

Sri Lanka Day 2024

Multicultural Food and
Cultural Festival

Supported by the Dept. of Children and Youth and Multi-cultural Affairs and the councillors for the Calamvale, Jamboree and Forest Lake wards under the auspices of the Lord Mayor's Community Fund of the Brisbane City Council.

Sunday, 15 September 2024 | Rocks Riverside Park, Seventeen Mile Rocks

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Our Vision

Building of the strong sense of unity achieved through the collective strength of its member organizations, the Federation of Sri Lankan Organizations in Queensland aims to promote professional, cultural and social interests of Sri Lankan Australians and to mobilise them to make a notable contribution to both Australia and Sri Lanka and secure a prominent place in the multi-cultural Australia through its community development activities.

We acknowledge with thanks the support of our partners and sponsors who made this event possible.

Institutional partners

- Department of Multicultural Affairs—funding provided under 'Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program'.
- Brisbane City Council, Lord Mayor's Community Fund.

City Councillors

- Cr Sara Hutton, Councillor for Jamboree ward.
- Cr Emily Kim, Councillor for Calamvale.
- Cr Charles Strunk Councillor for Forest Lake.

Under the auspices of the Lord mayor's Community fund for Queensland.

Corporate Partners





- Ms Tania White, CEO, Centenary Memorial Gardens.

Corporate sponsors

- Mr Nalin Perera Mansfield Family Practice.
- Ms Leela Mendis and Mr Kevin Torbey Principals Centenary Real Estate.
- Mr Alex Gutierrez Home Lending Executive, National Australia Bank Mt Ommaney branch.

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A better and bigger 'Sri Lanka Day' event with broader stakeholder participation.

Welcome to our special
day - Sri Lanka Day
2024!

We are now in our fourth successive year in this mega food and multi-cultural festival. As in previous years, what we are celebrating and showcasing today is the unique culinary and cultural heritage of Sri Lanka in which we are working hand in hand with other ethnic community groups in Queensland.

We are encouraged by the feedback from our stakeholders that Sri Lanka Day is now an active contributor to the Brisbane's Vibrant City initiative while making notable societal impact in South-East Queensland. It is now a prominent annual event in the multi-cultural calendar of events in Queensland.

This year the Federation comes to you as a Charitable organization accredited by the Australian Charities and Non-profits Commission (ACNC). With this new strength, we now focus on a larger range of welfare activities that will deliver enhanced value to the community. The FSOQ now has a Women's forum that brings together Sri Lankan women in Queensland to work in value-adding community projects.

Overall, moving beyond our initial aim of representing the Sri Lankan community at all three levels of government on matters of common interest affecting the welfare of our community, now we are actively pursuing our vision of securing a prominent place in multi-cultural Queensland. This we will achieve by actively engaging with other ethnic communities in projects with mutual benefits.

We thank the Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council for their continued funding support which made this event possible. We also thank all our corporate sponsors who provided much needed relief to the event budget, in particular, Centenary Memorial Gardens that has extended a stronger commitment to the event this year. We acknowledge with gratitude the continued guidance and support of Jess Pugh, State MP for Mount Ommaney, City Councillors Sara Hutton, Charles Strunk and Emily Kim for the event.

This event is a result of the tireless efforts and dedication of our Organizing Committee members who worked with me over the last few months who deserves a 'big thank you.'

Dr Jay Weerawardena

President

Federation of Sri Lankan Organizations in Queensland (FSOQ)

Best Wishes!

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I extend my best wishes
to the Federation of Sri
Lankan Organisations
in Queensland (FSOQ)
and all Queenslanders
attending Sri Lanka
Day 2024 on 15
September 2024.

Now in its fourth year, this multicultural event continues to grow, promoting diversity and harmony in South East Queensland.

Through traditional food, performances and family-friendly activities, this event provides an opportunity for Queenslanders to experience Sri Lankan culture and other cross-cultural connections.

Multiculturalism thrives when we foster a society where people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds feel a sense of belonging. This is a cause the Queensland Government is committed to.

In 2023-24, the Queensland Government is investing more than \$15 million to promote a harmonious and inclusive society in Queensland. Thank you to FSOQ for delivering this event and for your charity and advocacy efforts, representing the people of Sri Lankan ancestry.

More than 9900 Queenslanders identify with Sri Lankan ancestry, and hundreds of Sri Lankan students currently study in Queensland, each providing valuable contributions across many sectors.

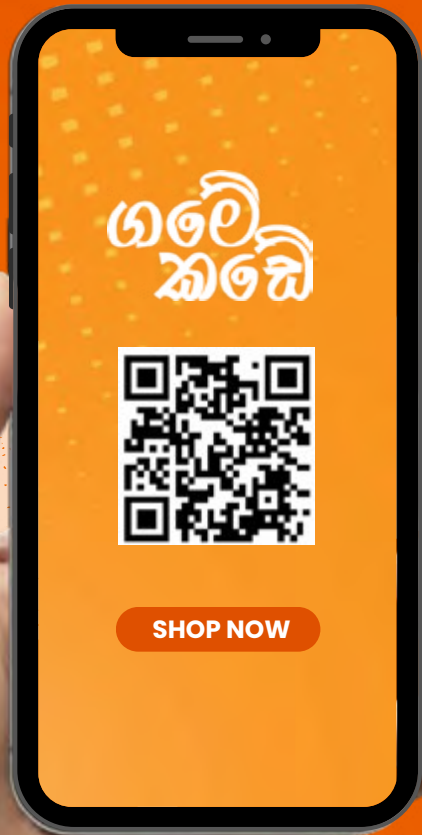
This is just one example of Queensland's multicultural success story which continues to expand as we embrace unity, celebrate our differences and make connections over our shared values.

Steven Miles MP
Premier Of Queensland



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I would like to
congratulate the
Federation of Sri
Lankan Organisations
in Queensland (FSOQ)
for organising and
hosting this year's Sri
Lankan Day
celebration.

2024 marks the fourth Sri Lanka Day
festival and I know it will again be a
wonderful experience of traditional
music, dance, and food.

The Sri Lankan Day Festival is a
wonderful opportunity for the Sri Lankan
community to celebrate and to showcase
Sri Lankan cultural heritage with the
wider community.

