind the land of their birth. It was not an easy decision - especially for those of an older age group. For amongst those who emigrated were men well-positioned in their professions, in private and public employment. They headed government departments, were managers of company plantations, of high rank in the mercantile sector and in banks.

It was a sacrifice for many to pull up their roots and it was not an easy decision for those more advanced in years. The heartache of leaving familiar sights and sounds, the nostalgia and memories of the past, parting from old friends, sometimes aging parents who could not or did not want to uproot themselves - and to go out to face the unknown, to make a new beginning was a tough decision. Lifestyles, living conditions, strange climates to get accustomed to and the need to seek employment anew, were challenges. For the young on the other hand, it was exciting.

Political analysts, historians and writers can pontify on the Burghers' exodus from Ceylon - Sri Lanka. The average reader can argue - agree or differ - with hindsight. The writer leaves the subject at that.



## The Crossword



### Across

1. Floorshow (7)
4. Spooky (5)
7. Detection device (5)
9. Vertical (7)
10. Inactivity (7)
11. Measuring implement (5)
12. Dictator (6)
14. Ecclesiastic (6)
18. Copious (5)
20. Drawn (7)
22. Pouch worn with a kilt (7)
23. Diadem (5)
24. Admittance (5)
25. Spiny anteater (7)

### Down

1. Transported (7)
2. Emblem (5)
3. Tropical bird (6)
4. Mistake (5)
5. Dependable follower (7)
6. Go in (5)
8. Magnitude relation (5)
13. Reinforcement (7)
15. Reasoned judgment (5)
16. Musical passage (7)
17. Opportunity (6)
18. Part of a church (5)
19. Ahead of time (5)
21. Obviate (5)

## Solution



## CEYLON – A Brief History

The story of Britain's acquisition of Ceylon, one of the strangest in the history of imperial expansion is a classic example of how intrigue can be at times more effective than force in achieving a national objective. Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1795 was in the hands of the Dutch, who had ruled it for about 150 years since throwing out the island's first European masters, the Portuguese. Britain, at war with the French, who had seized Holland and might at any time seize Dutch overseas possessions, realized that the island - particularly its grand harbour of Trincomalee in which an entire fleet could ride safely at anchor was vital to the protection of the sea routes to Bengal, the Orient and the Pacific. To conquer Ceylon could be a costly and bloody business. The Dutch Governor at Colombo had a strong garrison of Swiss mercenary soldiers with which to defend it. The British therefore decided to employ an agent, a 34-year-old Scotsman named Hugh Cleghorn, who posed as a professor from St. Andrews University.

The troops in Ceylon were only under contract to the Dutch: they actually constituted a private army owned by a Swiss nobleman, Count Charles de Meuron of Neuchatel. Cleghorn made a secret journey to Switzerland and persuaded the Count to withdraw his troops from Dutch service by the simple but effective method of offering him more money than the Dutch were paying. There remained the problem of smuggling the Count's instructions past the Dutch guards to his brother, who commanded the mercenaries in Ceylon. Ever resourceful, Cleghorn hid the Count's signed order in a cheese - appropriately enough - a Dutch Edam. The message got through. The Swiss garrison deserted the Dutch Governor, who capitulated to a British force with scarcely a struggle in February, 1796. The British paid Cleghorn 5,000 pounds for his work and duly added Ceylon, with its fine natural harbour at Trincomalee to its growing Empire.

The island was turned over to the East India Company, but after just two years, during which the Company's attempts to impose Indian style taxation provoked rioting among the inhabitants, a dual system of rule was established. The Company controlled Ceylon's commerce while law and administration were in the hands of a Governor answerable to both the Company and the British government. The first Governor was Frederick North, the brilliant but erratic son of Lord North, who had been George III's Prime Minister. North, 32 years old when he appointed, was a bachelor who enjoyed living in style on his handsome salary of 10,000 pounds a year and used to thunder round Trincomalee in a coach-and-six. North was not a mere figurehead and resented the interference of the East India Company. He was able to use his influence back in Britain to get the government to end the dual system and declare Ceylon a Crown Colony in 1802, when by the Peace of Amiens, Holland formally ceded the island to Britain. He created a civil service, the first under the Crown in the East, with postal, survey, audit, education and medical departments. A remarkable linguist - he spoke French, Spanish, German, Russian, Italian and Greek - he made proficiency in the local language a pre-requisite to promotion.

