



# **Burgher Association Australia**

**Spring  
September 2021  
Community Newsletter**



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**The 2020/21  
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

However taking that fund raising events were almost non existence in the past year due to the corona virus pandemic, the BAA has taken the view that all sponsorships/donations excluding the sponsorships of children in their education via the DBU in Sri Lanka will not take place until we get back to normal as before the corona virus pandemic and we can have and raise funds via the fund raising events.

As such the BAA has just announced following the January 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) that for the current year donations and sponsorships will be granted only to the following.

**Sponsorship of education to children via the Dutch Burgher Union of Sri Lanka for up to 25 Children doing year 11 and 12**

We will review again annually the position to set up a budget for new/continued sponsorship to be adopted in the following year.



"I'm afraid for the calendar. Its days are numbered."

"My wife said I should do lunges to stay in shape. That would be a big step forward."

"Why do fathers take an extra pair of socks when they go golfing?" "In case they get a hole in one!"

"Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera."

"What do a tick and the Eiffel Tower have in common?" "They're both Paris sites."

"What do you call a fish wearing a bowtie?" "Sofisticated."

"How do you follow Will Smith in the snow?" "You follow the fresh prints."

"If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?"  
"Pilgrims."

"I thought the dryer was shrinking my clothes. Turns out it was the refrigerator all along."

"What do you call a factory that makes okay products?" "A satisfactory."

"Dear Math, grow up and solve your own problems."

"What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet?" "Supplies!"

"Have you heard about the chocolate record player? It sounds pretty sweet."

"What did the ocean say to the beach?" "Nothing, it just waved."

"Why do seagulls fly over the ocean?" "Because if they flew over the bay, we'd call them bagels."





# Christmas Party

At The Burgher Association Australia

## Community Centre

358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3168

12.00noon to 5.00pm

# 21 November 2021

## Delicious

## Christmas Feast by "Cha's Cabin"

### MENU

Glazed Leg of Ham with Mustard Sauce  
Roast Pork - Roast Beef

\$40.00pp

Roast Turkey with Cranberry Sauce  
Creamy Vege Bake - Egg Mayo Salad  
Tossed Salad

BYO

Bread Rolls & Butter

### DESSERT

Pavlova, Tiramisu, Jelly & Custard

### TICKET CONTACTS

Elaine Jansz - 9798 6315

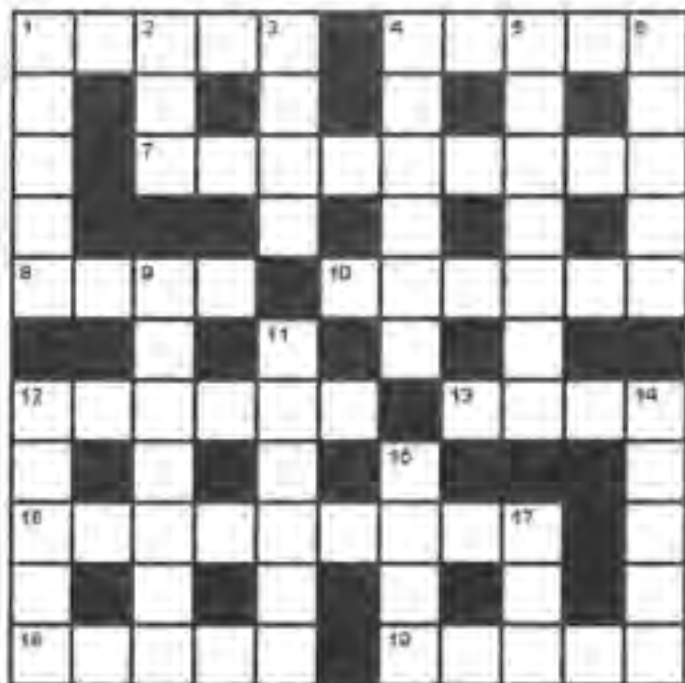
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Quick Crossword - 01



# The Crossword



**Across**

- 1. Twelve (5)
- 4. Hoard (5)
- 7. Unaware (9)
- 8. Gape (4)
- 10. Wore away (8)
- 12. Birds of prey (6)
- 13. Notion (4)
- 16. Large spider (9)
- 18. The lowest point of anything (5)
- 19. Implied (5)

**Down**

- 1. Journal (5)
- 2. Menagerie (3)
- 3. World's longest river (4)
- 4. Secret or hidden (6)
- 5. Bustling (7)
- 6. Abated (5)
- 9. Placed a bet (7)
- 11. Thinner (6)
- 12. Consumed (5)
- 14. Proficient (5)
- 15. Female relative (4)
- 17. Part of a circle (3)

# The Solution



## Written Out of History: The Forgotten Afghans of Sri Lanka

By Tuan M. Zameer Careem –

Sri Lanka experienced major waves of immigration during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when throngs of immigrants from India & other British colonies took up residence on the island. Indentured labourers from the erstwhile Madras Presidency & Malabar, who were recruited to work on the central Hill plantations of tea, rubber & coffee, constituted the greatest proportion of this group, followed by Coast Moors, who also came from South India. Presumably, the least known among the surfeit of ethnic groups that settled in Ceylon are the 'Afghans', who were originally brought to the Island by the British to work as horse-keepers and indentured labourers and by the turn of the 20th century, many had become full-time usurers and traders in Ceylon. These 'Afghans' who were mainly of Pashtun extraction, hailed from Afghanistan & from the North-Western frontiers & Baluchistan Agency of British India (present-day Pakistan) and were popularly identified as "Bhais" in Ceylon. Their numerical strength according to the population census of 1881 was just over a thousand, extremely insignificant in proportion to the whole population of Ceylon at the time and by 1901, their population had plummeted to 270. The census of 1911 gave them 466 souls, census of 1921 recorded 304 members and by 1946 their number had risen to 551. After which, there has been no mention of 'Afghans', in any of Sri Lanka's population censuses and demographic statistics. The money lending ordinance (1918), citizenship act & the infamous repatriation bill led to their disappearance from Ceylon, nonetheless, there are a handful of families that claim Pashtun ancestry in Sri Lanka.

### Afghan Traders

The Afghans who took up residence in Ceylon, were referred to a by a multitude of terms, viz. Afghan karayo (Sinhala for Afghan man), Pattani, Pattaniyar (Pathan), Kabul Manishen (Tamil for man from Kabul), Bangali etc. but the most common term employed by the natives was, "Bhai", which was not only affixed to their names but was also recorded by officials in Ceylon as their surname. As a matter of fact, my paternal great-grandfather was an Afghan (Pathan) named Carim Ghani (Khan) Baay, a coach driver who permanently settled in Ceylon, following his marriage to a Ceylonese lady from Slave Island. Although these Afghans belonged to numerous tribes (Afridi, Khilji, Yousufzal, AhmedZai, Kakar etc) and bore patronymics and titles like Khan etc, the British deliberately registered them as Bhais (Baay), which was clipped to their individual names mainly to distinguish them from other minorities of Ceylon like the Parsis, among whom the surname Khan was popular (the Khan clock tower in Pettah was built by a Parsi Merchant Framjee Bhikhajee Khan).

