



# Thorathuru

SLA Newsletter - October 2025

Sri Lanka Association of NSW (SLA) Inc.

*Sri Lanka Association acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present, and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this nation and the continuation of cultural, spiritual, and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.*

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## Note from Editor

I extend my gratitude to all members for trusting me as the editor of the SLA in 2024-2025. I enjoyed the journey and the opportunity to contribute to the SLA in a small way. I wish the next elected committee all the success.

Lucky, Dr. Lakshman Randeniya

## A Message from the President

It gives me great pleasure to extend my heartfelt thank you and appreciation for the continued support and encouragement given to me and to my committee during my term as President for 2024–2025.

It has truly been an honour and a privilege to receive your collaboration in supporting our association's functions and get-togethers over the years. Your contributions have played a vital role in strengthening the cultural and community ties among Sri Lankans in Australia.

The members of the Sri Lanka Association have consistently participated in our past and present events, helping us celebrate the rich culture and traditions of Sri Lanka. These efforts have brought Sri Lankans together, reinforcing our connection to both our heritage and our wider Australian community.

I also take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to the dedicated committee members who have worked tirelessly alongside me throughout this journey, contributing generously to our shared goals. Your commitment and goodwill have been invaluable.

Wishing you all continued success, happiness, and prosperity in the years ahead.

Warm regards,

Anoja De Alwis

President, 2024–2025

## Welcome Event for the High Commissioner for Sri Lanka to Australia

Duke Ramachandran

SLA organised a warm welcome event for the newly appointed High Commissioner for Sri Lanka to Australia, Her Excellency Ms Yasoja Gunasekera and her staff, on Sunday, the 15th June 2025, at the Thornleigh Community Centre, Sydney. Over 125 members of the community gathered to mark this special occasion. The event was marked by the identification of the unity of Sri Lanka's communities, shared purpose, and a renewed commitment to strengthening ties between Sri Lanka and Australia. The High Commissioner was accompanied by her team from Canberra, Mr. U.G.C. Abeyrathne (Minister). Captain Lanka Dissanayake (Counsellor, Defence) and Mr. Manoj Amarasinghe (Consular Officer).



SLA executive committee members with Her Excellency Yasoja Gunasekera and staff

The High Commissioner's address set the tone for the day—one of collaboration, respect, and shared responsibility. She called on the diaspora to remain engaged and united in their support of Sri Lanka, while acknowledging the strong community spirit present in Sydney.

A key highlight of the event was the proposal to establish a Sri Lanka-Australia Business Forum, signalling a new era of economic collaboration and opportunity. Adding a delightful surprise to the program was Kishani Jayasinghe-Wijayasekara, acclaimed international commercial lawyer and opera singer, who moved the audience with a powerful rendition of "You Raise Me Up".



Presentations from the renowned Opera singer Kishani, Her Excellency Yasoja Gunasekera, MC Duke Ramachandran and the Secretary for SLA, Don Ravi Iddamalgoda

The Q&A session, moderated by MC Duke Ramachandran, allowed guests to raise pressing issues—particularly concerns regarding the limited consular services in Sydney, such as passport renewals and dual citizenship processing. In response to this, the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW promptly announced the commencement of a Consular Mobile Service, held on Saturday, 26th July 2025, at their Seven Hills headquarters.

The event concluded with a delicious Sri Lankan meal catered by Ceylonia Restaurant, courtesy of Indika Alwis.

## The Kukulegama Students Project

The Kukulegama Students Project, held on 13 July 2025 at Kamburawela Maha Vidyalaya, marked a significant milestone in supporting education in underprivileged areas of Sri Lanka. This initiative was the vision of former President Sam Masachchi, who served from 2016 to 2018 and was fully funded by the Sri Lankan community in Australia. The current committee allocated approximately LKR 1,200,000 for the completion of the project.

This event took place in Katuhena New Village, a rural and economically challenged community in the Kukuleganga area. Essential school items were donated to 158 students from six local schools selected from families facing severe financial hardship.

Each student received a school supply pack valued at Rs. 8,000. Morning tea and lunch were generously provided for all 158 children by several SLA members attending the event, using their own personal contributions.

The project was coordinated by Colonel R.M.H. Jayathissa, former General Manager of Kukuleganga Laya Leisure Resort, who managed all groundwork and logistical arrangements.



*Children receiving the school items from the SLA President, Anoja de Alwis*

### Dignitaries Present:

- Mr. Patrick Kaluarachchi – President, Lions Club of Wattala
- Lion Mrs. Ione Algama – Lions Club of Wattala
- Members of the Wattala Lions Club
- Members of the Sri Lanka Association of NSW
- Mr. Sydney – Principal of Kaburawala College
- Mr. Sisira – Former Principal of Morapitiya Weediye Bandara College
- Brigadier Asanka Perera – General Manager, Kukuleganga Laya Leisure Army Holiday Resort



- Mr. Shantha Perera – Former Chief Engineer of Kukuleganga Power Station; current Head of Ratnapura Power Station



## Special Recognition – Kavindu Madushan

A highlight of the event was the recognition of Kavindu Madushan, a remarkable young talent who began his education at Kamburawela Maha Vidyalaya. He later studied at C.W.W. Kannangara Central College and went on to achieve international recognition, winning a silver medal at the Cross-Country Championship held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on February 2nd, 2025.