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Unfortunately, his impulsiveness and ambition led him into trouble. Britain occupied only the coastal areas of Ceylon; in the interior highlands the ancient Kingdom of Kandy still maintained the independence it had enjoyed during Portuguese and Dutch rule. Although the British government was only interested in Ceylon's maritime provinces and had no obvious use for Kandy at the moment, North decided to bring the Kandyan under British control. He began to intrigue with Pilima Talauva, their Chief Minister, or *adigar*, against the King of Kandy. "*I am not sure whether I have acted like a good politician,*" he wrote, "*or like a great nincompoop.*" His self-doubt was well-placed. In 1803 he sent 3,400 men into Kandy to avenge the theft of a 300-pound shipment of betel-nuts. After a tortuous series of political shuffles, during which North put a puppet King on the throne, under the direction of Talauva, the *adigar*. After this, the main British force returned to Colombo, leaving 300 Europeans and 700 British Malays to show the flag in the new vassal state.

This garrison soon found itself surrounded by the troops of the treacherous *adigar*, who was quite happy to turn on his supposed allies, the British, in his determination to assert power for himself. Promised their lives, the British surrendered. Only one of them, a corporal named George Barnsley, survived to tell how the Kandyan warriors then grabbed the British soldiers by pairs, "*knocked them down with the butt-end of their pieces, and beat their brains out.*" When the Kandyans found that Barnsley was still alive, he was twice hanged, but both times the rope broke. He eventually crawled away in the darkness, was tended by a villager and ultimately rescued. The marauding Kandyans went on to invade British territory and actually came within a few miles of Colombo before reinforcements rushed from India forced them back. The Kandyan War of 1803, said a British officer, was conducted "*by both parties, Christian and Heathen, with savage barbarity.*" Questions were asked in Parliament, both because the war was "*rank and impolitic in its origin and commencement,*" and because the government failed to mount a punitive expedition to avenge the massacre. The reinforcements needed for such an action could not be spared as long as the British were heavily engaged in their life-and-death struggle with Napoleon.

Through the years of uneasy peace which followed, British officials in Ceylon continued to dabble secretly in Kandyan politics. The King, Sri Vikrama Rajasinha, successfully countered the intrigues of the ambitious *adigar*, beheaded him. He went on to generate an awesome reputation for barbarism hideous enough to ensure that there would be at least some support for Britain should another invasion occur in the future. The *adigar's* replacement, heedless of his predecessor's fate, was caught intriguing with the British with messages written on dried palm leaves - and fled to Colombo, leaving his family behind. His children were publicly beheaded, and his wife, under threat of being raped before an audience, was compelled to pound their severed heads with a pestle. She was then drowned in a lake.

In 1814 a group of Moorish merchants, British subjects, were seized in Kandy and had their ears, noses and hands cut off. Seven were killed and the three who survived were driven

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towards Colombo *"with the severed members tied to their necks."* Soon, with the ending of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, troops were made available to pacify this unruly interior. Sir Robert Brownrigg, then Governor of Ceylon, personally led an expedition to Kandy. Many Kandyan nobles and peasants welcomed the British troops as liberators from the King's despotism. Not a single British soldier was killed. The King was captured and exiled, and the chiefs signed a document which became known as the Kandyan Convention of 1815.

Kandy became part of the British Empire, the chiefs retained the *"rights, privileges and powers of their respective offices,"* and civil and religious liberty was guaranteed. This attempt at a form of indirect rule, did not entirely work. It allowed for free trade to the coast which contravened some of the rights and privileges traditionally assumed by the chiefs. It also said that civil and criminal cases involving Kandyans were to be tried as was customary, but it abolished torture and mutilation, which were customary punishments. Before long, the chiefs began to realize that they ranked no higher than the commonest British soldier in their forts scattered throughout Kandy. Buyer's remorse turned many former Kandyan enthusiasts against British rule. Discontent exploded into rebellion in 1817 when a priest named Wilbawe claimed the throne of Kandy. A British Assistant Resident sent to capture him was killed. Soon all but one of the chiefs of Kandy had joined the revolt, which received an additional boost when the Sacred Tooth of Buddha - Kandyans believed that whoever held the Sacred Tooth ruled the country - was stolen from its shrine and delivered to the rebels.

Reinforced from India, Brownrigg reacted with a severity that a British commission of inquiry later found *"difficult to justify."* His troops methodically burned villages and destroyed cattle and crops. *"Much care was taken,"* wrote a British officer, *"to sweep the country bare of everything, for the purpose of denying the inhabitants the means of subsistence."* None the less, it was only when a new pretender to the throne appeared and the rebels began fighting among themselves that Brownrigg managed to subdue them; in all 10,000 Kandyans and 1,000 British were killed in the course of putting down the rebellion. Mainly under the direction of Sir Edward Barnes, who was made Governor in 1824, the British consolidated their hold on all of Ceylon. Barnes, a great autocrat who had fought with distinction at Waterloo, drank excessively and built mansions for himself throughout the island. *"The business of all the merry party at government house,"* wrote a visitor, *"was pleasure."* But he also oversaw the building of roads which linked Kandy to Colombo, Trincomalee, Matale and Kurunegala. He instituted a regular, island-wide mail coach service and helped promote the cultivation of coffee as an export crop by granting special tax concessions - from which he was one of the first to benefit. He opened his own coffee estate in 1825.

