

The Burgher Welfare League of WA Inc.



Helping the needy in Sri Lanka

July 2022

Newsletter

Vol. 33.1



Sri Lankan cricket fans showing appreciation of the Australian cricket team visiting the island at a time of turmoil and strife

*The BWL of WA Inc. is a charitable organisation formed specifically
to raise funds to help people in need in Sri Lanka*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our 2nd Newsletter for 2022. Many thanks to Valerie for her wonderful effort in bringing you the local, Sir Lankan news and general information that is interesting and informative. I am sure you all, as I do, appreciate her efforts to provide this enjoyable reading.



Thank you also to my committee for providing the monthly lunches which are enjoyed by all. Last month Sandra did all the main menu cooking, Hilarion helped with the pappadams and Valerie provided the sweets. Thank you for your wonderful effort thus giving the committee, I am sure, a grateful rest.

Unfortunately, attendance at the lunches has lessened due to many reasons. Many have pre-existing vulnerable health conditions and are cautious that they may contract Covid, and many have taken the opportunity to either welcome interstate family and friends here or take the opportunity to visit them over there since the borders have been opened.

One of our long-time members Guy D'Souza passed away in June. For the past couple of years he was unable to attend our lunches due to ill health but his good friend Hilarion always took him a take-away which he enjoyed and looked forward to each month. Our deepest sympathy to his family and friends for their sad loss.

George and Honor De Vos wish to pass on their thanks to you, the committee cooks, for the wonderful effort you all put into providing monthly lunches which they, though at present are unable to attend, can still enjoy as Jenifer Anderson very kindly brings them a take away each and every lunch they miss.

Most of you will probably know that the Australian Government has sent \$50M in aid to Sri Lanka whose inhabitants are in great need at this time. Hopefully it will be used for their benefit which is medical supplies for the hospitals, food, electricity, gas, petrol etc. I did hear that a lot of people have had to resort to wood fires to cook meals. A sad state of affairs. Even though we are feeling the pinch here we are far better off considering!

Thank you once again to our lunch sponsors, raffle donations and monetary donations for which we, as an aid organisation, are grateful as we can help some of those in need in Sri Lanka. Those of you that wish to sponsor a lunch please get in touch with Valerie, and if you are attending a lunch, please advise Harvey no later than the Friday before the lunch to help with the catering requirements.

Sometimes it's hard to muster the energy to get out and socialise but getting out for a short time, catching up with friends for a chat does you good. Many of us including me are getting a bit long in the tooth but I still enjoy meeting you all. To those of you who are at present unwell my best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Best wishes always

PAT LEWIS

President BWL of WA

WELFARE REPORT

DUTCH BURGHER UNION APRIL 2022 EXTRA PAYMENT

		\$A
PENSIONS 63 @ Rs 5000	Rs 315000.00	1437.70
ADMIN	Rs <u>9450.00</u>	<u>43.13</u>
	Rs 324450.00	1480.83

CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH APRIL 2022 EXTRA PAYMENT

PENSIONS 7 @ Rs 5000	Rs 35000.00	159.74
BANK CHARGES	Rs 750.00	3.43
Overpayment previously	Rs <u>300.00</u>	<u>1.32</u>
	Rs 36050.00	164.54

Rate of Exchange: A\$1 = Rs. 219.10 \$18 transfer fee

DUTCH BURGHER UNION JUNE 2022 QUARTER REMITTANCE

		\$A
PENSIONS 63 @ Rs 20,000	Rs 1260000.00	4950.50
PRIVATE SENIOR BENEFICIARIES 34@ Rs 9000	Rs 297,000.00	1293.15
SERINDIPITY KIDS	Rs 2104880.40	8270.00
BANK CHARGES	Rs 500.00	1.96
ADMIN	Rs <u>109856.41</u>	<u>434.62</u>
TOTAL	Rs 3772236.81	14823.98

CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH JUNE 2022 QUARTER REMITTANCE

PENSIONS 7@ Rs 20,000	Rs 140000.00	550.05
BANK CHARGES	Rs 750.00	2.95
BROHIER MEMORIAL HOME	Rs <u>20,000.00</u>	<u>78.58</u>
TOTAL	Rs 108,750.00	631.58

Rate of Exchange: A\$1 = Rs. 254.52 \$9 transfer fee

I am pleased to inform you that in addition to the extra Rs. 5,000 we paid each of our pensioners in April, we have greatly increased the amount we paid our beneficiaries in June. The BWL is now paying a pension of Rs.20,000 to 70 people – an increase of Rs.8,000, and the privately sponsored elders have had their payments increased to Rs.9,000. This has been facilitated by the Sri Lankan currency exchange rate which fell drastically against all foreign currencies. We hope that these increased payments will help somewhat with the huge inflation and rise in cost of everything in Sri Lanka. We complain about the rise in the cost of living here in Australia, but this is nothing compared to what the people in our homeland are going through. All we can do here is hope and pray that things will improve in Sri Lanka and that the politicians and the international community will be able to help them find a way of their present dire predicament.

