

NEWSLETTER

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Sri Lanka Day

The Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations in Queensland will be organising a Sri Lanka Day on November 13th. Sri Lanka Society will be running the **Hopper Stall** on the day. Please come and visit us and enjoy a delicious Hopper feed! There will also be cultural dances and music throughout the day. The students from the SLSQ Dance



FSOQ PRESENTS

SRI LANKA DAY

MULTICULTURAL FOOD AND CULTURAL FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2021 **9 AM TO 4 PM**

ROCKS RIVERSIDE PARK, SEVENTEEN MILE ROCKS RD, SEVENTEEN MILE ROCKS QLD 4073

Event coordination/Inquiries:
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Food stalls administration
Jayantha Pathikirikorale 0412 438 283 | Lal Mendis 0411 275 077

VIP liaison
Anton Swan, OAM, Hon Consul for Sri Lanka in QLD 0438 194 852

Cultural performances
Uditha Manage 0402 143 051 | Ms. Gothami Meepe 0421 635 353

SUPPORTED BY:
Supported by
Queensland Government
BRISBANE CITY
The Dept. of Children Youth and Multi-cultural Affairs and the councillors for Calamvale and Jamboree under the auspices of the Lord Mayor's Community Fund of the Brisbane City Council.

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Academy will also dance at this event along with many other dancers.

The profit from our Hopper stall will be sent to Sri Lanka to support the 'Nilgiri Aaranya Senasanaya' in Moragollagama, to distribute packs of dry rations to people in need during this difficult period. Photos of the work already being done are below.



Please note that you may donate the raw ingredients for the Hoppers or make extra

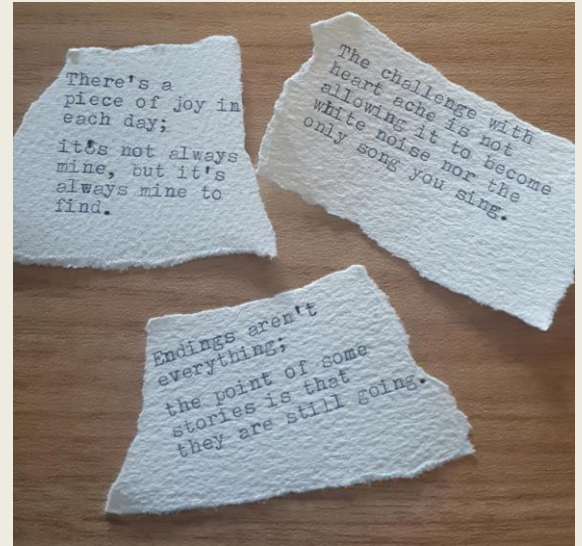
contributions on the day. Please contact any committee member for details.

Spreading Hope during Lockdowns

Covid-19 has brought about different strengths of people to the forefront. During these difficult times the world has undergone many hardships and it is heartening to hear of those who have tried to help in many ways.

Snippets of poetry left in public places around Melbourne by this Sri Lankan writer has spread such positivity during the Covid Lockdowns. He began doing this before the pandemic and continued during the lockdowns by using his daily walk to pin these in public spaces.

He types these on a typewriter and leaves them around public spaces around the inner-city suburb of Hawthorn where he lives. He also made a treasure hunt of his poems for people using the app Strava and posting it on his Instagram page. He is originally from Brisbane and we feel proud that one of our youth has done this beautiful act of service.



Another emotion that has been felt is being cut off from loved ones and being unable to visit your homeland as expressed in this poem.

Yearning for Home

Flawless beauty and pure simplicity
White touched with yellow, the smell of divinity
Lapping of the ocean and the crashing waves
Smell of Araliya entwined with the salty sprays



Full moon shining the path to the temple
Araliya in basket, with the other essentials
Devotees in white depicting purity
Offerings to the Buddha for a path to tranquillity
Temple bells ringing, coconut oil flaming in lamps of clay
Joss sticks burning - smoke swirling in clouds of grey
Unstoppable yearning for the land of my birth
The memories, the sounds, even the scent of the earth



Heart in one land, the body in another
When will these two come together
Culture and land hold the heart in a bind
Soul and land forever entwined



G.M.

World Maritime Day 2021

Seafarers: At the Core of Shipping's Future.

World Maritime Day is a celebration and remembrance initiated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to appreciate the importance of the maritime industry.

Its purpose is to underline the three most valuable sectors considered by the organization: maritime security, environment, and safety.

The first event was held in 1978 with the commemorative day held on the last week of September. The day also marks the 20th anniversary of the day the IMO Convention's entry came into force.

Birth of International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

At dawn, on 15 April 1912, in freezing waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, RMS Titanic sank resulting in the deaths of more than 1,500 people.