Despite this progress, the Colonial Office was increasingly uneasy about the way the colony was run. All power, legislative and administrative, was concentrated in the Governor. He had an advisory council - appointed by himself - but he was not obliged to take its advice.

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The otherwise admirable road-building, like other public works in Ceylon, was accomplished by the use of forced labour under a system of conscription inherited from old Sinhalese regimes. The Governor's cinnamon monopoly, then the only major export crop, was called into question in Parliament. There were also complaints about the fact that "*one of the finest colonies in the world,*" with a revenue of 350,000 pounds a year, could not - because of a large military establishment and high salaries for its administrators - pay its own way.

A commission led by Sir William Colebrooke and Charles Cameron, after thoroughly studying Ceylon's problems, in 1832 published a report which, although it was many years being implemented, established a whole new pattern for governing the colony. Colebrooke called for an end to compulsory labour and government monopolies. He recommended that the civil service be open to all, regardless of race or caste, and that education be improved for natives so they could attain "*some of the higher appointments.*" He suggested a legislative council which could send its proposed laws, if they were vetoed by the Governor, directly to the Secretary of State in London - and even advocated native participation on the council. A report on the judiciary proposed a system of courts removed from the Governor's control and giving equal treatment to natives and Europeans.

Sir Edward Barnes condemned the Colebrooke reforms on the grounds that they "*must ultimately lead to a separation of the island from British control,*" which, ultimately, they did, although much, much later. Barnes resigned in protest. His successor, Sir Robert Wilmot Horton, while a more liberal-minded man, also thought Colebrooke had gone too far and resisted instituting some of the recommendations, many of which, in any case, were difficult to implement. As late as the end of the Victorian era, J. R. Weinman, a Ceylonese writer from one of the old Dutch burgher families, could still say that "*the Governor is the Government. He is all-powerful. He wields more power within his domain than the Kaiser or the President of the United States. He not only reigns, but rules. He has the last word, and [because he need not reveal to his council what he tells London] what his last word is nobody knows.*" Even so, the piecemeal implementation of the reforms kept Ceylon on the road towards self-government far in advance of other British colonies inhabited by non-Europeans.

That the reforms, however slow, were important to the people of Ceylon was dramatically demonstrated in 1848. The colony was in economic trouble. Its coffee growing industry, which had been booming ever since Barnes had given it top concessions, 'suddenly slumped in 1845. The prices paid in London for coffee dropped by almost four-fifths. Estates which had been bought for 15,000 pounds were being sold for less than 500 pounds. Ceylon had a new Governor, Viscount Torrington, whose only qualification for ' the job, said his political enemy Benjamin Disraeli, was that he had once been a director of a railway company. Torrington was so tactless and contemptuous of others that he even managed to alienate many of the European residents. He was hardly the man to handle the imposition of stringent new

cont'd ....

measures to end Ceylon's budget deficit. These included a revival of forced labour (six days annually on a road gang for anyone who could not afford to buy his way out) and taxes the Ceylonese on guns, which they needed to hunt food for their families, and on dogs, which abounded in every village but which did not actually belong to anyone. The result in July, 1848, was an outbreak of rioting that Torrington crushed within four days. He then executed 18 of the captive rebels, sentenced 28 to transportation, and flogged and imprisoned 66 more. There was protest in London, especially over the public whipping of a pretender to the Kandy throne and the execution of a Buddhist monk while dressed in his canonical robes. A select committee investigated. Torrington was recalled in 1850. It was the last civil disturbance Ceylon was to experience during the 19th Century.

Ceylon was to suffer, however, a much more severe and far reaching disturbance - in the form of an agricultural upheaval. Coffee, which had long replaced cinnamon as Ceylon's chief export, became a bigger and bigger business after recovery from the 1845 slump. In 1836, there had been only 4,000 acres planted in coffee; by 1845 there were 37,000 acres; and by 1878, coffee estates covered 275,000 acres. Tamil labourers to work the plantations were imported at a rate of up to 70,000 a year. In 1867 a railway was built from Kandy to Colombo just to carry coffee. In 1869, at the glorious height of Ceylon's coffee prosperity, the island received an unwelcome visitation in the form of *Hemileia vastatrix*, soon all too commonly known as "*coffee rust*." At first the planters refused to believe this leaf blight could be their undoing, and continued to buy and plant more acres with coffee bushes. But within 20 years coffee rust virtually demolished the industry.