The FSOQ does a wonderful job of not
only representing the Sri Lankan
community but also in strengthening and
unifying the multicultural community
here in Queensland. The support shown
amongst our multicultural communities is
to be commended.

For more than a decade the FSOQ has
been working to represent and support
the Sri Lankan community. I would like to
express my gratitude for the hard work
and compassion the Federation have
shown with their welfare projects and
support both here in Queensland and in
Sri Lanka.

Best wishes to everyone for this year's
celebration.

David Crisafulli MP
Leader of the Opposition

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This event is a true display of the generosity and warmth of Queenslanders from a Sri Lankan background.

I'm sorry I can't be with you all in person, but it is my great privilege to send this message to everyone attending today's Sri Lanka Day celebrations.

This event is a true display of the generosity and warmth of Queenslanders from a Sri Lankan background.

I'd like to extend my warmest regards to the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations for their tireless work in bringing everyone together to celebrate Sri Lankan culture.

Today is a fantastic opportunity to showcase this vibrant culture — from traditional entertainment to delicious cuisines, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Events like this capture the heart of Queenslanders because they show us the richness of our cultural diversity.

When we exchange stories and share our cultures and traditions, we deepen connections within our communities, helping to bring out the best in everyone.

Multiculturalism is one of our greatest strengths, and events like this show us the incredible benefits we stand to gain when we work together to make Queensland a welcoming and inclusive home for all.

It is wonderful to see this event embraced right across the community.

I wish you a very happy Sri Lanka Day, and congratulations once again to everyone involved.

Deidre Mulkerin

Director-General

Department of Child Safety
Seniors and Disability Services and Multicultural Affairs



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Celebrating the best of Sri Lanka in Brisbane

Welcome to Sri Lanka Day 2024!

Brisbane is an inclusive and welcoming city, with more than 30 per cent of residents born overseas.

Our cultural events calendar is an exciting way to experience the customs and practises of people in our communities.

Brisbane is home to more than 6500 Sri Lankan-born residents, with over 8800 people speaking a Sri-Lankan dialect.

The Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations of Queensland Inc (FSOQ) works year round to provide opportunities to connect communities, with Sri Lanka Day the exciting culmination of these efforts.

Now back for a third year, Brisbane residents can once again look forward to the fantastic performances and delicious food that Sri Lanka is famous for.

I encourage everyone to experience something new today as we celebrate the diversity that make our city an even better place to live.

Adrian Schrinner
Lord Mayor of Brisbane

HAPPY SRI LANKA DAY FESTIVAL 2024!

from

Jess
Pugh
MP



I am so excited to attend the fourth annual Sri Lanka Day Festival, here in the wonderful electorate of Mount Ommaney. I'm even prouder to have attended each year since its inaugural event at Rocks Riverside Park.



This event is fast becoming a must do on the calendar of all our local community. It is a privilege for me to work so closely with Jay, Jayantha and the wonderful team at the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations Queensland (FSOQ), who bring this vibrant celebration to life each year.

Their hard work and tireless efforts to share Sri Lankan culture, food and generosity of spirit is why this festival grows each year. Your dedication in continuing to promote harmony and diversity with the greater Brisbane community is why Queensland is such a wonderful place for us all to live, and I'm so proud to be the member for a multicultural electorate!

As the local state member, I am proud that the Queensland government continues to fund FSOQ for the Sri Lanka Day festival, with \$7,000 being provided through the Multicultural Queensland Program for 2024.

Congratulations to every stall holder, performer, volunteer and community member for their hard work and may you all have a wonderful Sri Lanka Day!

Bohoma Sthuthi!



Jess Pugh MP

State Member for Mount Ommaney

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What an exciting
celebration of Sri
Lankan Culture in our
local Brisbane suburbs!

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all Sri Lankan residents as I look forward to a fantastic Sri Lanka Day Festival!

Congratulations to the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations in Queensland (FSOQ) for hosting this incredible annual celebration of Sri Lankan Culture in our local Brisbane suburbs.

As the new Councillor for the Calamvale Ward, I couldn't be more enthusiastic about continuing to support every corner of our community and celebrating all of the many diverse cultures that enrich our local Brisbane suburbs.

This Sri Lanka Day is truly set to be a special occasion, drawing thousands of visitors, including many who are residents of the Calamvale Ward.

I also know that the FSOQ has supported many charitable causes and hosted many incredible events with great cultural performances and food. For me, Kimbula Banis (crocodile buns) have been highly recommended, so I know what I'll be looking for at the festival!

I really hope everyone enjoy the celebrations, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the FSOQ volunteers whose hard work makes this day possible.

Cr Emily Kim
Councillor for Calamvale Ward



HAPPY Sri Lanka Day FESTIVAL



**Cr Sarah
Hutton**
Councillor for Jamboree Ward



Welcome to the vibrant celebration of our Sri Lankan Festival, now proudly marking its fourth year.

Brisbane's vibrant Sri Lankan community continues to enrich our city with its notable contributions, spanning social, cultural, and economic spheres. I congratulate the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations of Queensland (FSOQ) for organising this annual festivity that showcases the rich tapestry of Sri Lankan traditions, food, and culture to our wider community.

Diversity is Brisbane's greatest strength. Our success as a cohesive and vibrant city is built on shared values, through which we enjoy the freedom to express ourselves, respect one another, and rally to support each other in times of need.

Today's celebration is a wonderful initiative that strengthens the multicultural fabric of Brisbane, and as the local Councillor, I am proud to sponsor and support this event.

Since 2013, FSOQ has been the voice of eight Sri Lankan community factions, liaising with different levels of government on concerns pivotal to the welfare of our Sri Lankan community, both locally and abroad. With this collective strength, FSOQ and its member organisations have focused on community engagement through various fundraising drives and aid projects.

In closing, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to Jayasiri Weerawardena and the dedicated members of the Management Committee, whose tireless advocacy, education, and unwavering support have played an indispensable role in nurturing the Sri Lankan community. Your unwavering commitment has been the cornerstone of the success we celebrate today at Sri Lankan Day 2024.

Cr Sarah Hutton
Civic Cabinet Chair for City Standards
Councillor for Jamboree Ward



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On behalf of the Forest Lake Ward, I would like to convey my best wishes to our Sri Lankan residents for a very happy Sri Lankan Day 2024.

