

The Burgher Welfare League of WA Inc.



Helping the needy in Sri Lanka

December 2023

Newsletter

Vol. 34.2



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



Well, here we are looking to the end of 2023 and also getting our last Newsletter for the year. My grateful thanks to Valerie for creating a very interesting magazine every quarter. Your effort is appreciated by all of us. Thank you.

Once again, our Committee have provided us with restaurant quality meals every month and this year, we have been helped by several of our members who have come to our assistance with cooking, dishing up, cleaning, washing up etc. which is so very much appreciated and what our organisation is all about. Togetherness and assisting others.

A few auspicious events have occurred over the recent months which deserve mentioning. Our wonderful Committee Member Hilarion Caspersz was awarded Life Membership of the BWL for his services on our Committee for many, many years. Hilarion was our Treasurer for eighteen years and has been Assistant Treasurer for the past two years. He is humble, accommodating hard working and kind. His award is very well deserved. Thank you so much Hilarion for all you have done. In addition, he recently celebrated his 90th birthday. Congratulations! Happy birthday to Shereen Gerreyn, Cherille von Bergheim, and Derek Jansze who all recently celebrated being 80 years young.

Darshini Perera, one of our newest Committee members, has just become a Grandmother of three. Her daughter gave birth to twin girls and her daughter-in-law to a boy. The twins are in New Zealand. Congratulations on the additions to your family and I hope whilst you are over in NZ you are enjoying the sweet new arrivals.

On 27th October a fund raiser was held at the Royal Perth Yacht Club to raise funds for the Sanjeevani Hospital, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. We were contacted by Hilary White who is the brother of Penny Jayawardene, the Chairperson who is instrumental in supporting the Eastern Province hospital and the needy residents of the province with aid. Over 58,000 meals have been distributed to families and individuals 2-3 times per week. All services and medication are rendered free of cost. It is a wonderful cause and I was happy to hear that many of our members attended the fundraiser and enjoyed a most enjoyable afternoon. We from the BWL were extremely happy to donate \$1000 towards the cause which Penny has been involved with. She is a very caring and compassionate human being who has been carrying out these good works for decades.

After our Christmas lunch on Saturday the 2nd of December we will have a recess and lunches will commence again on 21st February 2024. With your attendance and sponsorships we can keep continuing to help those in need. Advice of your attendance at our lunches the Friday before to Harvey von Bergheim will be very much appreciated for catering purposes.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends and above all I wish you health and happiness.

PATRICIA LEWIS
President BWL of WA

WELFARE REPORT

DUTCH BURGHER UNION SEPTEMBER 2023 QUARTER REMITTANCE

| | Rs | \$A |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| PENSIONS 64 @ Rs 20,000 | 1280000.00 | 6439.93 |
| PRIVATE SENIORS 30 @ Rs,10000 | 300000.00 | 1509.35 |
| BANK CHARGES | 500.00 | 2.52 |
| ADMINISTRATION CHARGES | <u>47400.00</u> | <u>238.48</u> |
| TOTAL | 1627900.00 | 8190.28 |
| Less Credit (from last payment) | <u>100000.00</u> | <u>505.13</u> |
| | <u>1527900.00</u> | <u>7685.15</u> |

CHRISTIAN REFORM CHURCH SEPTEMBER 2023 QUARTER REMITTANCE

| | Rs | \$A |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| PENSIONS 7 @ Rs 20,000 | 140000.00 | 704.40 |
| BANK CHARGES | 750.00 | 3.78 |
| BROHIER MEMORIAL HOME | <u>20000.00</u> | <u>100.63</u> |
| TOTAL | <u>160750.00</u> | <u>808.81</u> |

Rate of Exchange: Rs 198.75 to A\$1

We will be making a bonus Xmas payment this year which we didn't last year as we had already increased quarterly payments from Rs 10000 to Rs 11000 to Rs 12000 and finally to Rs 20000 in the 2nd quarter of 2022 which we have maintained to date. We doubt we will be able to go back to the original payments due to the economic situation on Sri Lanka and the dependency of our payments to them for living and medical needs. The Christmas payment will be Rs 22000.