That the island's economy was not completely laid waste was the doing of one man, a Scot named James Taylor. Four years before coffee rust made its appearance, Taylor, assistant superintendent of a coffee plantation, planted 19 acres of tea as an experiment. He had no equipment. His labourers rolled the tea-leaves by hand on his veranda and dried them in clay ovens over charcoal fires. For a small-scale operation, it was successful. In 1872 he built a proper teahouse with Ceylon's first rolling machine. Coffee-planters, beginning to despair about the spread of leaf blight, came from all over the island to study Taylor's methods of tea production. In 1875, there were 1,100 acres planted to tea. By 1890, there were 220,000 acres. At the turn of the century, there were 384,000. A whole new industry had been born out of the disaster of an old one. By 1900, the planters, spearheaded by the dynamic marketing techniques of the multi-millionaire Sir Thomas Lipton, were exporting 150 million pounds of tea annually. The tea business was almost entirely a British monopoly. Neither the Sinhalese nor the Tamils of Ceylon had the capital necessary to start plantations. Almost all of Ceylon's wealth, in fact, was in the hands of Europeans, who constituted less than one per cent of the total population of the island.

Besides the wide gulf between the British and the non-European Ceylonese, the Ceylonese themselves were divided against each other into three main groups: the coastal Sinhalese,

cont'd ....

the inland Kandyans, and the Tamils - both those brought in from India by the British and those who had been in the island for centuries. In 1915 communal rioting broke out. The disturbances, which began when Muslims objected to Buddhist processions passing near their mosques, were actually rather minor. But Governor Sir Robert Chalmers insisted that the riots were a *"foreign plot"* to embarrass England during the war. He declared martial law in five of Ceylon's provinces. Hundreds of people, including Don Stephen Senanayake who was to become independent Ceylon's first Prime Minister, were imprisoned and charged with sedition. Some were killed, although just how many is not known.

An English observer told the Colonial Secretary that Chalmers and his advisers were *"suffering from so acute an attack of treasonitis that nothing short of a complete change of venue from Ceylon to England"* could put matters aright. Chalmers, protesting that *"a revolt had been put down with rose water,"* was called home. A new Governor, Sir John Anderson, released 800 prisoners and appointed a commission to investigate the disturbances.

Ceylon calmed down, but the indiscriminate brutality of the repression in 1915 served as an enormous stimulus to the nationalist movement, which began to take shape in the form of parties and associations dedicated to political reform. Although independence was still a long way off, Ceylon's rulers had conferred almost 70 years of peace and prosperity on the island and its peoples. *"I trust,"* wrote a certain Robert Fellows back in 1817, *"that Great Britain will make her sovereignty of Ceylon contribute to the increase of civilization, to the encouragement of knowledge, the diffusion of Christian benevolence, and the consequent augmentation of the general happiness."* It may have been paternalistic and condescending but Britain's rule did provide concrete economic and infrastructural investment which helped propel Ceylon far further than many other her colonies.



# Trivia Fun

## Ice Breakers

1. How many colours are there in a rainbow? *7.*
2. Name the dog in the traditional "Punch and Judy Show". *Toby.*
3. What is the name of red earthenware pottery, which remains porous when unglazed? *Terracotta.*
4. What is a large tent called when used to house a circus? *Big Top.*
5. Which black mineral, especially popular with Victorians, was used to make jewelry? *Jet.*
6. What do you call a time span of one thousand years? *Millennium.*
7. When did the world celebrate its most recent millennium? *Year 2000.*
8. How many degrees are found in a circle? *360.*
9. The Dewey Decimal system is used to categorize what? *Books.*
10. How many squares are there on a chess board? *64.*

## Let's get serious!

1. What was the very first women's magazine called? *The Ladies Mercury.*
2. What colour is the brandy liquor called Chartreuse? *Green or yellow.*
3. By what name is Norma Jean Baker more commonly known? *Marilyn Monroe.*
4. What is the Scottish drink made from whisky and heather honey called? *Drambuie.*
5. Name the suffragette who threw herself under King George V's horse in 1913? *Emily Davison.*
6. What life-saving device did Sir Humphry Davy invent? *Miner's safety lamp, the Davy Lamp.*
7. The word 'bible' comes from the Greek 'biblion'—what does biblion mean? *Book.*
8. Name the historical prince whose name was used by Bram Stoker in his famous novel. *Dracula.*
9. Name the four main human blood groups. *A, B, AB and O.*
10. Who was the legendary king who was killed at the Battle of Camelford? *Arthur.*

## **LANDMARKS OF SRI LANKA TOURISM**

(from the book *SOARING SPIRITS AND SHOOTING STARS*)

400 AD. Historically authenticated evidence of flourishing domestic tourism, found in graffiti on mirror wall at Sigiriya, in sight of the frescos, where visitors scrawled poetry in adulation of the "heavenly maidens", they had come "a long way" to see.

410 AD. "*A Record of Buddhist Kingdoms*" by Chinese scholar Fa-Xian records his travels in Sri Lanka, during two-year internship at Jetavana university in Anuradhapura.