For those of you who are sponsoring private elderly and Serendipity kids, bank details are the same. If you require details for banking of your payments.

Contact details: Rosie Zuiderduyn Serendipity Kids Email: roszi@iine.net.au Tel: 9454 2347
Gerald Moldrich Elderly Sponsorship Email: gerryandsally@bigpond.com
Tel: 93076572 / 0407 102 654

Please make collection of the above sponsored monies easier by making your payments on time thus ensuring that the monies are there for remittance to Sri Lanka.

Thanking you

PAT LEWIS PRESIDENT/WELFARE

DBU NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Burger Union in Sri Lanka was held on 31 May 2022.

Their Annual Report for the period ended 30th April 2022 included the following about the Burgher Welfare League of WA:

THE BURGHER WELFARE LEAGUE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (BWL) At the end of 2021, the number of welfare beneficiaries sponsored was sixty-three and each of them received an amount of Rs. 10,000 per quarter in addition to a bonus at Christmas. They have also received additional amounts of Rs.1,000 each during 2021. This year each of them received an additional sum of Rs.5,000 to tide over the difficulties in Sri Lanka. This was very much appreciated by all the welfare beneficiaries.

36 WBs are also sponsored by individuals residing in Australia and these WBs are paid through the DBU Welfare Beneficiary Scheme. They receive a sum of Rs. 4,500 per quarter plus a Christmas bonus of Rs.1,000 each and a further sum of Rs.1,000 each to tide over the difficulties they are facing in Sri Lanka. Some of them keep in touch with their beneficiaries.

THE SERENDIPITY KIDS (S/K) The number of children sponsored under the Serendipity Kids Scheme at the end of December 2021 was sixty-one. Each of them receives a quarterly allowance of Rs. 4,500 and many of the sponsors send their sponsored child a special birthday gift. No Christmas party was held in 2021 due to the pandemic, but each child received Rs.3,000 as a Christmas Gift. Due to the present situation in Sri Lanka, an additional amount of Rs.1,000 was given to each child with effect from the 1st Quarter 2022.

Having heard of the on-line education system being carried out in Sri Lanka and the parents' inability to provide their children with smart phones or computers, Mrs. Rosie Zuiderduyn appealed to the children's sponsors who responded by sending an additional sum of money for the purchase of 40 tablets and 2 laptops. The children who received the tablets were also given Rs.1,000 for the connection charges. Some of these children shared their tablets with their siblings. They were delighted as they now had a way of following their on-line classes. Photographs of all the children holding the tablet in their hands were taken and sent to their individual sponsors.

Mrs. Rosie Zuiderduyn is the livewire and founder of this sponsorship scheme. She takes a personal interest in all the children, and we appreciate her enthusiasm and kindness.

NEW MEMBERS

The BWL has had a record number of new members in 2022 – 28 in all. We extend them a very warm welcome and hope to see them all regularly at our monthly lunches.

Robert Beckett

Heather Bellchambers

Ivor & Joanne Byrde

Tyson Comyns

Bruce & Heather Cowley

Rani de Alwis

Shanthi de Silva

Colin & June Ellie

Richard & Vivien Ellwood

Carole Gade

Carl Konstz

Barney McCarthy

Faye Mitchell

Vanessa & Roshan Jurangpathy

Ivan Rebello

Margaret Rees

Wendy Robertson

Ajith & Harshini Senewiratne

Sandra Wren

Diane Watkins

Carolyn Jackson

Sue Stewart

Cricket world stunned by ‘amazing’ scenes as Sri Lankan fans go crazy

Cricket commentators had never seen anything like it as Australia had the Sri Lankan crowd cheering for them in an emotional moment.

Australia has beaten Sri Lanka in the final one-day international of the series. With the hosts already claiming an unassailable 3-1 lead in a five-match series, the last white-ball match of the series was in fact a dead-rubber — but the result was completely overshadowed by the crazy scenes in the crowd.

In touching scenes, many Sri Lankan supporters in Colombo wore Australia’s yellow and held banners thanking the tourists for visiting the island nation, which is battling an unprecedented economic crisis.

Finch in turn thanked the fans for being “amazing”. Addressing the reporters before the fifth ODI, Australia captain Aaron Finch acknowledged the “unbelievable” hospitality and love from fans on this tour. Finch’s team were given a lap of honour as sections of the crowd chanted “Australia”. Some of the world’s cricket commentators had never seen anything like it.