We as Committee members would like to thank you, our members for the support you have given us with your donations, sponsorships and attendance at our lunches. Without you we would not have been able to make these increases in payments.

The same goes for the privately sponsored adults and children. Your support is welcomed by both. You are all wonderful generous people.

Thank you all so much.

PAT LEWIS

BWL WELFARE

A delightful and memorable holiday in beautiful Sri Lanka



The Jansze family

It was my husband's (Derek) 80th birthday and he was keen to take the family (two sons, their wives and six grandchildren back to his homeland. We spent three weeks and had an awesome and unforgettable holiday in the country of our birth, bringing back wonderful memories of our childhood. We wanted to share this with our children and grandchildren so that they could appreciate the county in which we were born and raised.

We spent four days in Colombo at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel, visiting relatives and friends and then took off by coach to the Yala National Park where we stayed at the very beautiful Jet Wing hotel. Jet Wing offers the ultimate in luxury accommodation, more like a resort than a hotel. The food was out of this world. Breakfasts alone were enough to fill you for the entire day. We then went on a morning safari. Our main target was to see leopard and bear but unfortunately, we saw only one leopard - no bear. But plenty of elephants, birds, monkeys and other animals. The children screaming with excitement and joy was so lovely to see.





Jennifer and son Nigel



Grandkids on an elephant ride

Our next stop was Nuwara Eliya where we stayed at a Lake Gregory 6-bedroom house. Every aspect of our stay here including the immaculate property itself, the cuisine, the staff (a team of butlers waiting on us) and a fabulous chef was truly exceptional. We felt like royalty. We then visited the Heritage Tea Factory. We were dressed up as tea pluckers and taken among the tea bushes and taught to pluck tea.

We had an amazing holiday. Seeing the children having the time of their lives gave Derek and myself much joy. We ended our holiday celebrating Derek's 80th birthday in Colombo at the DBU with a hopper night.

Tourism in Sri Lanka growing

904,318 tourists visited Sri Lanka from January to August 2023, an increase from the 719,978 tourists that arrived in the country during the whole of 2022, statistics provided by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority show.

"A tourist will spend an average of 185 -195 dollars a day," Sri Lanka Tourism Development Chairman, Priyantha Fernando, told EconomyNext.

Sri Lanka's government aims to attract five million tourists a year, and has mooted the establishment of an Investment Infrastructure Corporation, a decision-making council and regional committees under provincial tourism boards.

Memories of Christmases Past

My thoughts at Christmas, penned by Victor Melder

Christmas has to be the saddest time of each year for me, as the ghosts of Christmases past (another time, another place) come back to haunt me. I admit to shedding a tear now and then, as my mind goes back to those carefree days of my childhood and teens, spent 'upcountry' in Sri Lanka, where my father was stationed as an engine driver.

I recall, that for months ahead, there was preparation for Christmas. The houses were all white washed, painted and got ready for that one day 'when the world stood still.' In the meantime, we would be taken to the tailors who measured us for those special hand-made clothes. The shoe maker would be next in line for his bespoke products. What a build-up to Christmas. The special trip to Colombo made by my parents to purchase all those special Christmas goodies, including a box of fireworks for each of us from 'Fireworks Palace,' the Christmas fare from 'Elephant House,' which always had to include a Yule Log.

The making of the Christmas Cake was a major event in every household, the finished product had to be down at 'Salgado Bakery' in town by 6.00am on the day of baking. A long queue of Cakes for baking from each household would be seen lining up at the bakery. As soon as the day's bread was baked, and the ovens still hot the cakes had to go into those giant ovens. The baker would gently ease each cake pan in to the ovens on a giant paddle, where they were placed cheek by jowl inside the oven. The baked product had to be collected by 9.00am and trundled off home.