1290 Serendib, as Sri Lanka was then known, to Arab traders, becomes important destination on the "silk road on the sea".

1293 Marco Polo arrives in a naval convoy escorting a princess of the court of Kublai Khan to marry the Khan of Persia. He describes Sri Lanka as "the best island" in the world.

1344 Moroccan scholar Ibn Battuta arrives on pilgrimage to Adam's Peak. He records meeting the King who "rides a white elephant adorned with rubies, size of hen's eggs" and citizens wearing "brilliant red rubies"

1350 Giovanni de Marignolli, Papal envoy to court of 'Great Khan of Cathay' detained in Berberyn or Beruwala. He wrote island is so close to Paradise, the "sound of waters falling from fountain of Paradise is heard there."

1450 Chinese navigator and diplomat Admiral Zheng He, arrives in what is today's China Bay in Trincomalee

1505 The first Western Conquistadors, the Portuguese arrive, rename the island Ceilao. Jesuit Fr. Queyroz records their 'Temporal and Spiritual Conquest' of maritime provinces.

1640 King of Kandy invites the Dutch to oust the Portuguese, from the maritime provinces. They stay to rule and rename the island Ceilan, giving rise to the adage, "like exchanging ginger for pepper."

1660 British sea captain Robert Knox is held prisoner of King of Kandy for 16 years after his ship is impounded in Trincomalee. He writes first Western account of Sri Lanka

1796 British take Dutch possessions in maritime Ceilan, under Treaty of Amiens ending Napoleonic Wars in Europe.

1815 Kandyan chiefs cede Sri Lanka to British Crown, under the Kandyan Convention, thus ending 2500 years' lineage of Sri Lanka Monarchy. British rename island, Ceylon.

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1834 *Ceylon Observer*, oldest English language newspaper in Asia launched boosting publicity for island's beauty

1864 Galle Face Hotel, the oldest hotel east of Suez opens in Colombo.

1896 Mark Twain arrives, exclaims "dear me, it is beautiful...a dream of fairyland and paradise". Writes glowing account in book *Following the Equator*.

1937 Government Tourist Bureau set up to service cruise pax on shore excursions.

1945 World War II ends.

1946 P.A. Ediriweera starts country's first travel agency, Ceylon Tours Ltd., with Justin Kotelawala, D.B.Dhanapala and Rosalind Koch as Directors.

1946 The island's first overseas tourism promotion held in New York at the Waldorf Astoria by Ediriweera and Kotelawala. First Ceylon tourist promotion advertisements published in The New York Times.

1947 Air Ceylon, the national flag carrier begins operations.

1948 Ceylon gains political independence from Britain.

1952 Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA) is incorporated in Hawaii for development of travel industries as engines of growth of war battered economies of Asia and Pacific

1954 PATA introduces Ediriweera to United Artistes, Horizon Pictures and Universal Studios and jointly conduct first promotion to induce movie production in Ceylon.

1954 Hollywood movie, 'Elephant Walk' with Liz Taylor filmed in Ceylon

1955 Ceylon Tours is first PATA member in Ceylon followed by Ceylon Express, GFH and Quickshaws.

1957 'Bridge on the River Kwai' with Alec Guinness and William Holden, filmed in Ceylon.

1961 PATA releases Checchi Report urging formation of National Tourism Offices for planned development and promotion of tourism.

cont'd ....

1965 First international tourism organization to set up office in Ceylon, the Pacific Area Travel Association establishes PATA Ceylon Chapter – second in Asia after Hong Kong and first in South Asia

1965 Ceylon Tourist Hotels Association is inaugurated

1966 Ceylon Tourist Board and Ceylon Hotels Corporation are established, on blueprint recommended by PATA Checchi Report for planned development/promotion of tourism.

1967 Ceylon's first ten-year Tourism Master Plan is launched.

1970 Ceylon's first planned holiday resort opened in Bentota on architecture plans by PATA Life Member, Pete Wimberley. PATA holds first meeting, in Bentota, a Board meeting.

1970 Age of Mass Tourism dawns with introduction of Jet engines on commercial aviation by Pan American World Airways. Charter loads of European tourists arrive in Ceylon.

1970 The World Tourism Organization is formed.

1972 Ceylon reverts to its original name, Sri Lanka.

1972 Helitours, by Sri Lanka Air Force begins air-tours

1973 BMICH, first purpose built international convention center in south Asia, opens in Colombo.

1974 Travel Agents Association of Sri Lanka (TAASL) formed

1984 Sri Lanka hosts its first PATA Annual Conference on themes: 'Heritage & Environment Conservation' and 'Culture Without Exploitation'-- first conference in world to focus on symbiotic relationship between tourism and conservation. 1,200 delegates, launched PATA Gold Awards, PATA Foundation and inaugurated annual PATA Chapter Day



## What was the largest empire in the world?

By Benjamin Plackett - Live Science Contributor

Depends how you measure it.