The atmosphere certainly lifted the Aussie bowling attack to set up a four-wicket consolation win. Sri Lanka had already wrapped up the series. Sri Lanka, who are playing under a new head coach in Chris Silverwood, have provided early impressions of thriving under the former England head coach. With Dasun Shanaka also emerging as an astute leader, the island nation would want to build on this start after having not performed well across formats in the recent years.



Australia's captain Aaron Finch thanks Sri Lankan cricket fans.

Cricket cannot solve Sri Lanka's massive problems but at least it can be a distraction

For once, the sport is not the primary unifying agent in a country now wracked by economic and political crisis

By Andrew Fidel Fernando 12 June 2022

If you were watching on TV, you might wonder what the big deal was. Khetarama, one of cricket's great party grounds, overflowing as it almost always is for T20 internationals, roaring for Sri Lanka lbw appeals, vibing to papare even through rain breaks, generally being its regular rambunctious self. On the field, a dramatic batting collapse is unfolding. Even this feels like a familiar and comforting companion to Sri Lankan life. Even this only slightly dampens the mood.

But right now, this is just a snatch of normalcy in an otherwise relentlessly upsetting time in the history of the island. The kilometres-long fuel queues on the way to the ground are the most obvious signs, but there is much worse. Businesses are shutting down all over, no longer able to afford the imported supplies they depend upon, or failing to hold on to staff who can no longer afford the commute. Hospitals are so desperately short of life-saving medicines, doctors in one of the most vaunted medical systems in the developing world have been forced to beg for basics.

Children have been hit particularly hard. Working- and lower-middle class families have been cutting back on nutrition for many months. With transport costs what they are, and the price of school supplies having soared, survival is a daily struggle, and education has become an afterthought. Don't even start on the plight of tourism operators. In 2019 there were the Easter Attacks, then two pandemic years, and now an economic crisis and associated political turmoil, which is once again keeping visitors away.

What is cricket up against this much suffering? Some Australia players wondered that themselves, and asked whether it was appropriate to play cricket in a country that is gasping for air the way Sri Lanka is right now. When the tour began, and videos of Khetarama's heaving stands made its way around the internet, Sri Lankan voices also began to throw shade at the crowd's merrymaking.

Let's start with what cricket isn't. At this moment, it is no longer the primary unifying phenomenon on the island. This is a good thing, since silver linings are at a premium right now. Cricket has long been the one Sri Lankan passion that cuts across ethnicity, religion and class, but it has too often been merely an icebreaker - something that strangers from opposite sides of the various Sri Lankan spectrums can talk about, while being aware that they are not seriously talking. We might agree that a certain burly left-hander played too many ODIs for Sri Lanka, for example. But that gets us no closer to agreeing on matters of real importance.

Right now, thanks to protests across the island, cricket is not having to do the "national unity" heavy lifting it is largely unqualified to do. The minority grievances that have been aired at protest sites have in many ways been unprecedented, because for the first time, majority Sinhalese appear to be receptive to (or at least tolerant of) calls for justice for the devastation the state has inflicted on these communities. The idea that politicians intentionally seek to exploit divisions in order to gain power has become a mainstream conversation. The universal appeal of a Muthiah Muralidaran spell, or an Aravinda de Silva hook shot, are great, but in the most heartbreaking way, they do not stand up to the shared experience of struggling to feed your family.

And as long as Sri Lanka Cricket is in charge of the sport, matches will also struggle to be a site of anti-establishment sentiment, because there are few organised bodies in Sri Lanka that are more subservient to the political establishment

than the cricket board. At Khetarama, fresh signs across the stadium banned horns, helmets and cigarette lighters, but also, snuck in near the bottom, was a ban on placards and banners. Don't bring your anti-government signs here, was the directive, with police (who have water-cannoned and tear-gassed protesters all around the country in recent months) gleefully confiscating any materials that could be used to show dissent.

They couldn't stop spectators shouting, of course, but when chants of "Go home Gota", aimed at president Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, began, the Khetarama DJ would quickly intervene to drown out their voices with stadium pop. It may be worth noting here that SLC is not merely an extension of the Sri Lankan government, it is a manifestation of its worst inclinations, controlled as it is by elites who have long been deaf to calls for serious reform.

So, what can cricket do? Well, not a lot really, but perhaps what little it can do is enough. The tour is clearly bringing some money into the country. Not only are local hotels, caterers and transportation staff getting much needed work, the broadcast earnings from a full Australia tour are also significant. (This is why, despite consternation, the matches are being played at night; earnings from playing the games during India's prime-time television slots are thought to be worth the diesel that powers the generators running the floodlights.)