As the day drew closer the excitement heightened, it was the culinary department of each home that worked overtime, all those puddings, sweet meats, pickles, chutneys that had to be made. The turkey's and chickens prepared, the hams cured. Most homes made the traditional milk wine, others made ginger beer, almond liquor, crème-de-menthe etc.



Christmas trees were brought home by each railway man from either Nanu Oya or Nuwara Eliya. These had to be set up in a vantage point in the home and decorated with many seasonal ornaments and lit up with twinkling jets or even candle lights. The homes were also festooned with streamers, bunches of balloons etc. Baskets of flowers and vegetables would come down, again from Nanu Oya, Nuwara Eliya, Bandarawela, etc. The homes would smell sweet from the aroma of the arum lilies, the oxide daisies, gerberas etc.

The baskets of veggies would include cabbages, lettuce, spring onions, leeks, carrot, beetroot, cauliflower, beans, broccoli, pumpkin etc, all fresh from the 'up country' market gardens. Mum would be always busy preparing so many of her specials – Turkish delight, stuffed dates, meringues, pumpkin preserve (puhul dosi). Her cold meat platters were the envy of many of my friends. So was her fruit punch and the hibiscus punch she made on some occasions.

Come Christmas Eve, a gentle quiet would pervade the neighbourhood, awaiting that special moment. Almost everything that had to be prepared, cooked, roasted and basted was done. Clothes ironed and laid out, shoes spic and span, the home was aglow. We counted the hours before we set off to Church.



Midnight would find most families in Church partaking in the solemn celebration of the Birth of the Christ Child. When the 'Gloria in Excelsis' was intoned the Church bells would peel out to the town that the 'Saviour had been born.' Once Mass was over, there would be so much meeting and greeting that it would take quite some time before we begin our way back home.

This scenario was repeated time and time again, no matter where my father was stationed whether at Kandy, Matale, Nanu Oya, Kadugannawa, Nawalapitiya or Bandarawela (these were the towns we called HOME – Nawalapitiya on two occasions for a total of 12 years)

Christmas Day, was one of continued enjoyment and merry making, and of partaking of the majestic spread on the dining table, enjoying all one's presents and gifts. I still remember, the No 5 Meccano Set, (as a nine-year-old) I received at Christmas. We called on friends, had friends call on us. Members of the public utilities who served us through the year, dropped in for their 'Christmas Bonus' – the postman, the baker, the garbage collector etc. By night fall one was completely exhausted, but the best was yet to come, that was when we opened our boxes of fireworks and lit them all – the squibs, rockets, golden rains, Catherine wheels, Chinese mini crackers and more. The air reeked of a burning, acrid smell, but who cared. It was Christmas. The weather 'upcountry' always contributed to the season, when more often than not a cool zither of a breeze would prevail and a 'scotch mist' would settle in.

It is these memories that bring a tear to the eye, to recall the days gone by and to think our grandchildren will never enjoy such times. One has everything one wants today; Christmas fare could be savoured every day of the year. Gifts and presents are only for their commercial worth. Gone are the days of caroling, friendships, camaraderie, bonhomie that prevailed. The magic of it all, was that the less we had, the more we enjoyed. That was the special gift of the times.

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD WISHES

Hilarion Caspersz, our much loved committee member and former treasurer, turned 90th on 1 September this year. Celebrations went on for many days and Hilary was joined by all his family including his sisters and many nephews and nieces who came over from Melbourne, Sydney & Karratha. A great “knees-up” was held at Bailey’s Brewery in the Swan Valley the following day and the BWL was well represented at this gathering.



Hilary with his beloved wife Pam



To commemorate this event and as a token of the great esteem in which Hilary is held, and the many, many years he has served the BWL, he was made a life-member of the Burgher Welfare League this year.