In March 1967, following a navigational error, the supertanker Torrey Canyon struck Pollard's Rock, spilling an estimated 25–36 million gallons (94–164 million litres) of crude oil contaminating 270 SQUARE miles (700 km²) of the Cornish and French coasts.

The two maritime disasters, one with the tragic loss of life and the other causing severe environmental damage, initiated an international conference that was held in Geneva in 1948.

The result was to adopt a maritime convention and to formally establish IMO (the original name was the Inter-Government Maritime Consultative Organization or IMCO until 1982).

A purpose, driven by world events, IMO's purpose was to improve safety and avoidance of maritime pollution. Then, on 11 September 2001, militants associated with the Islamic extremist group Al-Qaeda hijacked four aeroplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States.

Considering that even ships could be hi-jacked and used as mass destructive weapons, IMO extended its scope to ships' security in ports. With the advent of Somalian pirates boarding ships and holding the vessels and crew for ransom, IMO extended the security measures to ships at sea.

World Maritime Day 2021. Each year IMO nominates a theme for its day.

This year it is, "Seafarers: at the core of shipping's future".

Throughout the year, the theme emphasizes the need to increase the visibility of seafarers by drawing attention to the invaluable role they play now and will continue to play in the future.

Extraordinary time for action

IMO has also chosen to make 2021 a year of action for seafarers. It acknowledges the men and women at sea facing unprecedented hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, despite their vital role as key workers for global supply chains.

The focus on seafarers comes as the COVID-19 pandemic has placed extraordinary demands on seafarers, with hundreds of thousands of men and women stranded on ships for months beyond their original contracts, unable to be repatriated due to national travel restrictions.

A similar number of seafarers are unable to join ships and earn a living. This crew change crisis, which has been ongoing for nearly a year, is a humanitarian emergency that threatens the safety of shipping.



Throughout the year, the World Maritime theme is placing the spotlight on other issues related to the human element of shipping, including:

- the safety and security of life on board ships,
- seafarers' well-being, and
- the importance of ensuring an appropriately trained and qualified workforce, ready to meet the challenges and opportunities of digitalization and automation.



Gender equality

With the "Empowering Women in the Maritime Community" theme in 2019, IMO reinforced the idea that a ship's crew needs a balance of gender equality.

This statement by the IMO has not only encouraged more females to join the noble professions but also facilitated the acceptance of females to a historically male-dominated industry.

Celebrations

It is usual to parade through the town displaying banners of stakeholders. Each country celebrates the day organized by the Maritime Administration with ample support from their governments.

On an occasion where outstanding service from seafarers is recognized.

An award ceremony accompanied by a cake in the shape of a ship is shared amongst the crowd.

This is a day where seafarers, young and old, come together for celebrations of comradeship and to be recognized for service rendered to the nation and the world.



Mahesa Abeynayake
CEO/Director in Charge
Fiji Maritime Academy

Tribute to Sunil Perera

Sunil Perera as we all knew was a great musician who entertained us all for decades. When I was asked to write about Sunil I thought everyone knows about his career; I should write about what I knew about him.

I had the privilege of having him live in my house a few times when the Gypsies performed in Brisbane. The first time when he was coming a friend told me to be careful having them in my house, especially as I had young kids.

Could not have been more wrong! Sunil and his band were the perfect house guests. One day while they were at home, I had to go to my office to attend to some urgent work. I thought I would come back to a sink full of dirty dishes and a house all messed up. I could not believe my eyes- everything was spick and span. They had even found the



vacuum cleaner and vacuumed the house. Sunil and his brother lead by example. The two of them would be the first to help out.

After the first concert I did for them, I had to stay back to clean the venue and close up. I sent Sunil and his band home with my sister and my kids so they could eat and go to sleep. When I got back probably 3 hours later, they were still chatting and waiting for me to come back to have dinner.

The evenings would be fun with Sunil reciting past experiences, singing and laughter. Sunil was the perfect entertainer on stage and also in real day to day life.

I will cherish these memories of a great man who has had to leave us too soon.

Rest in peace Sunil; or should I say “Rock the other side”

Sandhya Abeysekera

Former Sri Lanka captain Lasith Malinga retires from cricket

Malinga, who retired from Tests in 2011, from ODIs in 2019, and from franchise cricket in January, announced



File image of Lasith Malinga | Ishara S. Kodikara / AFP

his retirement from T20I cricket on Tuesday.

Lasith Malinga announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on Tuesday.

The 38-year-old, who had retired from Tests in 2011, from ODIs in 2019, and from franchise cricket in January this year, announced his retirement from T20I cricket as well on Tuesday. “Today is a very special day for me. I want to thank

each one of you who have supported me throughout my T20 career. Today I have decided to give 100 per cent rest to my T20 bowling shoes,” he said in a social media post.