But in a nation that wakes up to fresh hurt every day, the normalcy that watching their men's team play (or as the case may be, suck), is not for nothing. People going through difficulty deserve this too. If in a country that lurches from crisis to crisis to crisis, cricket is a distraction, then let it be one.

Andrew Fidel Fernando is ESPN Cricinfo's Sri Lanka correspondent

BWL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Burgher Welfare League of WA was held on Sunday 22nd May 2022 at the Morley/Noranda Recreation Centre.

The following members were elected/re-elected to the Committee:

President:	Patricia Lewis
Vice President:	Jennifer Jansze
Secretary:	Virginia (Jenny) von Bergheim
Treasurer:	Gerald Moldrich
Editor:	Valerie von Bergheim

Committee Members:

Hilarion Caspersz	Jenifer Anderson
Sandra Chandiram	Harvey von Bergheim
Anne Fairweather	Theckla Weldt

We are very, very fortunate to have Pat Lewis continue as President for another year and thank her sincerely for agreeing to continue. However, Gary von Bergheim who has served on the committee for the last four years, sadly decided not to stand for re-election. Gary will be sorely missed as he contributed greatly to our lunches and took on a lot of cooking. We thank Gary for all he has done for the BWL over these years and hope to see him at all our lunches in the future.

The turnout at the meeting was lower than usual with just 22 members present. This was due to Covid and the awful weather we had that day. However, everyone present enjoyed the delicious afternoon tea, provided by the Committee, which followed the meeting.

SERENDIPITY KIDS NEWSLETTER JULY 2022

Dear sponsors and friends of Serendipity Kids, you are amazing, making it possible for us and the **DBU** (Admin Secy. **Etienne Jayatunge**) help the kids to take that “giant leap” forward in their education. It has been a great plus for these kids to learn a new skill, regularly log-in and do their lessons on-line even though their schools were closed due to Covid or the present political and economic unrest. Kids returned to prepare for O/A Levels in August or December. Seven kids finished school and are either studying further or seeking work. Their sponsors wished to continue helping SL kids, so we have **five** new children listed! **Tim & Sarah** for Bethany Holmes, **Ranjan & Dilshari** for Rukshani Isek and Joshua Pietersz, **Mark & Julie** for Hayden Stave and Shenaya Rangana, and **Cleve & Roma** for Sheshan Ribera and they continue to sponsor Ajini Silva who wants to be a nurse. We welcome **Suzanne Abeywardane** who sponsors Dilki Cracke (HER 3RD SPONSOR!).

The **BWL** and **DBU** help KIDS/ELDERS by remitting a quarterly amount they can count on. We thank our BWL Committee for kindly paying the DBU administration costs and increasing pensions. Lives were severely disrupted when people had to queue up for food and fuel. Some sponsors have added (\$20 - \$40) for their kid’s birthday. Due to lockdowns, the DBU Christmas celebration has not occurred for the past two years. From Jan 2022, \$5 each quarter is not retained for the DBU Childrens’ Christmas party and gift, instead \$50 is transferred to the kids’ accounts as these troubled times continue. The kids and elders also received a generous Christmas voucher plus a DBU bonus to buy whatever they wished or needed.

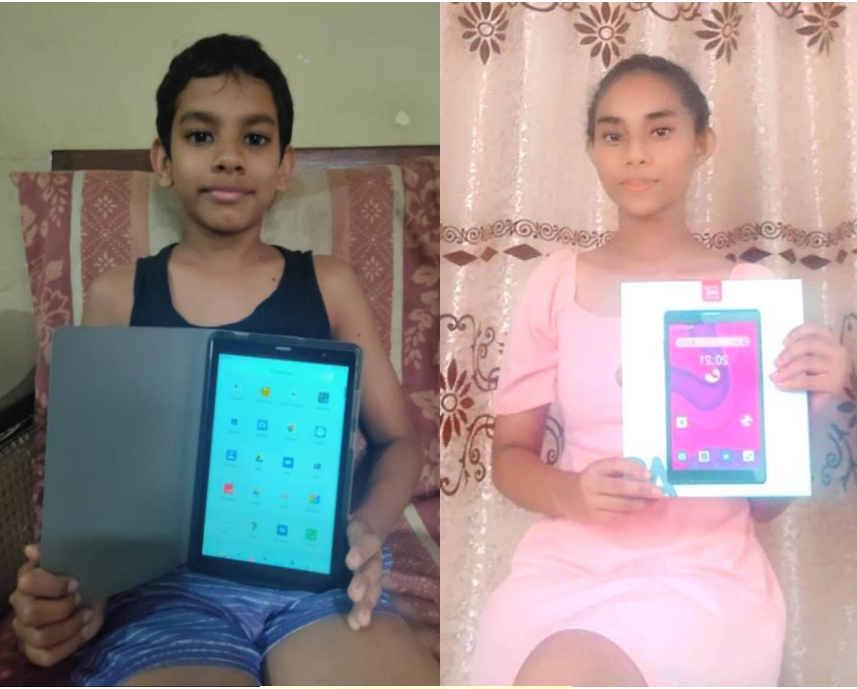
Sponsors suggested increasing their allowances and if they wanted to, added extra to their regular payment as a gift. My grateful thanks to all who transferred on time! Yes, allowances are always collected in **May and November** each year and remitted in **June and December**. Please place the child’s **Ref.No./your name** in Remarks and email/text me - then recording **66** kids payments is so much easier!