The Forest Lake Ward and surrounding suburbs has a resilient and vibrant Sri Lankan community and the Sri Lankan Day event is a wonderful example of our local cultural diversity, which is one of Brisbane City's greatest strengths.

As Councillor for the Forest Lake Ward I am committed to supporting our multicultural communities in celebrating cultural diversity and am proud to support the 2024 Sri Lankan Day event.

I hope this day gives you inspiration to stand tall and be proud of your heritage and culture through the sharing the food, dance, music and entertainment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations of Queensland (FSOQ) for giving our Sri Lankan Australian's an opportunity to come together as one and to give our whole community the chance to celebrate this wonderful day in unity and friendship.

Cr Charles Strunk

Councillor for Forest Lake Ward
The Forest Lake Ward Office is located at the Inala Library, Corsair Ave, Inala

Mon - Fri : 9am - 5pm

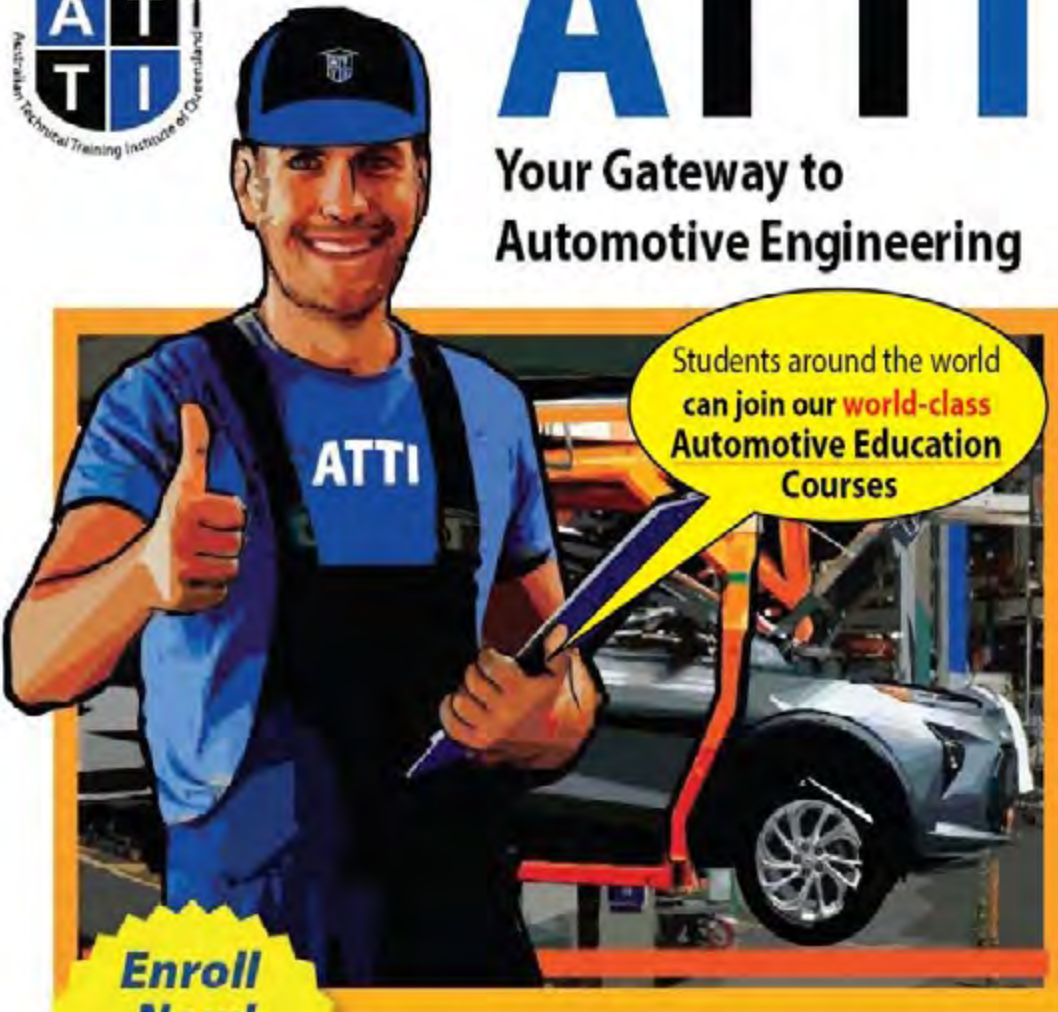
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It is with much pleasure that I send this message for the souvenir to be published in connection with the Sri Lanka Day 2024 to be held on 15th September 2024.

The Mega Multicultural Food and Cultural festival which is organized on the initiative of the Federation of Sri Lankan Organizations in Queensland (FSOQ) has now become an important annual multicultural event. This event which brings together not only the Sri Lankan community but also other communities who look forward to participate and enjoy this vibrant cultural event and also to savour the diverse cuisine.

An event of this nature while projecting and promoting the positive image of Sri Lanka will also contribute in enhancing goodwill and friendship among the multicultural society living in Queensland.

The FSOQ over the years, has been playing a leading role in many social service activities and also assisting and contributing to projects in Sri Lanka as well as in Queensland. There is no doubt that such activities contribute in large measure to maintain the good name of Sri Lanka, in Australia.

While taking this opportunity to extend my best wishes to the FSOQ for a successful staging of the Sri Lanka day 2024, I wish the Federation of Sri Lankan Organizations in Queensland continued success in all your future activities.

Chitrangene Wagiswara
High Commissioner

Best Wishes

from

Attanayaka family



Dr Priyantha Attanayaka

Bay Islands Medical Service

FORMATION OF SRI LANKAN WOMEN'S FORUM IN QUEENSLAND (SLWFQ)

4 August 2024



Sri Lankan Women's Forum in Queensland (SLWFQ) was formed on 4 August 2024 as an affiliated body to the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisation of Queensland – ACNC Charity.

The inaugural meeting of SLWFQ was held at the Mount Ommaney Library meeting room. Invited guests were Hon Jess Pugh, State MP for Mt Ommaney, Cr Sara Hutton Councillor Jamboree Ward, Ms Mai Nguyen, President, Vietnamese Women's Federation and Anton Swan, Patron FSOQ, Jay Weerawardena President, FSOQ and Jayantha Weerasekera, Secretary, FSOQ arranged the launch of the forum.

Objective: To bring together Sri Lankan women in Queensland and mobilize that collective strength and sense of unity for their self-development and to engage in projects that will deliver greater value to the broader community.