“I want to thank Sri Lanka cricket board, Mumbai Indians, Melbourne Stars, Kent Cricket Club, Rangpur Riders, Guyana Warriors, Maratha Warriors and Montreal Tigers. I now want to share my experience with young cricketers who want to play franchise cricket and for their national team.

“While my shoes rest, my love for the game will never ask for rest. Looking forward to seeing our youngsters make history”

Malinga ended his T20 International career as one of the greatest fast bowlers of the shortest format. The right-arm pacer played 84 T20Is for Sri Lanka and picked 107 wickets. He also led his country to the World T20 title in 2014. *From – Scroll.in*

Yohani - The Singing sensation from Sri Lanka

Yohani Diloka de Silva has swept into fame globally with her song “Manike Mage Hithe”. She also became the first Sri Lankan singer to surpass a million subscribers on YouTube and currently has over 2.6 million subscribers.

She and her sister lived in various places in Sri Lanka due to her father’s military position. Her mother realised that she had a talent for music and encouraged her to learn to play the piano. She then went on to learn different instruments through her school days. She obtained her degree in Logistics Management and Professional Accounting from the Kotelawala Defence University and then a master’s degree in accounting in Australia.



She returned to Sri Lanka in March 2019 and began her music career to the surprise of her parents and the rest is history! With her song “Manike Mage Hithe” currently trending in Africa and Europe we wish Yohani more and more success in the future!!

Buddhilini De Soyza wins worldwide Nature Conservancy Photography Competition

Australian based Sri Lankan photographer Buddhilini De Soyza (Captures by Buddhilini) won 1st place in the Global Wildlife category of the worldwide Nature Conservancy Photography Competition.

Buddhilini de Soyza, an investment banker and amateur photographer, took the photo on a trip to Kenya in January 2020 while with her husband and a Maasai guide, after spending several hours watching the cheetahs pace up and down the river bank. Suddenly, the lead cheetah jumped into the water, and the rest followed.

"I just couldn't believe my eyes," de Soyza told Live Science. "I don't actually remember clicking [the photo]. I obviously did because I've got a good 50, 60 shots of them crossing. All I do remember shouting is, 'Oh my God what are they going to do? They're going to die!'"



This year the competition attracted over 100,000 entries from 158 countries!"

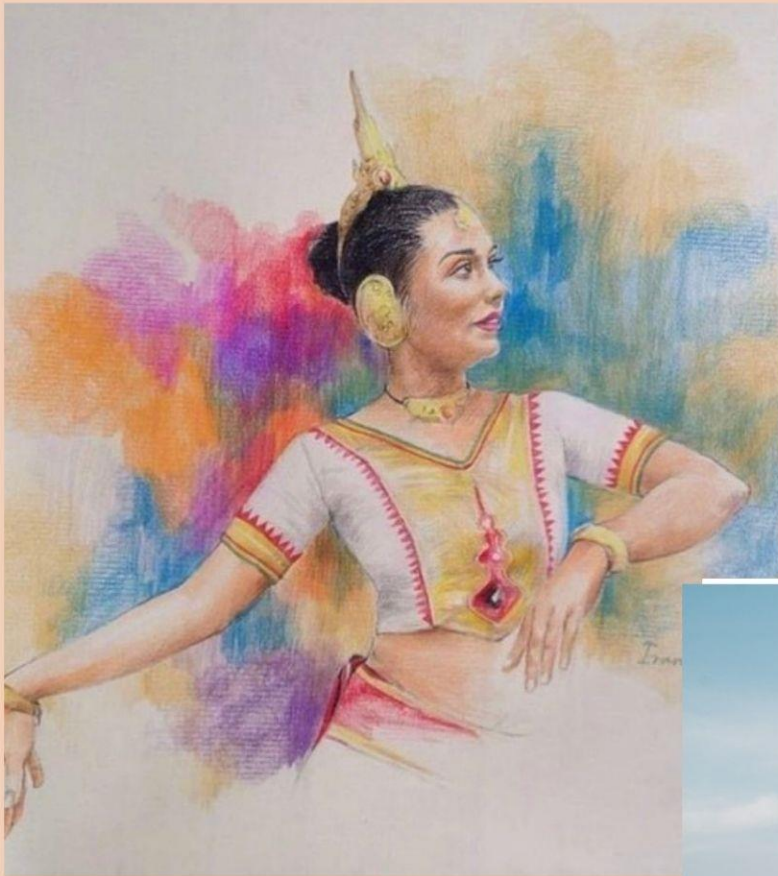
Our warmest congratulations to Buddhilini De Soyza!

First lesson Free

SRI LANKAN DANCING

SRI LANKA SOCIETY DANCE ACADEMY

Clayfield



For inquiries,
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Gothami - 0421 635 353
Chamitha - 0430 047 664

SUNDAY: 3:30 - 4:30

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170 BONNEY AVENUE, CLAYFIELD

TEACHER - MRS. ESHANIE THAJUDEEN