1. Holly Firth was fortunate to receive a laptop from her sponsors, (it was at an acceptable price). She has thrilled us all with her great progress! Holly did her **A Levels** in February 2022. Currently she’s left school, completing her sponsorship by **Mark & Julie Beverly**. Now Holly is doing a **Diploma in IT** (paid by the DBU), a Course in **International Relations** and is studying the **French** language. **Well done Holly!**

2. Davina sponsored by **Hyacinth Hesse** was one of the first to happily receive her tablet in June 2022.

3. Sri Lankan Kids are sponsored through the DBU who interview the families in need and those recommended by the School Principal or Parish Priest. Please help if you can give **\$100 every 6 months**.





Top L: Jacob Batcho (13) and **R: Venetia Lisk** (15) are both sponsored by **Laraine and Peter Burns**. They really look quite pleased to receive this surprise gift from their sponsors.

Tablets are like a hand held mini-computer somewhat like an ipad and enable kids to easily access their lessons on line. Schools were closed most of 2021 and only those kids who had access to IT (Information Technology) were able to keep up with their studies, thanks to the generosity of their sponsors.



Left: Andri Faber (15) with her special gift from sponsor **Lindy Chee**.

Middle: Ian Labrooy (16) was thrilled with his donated tablet.



Below: R Jason Pietersz (16) and his mum were amazed at the unexpected gift from sponsors **Dr Vevil & Miriam De Kauwe**.



L: Kevin Kalam (15) was also strictly following rules wearing his mask and showing his gift from sponsors Miriam and Vevil.

SERENDIPITY KIDS THANK THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORS AND DONORS FOR THIS INCREDIBLE HELP WITH THEIR STUDIES.

Rosie Zuiderduyn

roszui@iinet.net.au

9454 2347 0404 594 855



Serendipity Kids Letters

Good day to you, I am really grateful to you, as you were kind enough to send me a Tab for my classes online. I visited DBU a while ago and collected it. I am thrilled, as it is very beneficial for me to do my classes as well as exams easily online. I am sitting for my A/Ls next year 2022. And I hope to get through well so that I could do my higher studies. My new school is Holy Family Convent, Colombo 04 and it is very good.

So, how are you? I Hope everything is fine for you too. God is good he will take care of you. You will be always in my prayers. **Tasha Jayathunge (18)**

(Her tablet was purchased with a generous donation to the Information Technology Project.)

Dear Madam,

Thank you so much for giving me a tab for my on-line education work. We pray for you & God bless you all. Dilan Andrews (16) (Sponsors: Judy and Rob Beckett)

Email from Etienne (DBU Admin.) to Roma and Cleve Adriansz

Dear Roma,

Thank you for your email below. My whatsapp number is **0777 781854**. I am very happy that Sheshan has got in touch with you. I hope he will continue to do so.

Thank you for your concern about us in SL. Yes, we are experiencing shortages but so far so good. I was unable to come to work for about 3 days as I couldn't get transport, but now the fuel crisis is a little better but we don't know for how long. Thankfully, the DBU has given me a laptop so I can always work from home, which I do should there be an issue.

We are all very concerned about the food crisis as things are skyrocketing by the day. To give you an example - sugar which cost Rs.245 per kilo last night is Rs.350 per kilo from this morning! I understand that the whole world is experiencing these price hikes, but people in SL will very soon be unable to bear these price hikes and then there will be chaos. It is quite a frightening situation, but thankfully I have two wonderful sons and I know that, come what may, they will take care of me and I have explicit trust in my Lord Jesus Christ and He is my provider.

Thank you once again for your concern. I appreciate it very much.

Warm regards and God's blessings,

Etienne



This is **Sheshan Ribera's mum**. Cleve and Roma are sponsoring their 2nd kid Sheshan who is 8 yrs old. Families have coped with Covid for two years. Now some have had floods reaching above their knees as well as the deprivations of restricted food and fuel brought about by the terrible current economic crisis.