Key Aims

- Provide a platform for social interaction to Sri Lankan Women in Queensland.
- Address issues that hinder the progress of women such as health, (physical and mental) career, business education, training personal development and self-fulfilment.
- Work with FSOQ and members associations on Charity projects.
- Organise and engage in activities relate to the primary objective above, in a variety of areas such performance arts, advancing culinary skills, youth development, family health, spiritual development etc.
- Provide assistance to disadvantaged groups.
- Work with women's forums and other ethnic communities.

We intend registering this forum with the Department of Multicultural Affairs so that our members will be well-connected with other similar forums in Queensland. More details of the inaugural meeting with photos on our web page:

www.fasoq.com.au.

The following were elected to the forum committee of management

Convenor: Mrs Sandya Abeyssekera

Committee: Gothami Meepe, Sharmila Gamlath Thilangi Devendra, Prema Weerawardena, Priyangani Unantenna, Upamalika Karunasena, Aruni Arachchige, Ramya Tennekoon, Chandrakanthi Wickremasinghe, Sama Adikari, Naranja Alagiyawanna and Lakmini Keerawella.

Dr Jay Weerawardena
President



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Exciting News!

We are thrilled to announce that Walkway to Ceylon, currently operating as Cafe299, will soon be unveiling its brand-new premises and a stunning fresh look! Stay tuned for the grand reopening and get ready to experience the ultimate transformation!"



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Cultural Program

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Traditional Sabaragamu Dance

Choreography: Jayanthi Tennekoon
Performed by: Jayanthi School of Dancing

“Pushpanjali” Bahratha Natyam Dance

Choreography: Shrimati Chitra Yogi Srikhanta
Performed by: Nadananjali School of Dance

Music Performance

Vocals: Yasodhara Sinhala and Dhamma School
Coordinator: Lasanthi Pallewattege

Music Performance

Performed by: Upamalika, Prema, Shyamali, Merly, Saumya, Anushka

Portuguese Dance

Performed by: Brisbane Portuguese Folkloric Group

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Fashion Show

Presented by: Phoenix Batiks

Punjabi Folk dance (Bhangra)

Performed by: Rich Virsa Dance and Bhangra Academy

Brides of Sri Lanka

Presented by: Seni, Salon MI

Bollywood Dance

Performed by: Malayalee Association

Baila Kapirinna a Fusion of the Kaffir Musical form of Portuguese Dancing

Performed by: Thilini Nisansala, Warun Perera, Avindu, Anne Nilmini, Jasmine Perera, Mini Keerawella

Amigos on Stage

Choreography: Dillon Rowel
Performed by: Amigos

The Finale

Performed by: Nimal Punchihewa and Kushanie Punchihewa

Music for Dancing

Performed by: DJ Sepali

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Procession led by the Sri Lanka Dance Foundation

Choreographed and Performed by: Kaushalya Haragama and the Drumming Team

Lighting of Oil Lamp

Traditional Drum Beating

Performed by: Sri Lanka Dance Foundation

Sri Lankan National Anthem

Australian National Anthem

Welcome Speech

Dr. Jay Weerawardena, President, The Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations in Queensland

Puja Dance

Choreography: Ravindu
Performed by: Ravindu, Anne, Jesmine, Mudhitha, Ruwangee

Address by:

Hon Milton Dick, Speaker of the Federal Parliament,
Hon Charis Mullen, Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (representing Hon. Premier of Queensland)

Sri Lankan Traditional Drumming

Choreography: Namali Kottegodage
Performed by: Brisbane Sinhala School

Address by:

Hon David Crissafulli, Opposition Leader
Jess Pugh MP, Member for Mount Ommaney

Sri Lankan Folk Music Mashup – Music Performance

Choreography: Subhash Hathurusingha and Anuradha Keerawella
Performed by: Subhash Hathurusingha, Anuradha Keerawella, Vasantha Witharama, Chamitha Weerasinghe, Kaushalya Harasgama

Address by:

Brisbane City Councillor **Sarah Hutton**, Jamboree Ward representing The Lord Mayor
Senator Paul Scarr

Presentation of ‘Community Service Champion’ Awards

Punjabi Folk dance (Bhangra)

Performed by: Rich Virsa Dance and Bhangra Academy Juniors

Address by:

Charles Strunk, Forest Lake Ward
Emily Kim, Calamvale Ward
Mr. Wayne Briscoe, Executive Director representing Director General for Multicultural Affairs

Vote of Thanks:

Jayantha Weerasekera, Secretary, FSOQ

Comperes

Sanduni Senaratne
Darshika Koggalahewa
Himaya Wickramahewage

*Please note that the program order may vary on the day



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Thank You Message for Sri Lanka Day Celebrations

Dear Sri Lankan Community,

On behalf of Centenary Memorial Gardens, thank you so much for letting us participate in the 2024 Sri Lanka Day celebrations. It is an honour to join you in celebrating the rich cultural heritage, traditions and values that make the Sri Lankan community so vibrant and strong.

We understand the deep significance of family, respect for elders and the importance of honouring those who have passed in the Sri Lankan culture. At Centenary Memorial Gardens, we feel privileged to be entrusted with memorialising Sri Lankan loved ones. We take this responsibility with the utmost respect and care.

Our great honour is to provide a tranquil and beautiful resting place where families can gather, reflect and find peace.

Thank you once again for welcoming us into your celebration. We look forward to continuing our partnership and supporting the Sri Lankan community for many years.

With deepest respect and gratitude,

Tania White

Chief Executive Officer
Centenary Memorial Gardens



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Prav Singh-Pillay
Principal Lawyer

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- SELLER & BUYER OF HOUSE, FOREST LAKE

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Our Community Service Champions

Dharme
Rathnayake

Lal Mendis

Mrs Kanthi
Wijesoma

Three exceptional individuals, **Dharme Rathnayake**, **Lal Mendis** and **Mrs Kanthi Wijesoma** will receive well-deserved accolades at the Sri Lankan Day 2024 Food and Multi-cultural Festival. Over a long period of time, they have made an exemplary contribution to the Sri Lankan community.