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Interestingly the Malays in Ceylon identified the Afghans as, "Bangali Orang", meaning "man from Bengal". That was because, the Pathans who were addicted to commercial pursuits, made frequent trading visits to Bengal, especially to Calcutta, the then capital of British India & some of them even had families there. Calcutta is still home to a significant population of Pathans, referred to locally as, "Kabuliwalas" (Kabul man). In fact, the fabled Bengali novella "Kabuliwala" (1892) penned by Indian Laureate Rabindranath Tagore revolves around a Pathan (Pashtun) merchant who is friends with a five-year-old girl Mini who hails from an aristocratic Bengali family in Calcutta. The terms "Pathan" and "Afghan" were used interchangeably by the British to describe the ethnic Pashtuns who lived in the Indian subcontinent. As a matter of fact, the word 'Pathan' is simply the Hindustani variant of the word 'Pashtun'. However, irrespective of the terms used to describe the Pathans, only those who lived in major cities knew of their existence, mainly because their population was exceedingly small when compared with the other principal races back then. In fact, many presumed them to be part of the larger Moor community despite their (Pathans) peculiar physical characteristics & distinctive form of clothing.

### **Pathan Warriors**

Legend has it that Pathan cloth traders from Kabul arrived somewhere in the late 15th century when their schooner sought shelter in Batticaloa harbour from a storm. At the time, there were many Tamil fisherfolk tribes living on the Eastern coast, competing for trade & scarce resources, in particular, the pearl & conch shellfisheries. The various tribes came into conflict with each other, but the most frequent skirmishes were between the Thimilars & Mukkuvars (also spelt "Mukkiyar"). Thimilars (named after "thimil" a Tamil word for "boat", literally meaning boatmen) had their settlements in 'Thimilar Theevu' & on the Northeastern coast of Ceylon while 'Eravur' in Batticaloa was the stronghold of the Mukkuvar tribe. During the annual rice-harvesting season, Thimilars raided & pillaged Eravur & other Mukkuvar hamlets, razed their temples, destroyed their crops and their meager livestock, & raped & abducted Mukkuvar women. Ergo the "Mukkuvars" established an alliance with the Pathans, & sought their help to thwart the Thimilar's incursions into Eravur. The tall & robust Pathan Traders, renowned for their martial prowess helped the Mukkuvars to stave off the attacking Thimilars. Several place names in Batticaloa appertain to these historic battles between the Thimilars and Mukkuvars-Pathans. These are "Vantharumoolai" (Came-rested corner), 'Sathurukondan' (meaning "where the Enemy was killed" referring to the execution of the Thimilar chief), 'Santhiveli' (Meeting-moor) & "Vathiyai-thookia-palai" (Place where the Thimilar Queen/ Chieftess was hanged). Legend also has it that the Pathans helped the Mukkuvars of Akkaraipattu to fend off a group of Vedda bandits. These Pathans were rewarded through marriages with local women & were subsequently

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assimilated into the Mukkuvar tribe. Interestingly, in traditional Mukkuvar families, the descent is traced through the mother and her maternal ancestors, "taay vali/ pen väll" (meaning mother's/women's way) ergo every member of a Mukkuvar 'kudi' (social organization) inherits the membership to the clan & subclan from his/her mother. Because the Mukkuvars stringently followed their customs & practices of matrilineality & matrilocality, the children sired by Pathan traders & their descendants became part of the "Mukkuvar tribe", resultantly the Pathans lost their distinctiveness & cultural identity.

### **Under British Rule**

In the late nineteenth century, the quest for a better life lured a new wave of Pathan immigrants from Afghanistan & from the North-Western Frontier Province and Baluchistan in British India (modern Pakistan) into Ceylon, many of them were brought by the British to work as "Horse keepers" (grooms). An overwhelming majority of these Pathan immigrants were illiterate & penurious, & during their initial years in Ceylon, many of them were put to work as labourers and some toiled at peddling. According to my maternal grandmother, 'nenek' Gnei Ruhoon Lye Kayat, the Pathan (Afghan) horse keepers plodded away in the stable-yards and harness-rooms of Ceylon Mounted Rifles & some of them worked for Mr H. M. Moosajee, a Ceylonese Bohra businessman who owned a livery stable & posting yard at No 9, Union Place, which was a stone's throw from my great-grandpa's residence at Kew Barracks, Kew Road, Slave Island. According to the comprehensive report on Ceylonese Pathans by ASP, Mr W. S. Murray, "the Afghans (Pathans) had originally come to Ceylon as horse-keepers from different parts of Afghanistan". Besides horse-keeping, Pathans also found employment in the plantations & some of them set up petty shops, boutiques and grocery stores in small towns & villages. Because of their imposing appearance, they also found work in some private residences as butlers, footmen & valets to local mudaliyars, businessmen & British officials. Some were recruited as guards & worked in Ceylon's postal service. According to the Census of 1880, around 300 Pathans were based in Kandy, 150 in Colombo, hundred in Trincomalee and Batticaloa, and around 450 in Jaffna, Kurunegala, Badulla, Haldummulla and Ratnapura districts. According to the Church Missionary Review, there were sixty-four male and ten female Afghans living in Colombo in the year 1898. Since most Pathan women did not emigrate, Pathans in Ceylon married local women, usually fellow Muslims from the Moor & Malay communities.

### **Money-Lenders**

The Pathan immigrants possessed a keen ambition to rise above their impoverished circumstances & with their astute business acumen, many ultimately did so. A vast majority of them became prosperous through a well-organised system of money-lending, & by the

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1930s, almost all Pathans were full-time moneylenders and creditors, lending money at hefty interest rates. Pathan's truculent nature & greed for money & usury did not stop the Ceylonese from borrowing money from them, but, many who borrowed money weren't able to pay back their loans. These Pathan usurers were a common sight in the streets of Slave Island & Fort, and according to my 'nenek', these extortionate usurers were often seen taking their siestas on the pavements & roundabouts & would wait patiently in front of workplaces to get hold of their improvident debtors, particularly on their paydays. K.P.S. Menon writes that "Almost the entire railway staff was in debt to them (Pathans) and "shut their eyes when their creditors travelled without tickets". These Pathan usurers were known for their ruthless manner of debt collection, in fact, there were instances, in which the Pathans forcefully occupied houses of the debtors & resided in them for years without paying any rent. Many of these Pathans were pugnacious by nature, and the book, "A History of the Ceylon Police" authored by G. K. Pippet & A. C. Dep provides a detailed account on their horrendous felonies. The excerpts below represent a few examples of their crimes.

"On 28th December 1881, an Afghan armed with a knife ran amok in Kandy and nearly killed the Assistant Superintendent, Mr Woutersz," (p. 144)"In Kollupitiya an Afghan ran amok and seriously stabbed a Bengali Constable who was on duty. Inspector Marshall arrived at the spot and dispatched the injured constable to Hospital and arrested the Afghan at great personal risk." (p. 315).