In honor of his achievement, the Sri Lanka Association of NSW presented Kavindu with a special support package

consisting of a pair of sports shoes, a supply of vitamins, and financial assistance of Rs. 90,000.



*Special recognition of Madushan, an athlete who has had remarkable achievements in the Asian sports arena.*

## SLA Winter Ball

The Sri Lanka Association's much-anticipated Annual Winter Ball 2025 was held on Saturday, 9th August, at the iconic Epping Club—a venue long cherished by the Sydney Lankan community.

The evening was a celebration of culture, camaraderie, and elegance, bringing together members and friends for a night of fine dining, dancing, and entertainment. Guests were welcomed into a beautifully decorated ballroom, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening of music, laughter, and friendship.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the organising committee, led by President Anoja De Alwis, for their dedication and vision. Special appreciation goes to our main sponsors, Sri Lankan Airlines, who generously donated two return tickets to Colombo for the raffle draw. We also extend our gratitude to Thuva and Karen from Cuvai, Sydney's newest restaurant, who presented dining vouchers that delighted our lucky winners.

Many reputed businesses and personnel sponsored the magazine, and we thank them for their contributions. Volunteers also played a vital role, working tirelessly to ensure the night's smooth success.



President Anoja and Niranjana are raising a toast

Entertainment was truly a highlight of the evening. Melbourne band, Majesty, kept the dance floor alive, joined by guest

vocalist Sureen from Sydney, who had the crowd singing along to her powerful renditions of popular hits. Post-dinner, the stage lit up with the dazzling energy of drag entertainer Dixie, who had many enthusiastic guests donning wigs and joining in the fun on the dance floor.

Memories of the night were beautifully captured by none other than Roy Grafix, ensuring that the spirit of the evening will be remembered for years to come.

The evening marked a truly spectacular night that lived up to the rich tradition of the Winter Ball. The Sri Lanka Association looks forward to welcoming members and friends to many more events in the year ahead, continuing its tradition of fostering unity and celebrating our rich cultural ties.



MC Duke with sponsors of the event Thuva and Karen from Cuvai, Sydney's newest restaurant





Some fun moments from the evening. Full photo suite is available in the SLA FB page

## SLA Luncheon with Dr Harsha de Silva, Sri Lankan Parliamentarian

Sri Lankan Parliamentarian Dr. Harsha de Silva met with a group of about 20 Sri Lankan expatriates in Sydney on the sidelines of the FoodWISE Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting on Food and Water Security held at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS).

The luncheon meeting, hosted at Kandy Bites by Chef Ceylon in Glebe and organised by the Sri Lanka Association of NSW, Australia, brought together community members for an open discussion on key challenges and opportunities facing Sri Lanka. Guests also enjoyed a sumptuous traditional Sri Lankan meal.

Dr. de Silva outlined the objectives of the FoodWISE conference, which brings together policymakers, researchers, and practitioners from across the Asia-Pacific to share best practices in strengthening food and water security. He emphasised the importance of scaling up such initiatives and establishing a regional FoodWISE network to foster ongoing collaboration.

Open discussions also addressed issues of particular importance to Sri Lanka, including the impact of climate change on water and food security, challenges in agriculture, infrastructure needs, and the importance of adopting new technologies to improve soil fertility, manage water shortages, and boost exports such as tea.



Speaking at the meeting, Dr. de Silva said: “Sri Lanka must encourage forward-thinking policies and new approaches if we are to sustain growth of close to 9% and ensure long-term economic prosperity. I intend to inspire our political system to think outside the box and deliver the reforms needed for a stronger future.”

The event provided a meaningful opportunity to strengthen ties between expatriates and their homeland while highlighting Sri Lanka’s priorities in food security, sustainable development, and economic growth.

## Strategic Renewal to Empower Community

Celebrating 50 years while bridging generations and strengthening diaspora ties

By Don Ravi Iddamalgoda, Secretary 2024-25

The Sri Lankan Association NSW (SLANSW), the peak body representing the Sri Lankan diaspora in New South Wales and a key liaison with both state and federal governments and the Sri Lankan Consulate General, has embarked on a major strategic review aimed at revitalizing its mission and strengthening its impact for the next generation.

Marking its 50th anniversary, the association acknowledges a proud history of serving the community but recognizes the urgent need for renewal. With an average member age



nearing 60 and a declining rate of new memberships, SLANSW is seeking to redefine its value proposition to engage younger members better and remain relevant to evolving community needs.