Driven by passion for community leadership, with Mrs Kanthi Wijesoma, **Dharme Rathnayake**, established the Sinhala Association of Queensland (SAQ) in 1990 to foster Sri Lankan Culture, Buddhism, Sinhala language and assist new migrants and international students from Sri Lanka and share Sri Lankan

culture with the wider Australian community. As the President SAQ, he established "Saralaanga", the premier Sri Lankan annual cultural show in Queensland that has grown over the years to preserve and nurture Sri Lankan cultural heritage. In 1995 with Sri Lankan Group of Radio 4EB, **Dharme Rathnayake** established first outdoor Annual Sinhala and Hindu new Year festival in Queensland that has grown over the years as one of highest attended by Sri Lankans in Brisbane. While holding several leadership positions at SAQ **Dharme Rathnayake** served as program producer and convenor of the Sri Lankan Group of Radio 4EB. Later he represented the Sri Lankan Group at the

highest policy-making body of Board of Directors at EBAQ. Overall, **Dharme Rathnayake** with his wife Amara has played a lead role in preserving and nurturing Sri Lankan cultural heritage and guiding youth leadership in Queensland. **Dharme Rathnayake** passed away on 5th October last after illness last year at the age of 80 years.

Being a truly community leader, after arriving in Rockhampton in 1987 **Mrs Kanthi Wijesoma** was instrumental in organizing the very first multicultural function under YWCA in this cattle town. In 1990 she served as president of Mt Gravatt, Girl Guides Association. In 1992 with a few others, she was instrumental in starting the first Sinhala school at the Migrant Resource Centre, Brisbane. In 1993 with Dharme Rathnayake, **Kanthi Wijesoma** established the Sinhala Association of Qld (SAQ) and became its founder-President. The SAQ has now grown to become a prominent community organization in Queensland with a Sinhala Language School and a Senior Citizens Group. In 1994 with Dr Hiranthi Walpola, she organized the first

exhibition on Sri Lanka at the Cavendish Rd State School. Since 1995 **Kanthi Wijesoma** has been a program producer at the Sri Lankan Group of the Radio 4EB and in 1996 served as the Convenor of Radio group. Since 1996 she has served as the Vice President of Damini Women's Association of Qld (and to date). She has also been a member of Macgregor Lions Club since and continue to serve a regular radio programmer at the Sri Lankan Radio group.

On Friday, December 1, the Brisbane Sri Lankan community was mourning the passing of one of their guiding lights, **Lal Mendis**, after a brief illness. **Lal Mendis**, 69, was a dynamic figure who worked tirelessly to help better the lives of the wider community and in the country of his birth as a senior member of the FSOQ. He also was the immediate past president of the Sri Lanka Sports Association of Queensland, one of the FSOQ's member organizations. In this capacity, **Lal Mendis** staged a very successful annual cricket carnival with generous funding support from the Brisbane City Councilor Angela Owen. His close association with Angela helped us gain funding support for the first Sri Lanka Day Food and Multicultural Festival in 2021 and in following years. Later, **Lal Mendis** served on the management committee of the FSOQ, shouldering the responsibility of Finance Lead in which he looked after the financial governance of the Federation. In this role, one of the notable contributions was to work on many funding applications one of which was the application to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission to gain charitable status for the FSOQ – an important milestone for the federation. When the ACNC approval finally came he was the happiest of all.



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We are now an accredited charity of The Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC)

In 2013 the Federation of Sri Lankan Organizations of Queensland (FSOQ) was formed with the primary objective of representing the Sri Lankan community organizations at all levels of government, namely local, state and federal on matters relating community advancement. We deal with the Sri Lankan High Commissioner's Office on matters of importance to the community collaborating with the Honorary Consul for Queensland.

FSOQ plays a key role in multicultural Queensland and works with different community organizations work with mutually beneficial community projects that will enhance harmonious living in Queensland.

Over these years, the FSOQ has undertaken several projects with the aim of supporting the community in both Australia and Sri Lanka. Through our hospital beds project, we have donated over 5000 hospital beds to emergency and ICU wards of Sri Lankan Government hospitals. During the times of financial hardships, we provided essential medical supplies to hospital in Sri Lanka valued at \$36,000.00 for critically ill patients in Government hospitals in Sri Lanka.

Federation works very closely with ECCQ in youth development programs and these services will expand as we embark as an Australian Charity. Our role in youth leadership

development and care – FSOQ looked after 35 Sri Lankan migrant Students through our help desk during COVID shutdowns with their food, lodging, psychological support guiding them to overcome the difficult period. We train our youth leaders for tomorrow's community leaders with hands on project experience such as in stall management on Sri Lanka Day.

We have now launched the Sri Lankan Women's forum in Queensland. This is a FSOQ-affiliated body to uplift the women's care and development in multiple fields including health and domestic violence.

With these community development activities, we are now an ACNC-accredited Charity with the following broader set of objectives.

1. To liaise with all levels of government for matters that contribute to the advancement of social and public welfare of the Sri Lankan community in Australia.
2. To work with other ethnic and multicultural community organizations to promote harmonious living, reconciliation, mutual respect tolerance between groups or individuals aimed at reducing potential conflicts and working jointly with relevant community leaders to resolves such issues.

3. To constructively engage with other communities and regulatory agencies to improve the understanding on cultural differences and promote mutual respect to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.
4. To organise events for the advancement of Sri Lankan culture, culinary heritage, traditional dances, and music and other artforms that will contribute and enrich multiculturalism.
5. To plan and implement projects for improvement and advancement of health facilities, through the provision of equipment and medicine to hospitals for the benefit of under-privileged communities.
6. To organize or engage in activities that will assist overcoming interruptions to living standards of families during unexpected economic, social, and regulatory disruptions such as pandemics for the advancement of social and public welfare.
7. To organize or engage in activities to facilitate families or individuals who are distressed or disadvantaged by domestic violence who may be reluctant to seek regulatory assistance due to culture-specific reasons.
8. To support and protect special community groups such as children and young individuals who are in distress due to disconnect with their families and who need financial, emotional, and other forms of assistance.
9. To assist in rebuilding, repairing, or securing of assets after large scale disruptions such as, floods, drought, bushfires, civil disturbances, and Tsunamis.
10. To organize or engage with external agencies to provide less formal education and training aimed at developing core life skills in dealing with culture related family issues, handling individual peer pressure, and managing stress.