### **Cultural Identity**

The Ceylonese Pathans were renowned for their Pushtuni garb, which included a loose upper tunic "perahan/ Khel", the "partug" trousers with multiple pleats, & an elaborately embroidered waistcoat. They wore stout army-pattern boots & upon their heads they wore a turban (lungee/ dastar) & always carried with them a large stick, presumably to whack the debtors. Though they spoke Pashto among themselves, they were proficient in Sinhala, Tamil (mainly Moonish Tamil) & also Sri Lankan Malay, which was the lingua Franca of Slave Island. It is worthy of mention that the patroness saint of the Malay Wekanda Mosque in Slave Island, Ossen Bee Bee Awliya, was actually a Pathani. Up until the 1960s, there were Pathans living in Slave Island (Kartel), mainly in places like Java lane, Union place, Rifle St, Shorts Rd, Lake Rd, Mews St & Vauxhall St. They even had a small mosque on Parsons St, where they used to congregate on Fridays for afternoon prayers & at the time of the Hajj festival they gathered together on the Gall face green for prayers & to indulge in their vigorous sports like 'pablwani' (wrestling) & 'Buzkashi' (goat pulling). They also had their own chiefs, and they settled their disputes through the traditional 'Jirga' (assembly) system. Though the Ceylonese

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Palhans have long vanished into oblivion, they have without a doubt left an indelible imprint on the history of our resplendent island. "Memories are treasures that time cannot destroy"

\*Dr Tuan M. Zameer Careem is a Medical doctor, historian, and author who has written extensively on Lankan ethnic groups, and has authored two scholarly tomes on Lankan Malays, namely, 'Persaudaraan' (Brotherhood) (2016) and 'Malay Life in Sri Lanka' (2017)

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## 2021/22 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

OR, pay by Direct Deposit at the nearest National Australia Bank quoting your Membership Number & Surname:

**BANK:** National Australia Bank  
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Please detach & enclose the payment slip below if paying by Post



**MEMBER NO:** .....

**FROM:** .....

Please find attached remittance for \$20 being Member Fees due for the Financial Year: 2021/22  2022/23  other

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

**COMMENTS:** .....



## A Tale of two Brothers

Carl Hagenbeck (1844-1913) was a German trader of wild animals who founded Circus Carl Hagenbeck, one of the most successful in Europe. Hagenbeck is often considered the father of the modern zoo as he was the first to recreate natural living spaces for animals without any bars or cages. The Hagenbeck animal collection went on to become the renowned Tierpark Hagenbeck in Hamburg-Stellingen. In 1886, John Hagenbeck (1866-1940) who was 22 years younger than his half-brother Carl, set sail for Ceylon and set up a business in the outskirts of Colombo. In addition to catching and dealing in wild animals, John Hagenbeck dabbled in many business enterprises and the brothers purchased several plantations where they grew tea, coffee and cocoa.

The earliest known poster of Ceylon is one from 1883 promoting Carl Hagenbeck's Singhalesen-Truppe, a Sinhalese dance troupe that performed at Umlauff's Welt-Museum in St. Pauli, Hamburg. There also exists a few posters from Carl Hagenbeck's Ceylonese exhibition held at the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington, London circa 1886. By 1890, Hagenbeck plantations were shipping large quantities of tea and cocoa to Germany where they were sold under the brand name Hagenbeck Thee. Several examples of Hagenbeck tea posters can be found in museums and in private collections.

Carl passed away in 1913 and John Hagenbeck continued with his business enterprises in Ceylon until the First World War when his properties were confiscated by the authorities. He left Ceylon and only returned at the end of the war. In 1922, he published *Funfundzwanzig Jahre Ceylon* (twenty-five years in Ceylon), which chronicled his experiences as a wild animal catcher, trader, sportsman, and planter. In 1936 the Government once again listed John Hagenbeck and an enemy alien and seized his property and liquidated the company assets. Hagenbeck and his Ceylon born wife were sent to an internment camp in Diyatalawa where he died shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War. Hagenbeck's Zoological Gardens Company and his collection of wild animals became the Dehiwala zoo in 1936.



## He hee

Time doesn't exist. Clocks exist.  
My mind's made up, don't confuse me with facts.  
Talk is cheap. Until you hire a lawyer.

## 50 Shades Of HRH: Wild Royal Sex Diaries Revealed

Turns out one Buckingham Palace resident loved getting their freak on — and wrote it all down. Basically, 50 Shades Of HRH.

Daniela Elser. news.com.au. MAY 25, 2019 6:16PM

Let's all enjoy a quick history lesson, shall we. During the Victorian era, piano legs were regularly covered up for modesty's sake due to their vaguely phallic nature. Women were infamously told to, "Lie back and think of Britain" on their wedding nights. It was considered physically impossible for women to enjoy sex by the pre-eminent physicians of the day. So, it would make sense that Queen Victoria, the beloved British monarch of the time, was equally chaste and demure, right? That she would spend her evenings buttoning herself up into ankle-length hessian underwear and averting her eyes every time one of her gardeners accidentally doused himself while watering? Then, you'd be wrong, because Queen Victoria, who was born 200-years-ago, was one hell of a raunchy lady. And we know because, she spent a considerable amount of time writing it all down in her diaries, the saucy bird.

In 1840, Victoria married her cousin Prince Albert. (Look, cousin-marrying was par for the course back then. Let's not focus too much on the incest here.) Even before she said, "I do", she was very taken with the dashing Kraut, noting in her diary that she found him "excessively handsome".

Their wedding night, according to Victoria herself, did not disappoint. "I NEVER, NEVER spent such an evening! MY DEAREST, DEAR Albert sat on a footstool by my side, and his excessive love and affection gave me feelings of heavenly love and happiness I never could have hoped to have felt before. He clasped me in his arms, and we kissed each other again and again! Oh! This was the happiest day of my life!"

I think we can all read between the lines here. The newlyweds evidently got it on and Victoria thoroughly enjoyed her first roll in the sheets. (Side note: What was Albert doing on the foot stool? And what's with royalty and employing pieces of gilt-edged furniture when they get down and dirty?) Another entry in Victoria's diaries reads: "We both went to bed; to lie by his side and in his arms, and on his dear bosom, and be called by names of tenderness, I have never heard used to me before — was bliss beyond belief! Oh!"

On her 30th birthday she recorded: "This day was again welcomed in by the tender love and affection of my dearest Albert." Other thirsty AF musings by Victoria include this spicy recollection: "My dear Albert came in today from the rain; he looked so handsome in his white cashmere britches, with nothing on underneath." Basically, this is all equivalent to a nineteenth century version of *50 Shades of Grey* for the sheer bawdiness of her jottings.