At its peak, the British Empire ruled a quarter of the world's surface and population, but it still isn't history's biggest empire.

According to Guinness World Records, which seems as good an authority as any, the answer is the Achaemenid Empire in 480 B.C. Also known as the Persian Empire, it's estimated that 44% of the world's population was ruled from the Achaemenid throne in what is now modern-day Iran, making it history's largest empire by this measure. However, perhaps unsurprisingly, not everyone agrees. That's because the share of the global population is only one way to measure the expanse of an empire, and some question whether it's really fair to use that metric when comparing empires from different time periods. For example, when the Achaemenid Empire was at its height, there were only 112.4 million people alive. The British ruled over a comparatively meager quarter of the world's population in 1901, but by then the global population had swelled to 1.6 billion people. Is it reasonable to compare the British and Achaemenid empires with this metric? Or are we comparing apples to oranges?

That's without getting into the pros and cons of the other ways to measure size: largest land mass; largest contiguous land mass; largest army; largest gross domestic product; and so on. Instead, we should use a metric to measure long-term influence and stability, said Martin Bommas, an Egyptologist and director of the Macquarie University History Museum in Sydney, Australia, because it's one thing to embark on warring campaigns to amass land, but it takes a different set of logistical skills and infrastructure to keep and administer those territories.

"For me, the metric would be counted in years," Bommas told Live Science. "Look at Hitler's Third Reich; it took a lot of territory to rival the Romans, but no one would call it an empire because it only lasted six years and in a period of total war."

"I think that to be classed as an empire, you need to have a period of peace to bring prosperity," Bommas added. That prosperity can then be exploited so that resources and wealth can be sent back to the motherland, Bommas said. That's where Genghis Khan's Mongol Empire fails as a contender for the world's largest empire. While it can legitimately claim to be the largest contiguous land empire,

cont'd ....



it didn't last that long. Just 88 years after its founding, the empire was cut into four separate khanates because Genghis Khan's descendants squabbled over the line of succession, and most of the Mongol Empire's relatively brief unity was spent engaged in battle with outsiders, aggressively expanding its borders at what proved to be an unsustainable rate.

The British Empire may not have been contiguous, but it beats the Mongols in terms of land mass under its control. "It was so massive that we almost struggle to comprehend it today," said Bommas. "The sun literally didn't set on the British Empire and it wasn't just land that it controlled; the seas were dominated by the British."

The British Empire emerged in the late 1500s when the then-separate kingdoms of England and Scotland established their first overseas colonies in the Americas and the Caribbean. On a technical level, you could make an argument that the British Empire still exists — albeit in a dramatically diminished sense — through its continued possession of 14 relatively minor overseas territories including Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands. There are also 16 independent countries, also known as Commonwealth Realms, where Queen Elizabeth II is still the head of state, including Australia, Belize, Canada, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and several Caribbean countries. But most agree it ended in 1997, when the United Kingdom handed Hong Kong back to China, Bommas said.

"Prince Charles said that Hong Kong marked the end," Bommas said. "It was the last major colony in the empire, so I'm happy to go along with him on that one." If we also agree with Prince Charles, then the British Empire lasted roughly 400 years, which means that though the British conquered more parts of the globe than anyone else, they still can't be called the largest empire when measured by longevity. The Ottoman Empire, governed from modern-day Turkey, outlasted the British Empire because it ruled for at least 600 years. But it was the Romans — assuming you agree that the Roman Empire persisted when it split in two to create the Western Roman Empire and the Eastern Roman Empire — the latter of which lasted the longest at close to 1,500 years. "If you look at it through years lasted, the Romans won this competition hands down," Bommas said.

*Originally published on Live Science.*



***The creditor hath a better memory than the debtor. -- unknown***

## 2020/21 Subscription Reminder

Dear Member

If you have not paid your subscriptions for the previous or current year Financial Year, we will not worry you with further reminders except to say that you are a valued member of the Burgher cultural identity and we, through this Association, endeavour to maintain a focal point for the continuity of our cultural community traditions and unique identity. Please consider renewing your Membership.

Please refer to the address label and if the "Paid to Date" is a prior financial year we would appreciate your continued support of the Burgher Association. The Annual Subscription is \$20 and is payable on 1st July of each year. If you prefer you may make payments in advance for a future year's subscription. Please send your remittance to:

### The President

Burgher Association (Australia) Inc  
No 1 St Georges Court, Toorak Vic 3142

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Please find attached remittance for \$20 being Member Fees due for the Financial Year: 2019/20  2020/21  other

**MAIL TO:** The President, Burgher Association (Australia) Inc. No 1 St Georges Court, Toorak Vic 3142.

**COMMENTS:** .....  
.....

# 26 JANUARY 2021



12.00noon to 5.00pm  
Music for your listening pleasure!