We also congratulate some of our members who have reached their 80th milestone in the past few months:

Derek Jansze

Cherille von Bergheim

Shereen Gerreyn

*And finally, Congratulations to our latest grandparents, **Darshini and Michael Perera**, who welcomed 3 grandchildren recently. Their daughter Rebecca & husband, who live in New Zealand, had twin girls named Manaia and Amali on 9 October. And their son Richie and his wife welcomed a boy named Wynton on 17 October in Perth. We wish Darshini and Michael the greatest joy with their beautiful grandchildren and many, many years of babysitting to look forward to.*



The BWL thanks the following members and friends who SPONSORED OUR LUNCHES during 2023:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| February | Jennifer Lodewyke, Barbara Thompson, Dion Drieberg's family and Jill Ebell |
| March | Valerie von Bergheim and Aprille Birkett |
| April | Dolly Schokman, Audrey & Malcolm and Miriam & Vevil de Kauwe, Ricky & Annette Muthukumaraswamy & Moira Schwartz |
| May | Martin & Byrde families |
| June | Susanne Abeywardene, Hilary Randolph, Faye Mitchell & Colleen William's table |
| July | Ranjit & Myrna Ratnayake, Honor de Vos & Roshan & Sharifa Burah |
| August | Jenifer Anderson, Laurette Walters & Andrea & Michael Hopkins, Peter La Brooy |
| September | Yvonne Selvaratnam, Avril Thurgood & Jennifer Lodewyke |
| October | Reimers family, Derek & Val Bartholomeusz & Harshini & Ajith Senewiratne |
| November | Jennifer & Derek Jansze, the Old Boys of St Mary's, Mumbai, Caspersz family & Anne- Marie Mendis |

Also a special thank you to:

Ashley Payne - for providing the music at our lunches and helping us in many ways every month;

Rosie & Fred Zuiderduyn for administering the Serendipity Kids programme and Rosie for her regular contributions to the BWL Newsletter – much appreciated;

Jean Pavey, Rosie Birner, Roma Adriansz and Haydn Reimers - for helping with the cooking for our lunches;

Judy Birkett – for helping the “boys” in the kitchen with the wash-up and tidying – thank you so much;

Colleen Williams - for making stringhoppers whenever we ask;

The Committee – for all the work they do throughout the year, including cooking, cleaning, organising events, donating food and prizes and generally keeping the BWL going;

And finally, all our members who so generously make much appreciated donations throughout the year and who regularly give us prizes for our raffles and help in any other way.

Dutch Era and Cinnamon Gardens

By G. Narandeniya

During the Dutch era, it was rare to find houses in Colombo's Cinnamon Gardens, currently known as Colombo 7, which was covered with forests. The Dutch records reveal that the wealthy people of the city lived around Kotahena at that time.

In the late 1700, a Dutch governor showed interest in cultivating cinnamon in Colombo, and the cinnamon plantation grew to 232 acres in a short time. It is said that the cinnamon cultivation had spread around the present day Colombo 7 as well as the Independence Square area, Borella, Maradana and Union Place. The name 'Cinnamon Gardens' was used to refer to the area, but cinnamon cultivation was abandoned by the 1850s during British rule.

The lands in the area, which were overgrown with forests, were gradually cleared and the construction of houses for the rich began at this time. Several historical records state that Cinnamon Gardens had become an area where there were the residents of lucrative families by the early 1860s.

Several places of significant importance are within the vicinity of Cinnamon Gardens, but the stories behind them are only known to a handful of history-lovers.

Among such places are the Cinnamon Gardens Post Office, the Dawatagaha Mosque, the Victoria Memorial Eye Hospital Building, the Monument at the Lipton Circus Roundabout, and Rosmead House.

The two-storied red building with Victorian architectural features is still used as the Post Office in Colombo 7. A magnificent portico can be seen in the building. Each window has decorative moldings in stucco. The ceiling inside also takes an old form. The historical documents state that this building was originally built for the Colombo Telecommunication Office. It became the Cinnamon Gardens Post Office in 1908. This building, which was dilapidated, has been repaired by the postal department in the recent past.