There is plenty of other historical evidence that confirms just how hot'n'heavy the Queen and her Prince Consort were for one another. To make sure that they could enjoy

maximum privacy, the couple is said to have installed a special button in their bedroom at their huge holiday house on the Isle of Wight. The idea was they could lock the doors from bed so they would never be disturbed in flagrante delicto by a footman bearing a tea tray. (There are persistent rumours that Albert was so well endowed that he had to wear a special ring around his "little Prince" so it could be pulled to the side and thus not bulge in an unseemly manner in his trousers. This may be where the "Prince Albert" comes from.) Consider also the fact they had nine children. According to Daisy Goodwin, who wrote the screenplay for the TV series *Victoria*, the Queen's doctor said her after she'd had her final child: "You know, ma'am, you shouldn't have any more children." She is reported to have fired back, "What, Doctor, no more fun in bed?"

Victoria's clear lust for her bloke extended beyond the bedroom and they routinely gave each other risqué (for the time) gifts. For example, she bought him a quite erotic painting from artist Franz Xavier Winterhalter's which depicts a group of bare-breasted women preparing to bathe. Albert, at one point, decided the perfect pressie for his Queen was to commission a marble statue of himself as a sensual Greek warrior. Later Victoria deemed it was so racy that she had it moved to a private part of her Isle of Wight home and had a more covered up version made, which is still in the Buckingham Palace collection. Sadly, Victoria's sexual walkabout with Albert ended in 1861 when he popped his clogs and she was heartbroken to have lost her great love. What she might have done to satiate her considerable libido after that point is a source of scholarly debate. (Academics are thirsty people too it would seem.) But the lack of a paramour and no need for that handy bedroom button might go a long way to explaining why Victoria always looked so miserable in portraits later in life. RIP sex button.

*Daniela Elser is a royal expert and freelance writer with 20 years' experience who has written for some of Australia's best print and digital media brands.*



## FUNNY ONE LINERS

When your only tool is a hammer, all problems start looking like nails.  
99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.  
Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.  
The last thing I want to do is insult you. But it IS on the list.  
I don't have a solution, but I do admire the problem.  
The only substitute for good manners is fast reflexes.  
Support bacteria - they're the only culture some people have.  
Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in.  
Well, here I am! What are your other two wishes?

## 6 of the most infamous cults in history

Thea Glassman, Business Insider Fri, 7 Dec, 6:48 pm AEDT

In March 1997, 39 members of Heaven's Gate, a cult started in the early '70s, put on matching dark clothes, swallowed barbiturates, and placed plastic bags around their heads. It was one of the largest mass suicides in the history of the United States.

Although you may have heard of that incident, when it comes to the world's most infamous cults, that's just the tip of the iceberg.

INSIDER looked back on some of the most dangerous and infamous cults throughout history and the charismatic leaders who founded them.

The Manson Family famously murdered seven people over the course of two nights to start a race war. In the late '60s, Charles Manson brought together a group of displaced young people and called them his "family." They settled in Spahn Ranch, a sprawling former movie studio near Los Angeles, where drugs were free-flowing, mandatory orgies were enforced, and Manson pushed his ideas about an imminent race war.

The cult leader told his followers he wanted them to go on a killing spree. On August 8, 1969, a few members of the cult headed to a Beverly Hills home and murdered five people, including actress Sharon Tate. They wrote the word "PIG" in Tate's blood on the door. The violence continued the next night when Rosemary and Leno LaBianca were murdered in their Los Feliz home by Manson's followers on his orders. Rosemary was stabbed 14 times. Manson was convicted of first-degree murder in 1971. He served out his prison sentence until he died on November 19, 2017, at age 83.

Members of Heaven's Gate were told that God was an alien. 39 members died by suicide. In the early '70s, Marshall Applewhite and Bonnie Nettles went on a road trip across America and found a group of people they dubbed "the crew."

Applewhite told his followers many things, including that he was the second coming of Jesus Christ, the end of the world was upon them, and that God was an alien. He encouraged them to give away all their money and cut off contact with their families. Cult members were also put on a Master Cleanse diet of lemonade, cayenne pepper, and

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maple syrup, in order to get rid of sexual thoughts. Eight men volunteered to be surgically castrated. In March 1997, 39 members of Heaven's Gate donned dark outfits and matching Nike shoes. They drank vodka and ate applesauce and pudding that contained barbiturates and put plastic bags over their heads to suffocate themselves. When police officers entered the home, they found a line of bodies, each covered with purple fabric. It was one of the largest mass suicides in the history of the United States. Members of Aum Shinrikyo left five bags filled with a toxic nerve agent on three Tokyo train lines during rush hour. The cult Aum Shinrikyo was founded in the '80s by Shoko Asahara. He claimed to be Christ and - at one point - garnered tens of thousands of followers across the world. His teachings started out spiritual and then became increasingly violent. Cult members even paid money to drink Asahara's blood.

On March 20, 1995, members of Aum Shinrikyo left five bags filled with a toxic nerve agent on three Tokyo train lines during rush hour. Passengers began choking and throwing up. 13 people died because of the attack and 5,800 were injured. As months went by, the cult tried - and failed - to attack other subway stations with a deathly cyanide. Asahara was sentenced to death, along with 12 other members of Aum Shinrikyo. Seven members were executed in July of 2018, including Asahara himself. The other six members are still on death row in Japan.

The Branch Davidians had a 51-day standoff with the FBI. David Koresh believed that he could talk to God. He also thought that the world was ending. The cult leader managed to convince more than 100 people to move to a compound outside of Waco, Texas, and follow his teachings (which included his belief that men could have multiple wives, including girls as young as 10). On February 28, 1993, the FBI arrived on the scene to arrest Koresh and ended up in a 51-day standoff. "Never before have so many heavily armed and totally committed individuals barricaded themselves in a fortified compound in a direct challenge to lawful federal warrants," a report from the Justice Department said. In the end, the standoff came to a close when the compound combusted into flames. 75 people died, and Koresh was found with a gunshot wound to the head. Children of God was accused by numerous members of child abuse. It later rebranded to The Family International.

The Children of God was established in the late '60s by David Berg, a travelling preacher. They believed in "free love" that reportedly involved female members recruiting with sex (sometimes known as "flirty fishing") and survivors say children were regularly abused.

cont'd ....

Both Rose McGowan and Joaquin Phoenix grew up in the Children of God. "There was sexual abuse for myself from the age of 4, not just from my dad who got convicted, but from various other members of the cult, some related, some not," Verity Carter, who grew up in the cult, told BBC News. "I wasn't comfortable with the things being done to me but if I asked a question I got beaten or put on silence restriction. I was punished a lot because I was never able to stop asking questions."

Berg died in 1994. The Children of God later rebranded and changed its name to the Family of Love, and later The Family International after it had been labelled a cult and was investigated by the FBI and Interpol. Jim Jones founded The People's Temple and instructed all of his followers to drink cyanide-laced Flavour Aid. More than 900 people died.

In 1955, Jim Jones founded the People's Temple in Indianapolis. He grew concerned that a nuclear attack would fall on the area, so he moved his congregation to Eureka, California, which he thought would be safer. Paranoia struck again in 1977 (this time born out of media attention), and Jones moved The People's Temple to a settlement in Guyana dubbed Jonestown.