DBU recently initiated programmes to help poorer families and they offer a box of essentials for a reasonable cost ... We could send our donations to the DBU. Please contact:

Gerry Moldrich Treasurer BWL **A/c 455226305 BSB 016353**

Pat Lewis / Rosie Zuiderduyn (Welfare)

If you are interested in helping those in need, you can transfer your donation direct to the BWL. Rosie Zuiderduyn

SL's average household income makes shocking revelation about poverty level

Daily Mirror 13 June 2022

- **Poorest 40% families earn only Rs.26,931, not enough even to put 3 meals on their table at current prices**

Sri Lanka's average monthly household income was estimated at Rs. 76,414 prior to the country's economy fall deep into a recession, and incomes deteriorated in the two years of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, according to Department of Census and Statistics (DCS) data.

While the average household income was over Rs.75, 000 and appeared attractive, this reflects the income for an average household comprising 3.7 people and there are also vast disparities between the three segments—urban, rural and estate.

The latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2019 results published by the Department of Census and Statistics recently showed that while the average income of an urban household was at Rs.116,670, the rural family generated an average of Rs.69,517 which has become even weaker for an estate sector family at Rs.46,865.

While the results reflect the average income level when the country entered the pandemic, during the two years of the pandemic the country saw its incomes falling amid hyperinflation resulting in families losing 40 percent of the value of their nominal incomes within just one year through May 2022, based on the official consumer price indices.

The survey also found out that the poorest 20 percent of the households in Sri Lanka were generating only Rs.17,572 while the poorest 40 percent of the households generating Rs.26,931.

However, the richest 20 percent of the households in Sri Lanka on average earn Rs.196,289 per month, which may have grown in the last two years in nominal terms, although their purchasing power fell sharply in the last six months due to double-digit inflation, which accelerated into runaway prices from March onwards.

Meanwhile, the middle 60 percent of the households generated an average monthly income of Rs.56, 079 for a family of 3.7 persons.

This reflects how badly the living standards of 80 percent of the households in Sri Lanka have been affected while the bottom 40 percent may have been plunged into dire poverty due to inflation which acts as an insidious tax on people's incomes.

However, inflation could help some people, provided they have the right attitude, to become more enterprising and productive to generate more income to a level which they can beat the price pressures in the medium term.

Editor's Note: The last month has seen the purchasing power of the rupee fall to unprecedented levels with inflation running at over 50%. Currently, the rate of exchange for an Aust. Dollar is approx. A\$1 = Rs. 250.

Duncan White, and the Returned Trinity Lion

By George Braine



For the 125th anniversary of Trinity College, Kandy, The Old Boys Association published a 135-page commemorative volume, titled *Memories of Trinity*, containing short pieces written mainly by old boys. Consisting mostly of humorous anecdotes about teachers and students, the volume was edited by five old boys, including Lakshman Kadiragamar, who also happened to be the President of the OBA at that time. Kadiragamar also wrote the Foreword.

Kadiragamar also wrote a piece titled “The school we knew” for the volume, in which he recalled the visit of Duncan White, the Olympic silver medalist, an old boy of Trinity, to the school. This was in 1948. A holiday was declared, and a general assembly was held. White walked down the school hall, to quote Kadiragamar, “dressed in his Olympic blazer and grey slacks, the silver medal around his neck ... The Principal made a speech, and then, ... he took from his pocket and presented to Duncan White the Trinity Athletics Lion. Duncan White was speechless, visibly moved and tearful”.

The Lion had been awarded to White in 1938, when, still a schoolboy, he had been selected to represent Ceylon at the Empire Game in Sydney. Later, the Lion had been withdrawn over a disciplinary matter. Kadiragamar wrote that “we felt the Lion in his pocket meant more to him than the medal round his neck”.

The Trinity Lion is the most prestigious award a sportsman can achieve at Trinity College, Kandy. Being a rugby school, most Lions have been awarded to rugby players. Many cricketers, too, are Lions. The very first Athletics Lion was Duncan White’s in 1938. Kadiragamar himself won the Athletics Lion in 1948; like White, he was a hurdler. He captained Trinity at cricket and also played rugby for the school.

On 4th February, 1948, when Ceylon’s independence was proclaimed, four young men – Duncan White, Lakshman Kadiragamar, M.A.M. Sherrif and Oscar Wijesinghe – representing the Burgher, Tamil, Muslim, and Sinhalese communities, brought scrolls to Independence Square to be presented to Prime Minister D.S. Senanayake.

As for the “disciplinary matter” that temporarily deprived Duncan White of his Lion, I have no clue.