Photo: This year the FSOQ was the recipient of the APNA Community Service Award by the Australian Pakistani National Association. The gala awards night held on Friday 22nd April at Micheal's Oriental Hall, Eight Miles Plains. The event was attended by representatives from the local and state governments and special invited guests from Pakistan. Our award was presented to us by Senator Paul Scarr, Chief Guest of the event. The APNA introduced the FSOQ as

'..... Please welcome the Federation of Sri Lankan Organizations in Queensland (FSOQ), recipient of the APNA Multi-Cultural Services EID Award. FSOQ has demonstrated a longstanding commitment to multicultural services, actively networking with various communities and spearheading community development projects to strengthen Queensland. Their dedication to fostering diversity and inclusion is commendable, and their efforts have contributed significantly to making Queensland a more vibrant and cohesive society. We applaud FSOQ for their tireless service and invaluable contributions to our multicultural community.....'

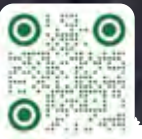
The FSOQ was represented by
Patron Anton Swan | **President** Jay Weerawardena | **Secretary** Jayantha Weerasekera | **Vice President** Uditha Manage | **Multicultural Coordinator** Ms Gothami Meepe | Mrs Anushka Manage, Ms Sandhya Abeysekera, Mrs Prema Weerawardena

Dr Jay Weerawardena
 President

Jayantha Weerasekera
 Secretary



FSOQ receives APNA award



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Lal Mendis (left), with SLSAQ
members and city councillors

Lal Mendis
left a legacy
of joy and
kindness

This Sri Lanka Day Festival is a bitter-sweet time for the organisers as they will be remembering and missing a key member – Lal Mendis – who was a major motivator in the success of the FSOQ's event.

Lal, 69, passed away on Friday, December 1, after a brief illness. In a long association with the wider Sri Lankan community in Brisbane, he worked tirelessly to lead many fundraising and social events to benefit charities here and in the land of his birth.

Lal held the position of Finance Lead and Governance in the FSOQ's management committee. He also was the immediate past president of the Sri Lanka Sports Association of Queensland, one of the FSOQ's member organisations.

He put his professional expertise and leadership skills to significant use as president of the SLSAQ, securing sponsors and support for the popular Carnival of Cricket. He had a strong relationship with Brisbane City councillors and successfully obtained funding commitment for Sri Lanka Day.

One of Lal's notable contributions was to work on the FSOQ's application to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission for charitable status for the FSOQ – an important milestone for the federation. ACNC approval came shortly before his passing.

His death left a deep void in the community, and this will be felt for a long time. He had been in the forefront of many fundraising ventures and social togetherness. Among the tributes, he was described as kind, caring, generous and ready to give his time for any worthy cause. He was a loyal friend who always looked after the best interests and welfare of others.

He was devoted to his family – wife Davina, daughters Shehara and Ramali, their partners David Treppo and Oliver Bennett, and grandchildren Jesse and Alex.

Loved by his colleagues and community for his grace, humour and humility, Lal has left a legacy of kindness and joy.

Lawrence Heyn
FSOQ Member

FSOQ Members

Sri Lanka Society of Queensland (SLSQ)



President
Chamitha Weerasinghe

Secretary
Chamila Ellawala

Treasurer
Sharmaine Perera

Publication Secretary
Nuwan Karunathilaka

Social Secretary
Thilini Nisansala

Committee Members
Prashanthi Selvaratnam, Sandhya Abeysekera, Praba Harvey, Sanjaya Unantenna, Ravindu Hapuarachchi

SLSQ is dedicated to promoting and celebrating the Sri Lankan culture with people living in Queensland. The key goals of the SLSQ are to: Promote friendship and harmonious cooperation amongst immigrants from Sri Lanka and Australia irrespective of their religious and political affiliations, preserve, promote and project the culture of Sri Lanka, assist students and immigrants from Sri Lanka, encourage recreational, social and sporting activities.

SLSQ organises several events throughout the year including the Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebrations. Notable past events included cultural festival "Ridma Ranga Dhara" in 2017, and the participation in the First Nations welcoming ceremony in the 2018 at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Sinhala Association of Queensland (SAQ)



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Ruwan De Silva

Vice President
Chanaka Abeyasinghe

Secretary
Dinusha Perera

Treasurer
Kalum Gajaman Arachchige

Cultural Secretary
Kumarasinghe Dissanayaka

Committee Members
Sanka Fernando, Ananda Pathirana, Nimal Pushpakumara, Pushpa De Silva, Sam Fernando

Brisbane Sinhala School

Principal
Rupa Wickramaratne

Deputy Principals
Chinthani Sugathadasa, Dinusha Perera

Coordinator
Jayantha Weerasekera

Seniors Group

Convenor
Sam Fernando

Founded in 1992, the Sinhala Association of Queensland (SAQ) Inc. has dedicated itself to preserving the Sinhala language and Sri Lankan culture in Queensland. This aim is extended by its affiliated groups, namely, Brisbane Sinhala School, SAQ Seniors and SAQ Youth. The SAQ annually undertakes several key events of which the annual Sinhala New Year celebration takes prominence. The SAQ also hosts the annual cultural concert "Saralanga" which aims to showcase and celebrate the talents of the Sri Lankan community in dancing, art, drama, and performance. The group has also actively contributed fundraising activities for disasters and is dedicated to helping those in crisis. The organisation celebrated its Silver Jubilee anniversary in 2016 and look forward to continuing to help, engage and celebrate Sri Lankans in the Australian community for many years to come.

4EB Sri Lankan Radio Programming Group



The Sri Lankan Group of Radio 4EB is the voice that binds the Sri Lankan community together in South-East Queensland. For over 44 years, the SL Radio Group has been a continuous presence on the airwaves, fostering a strong bond within the Australian-Sri Lankan community. Through their two weekly radio programs "Arunella" and "Sandella", they have consistently shared the richness of the Sinhalese language and music, preserved cultural and religious traditions, and provided insights into news, current affairs, and socio-political developments in both Sri Lanka and Australia. The programs also feature expert commentary on topics of community interest, making them an essential resource for listeners. Beyond their radio broadcasts, the SL Radio Group extends its reach through the monthly e-newsletter 'Daehana,' which has become a popular platform for the broader community to exchange information and stay connected.