US Congressman Leo Ryan decided to visit The People's Temple's new location in Guyana in 1978 in order to investigate reports of abuse of members. He was shot and killed by four members of The People's Temple. Jones then instructed all of his followers to drink Flavour Aid laced with cyanide. Over 900 dead bodies were discovered at the settlement, including Jones, who had a bullet wound to the head.

In an unsigned suicide note, one member of the cult wrote: "If nobody understands, it matters not. I am ready to die now. Darkness settles over Jonestown on its last day on earth."



## FUNNY ONE LINERS

I started with nothing, and I still have most of it.  
Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?  
There is no dance without the dancers.  
I'm out of my mind. Be back in five minutes.  
The problem with trouble shooting is that trouble shoots back.  
If you are here - who is running hell?

## ADDICTION SAYINGS

Every form of addiction is bad, no matter whether the narcotic be alcohol or morphine or idealism. -- *Carl Jung*

What fascinates me about addiction and obsessive behavior is that people would choose an altered state of consciousness that's toxic and ostensibly destroys most aspects of your normal life, because for a brief moment you feel okay. -- *Moby*

Reality is just a crutch for people who can't handle drugs. -- *Robin Williams*

Addiction- When you can give up something any time, as long as it's next Tuesday. -- *Nikki Sixx*

Quitting smoking is easy. I've done it hundreds of times. -- *Mark Twain*

The unfortunate thing about this world is that good habits are so much easier to give up than bad ones. -- *Somerset Maugham*

Addiction begins with the hope that something "out there" can instantly fill up the emptiness inside. -- *Jean Kilbourne*

Addiction is just a way of trying to get at something else. Something bigger. Call it transcendence if you want, but it's like a rat in a maze. We all want the same thing. We all have this hole. The thing you want offers relief, but it's a trap. -- *Tess Callahan*

You can get the monkey off your back, but the circus never leaves town. -- *Anne Lamott*

Addictions ... started out like magical pets, pocket monsters. They did extraordinary tricks, showed you things you hadn't seen, were fun. But came, through some gradual dire alchemy, to make decisions for you. Eventually, they were making your most crucial life-decisions. And they were ... less intelligent than goldfish. -- *William Gibson*

At first, addiction is maintained by pleasure, but the intensity of this pleasure gradually diminishes and the addiction is then maintained by the avoidance of pain. -- *Frank Tallis*

At every stage, addiction is driven by one of the most powerful, mysterious, and vital forces of human existence. What drives addiction is longing--a longing not just of brain, belly, or loins but finally of the heart. -- *Cornelius Platinga*

Recovery from addiction requires hard work, a proper attitude and learning skills to stay sober, not drinking alcohol or using other drugs. Successful drug recovery or alcohol recovery involves changing attitudes, acquiring knowledge, and developing skills to meet the many challenges of sobriety. -- *Dennis Daley*

# BRITAIN'S MOST FAMOUS HANGMAN

Frank Chung

A secret execution diary of Britain's most famous hangman, who killed approximately 600 people over a 25-year career, has been sold to an "eclectic" private collector for \$36,000. Before "hanging up the rope" in 1956, Albert Pierrepoint was best known for executing some 200 Nazi war criminals, notably the staff of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

He was also responsible for the hanging of high-profile murderers with nicknames like "the Blackout Ripper", "the Acid Bath Murderer" and "the Rillington Place Strangler", as well as Ruth Ellis, the last woman to be executed in the UK. In the diary, which records details of 434 executions, Pierrepoint carefully noted down details including the prisoner's name, age, height, weight and drop, site of the execution and remarks detailing the physical frame of the prisoners and calibre of their necks; "Very heavy body, ordinary neck, wirey, very thin neck, little flabby," the entries read. Prisoners hanged included, "German, Dutch and Belgium spies, French Canadian, USA, IRA, British Soldier." Pierrepoint, who died in 1992 aged 87, was only a part-time hangman. Mostly he served customers from behind the bar at his Lancashire pub, Help the Poor Struggler. While denying reports he would discuss "the 'other job'" with his customers, he did hang one of them — a man convicted of murdering his mistress.

In its obituary, *The Telegraph* described Pierrepoint as "short and dapper, with mild blue eyes, a pleasant singing voice and a fondness for cigars and beautiful women", someone "fascinated by bar tricks with coins and matchboxes". In his 1974 autobiography, Pierrepoint recalled the one difficult execution of his career. "It was unfortunate," he wrote. "He was not an Englishman. He was a spy and kicked up rough." After he resigned in 1956, he became a campaigner against the death penalty. He argued that "if death were a deterrent, I might be expected to know". "It is I who have faced them at the last, young lads and girls, working men, grandmothers. I have been amazed to see the courage with which they take that walk into the unknown," he wrote.

"It did not deter them then, and it had not deterred them when they committed what they were convicted for. All the men and women whom I have faced at that final moment convince me that in what I have done I have not prevented a single murder."

The collection of Pierrepoint's personal effects also included a number of items that belonged to both Albert and his father Henry, who was also a hangman, including an amber and ivory cigar holder and case and a silver watch chain worn at hundreds of executions. There were also documents and photographs, a letter of thanks from the War



Office for his services, and a newspaper featuring an article about John Amery, a pro-Nazi British fascist who Albert Pierrepoint went on to hang. "This is the most fascinating set of items I have ever sold," said Giles Hodges, director of Boldon Auction Galleries. "It provides a remarkable insight into the role of the executioner and I suppose that someone had to do the job."



## HAVE A GIGGLE

### Blood Bath

A vampire bat came flapping in from the night covered in fresh blood and parked himself on the roof of the cave to get some sleep.

Pretty soon all the other bats smelt the blood and began hassling him about where he got it. He told them to go away and let him get some sleep. However, the bats persisted until finally he gave in.

"OK, follow me," he said and flew out of the cave with hundreds of bats behind him. Down through a valley they went, across a river and into a forest full of trees. Finally he slowed down and all the other bats excitedly milled around him.

"Now, do you see that tree over there?" he asked.

"Yes, yes, and yes!" the bats all screamed in a hungry frenzy.

"Good," said the first bat tiredly, "Because I didn't!"

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"Mr. Quinn, I have reviewed this case very carefully," the divorce court judge said, "and I've decided to give your wife \$775 a week."

"That's very generous and fair of you, your honor," the husband said. "And every now and then I'll try to send her a few bucks myself."

Grandfather bought a hobby horse by mail order as a Christmas present for his granddaughter. The toy arrived in 189 pieces. The instructions said that it could be put together in an hour. However, it took the old man two days to assemble the toy.

Finally, when it was all put together, he wrote a check, cut it into 189 pieces and mailed it off to the company.