BWL COMMITTEE

		<u>Email addresses</u>	<u>Telephone / Mobile</u>
President:	Pat Lewis	patlewis66@msn.com	0417 947 428
Vice-President:	Jennifer Jansze	j.jansze@hotmail.com	0402 083 645
Secretary:	Jenny von Bergheim	jennyvb44@gmail.com	9247 3915
Treasurer:	Gerald Moldrich	gerryandsally@bigpond.com	9307 6572 / 0407 102 654
Editor:	Valerie von Bergheim	val.vonbergheim@y7mail.com	9247 2047 / 0428 420 082
Welfare:	Pat Lewis	patlewis66@msn.com	0417 947 428
Membership:	Harvey von Bergheim	phfvonbergheim@gmail.com	9409 9841 /0421 543 848
Catering:	Jenifer Anderson		9275 9921
	Sandra Chandiram	maralynchandiram@gmail.com	0432 338 655
Team:	Hilarion Caspersz	hcaspersz@inet.net.au	6248 6272/0451 186 832
	Anne Fairweather	fweather1@bigpond.com	9249 1261
	Theckla Weldt	theckla.weldt@gmail.com	0421 048 608
Serendipity Kids:	Rosie Zuiderduyn	roszui@inet.net.au	9454 2347 / 0404 594 853

BWL Postal Address: PO Box 544, Morley WA 6943



Guy D'Souza – a staunch member of the BWL for many years even though not a Sri Lankan. Guy was born in Calcutta in 1941 and moved to Australia in 1968 where he met his future wife. They married in Glendalough in 1973. Guy's two greatest loves, besides his family, were cars (especially Hondas) and electronics. The family lived in Karratha for many years and all the children were born there. In 1975 Guy opened his own business in Karratha – Guy's Auto and Electrical Services. The business grew and thrived through reputation, honesty and a renown for being a bloke who actually knew how to fix things properly. Guy was also an active member of St Paul's Church and choir while in Karratha. Music was also another big love of Guy's and his son recalls the two couch size speakers on either side of the TV in the living room.

In due course the family moved to Perth and Guy became a member of the BWL about 15 years ago. I remember Guy tinkering with and fixing the speakers and microphone on the old sound system we had. He was a regular at our lunches till a few years ago, when ill health prevented him from attending. Guy had many friends in the BWL and will be greatly missed. We offer our sincere condolences to his 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

May He Rest in Peace

KOTHTHU ROTI

BY MARWAAN MACAN-MARKAR

Just as Sri Lanka's civil war exploded in the early 1980s, a new nighttime sound began to spread from odd corners of the country's capital: the rapid beat of steel blades. The rhythms flowed out of the oil-stained, all-night restaurants that catered to Colombo's night crawlers. The drummer was the koththu roti chef at work.



Koththu roti, a Sri Lankan street food, being made at a food stall that pops up nightly at the Galle Face Green, an open recreational field along downtown Colombo's shoreline. Word spread quickly about this novelty: a street-food dish whose name means "chopped roti" in Tamil. It is a combination of gothamba roti (a flat, flaked bread) mixed with spices and shredded vegetables, topped with egg, gravy and chicken. The whole thing is heated on a griddle as the chef bangs away with two metal cleavers, crafting a spicy and carbohydrate-heavy dish perfect for late-night refuelling.

The preoccupations of the unfolding war kept many Sri Lankans from digging for the roots of this dish, which seems to have emerged as a street food in the 1970s in Batticaloa, a quiet agrarian town with a Tamil majority on the island's eastern coast. Most people were more interested, then, in where to get the best koththu roti in Colombo. I was one of them. It was two decades before I discovered, while covering the war on assignment in Batticaloa, that the dish had a deeper meaning.

By then, I was following the military's eastern strategy, the movements of Tamil Tiger rebels in the surrounding forests, and the frightened civilians trapped in between. The military had turned Batticaloa, known colloquially as Batti, into a garrison town. By day, it looked as if the army was in charge. But the locals knew better: The Tamil Tiger rebels ruled the night, slipping at will into Batti's narrow, dark streets. This shifting power structure reflected local ethnic tensions: The town was largely Tamil, with a Muslim minority, while the troops were from the country's Sinhalese majority.

I was on a limited budget, so I usually stayed in a small, rundown two-story hotel on the banks of Batti's lagoon. In the evenings, the hotel's rooftop terrace served as the ideal listening post to pick up the rhythms of the town. Among them was the sound of the koththu roti makers, which would roll over the lagoon from the town's centre.

On such evenings, the terrace would fill up with retirees who met for their regular sunset drinks and to chat, their eyes reflexively checking the clock, anxious to be home ahead of the nightly curfew. It was on one such evening, just before darkness, that an aging businessman offhandedly mentioned the wartime relevance of koththu roti. "That sound tells us how late we can be out on the street," I recall him saying. Since then, the dish has never lost that quality for me: the sound of freedom in the tense atmosphere of war. A koththu roti chef at work in an eastern town or village meant the last hint of street life before the community slipped into the silent grip of the curfew.