358 Houghton Road,  
Clayton 3169



**Buffet By "Cha's Cabin"**  
Roast Beef, Roast Pork,  
Roast Chicken, Roast Vegies,  
Scalloped Potatoes, Tossed Salad  
Bread Rolls & Butter  
Mustard Sauce & Apple Sauce  
Dessert: Caramel Pudding + Pavlova

**Bring the Family!**

**Adults - \$35.00pp**

**Children - \$15.00**

**(Under 15 years old)**

#### TICKET CONTACTS

Ashley Henricus - 9561 6212  
Tamaris Lourensz - 5981 8187  
Elaine Jansz - 9798 6315  
Breedia or Harvey Foenander - 8790 1610  
Carol or Hermann Loos - 9827 4455  
Terry Backhouse - 9774 7300  
Rita or Bert VanGeysel - 9503 4841  
Fallon De Zilwa - 0414 096 774  
Neville Davidson - 0419 880 329  
Shoua Liu - 0420 225 600, Ruth Liu -0415 463 037  
Hans De Zilwa - 0419 292 939

**BYO**



**Limited Numbers, so Hurry!**

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE  
CELEBRATION DATE  
IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT  
TO COVID - 19 RESTRICTIONS**



Burgher Association Australia  
Presents

## A Buriyani Lunch

12.00noon - 5.00pm

Caterer

“Cha’s Cabin”

# 18 April 2021

358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3168

### *Menu*

Buriyani Rice	Sri Lankan Badun
Chicken Curry	Eggs
Mutton Curry	Raita
Cashew & Pea Curry	Pineapple & Tomato Salad
Tempered Potatoes	Dessert - Watalappan

### TICKET CONTACTS

Ashley Henricus - 9561 6212, Tamaris Lourensz - 5981 8187

Elaine Jansz - 9798 6315, Neville Davidson - 0419 880 329

Breeda or Harvey Foenander - 8790 1610

Carol or Hermann Loos - 9827 4455

Rita or Bert VanGeyzel - 9503 4841

Fallon De Zilwa - 0414 096 774, Hans De Zilwa - 0419 292 939

Shoua Liu - 0415 463 037, Ruth Liu - 0420 225 600

Music for your listening pleasure!

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THE  
CELEBRATION DATE  
IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT  
TO COVID - 19 RESTRICTIONS**

## OBITUARIES

(E & O.E.)

**SCHRAENGUIVEL – J.R.N (Bunting)**, husband of Dagmar (dec), father of Anne-Marie Scharenguivel Kellar, grandfather of Dominic and Daniel, in Sri Lanka on August 31, 2020, aged 99 years. (Contributed)

**PERUMAL – WALTER**, husband of Cordelia (nee Bastiaensz), father and father-in-law of Colin & Rachel, Wendell & Michelle, Keith & Kylie, grandfather of Mackenzie, Dominique, Cohen, Aria and Niana. Son of late Aloy & Therese, son-in-law of late Pat & Cordelia. Brother of Vilma Navaratnam (Aus), Felix, late Inez Panambalana, late Evan, Jean Dharmaratne (Aus) and Bryan (Aus), brother-in-law of late Rudolph Navaratnam, late Chitra, late Christo Panambalana, Manel, Bryan Dharmaratne (Aus), Carla (Aus), Denver and Heather (Aus), Branwell and Geetha (Aust), in Melbourne on September 1, 2020. – 6, Tyalla Way, Packenham, Vic 3810. (Daily News 3.9.2020)

**PLUNKETT – LEN CHRISTOPHER, husband** of Sandra (nee Labrooy), father of late Shannon and of Luzanne, Tracey and Andrea, father-in-law of Gerald Bennett, grandfather of Alexandria and Giada. Son of late Oliver & Fortune Plunkett, brother of Heather, Virginia, Glen, Bubbles, Annette, Liston, Aubrey, Jo (all Aus) and late Dawn, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 8.9.2020)

**WIJAYARATNA – FREDA.** Wife of late Newton Wijayaratna, mother of Shalini Jayaweera, Kusum Heenatigala, Kumar and Naushad Wijayaratna and Damayanthi Perera, in Melbourne on September 9, 2020, aged 92 years. (Contributed)

**BOULTON – GEOFFREY WARREN**, husband of Sue, father of Debbie and Craig, father-in-law of Michael, grandfather of Aiden. Brother of Ellen. In Perth, WA. (West Australian, 9.9.2020)

**DISSANAYAKE – GUNASINGHE MUDIYANSELAGE (GUNE)**, husband of Judy (nee Speldewinde), father of Samantha and Suzanne (Germany), father-in-law of Camillia and Alfred, grandfather of Tim and Eric, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 11.9.2020)