## Here's the full list of the '26 richest people of all time'

1. Mansa Musa I, (Ruler of Malian Empire, 1280-1331) \$400 billion
2. Rothschild Family (banking dynasty, 1740- ) \$350 billion
3. John D Rockefeller (industrialist, 1839-1937) \$340 billion
4. Andrew Carnegie (industrialist, 1835-1919) \$310 billion
5. Tsar Nicholas II of Russia (last Emperor of Russia, 1868-1918) \$300 billion
6. Osman Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VII (last ruler of Hyderabad, 1886-1967) \$236 billion
7. William the Conqueror (King of England, 1028-1087) \$229.5 billion
8. Muammar Gaddafi (former Libyan leader, 1942-2011) \$200 billion
9. Henry Ford (Ford Motor Company founder, 1863-1947) \$199 billion
10. Cornelius Vanderbilt (industrialist, 1794-1877) \$185 billion
11. Alan Rufus (Fighting companion of William the Conqueror, 1040-1093) \$178.65 billion
12. Bill Gates (Founder of Microsoft, 1955- ) \$136 billion
13. William de Warenne, 1st Earl of Surrey (Norman nobleman, ??-1088) \$146.13 billion
14. John Jacob Astor (businessman, 1864-1912) \$121 billion
15. Richard Fitzalan, 10th Earl of Arundel (English nobleman, 1306-1376) £118.6 billion
16. John of Gaunt (son of Edward III, 1330-1399) £110 billion
17. Stephen Girard (shipping and banking mogul, 1750-1831) \$105 billion
18. Alexander Turney Stewart (entrepreneur, 1803-1876) \$90 billion
19. Henry, 1st Duke of Lancaster (English noble, 1310-1361) \$85.1 billion
20. Friedrich Weyerhaeuser (timber mogul, 1834-1914) \$80 billion
21. Jay Gould (railroad tycoon, 1836-1892) \$71 billion
22. Carlos Slim (business magnate, 1940- ) \$68 billion
23. Stephen Van Rensselaer (land owner, 1764- 1839) \$68 billion
24. Marshall Field (Marshall Field & Company founder, 1834-1906) \$66 billion
25. Sam Walton (Walmart founder, 1918-1992) \$65billion
26. Warren Buffett (investor, 1930- ) \$64billion

## OBITUARIES

(E & O.E.)

**IRA-GOULD, Neville** - Beloved husband of Isha, father of Natalie and Jamie son of late James and Samuel Ira-Gould, brother of Faith (the late Rajendran), Marjorie 'Margie' (Roy), the late Christine (the late Raffa) and Prashanthi 'Thangi' (Warren), in Canada. (Daily News, 1.6.2021)

**RUPESINGHE, Noel**, son of the late Mr E.W.Rupesinghe and Mrs Josephine Rupesinghe, brother and brother-in-law of late Nissanka & Anula, late Bobby and late Manel Viswasam, Patrick and late Rosemarie, Jacinta & Ajit and Roshan & Leonie (Aust), in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 2.6.2021)

**Van TWEST, Marie**, wife of Errol (dec), mother of Darren, Claire, Patrick, Robyn (dec) and Rod, in Brisbane on June 2, 2021. (The Courier Mail, 9.6.2021),

**SELA, Albert**, husband of the late Minnette, father of Cheryl, Maryse and Howard, father-in-law of Sampath Paranavitane and Ruwaiza, grandfather of Sheran, Natalie, Davin, Nadiya, Dilly, Tara and Tevan. Brother of the late Gordon, late Bertha Stronach, Fay, Derek and Harold in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 10.6.2021)

**de MEL, Leela**, wife of Michael O'Toole, mother of Janek. Daughter of late Rear Admiral Royce de Mel and Freida. Sister of Priyani and Manel, sister-in-law of Peter Leavage, late Placi Leavage and Radha de Mel, in Perth, West Australia, on May 23, 2021. (Daily News 11.6.2021)

**DEVOS, Moira Anne**, mother of Alison and Keris, grandmother of seven, in Sydney, on June 10, 2021, aged 66 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 14.6.2021)

**EBERT, Ellen**, mother of John, Gary, Alan and Linda, mother-in-law of Angela, Vicki, Jenny and Gary, grandmother of 9, great grandmother of 21, in Perth, on June 17, 2021. (The West Australian, 19.6.2021)

**KOCH, Janet Mary**, wife of David (dec), mother of Bill and John, mother-in-law of Penny & Lauriel, grandmother of Elissa, Hannah, Jasmine and Tamara, in Adelaide on June 15, 2021, aged 89 years. (The Advertiser, 19.6.2021)

**GUINAN, Louis Bernard "El Bravo"**, (12.10.1959 – 14.06.2021), son of Eileen and Jack (both dec), brother of Donald, John (dec), James, Patrick (dec) and Julia, in Sydney. (Sydney Morning Herald, 19.6.2021)

**DICKMAN, Colleen**, wife of Fred, mother of Darren (dec) and Letitia, in Brisbane on June 15, 2021, aged 72 years. (The Courier Mail, 19.6.2021)

**THURGOOD, ELVIS RUSSEL JUDE (Ricky)** born in Sri Lanka in 1958 arrived in Australia in 1969 dearly beloved son of Noel and Doris, Brother to Derek and Debbie as well as immediate family Brian, Wendy, Andrew, Kellie and Vanessa, passed away in Melbourne August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021 the funeral mass to celebrate the life of Elvis Russell Jude (Ricky) Thurgood held Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021

**DAVIDSON, Neville (09.09.1946 - 10.09.2021)** passed away peacefully the morning of September 10<sup>th</sup> 2021, aged 75. Husband of Dyan, Father of Marcia and Tricia and an everloving grandfather.

**LAMB, Swarna Cynthia (nee RATWATTE)**, wife of Sydney, mother of Russel (Aust) and Michelle, mother-in-law of Athula Yapa, grandmother of Aeron, Christopher, Ravin and Nikhil (Aust). Daughter of late Hector and Constance Ratwalte, sister of Sita, Anula (dec), Chandra (NZ), Hector and Mihinda (dec), Tilak, Uppamallika Nanayakkara (dec) and yvonne Ratwatte (Can), in the United Kingdom on June 2, 2021. (Sunday Observer, 20.6.2021)

**MACK, Edith**, mother of Lesley, Beverley and Collin, in Perth, on June 18, 2021, aged 93 years. (The West Australian, 21.6.2021)

**DIAS, Ivan Seymour Joseph**, husband of late Gertrude. Son of late Philip and Ester Dias, brother of late Earle, Primrose, Heron, Brindley, Bluebelle, Jasmine and Mauritsz, in Sri Lanka. – 194, Mattakkuliya Road, Colombo 15, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 22.6.2021)

**SOLOMONS, Geoffrey Lewis**, (30.10.1942 – 20.06.2021), husband of Carole, father of Tamara and Adam, grandfather of Stale, Ned, Tigjhe, Jonah, Asha, Ari and Flynn. Brother of Barbara, in Sydney. (Sydney Morning Herald, 24.6.2021)

**WARNESURIYA, Gaminitissa (Rohan)**, (26.09.1928 – 19.06.2021), father of Arun and Rukman, in Perth. (West Australian, 26.2.2021)