Located next to the Colombo Municipal Council (CMC) building is the Dawatagaha Mosque which is a historical monument that is considered a centre of the Islamic religion. Abdul Rahman Al Siddiq, who came to Ceylon from Saudi Arabia in the 18th century and supported the religious activities of the Islamic devotees, is considered to have lived where this mosque is now located.

A mosque was built in 1890 and is considered to be one of the oldest mosques in the country. This mosque derived its name Dawatagaha because of a 'Dawata' Tree near the grave where Al Siddiq was buried. The mosque has a beautiful appearance with its domed spires.

An eye-catching building of Indian Mughal architectural style visible near the Lipton Roundabout, today belongs to the Accident Unit of the National Hospital, but this was originally built as an eye hospital. It was named the Victoria Memorial Eye Hospital in memory of Queen Victoria. It has also received financial support from local barons such as N.S. Fernando and Charles Peiris.



The architect of the building was Edward Skinner. It was constructed by the Government Works Department. By 1906, the work was completed and the Hospital commenced its operations. It has a design that blends Hindu, Mughal and Victorian architectural features. Its lower floor has a portico, corridor, fence and semi-circular gables. The most beautiful feature of the building is the Mughal-style domed spires at the top. After the new Eye Hospital was built in 1967, this building was used for the purposes of the National Hospital.

The marble monument on Lipton Roundabout, atop a pond with fountains, attracts many visitors to Colombo. This monument was built to commemorate the Englishman named George Wall. It was he who started the Ceylon Independent newspaper, which criticised the British Government and supported Ceylonese independence. He has also worked to abolish the paddy tax which has oppressed the farmers. He served as a member of the State Council for some time. He later fell into poverty and he was unable to afford his daily expenses. Later he decided to return to England. Following his death in 1894, his friends built this magnificent monument to remember George Wall. The monument, made of colourful ceramic bricks, is reminiscent of the Indian Mughal style. It has a domed peak on top, and stands on eight pillars.

A short distance away is a house named 'Tintagel' situated in Rosmead Place in Cinnamon Gardens.



Built in the late 1920s, this two-storied house with English architectural features was owned by gynaecologist Dr. Lucian de Silva. During the Second World War, the owner was ordered by the British Government to hand over the house within two weeks for the use of the army. Having seen that the military occupation had damaged the house, Dr. de Silwa sold the house to Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike for Rs. 160,000 in the late 1940s.

Later Sir Solomon's son, S. W. R. D. Bandaranaike occupied the house. S. W. R. D. became the prime minister of Ceylon in 1956 and was shot on the verandah of the house on 25 September 1959. His widow, Sirimavo Bandaranaike became the first female prime minister of the world in 1960. She continued to live in the house, until her death in 2000.

Tintagel is now a boutique hotel in Colombo.

Serendipity Kids News

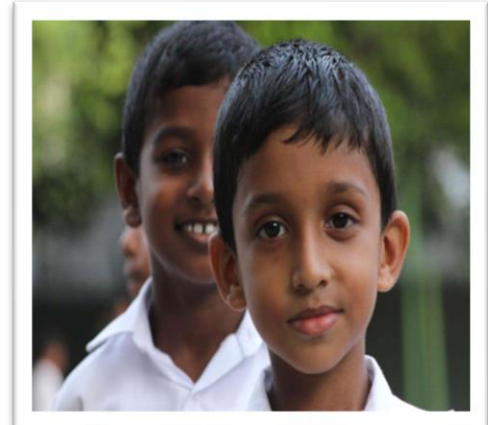
Rosie Zuiderduyn

Serendipity Kids' family life in Sri Lanka is gradually becoming bearable, but prices remain high due to inflation and the results of the severe economic crisis. **Serendipity Kids** have been really blessed due to the increased exchange value of the A\$, and the addition of A\$5 per quarter (formerly retained for the **DBU Christmas Party & their Gift**) to their quarterly payment. In 2023 the increase has enhanced their payment to **\$60** per quarter (\$20 per month). It's been immensely encouraging to help unemployed parents and their underprivileged families who have been struggling to find food, school bus fares and after school English class fees.