Convenor
Darshika Koggalahewa

Deputy Convenor
Dushan Wijewardena

Secretary
Sameera Samarasinghe

Treasurer
Himaya Siddhihalu Wickrama Hewage

Committee Members
Samanmal Gunaratne, Janaka Weerasinghe, Prema Weerawardena, Kumarasinghe Dissanayake, Niraj Kariyawasam, Seetha Opatha Vithana, Mithila Wanigathunga, Lalith Keerthirathne, Nandasiri Gamage, Janaka Dassanayaka, Dushan Wijesinghe, Chathurika Wickramage, Pulastha Hashan, Dhanushka Vijitha Bandara, Randima Singhapali

Radio 4EB Newsletter Editors
Wimal Kannangara, Jayantha Amaratunga

The Sri Lanka Sports Association of Queensland Inc (SLSAQ)



Established in 2007 the SLSAQ provides assistance to sporting organisations in Sri Lanka to develop junior cricket in under-privileged areas and the association has generously donated more than \$20,000 for the development of sporting activities and cricket infrastructure in Sri Lanka. The most notable annual event of the Association is the Carnival of Cricket, a two-day cricket tournament in Brisbane, supported by the Brisbane City Council and the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport (DTIS, Queensland Government). This year SLSAQ also featured two Golf tournaments for Young and the Old. We are proud to support our netball team, the Sapphires, participating in the social women's event division 3 and our young team HOTSHOTS became runners up in the first year 5th Division at the Cannon Hill District Net Ball Association and both the visiting Sri Lankan Paralympic Athletic Team and the Track Master Netball Team.

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Vice President
Nalaka Rajakaruna

Secretary
Charini Weerasinghe

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Sandeep Jayasooriya

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Sandun Wickramasinghe

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Committee Members
Jayantha Pathikirikorale, Prasad Kodikara, Shiran Ranatunga, Saminda De Silva, Sam Weerappuli, Sadeesh Dissanayake, Laksitha Gajasinghe, Kamal Wanigasooriya, Sanjaya Gomes, Chandima Bandara

FSOQ Members

The Sri Lanka Ex-Servicemen and Police Association of Queensland Inc. (SLEXSA)



Established in 2016, the Sri Lanka Ex Servicemen Association QLD is a non-religious and non-political organization comprises retired servicemen and women presently living in Queensland, who have served in the Sri Lanka Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Police. The purpose of SLEXSA is to promote welfare of Sri Lankan Ex-Service personnel living in Australia and Sri Lanka and unify them together with well-wishers and the public, with the view to fostering a spirit of comradeship. SLEXSA actively undertake fund raising events to award educational scholarships for children of injured/ MIA/KIA service personnel and also children of the general civilian community who in need of financial assistance. Also we do facilitate interaction between visiting delegates of armed forces and QLD Sri Lankan community.

Patron
Jayantha Pathikirikorale

President
Uditha Liyanage

Vice President
Channa Wickramasinghe

Secretary
Harsha Perera

Asst. Secretary
Greshan Paththuwage

Treasurer
Gishanthi Wickramasinghe

Assistant Treasurer
Roshan Mendis

Committee Members
Kanaji Wijesekara, Hirantha Ranasingha,
Kumari Perera, Viraj Lokupitiya, Samantha
Wakshita, Sagarika Attudawage

The Society for Peace, Unity and Human Rights in Sri Lanka Queensland (SPUR QLD)



Incorporated in 2009, SPUR QLD is dedicated to promoting peace and unity in Sri Lanka by helping Sri Lankans affected by the civil war which ended in 2009. The society has also assisted Sri Lankans affected by natural calamities such as floods and more recently by COVID-19. Some of the recent projects include sending hospital beds and medical equipment from Australia to hospitals in Sri Lanka through the Hospitals Services Council in Sri Lanka, Namalgama water supply project, and supply of protective clothing to health workers in Sri Lanka fighting COVID-19. SPUR QLD also provides a platform for singers and musicians in Brisbane Sri Lankan community to showcase their talents by organising our annual musical concert 'Padura' which is very popular with the Sri Lankan community. SPUR annually organizes a religious service to honour those who served and lost their lives to defend the territorial integrity, unity, and human rights in Sri Lanka.

President
Jayamini Methiwala

Secretary
Anil Perera

Treasurer
Sanjeewa Morawaka

Committee Members
Sarath Weerasinghe, Manjula Peiris, Nihal
Dias, Nilantha Karunaratne

Silver Fawn Club



The Silver Fawn Club was founded in 1970 help fellow migrants integrate and settle into their new lives in Brisbane and foster all social and sporting activities beneficial to the Club or its members. In its younger days, the club was involved in many Brisbane sporting programs, fielding teams in local/grade/warehouse cricket and netball competitions as well as social activities such as Snooker, Tennis, Golf, Ten Pin Bowling etc, many lunches, dinners and dances over the years aimed at building camaraderie and fellowship, as well as introducing our Australian friends to our cultural heritage in music, food and festivities. Some 54 years later, the membership mainly comprises about 200 retirees and seniors, and while we no longer engage in sporting activities, the Club runs about 6-8 functions a year which are of a social nature eg. at Easter, Melbourne Cup, Christmas, NYE etc. Please see the club Newsletters on the website <https://www.silverfawn.com/> for a flavour of the activities held each year.

President
Brian Dissanayake

Vice President
Gerard Fernando

Vice President
Ray Anthonisz

Hon. Secretary
Debbie Jansz-Cox

Hon Treasurer
Laurensz Manricks

Asst. Treasurer
Tyrone Allon

Club Captain
Maithri Jayawardhana

Committee Members
Yvonne Omar, Basheer Omar

The Australian Sri Lankan Friendship Association in Queensland (ASFA)



At the Australia Sri Lanka Friendship Association, we are dedicated to fostering a strong bond between our two nations through meaningful bilateral projects. Our mission is to create opportunities for collaboration that enrich both countries, whether through cultural exchange, economic partnerships, or educational initiatives. By bridging the gap between Sri Lanka and Australia, we aim to promote mutual understanding, shared growth, and lasting friendships. We invite friends of Australia and Sri Lanka to join us in building a brighter future together!