**HOLMES, Maureen Patricia 'Paddy'**, wife of late Trevor, mother and mother-in-law of Scott & Evelyn and Randall & Mellissa, grandmother of Taylah, Jackson, Erin, Fletcher and Laura. Sister of Marion (dec), Brian (dec) and Richard, in Brisbane, on June 22, 2021, aged 74 years. (Courier Mail, 26.6.2021)

**VAN TWEST, Neville**, husband of Rita (nee De Silva), father of Mario (Aust), CGE, Melony (Aust), Trudy and Riolene (Aust), father-in-law of Jackie, Alma, Alvin, Laurence and Adrian, grandfather of Melissa, Joel, Chrisal, Shannon, Chirasalene, Annalene, Ramon, Sandrene, Shonalie, Ritchie, Cameron and Cyanne, great grandfather of Samuel, Myles, Rory and Thea. Brother of Wilma, late Elwin, Dagma, Delrin and Barbara (all Aust). (Daily News, 28.6.2021)

**VAN BUUREN, Rosemary**, wife of the late Oswin, on May 9, 2021 (Eighty Club Newsletter, No 155)

**BARR KUMARAKULASINGHE, Prof. Chelvarajan**, husband of Nirmalini, father and father-in-law in Melbourne on May 12, 2021 (Contributed)

**DE SILVA, Edward James Percival**, husband, father-in-law, grandfather of Vicki, Vidya, Mark, Kitsiri, Alesha, Charlie and Seamus, in Perth, on June 27, 2021. (The West Australian, 29.6.2021)

**AKMEEMANA, Padma**, in Sydney. (Sydney Morning Herald, 30.6.2021)



**WOLFE, Desmond John**, husband of Jenny, father of Tania, grandfather of Jack, Hannah and Emma, in Perth. (The West Australian, 1.7.2021)

**SELVAN, Jaiden**, son of Francois and Sandra, brother of Aden. Grandson of the late Anton & Fortune Selvan and Dulcie & late Maurice De Niese, in Sydney. – 6, Nymagee Street, Glenwood, NSW 2768. (Daily News 3.7.2021)

**WIJEYWARDENE, Margarete Maria Augusta**, 19.06.1935 – 26.06.2021, wife of Gehan (dec), mother of Gisela, Ingrid and Kerstin, mother-in-law of Richard, Andrew and Glen, grandmother of Michael, David, Kestin and Angus, great grandmother of William, in Canberra. (The Canberra Times, 3.7.2021)

**GARNIER, Elizabeth Mary**, wife of late Gladwyn, mother of Gary, mother-in-law of Anjalie, on June 30, 2021. (Daily News, 6.7.2021)

**FERNANDO, Rachel Naomi**, wife of Tommy (dec), mother of Reggie (Can), Cedric, Trevor, Ivor (dec) and Priyanthi, mother-in-law of Manel (Can), Needra, Saumya and Lynda, grandmother of Dilhari, Darren, Shirani, Shohan, Stefan and Dushi, great grandmother of Marisha, Natasha, Scot and Dean, in Australia on July 2, 2021. (Daily News 7.7.2021)

**KULARATNE, Neil**, in Perth. (The West Australian, 12.7.2021)

**PERERA, Dr Basil (Chappy)**, husband of Ranjini (nee Wickremeratne), father of Avinash and Dilhani (Aust). Son of the late Alan and Felicia, brother of Audrey, Marcia, Maglin and Nissaanka, brother-in-law of Ranjit Seneviratne and Sharmini Gamage, in Canberra. (Daily News, 16.7.2021)

**DE SILVA, Eroma (nee De Motte)**, wife of late Terrence, mother of Romano and Romany, mother-in-law of Agnetha and Theekshana Weerakkody, grandmother of Arron, Rannen and Adalah. Daughter of late Kingsly and Myrtle De Motte, sister of Roger, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 17.7.2021)

**STEPHEN, Cynthia (nee Anderson)**, wife of Shelton, mother of Radley, Farrel (Aust), Gary (Aust), Pettrin, Petite (UK), Pendrin (Aust) and Jude, mother-in-law of Romalie Candappa, Vilma Michael (Aust), Rienzie Anderson, Ajit Atukorala (UK), Trudy Williams (Aust) and Enoka Sanjeewani, grandmother of Reihan, Radhini, Andre (Aust), Jaden (Aust), Tarsha, Tashan (UK), Taliya (UK), Arianna (Aust), Erron, Kiyara (Aust), great grandmother of Tiana. Sister of late Ian, Milroy, late Loyala Ragell, late Decimna Morel and Tyrell, in Sri Lanka on July 15, 2021. (Daily News 17.7.2021)

**FERNANDO, Henedige Julie Elizabeth**, 25.07.1926 – 12.07.2021, wife of Alvin G. A. (dec), mother of Nilanthi (dec), Sriyani, Priyangani, Dewantha, Preethika and Anushan, mother-in-law of Sunil (dec), Gamini, Lakshman and Niran, grandmother of Shalindra & Ameeta, Sumudu & Gareth, Surani, Ashan & Tina, Shiranga & Sabrina, Priyan & Erin, Nilisha & Enck and Dilini, great grandmother of Annabella, Kiyomi, Alexis, Anwen, Carter, Juliette and Cooper, in Sydney. (Sydney Morning Herald, 17.7.2021)

**E CRUZE, Mary Magdalene (Ruth) nee Arnolda**, wife of Gerald, mother of Devin, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 19.7.2021)

**VAN TWEST, Monica Lydia Ruth (nee Kiel)**, wife of Derrick Van Twest, mother of Ray & Pat, Sandra and Rohan & Marina.

Grandmother of Michael, Andrew, Desmond, Sylvie and Theo and their spouses, great grandmother of Dante and Stanmore, late Sam and Portis, in Canada on May 18, 2021, aged 91 years. (Daily News, 20.7.2021)

Burgher Association (Australia)  
358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3168

## Hall Hire



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 from the Security Fee deposit for cleaning of the premises, for the next day's Events. *Hiring Agreements. NB: To book the hall, payment has to be made via the BAA Bank Account – details available on request. Depending on whether you are a member or non-member the full fee plus the deposit of \$250 must be paid to secure the date booked.*



## Scientists figure out the worst year ever to be alive on Earth

November 21, 2018

The year 1349, when the Black Death wiped out half of Europe's population, and 1918 — when influenza killed up to 100 million people — were practically a breeze compared to 536 A.D., the worst year ever to be alive on Earth, scientists said.

In that colossally miserable year, ash from a volcano plunged into Europe, the Middle East and Asia, causing a blanket of darkness that spanned 18 months —leading temperatures to plummet, crops to die and humans to starve to death.

"It was the beginning of one of the worst periods to be alive, if not the worst year," Michael McCormick, a historian and archaeologist who chairs the Harvard University Initiative for the Science of the Human Past, told Science Magazine this week.

Historians have long been puzzled by the mysterious black, ashen clouds that settled over the world in the middle of the sixth century.