Schools reopening and attendances returning to normal meant that those kids who were capable, could sit for their O and A Level exams which had been postponed several times. We will hear from **Etienne Jayatunge** in **Feb/March 2024**, about their exam results and news of what the kids plan to do. Teachers apparently have to sit in large school / college halls marking papers!

Kids who are aiming to further their studies do need our encouragement. Sponsors of older kids love to do this to help them until they finish their tertiary courses. Some A/L kids *are* aiming to go to University and indeed one student Holly Firth is at present at Dehiwela University studying to become a teacher. I am over-awed by the older kids' sponsors' goodness, and trust the kids do not disappoint them! If you are in touch, we are really keen to hear news about your sponsor child and how they are faring ... please call Fred or Rosie on 08 9454 2347.

Short sponsorships are needed for students who aim to do **A/L** (2 yrs) **O/L** (2 yrs). If you know anyone interested in sponsoring a kid, I would really appreciate a call. Thanks for the fantastic interest you have shown in this group of youngsters and the commitment you have made to help them. **Many blessings at Christmas & New Year.**



From Etienne Jayatunge's email (Admin Secy. DBU)

“Yes, all our welfare beneficiaries go through a tough time and things have only got worse after the economic downturn in SL. The only future for these children is to get a good education and I wish they would realize just how much they should value the sponsorship and do their best. We help them even after they leave school so that they could go for a course of their choice or even get an University Education. We even have a Programme which helps the children to develop their English skills because without English it is very difficult to get a good job. The fees are paid and so is their transport, but it is quite a nightmare to convince the children to go for it!!

We recently received a letter from a young man whom we supported in his education from the time he joined school until he successfully completed his degree in Agriculture. We were very happy for him. So we do have success stories, but the children have to help themselves. I hope that Sheshan realizes this sooner than later!

We have been having heavy rain and I hope that they have not been affected by it. I have had many Welfare Beneficiaries appealing to me for help as their homes have been flooded out. Such a sad situation as it is always the poorest of the poor who are affected.”

From an email to Etienne (and us) from Cleve & Roma Adriansz:

“ It was a pleasure meeting you Etienne and having a chat and catching up. Thank you for organizing for me to have lunch with my former classmates at the beautifully refurbished DBU. It is a lovely place to meet and greet and the food is delicious and reasonably priced.

Our meeting with Sheshan and his family was quite emotional as we were so happy to meet each other. They live in a very small house, we saw only a small room with 5 plastic chairs, an old sewing machine and a fan which they must have borrowed to keep us cool. We met his father, mother and older sister and paternal grandmother Dulcie Mortier who declared she was Burgher. The children were beautifully dressed and they walked in with cold Thambili which was very welcome. Then his Mother Sujeewa had freshly cooked Kavum and kokiss and Bananas for us. Sujeewa is pregnant after 10 years and baby is due in January. I have arranged with our cousins who live in Hendala and they are happy to pass on baby clothes to her as their baby has outgrown them and other items they need.

They are really having a very tough time as the father has no proper job and with a family growing it is going to get worse. I gave Sujeewa some money for the baby. The parents mentioned that Sheshan was very playful and not studying but his sister is very smart. So I appealed to her to help her brother with his studies, which she agreed to do.”

In September 2023 Cleve and Roma Adriansz were in Sri Lanka and visited the DBU and their sponsor child Sheshan. This gave them a real perspective of the current living conditions of the families we sponsor.