**MULLER – HILDA (nee Schokman)**, wife of **Douglas** (dec), mother and mother-in-law of Christopher & Doreen. Sister & Sister-in-law of late Thelma & Donald Patternott, late Percy & Cynthia Schokman (USA), late Kenneth & Litticia Schokman, Audrey & Gladwin Gooneratne, Grace & late Errol Van Houten, Louise & late Nowell Hannibalsz, late Olive & Rodney Schokman, Valerie & late Peter Weerakoon, Charles & Sheelagh Schokman (UK) and Sylvia Ephraums, in Melbourne on September 11, 2020. (Contributed)

**MORTIER – DRENO MILAN AUGUSTUS JOSEPH**, son of Augustus Mortier & Antoniette (nee Senaratne), brother of Michelle, Rochelle and Jason Morter, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 13.9.2020)

cont'd ....

**SOERTSZ – THERESE LESLEY AUDREY (nee Holsinger)**, wife of the late Aloysius (Aloy) Soertsz, mother of late Daphne and Brian, Derek and Darrell, mother-in-law of Siva, Heather, Trudy and Bernadine, grandmother of Diane, Denise, Gregory, Trisha, Michael, Keith, Kevin, Janine, Bernard and Ryan. Great grandmother of Clara, Henry, Alana, Shania, Amelia, David and Iniyal, in Melbourne. – 67 Shanthi Road, Hendala, Wattala, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 13.9.2020)

**EKANAYAKE – HERCULES (HERKY) NOEL BOYD**, husband of Norah (nee Thomasz), father of Russel, Avril, Romaine, Lou, Trevor, Sean and Jeremy, father-in-law of Charles Psaila, Wilhelm Forster, Yasmin, Odile, Janine and Judy. Grandfather of Simone, Suren, Natalie, Nadia, Dimitri, Trent, Stefan, Scott, Alain, Jayden, Jermaine and Javan, great grandfather of 9. Brother of Sam (dec), Douglas (dec), Hope Bandara, Brenda Samaranayake and Drucilla de Silva (all SL), in Melbourne on September 11, 2020. (Daily News 16.9.2020)

**JANSZ – ORANEE VINITHA JAYASUNDERA (nee Goonewardene)**, wife of Prof. Raddy Jansz, mother of Maithri and Mahen, Michael and Thushara, Mihiri and Randy, grandmother of Rahul, Tiana, Kiara, Mark, Raveena and Roshani. Sister of late Ranjith and Anoma, Nhal and Pushpa, Gemunu and Ianthi, Cedric and Faye, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 22.9.2020)

**VANDERZEIL – EARNEST SPENCER**, Husband of Lorna, Father of Phillip, Pauline & Robert in Dandenong, Victoria, on September 14, 2020, aged 95 years. (Contributed)

**SENEVIRATNE – BARBARA (nee Vanderwert)**, wife of the late Harold Seneviratne, mother of Jo, Hugh, Jacquie, Jenny and Ramona, grandmother of 12, great grandmother of 11. Daughter of the late Annesley & Thelma Vanderwert, sister of Moonyeen, late Errol and Maryse, in California, USA, on September 23, 2020. (Contributed)

**MOLDRICH – ROSE FLORENCE (NEE De Fry)**, in Queensland, on September 28, 2020, aged 96 years. (Contributed)

**BERENGER – MAUREEN (Nee Morel)**, wife of Hilary (Dec), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**JURIANSZ, ANGLAM**, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

**PEIRIS, PETER RANDOLF (RANDY)**, partner of Judy, father of Ramone, Daniela and Laani. in Sydney. Brother of Cheryl Outchoorn and Rima Peiris, in Sydney. (Contributed)



*For death is but a passing phase of Life; A change of dress, a disrobing; A birth into the unborn again; A commencing where we ended; A starting where we stopped to rest; A crossroad of Eternity; A giving up of something, to possess all things. The end of the unreal, the beginning of the real. -- Edwin Leibfreed*





# Coming Events At the BAA You Should Know About!



## **26 January 2021**

Australia Day Celebrations

BAA Community Hall - 358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3169

12.00noon - 5.00pm

## **18 April 2021**

Buriyani Lunch

BAA Community Hall - 358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3169

Details to be advised in next Newsletter

## **17 July 2021**

Christmas in July Celebration

Details to be advised in next Newsletter

## **17 October 2021**

Hopper Lunch

BAA Community Hall - 358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3169

12.00noon - 5.00pm

## **11 December 2021**

Members & Friends Christmas Party

Details to be advised in next Newsletter

*Please  
Join Us*

**If undelivered please return to:**

The Editor  
96 Darren Road,  
Keysborough VIC 3173

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