But a paper published last week in the journal *Antiquities* indicates a massive volcanic eruption in Iceland triggered the months of darkness. Two more eruptions in 540 and 547 would also contribute ash to the cloud.

The ash blocked out the sun, ushering cold temperatures. In the summer of 536, snow fell on China as temperatures dipped between 34 and 36 degrees, initiating the coldest decade in the past 2,300 years.

Crops failed and people starved. In 541, the bubonic plague — known as the Plague of Justinian — rapidly wiped out one-third to one-half of the population of the Eastern Roman Empire, hastening its collapse.



*Celebration of Life of a Real Gentleman*



Neville Davidson 9<sup>th</sup> September 1946 – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

IN MEMORIUM OF OUR FRIEND FROM THE  
BURGHER ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA INC - (BAA)

*It is with great sadness that the President & Committee Members of the Burgher Association Australia wish to advise the passing of our dear friend. Neville passed away peacefully surrounded by his beloved wife Dyan, and their daughters on Friday, September 10, 2021.*

*Neville migrated to Australia in the 1970's, making Melbourne his home. He was devoted to his family and was a true gentleman, kind, courteous, quiet and self effacing. The Burgher Association was very close to his heart, he could not do enough to help make it a success. He was always at the functions, greeting everyone with a smile and going out of his way to make sure that everyone had a good time. Neville loved music and recorded much of the music we play at our functions. More recently Neville was also instrumental in setting up the alfresco area at 358 Haughton Road, Clayton.*

*Neville was a loyal member of the BAA, he headed up the Entertainment Committee and was also the Editor of the quarterly newsletter for many years and many of you would have enjoyed his humour and jokes in the pages of the newsletter.*

*Neville was a very helpful and caring person who had compassion and concern for other people and who, whenever requested, gave his help willingly and without fuss. We will miss him very much, but we and the BAA are richer for having had Neville walk on this journey with us. This spring edition of the newsletter which was compiled by Neville should have gone out on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, however due to the pandemic lockdown; it has been delayed and now needed some amendment because of Neville's passing.*

*'As the shadows lengthen, and your evening has come, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and your work is done. God grant you a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last.'*

*Rest in Peace Dear Friend*





## FORT HAMMENHIEL

The Hammenhiel Fort lies on a small rocky island between the islands of Kayls and Karaitivu at the entrance to the Jaffna Lagoon. The fort was built by the Portuguese in mid-1618 of quarried coral and was named Fortaleza Real (Fort Royal). After a 3-month siege, the Dutch captured the fort in 1658 and renamed it as Hammenhiel (Heel of the Ham) and was rebuilt by them in 1680.

The strange serenity of the little Dutch water-fort, Hammenhiel, invests this memorial with a sense of departed usefulness which is most striking. It stands on a rock at the entrance to Jaffna lagoon, and is surrounded on all sides by the sea. In those forgotten days of tumult, Hammenhiel served on the north, like Mannar Fort in the south, to guard the passage by water to the Castle or Key Fort at Jaffna. The Dutch, when they pictured the shape of Ceylon, saw in it a resemblance to a smoked ham. Hammenhiel means "the heel of the ham", and with a little imagination the picturesque little water-fort might very well be placed at the point where the shank bone projects.

The fort is octagonal in shape and the base of the ramparts is washed by the surf. It would appear that the walls were originally raised and the place was fortified on the orders of the Portuguese Governor of Jaffna, Antonio do Amaral de Menezes, a few years before the arrival of the Dutch. The historian Baldaeus, who accompanied the Dutch army to the assault on Jaffna, gives a brief description of the blockade and the attack on Hammenhiel by the fleet, before Jaffna capitulated. The Portuguese only held out for a fortnight and were obliged to surrender for want of water. Consequently, the thirst-ridden Portuguese troops surrendered their fort on April 28, 1658. It is not certain what happened to them thereafter. When the Dutch occupied this water-fort they found that the sand bank on which it was built had been undermined by the storms of the north-east monsoon. They remedied this by piling up a breakwater of stones. The Portuguese had built the ramparts hollow, and had roofed them with beams which supported a floor of stone and chunam, with a view to the space being utilized for storing provisions and ammunition.

Since the beams were liable to decay, and the floor had to support the weight of the cannon without fear of its giving way when the guns were moved about and turned round, the Dutch considered this a mistake and they replaced the roof by an entire stone vault.

cont'd....

Finally, profiting by the error of their predecessors, the Dutch took special pains to ensure a satisfactory water supply. On the northern side of the fortress they built a huge reservoir, paved with "Dutch Bricks" to collect and preserve the rain water. This reservoir had, however, been built so high that it reached above the parapets and was, therefore, exposed to the fire and possibility of ruin by the enemy. The defect was pointed out time and again at subsequent inspections of the fortress, but since it was a new work, it was allowed to remain until such time as alterations could be effected.

A low vaulted gateway, not more than seven feet in height, is the only entrance to this water-fort. The living quarters consist of three or four rooms in the courtyard. The vaults under the ramparts were doubtless used as store rooms. The Dutch invariably maintained a garrison of thirty men under the charge of a Lieutenant or Ensign on this spot, and the early Dutch Governors make very special mention in their memoirs that Hammenhiel must be carefully guarded, none but Dutch being stationed there. Until the year 1795, Fort Hammenhiel operated as a 17-gun fortress. Thereafter, it was captured by the British, whence it was transformed into a maximum security NDB – Naval Detention Barracks and subsequently a hospital and an infectious disease holding clinic. After gaining independence in 1948, the fortress was used as a maximum-security prison once again by the government and housed inmates. One of them, a far left-wing prisoner that caused much trouble during the early 1970s, was the leader of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, often abbreviated as JVP, Rohana Wijeweera. Other notable inmates were collaborators of the insurrection. Those detained included Upatissa Gamanayake, Lionel Bopage, Podi Athula (Victor Ivan), Loku Athula (N. Jayasinghe), Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda and Mahinda Wijesekara.

Having plenty of space and the proper location to detain prisoners, it was used thereafter by the Sri Lanka Navy to detain sailors accused of wrongdoing. After the defeat of the LTTE, in September 2015 the Sri Lanka Navy made great efforts to fully restore this fort to her former glory. Fort Hammenhiel is now a hotel controlled by the Sri Lanka Navy, open for visitors to explore history through its walls. There is evidence that the fort consisted of a functional jail. Today, guests can occupy one of the cells and imagine what life was like for prisoners of old. The ramparts, gates, cannons, bastions, including the very armoury used back in the day are on display.

*Credit – Wikipedia, Amazing Lanka, Know Sri Lanka, Attractions Sri Lanka, Sunday Observer, Tales of Ceylon, Bandi's Blog, Atlas of Mutual Heritage*





# What's Happening At the BAA



*Can't wait*  
**TO SEE YOU**

-18 September 2021

"Sinatra Afternoon"

Featuring

And

Live Band

BAA Comm.

**cancelled**

358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3169

21 November 2021

Burgher Association Australia

"Christmas Party"

BAA Community Hall - 358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3169

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