20 Serendipity Kids are in the lower age group and haven't had to face the shock of exams to make them grow up fast! The older students who were deemed ready, recently tackled their O and A Level exams despite the difficulties endured during the financial crisis (*meals were halved or buses unable to run!!*) In 2021-2 tablets gifted provided a great enhancement to their education, helping them to study on line when schools were closed.

Thanks to our kind BWL sponsors, your family and friends. **YOU** have made life a bit easier for the disadvantaged!

Rosie Zuiderduyn: S Kids: 0404594853 finds a child, for you to sponsor to help with their schooling expenses. Every sponsored child's allowance is deposited into their bank account each quarter. This is closely monitored by Etienne and staff members who work with her. It has worked extremely well for the past 18 months. This system has dispensed with the time and cost of travelling every quarter from Colombo's outer suburbs: like Jaela, Mt Lavinia, or towns like Kandy, Negombo, Galle and Matara to the DBU in Colombo 4.

May Christmas-time be filled with love and New Year 2024 witness the dawning of peace on earth!



THE DUTCH BURGHER UNION

114 Reid Avenue, Colombo 4 – Sri Lanka

GUEST ROOM TARIFFS

Thank you for your interest in booking rooms at The Dutch Burgher Union. We have a total of Six Ensuite Rooms in the following categories and net tariffs.

| ROOM TYPE | 1 ST MARCH 23 TO 15 TH DECEMBER 23 | 16 TH DECEMBER 23 TO 28 TH FEBRUARY 24 |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Standard (One Room) | US\$ 55 | US\$ 60 |
| Superior (Three Rooms) | US\$ 60 | US\$ 65 |
| Deluxe (Two Rooms) | US\$ 65 | US\$ 70 |

- The above rates are **INCLUSIVE** of 10% Service Charge and Government Taxes (Current rate – 19%).
- There are no B&B options. However, the venue has a coffee shop and a restaurant opened from 7.00 am to 10.30pm.
- Overseas Members of The Dutch Burgher Union are eligible for a 20% discount. **This only applies to “Member Stays” (one room only), and not for bookings on behalf of third parties.**
- Till such time as bookings and payments can be made directly through our website, which is presently being re-designed, please use the reservation contact information below to finalise your bookings.

RESERVATION CONTACT DETAILS

E-mail reservations@dbu1908.com

Telephone +94 77 477 7788 – 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on Weekdays (SL time)

CANCELLATION POLICY

- A full refund including taxes & fees will be made 15 days prior to arrival date.
- A 50% refund including taxes & fees will be made 14-07 days prior to arrival date.
- No refunds will be made for cancellations within 6-0 days of arrival date.

BWL COMMITTEE

| | | Email addresses | Telephone / Mobile |
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BWL Postal Address: PO Box 544, Morley WA 6943

Australia higher education promotion draws Sri Lankan students

A large number of Sri Lankan students looking for higher education options attended an Australian education showcase in Colombo recently. The Study Australia Showcase was organised by the Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), an Australian government agency.

“An impressive number of students expressed their eagerness to select Australia as their preferred location for advanced education,” Dr Monica Kennedy, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, Austrade, said in a press release from the Australian High Commission. “We collaborate with Sri Lankan students to ensure they are making optimal choices when considering studying in Australia.”

UNESCO estimates that approximately 10,500 students are currently studying in Australia as of August 2023. Sri Lanka is witnessing an increasing number of its students seeking entrance to foreign universities amid an economic crisis last year, and continued political uncertainty in the island nation.

Last month, Sri Lanka’s president Ranil Wickramasinghe proposed to establish foreign university branches in Sri Lanka. “I propose to facilitate the establishment of branch campuses in Sri Lanka, particularly focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects as well as finance, information technology and medicine,” the president said.

**WISHING OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and
A PEACEFUL & HEALTHY 2024**

FUNDRAISING LUNCHESES IN 2024

February 21

March 20

April 17

May 15

*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

Email: sales@elmstocktea.com.au

Free call : 1800 624 233