Patron
Bill Deutrom

President
Sidath Wijethunga

Secretary
Jayantha Weerasekera



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Patron, FSOQ



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President, FSOQ



Jayantha Weerasekera
Secretary, FSOQ



Uditha Manage
Vice President, FSOQ



Sidath Wijethunga
Vice President, FSOQ
President, ASFA



Sanjaya Unantenna
Treasurer, FSOQ



Gothami Meepe
Co-Lead Cultural
Programme, FSOQ



Dushyantha Devendra
Co-Lead Cultural
Programme, FSOQ



Jayantha Pathikirikorale
Governance Lead, FSOQ



Sunil Goonaratne
President, SLSAQ



Uditha Liyanage
President, SLEXSA



Sandya Abeysekera
Convenor, FSOQ Women's
Forum



Ruwan De Silva
President, SAQ



Dharshika Koggalahewa
Convenor, Radio 4EB



Brian Dissanayake
President, Silver Fawn Club



Chamitha Weerasinghe
President, SLSQ



Dr Kalidasa Adikari
FSOQ



Nalaka Rajakaruna
Vice President, SLSAQ



Sepali Weerasooriya
Audio Technician, FSOQ



Prema Weerawardena
Radio 4EB



Dr Kanchana Ranasinghe
Brisbane Doctors Team



Anushka Manage
SAQ



Lalani Pathikirikorale
SLSAQ



Upali Jayasuriya
FSOQ

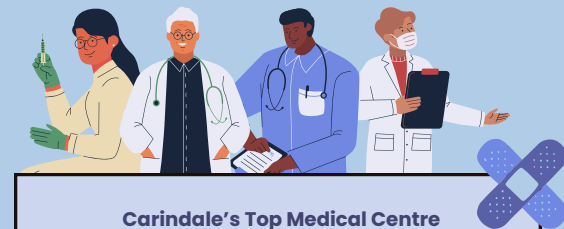
Our heartfelt thanks go to,

- Distinguished invited Guests, Hon Milton Dick Speaker of the Federal Parliament; Hon Charis Mullen Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.
- David Crisafulli, Leader of the Opposition, Jessica Pugh State MP, Mt Ommaney, Senator Paul Scarr' pl separate three names with semi-colon as ' David Crisafulli, Leader of the Opposition; Jessica Pugh State MP, Mt Ommaney; Senator Paul Scarr.
- Hon Margaret Nightingale, State MP for Inala; Hon James Martin State MP for Stretton; Anton Swan, Patron, FSOQ; Former Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Queensland; Bill Deutrom, Founder President, FSOQ for helping us in numerous ways.
- Brisbane City Councillors, Sarah Hutton, Jamboree Ward; Charles Strunk, Forest Lake Ward; Emily Kim, Calamvale Ward; and staff of their Ward offices.
- Ms Pinky Singh, LNP Candidate Mansfield for her help with Marquees.
- Director General, Executive Director Department of Multicultural Affairs and Staff of Department of Multicultural Affairs Grant Office.
- Funding assistance provided by the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, Brisbane City Council and staff of Lord Mayor's Community Development Fund and
- Our corporate partner, Ms Tania White, Centenary Memorial Gardens and other corporate sponsors.
- Our corporate sponsors: Mr Nalin Perera, Director, Mansfield Family Practice, Ms Leela Mendis and Kevin Torbey, Principals Centenary Real Estate; Sheldon Macru, Manager and Alex Gutierrez Home Lending Executive National Australia Bank Mt Ommaney
- Manager, Senior international Project Officer, Multicultural affairs Partnership manager and Staff of International relations and Multicultural affairs Office, Brisbane City Council.
- All sponsors who supported the event through their advertisements in the souvenir— Please support them in their business activities!
- David Foy, Business manager and his staff at Festival Hire.
- JD Hart, Business Liaison Officer Event Liaison Office (FELO), Customer Service branch Brisbane City Council and Rocks Riverside Park for all their support and assistance.
- All FSOQ Member organizations and other voluntary associations who contributed to event in a big way with food stalls, owners of food trucks and caterers for providing delicious food items.
- All Performers on the multi-cultural performances, dance, and music teachers for their dedication for representing multi-cultural diversity.
- All invited performing groups from multicultural communities for their vibrant and colourful performances, Gothami Meepe and Dushantha Devendra for lining up the cultural items.
- Dr Sheroon Aslam for providing chairs for VIP seating.
- Event comperes Sanduni Senarathna, Darshika Koggalahewa, Himaya Wickrama Hewage who did a wonderful presentation of the event.
- Convener of Radio 4EB Sri Lankan Group for providing publicity for the event and providing on site live broadcasting.
- Sepali Weerasooriya for sounds & music.
- Our web designer Lawrence Heyn and photographers Damith Peiris and Vinothan Paramanathan.
- Uditha Mange and team for stage decorations and colleague teams of member associations on site preparation and decorations.
- Dr Buddhika Gamage for developing all Sri Lanka Day Flyers and banner; Gihan Weerawardena for the social media campaign.
- Mithila Wanigathunge POINT IT & Design Solutions Pty Ltd for Souvenir design.
- All our friends and families for their kind support and help in site preparation.
- The Sri Lanka Day 2024 event organising committee and sub-committees who worked tirelessly over the last few months to make this event a great success!
- Last but not the least — All those present here today, without whom this event would not have been a success.



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- Dr Naomi Achong

Skin Specialist

- Dr Samantha Wakista



GP Services

- Immunisation & Travel Vaccination
- Mums & Baby Health
- Children's & Adolescent Health
- Women's Health
- Men's Health
- Skin Cancer Screening & Procedures
- Skin Care & Wound Care
- Acupuncture
- Chronic Disease Management
- Mental Health Care
- Iron Infusion
- Spirometry
- Family Planning and Fertility
- Mirena & Implanon Insertion and Removal
- 24-Hour Blood Pressure Monitoring



Family Doctors

Dr Nicholas Cocks
Dr Nilmini Liyanage
Dr Aye Aye Kyaw
Dr Khaing (Kai) Mon
Dr Julie Boggenpoel

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and
appointment
today!**



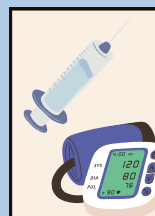
**Supporting your
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Psychologist

- Shannon Quinn
- Sophie Georgeson

Audiologist

- Several clinicians



Dietician & Nutritionist

- Eleni Georgiou
- Chantelle Clancy

Physiotherapist

- Lauren Howarth

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Website: <https://metropoldoctors.com.au/>



Est. 2011

Mansfield

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