Today, koththu roti has made its mark across postwar Sri Lanka. It has become part of the local lingo. Some regard it as a cultural icon. And it is not confined to Tamil or Muslim food outlets. Sinhalese chefs churn it out in southern Sri Lanka with the same taste and din. Against the backdrop of a raging civil war, koththu roti's unheralded rise from its Tamil-Muslim origins in Batti to a national comfort food has made it "the only Sri Lankan dish with a sound bite," as a friend has described it. Culturally, it has achieved unity through taste buds. And it suggests a further possibility — that Sri Lanka's kitchens may hold the recipe for peace.

A TRIBUTE TO AN EXCLUSIVE GROUP OF TEN

A TRIBUTE TO THE EXCLUSIVE GROUP OF TEN : who are responsible for the great educational standards reached by Catholic Schools in Sri Lanka.

1) **ST BENEDICT'S COLLEGE** – KOTAHENA FOUNDED 1865.

The mother of Catholic Education in Colombo, the oldest Catholic educational Institute in Colombo. St Benedict's Holds the undisputed position of the trend setter in Catholic education and has contributed immensely towards the establishment and development of all other Catholic Schools. It is also an undisputed fact that many very distinguished old boys and girls of other leading Catholic Schools were sons and daughters of Benedictines, simply because this was the only source of Catholic Education in Colombo from 1865 until St Joseph's Grandpass, Colombo 14, was founded in 1876.

Therefore St Benedict's deserves sincere Respect, Admiration and Gratitude from all such schools and persons.

2) **GOOD SHEPHERD CONVENT** – KOTAHENA - FOUNDED – 1869

The second school established by the Catholic Church, the first school for girls.

3) **ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE** – GRANDPASS – FOUNDED 1876

The third school and second Boys school established by the Catholic Church

4) **ST LUCIA'S COLLEGE** – COLOMBO 13 - FOUNDED 1880.

The fourth School and third Boys school was St Lucia's in Kotahena, which was established to satisfy the demand for good education.

5) **ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE** – COLOMBO 10 - FOUNDED 1892 in Kotahena and moved in 1896 to the Present Location.

The fifth school established and the fourth for Boys. - Started in 1892 as a branch of St Benedict's College in Kotahena and then moved in 1896 to the present location in Colombo 10, Many teachers and students were transferred from St Benedict's to give St Joseph's a good start. This sacrifice is unprecedented by any Educational Institute anywhere in the World.

6) **ST BRIDGET'S CONVENT** – COLOMBO 7- FOUNDED – 1902.

The sixth school and the second Girls school established to meet a growing demand for quality education.

7) **HOLY FAMILY CONVENT** – COLOMBO 4 -FOUNDED – 1903

The Seventh and third school established for Girls

8) **ALL SAINTS COLLEGE** - COLOMBO 10 - FOUNDED – 1904

The Eight and fourth Girls school established by the Church.

9) **DE LA SALLE COLLEGE** – COLOMBO 15 - FOUNDED 1905.

The ninth and sixth Boys school

10) **ST PETERS COLLEGE** – COLOMBO 4 - FOUNDED – 1922

The tenth and seventh Boys school established. The Founder Rector was an Old Benedictine Rev Fr Nicholas Perera who served for over 20 years. He is primarily responsible for the foundation laid to enable St Peters to reach such high standards in such a short period of time.

It is important that one knows and respects history, remembering those who toiled hard to provide future generations with a good education and the wherewithal to succeed in life in Sri Lanka or any other part of the world.

BWL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Saturday 3rd December 2022

at

Morley/Noranda Recreation Centre

85 McGilvray Avenue, Noranda

from 12 noon – 4 pm

FUNDRAISING LUNCHESES IN 2022: *August 17* *Sept 21* *Oct 19* *Nov 16*

*Please call Harvey von Bergheim to give numbers attending
Tel. 9409 9841 or Email: phfvonbergheim@gmail.com*

Members Directory

LINDZAY G BALDSING & ASSOCIATES: Registered Tax Agents Small Business Specialists
12 Treen Street, Balga WA 6061 Tel: 9343 1311 Fax: 9343 1311 baldsing@optusnet.com.au

ELMSTOCK TEA COMPANY: HILARY and NIGEL WHITE
PO Box 7701, Cloisters Square, Perth, WA, 6850 Unit 14, 8 Booth Place, Balcatta, WA, 6021
sales@elmstocktea.com.au Free call : 1800 624 233

HANDYMAN: CHRIS LEWIS Tel: 0420 373 442