### Renewed Vision: Protect, Connect, and Uplift

SLANSW's strategic review focuses on protecting and serving the diaspora on pressing issues, acting as a bridge to support Sri Lanka, seeding Sri Lanka-Australia business chamber activities, and contributing to the good governance that fosters a sense of belonging in Australia.

### Community Concerns Take Centre Stage

Central to the review are concerns voiced by the community, including the call for a dedicated diaspora consulate, addressing domestic family violence, mental health, housing crises, support for new migrants, senior citizens, and job security. The association also aims to tackle issues such as loneliness, support for men's groups, and childhood development.

### Current and Past Initiatives

SLANSW continues to organize hallmark events like Independence Day celebrations, the Winter Ball, Vesak, and New Year festivities, alongside charitable donations to Sri Lanka, blood donation drives, and support for seniors and young achievers. Past initiatives have included scholarships for students in Sri Lanka, youth programs, and planning for a retirement village.

### Collaboration and Growth Opportunities

The review highlights opportunities for collaboration with groups such as the Sydney Consular Forum, local Sinhala schools, and seniors' organizations. The Sri Lankan Consulate General is keen to deepen business ties, promote exports from Sri Lanka, share technology and intellectual property, and attract investment capital.

### Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

A candid SWOT analysis revealed SLANSW's strong constitution, professional membership, financial stability, and inclusive ethos as core strengths. However, the association faces challenges, including an aging membership, lack of unity, political divisions, and outdated communication channels. Opportunities abound in launching a business chamber, mentoring new arrivals, supporting mental and family health, and fostering connections through modern platforms like WhatsApp. Threats such as racism, social disharmony, housing stress, and the potential emergence of rival organizations were also recognized.

### Looking Forward: Harnessing Collective Potential

With many Sri Lankans making positive contributions in both Australia and Sri Lanka—often in isolation—the association's renewed strategy seeks to bring these efforts together. By uniting the community and leveraging potential federal support, SLANSW aims to become a greater galvanizing force to uplift Sri Lanka and strengthen the diaspora's sense of

belonging in Australia.

As SLANSW embarks on this transformative journey, it calls on members—especially the younger generation—and all those with skills and passion for community service to join in shaping a vibrant, inclusive future for the Sri Lankan diaspora in New South Wales.

## AGM Notices

In addition to the general AGM procedures, three important amendments to the constitutions are proposed

- Proposed Amendment to Constitution: Section 10 FEE, SUBSCRIPTIONS, ETC.
- That Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 of the constitution be amended to replace the old postal address with the postal address: PO Box 114, Castle Hill, NSW 1765
- Proposal to form sub-organisations for special-purpose projects

Members are encouraged to review the documentation below and support these initiatives. They will be presented at the AGM this year.

The current executive committee would like to thank all members and non-members who supported the organisation in the past year.

## Note from Editor

I extend my gratitude to all members for trusting me as the editor of the SLA in 2024-2025. I enjoyed the journey and the opportunity to contribute to the SLA in a small way. I wish the next elected committee all the success.

Lucky

Dr. Lakshman Randeniya

## AGM notice and documents



### SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION OF NSW INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND AGENDA

Notice is hereby given to Members that the 2025-26 Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Association of NSW Inc will be held on **26th October 2025 from 4pm** onwards at the **Pennant Hills Leisure & Learning Centre, 8 Warne Street, Pennant Hills NSW 2120**.

#### AGENDA

1. Welcome Address by President
2. Adoption and Approval of the Minutes of 2024 AGM
3. Scholarship Fund Report
4. Presentation of the Financial Statement for 2024/25
5. Presidents Report for 2024/25
6. Retirement Village
7. Special Resolution to Amend Membership Fees
8. Special Resolution to form sub organisations
9. Special Resolution to amend Appendix 1 and 3
10. Any Other General Business
11. Election of Office bearers and committee members
12. Election of an honorary auditor
13. Appointment of Trustees

**Don Ravi Iddamalagoda**  
Secretary 2024-25  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

**PS: Constitution 10.6** - Members who have not renewed their membership for the financial year cannot vote and, if they renew after a general meeting notice is issued, forfeit rights to this notice.



### Nominations of candidates for election as Office Bearers of the Association or as Ordinary Committee Members

#### IMPORTANT

##### Nominations

(a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the Association entitled to vote at a general meeting and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate, entitled to vote at a general meeting (in conformance with Appendix 3 of the Constitution); and

(b) shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Association not less than 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.

Application Forms for Office Bearers and Committee Membership should be mailed to The Secretary Sri Lanka Association of NSW Inc, GPO Box 3120, Sydney NSW 2001 to reach the Secretary not less than 14 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.

Application Form is attached



**APPENDIX 3**  
Clause 16.1 (a)

**Application for Committee Membership of the  
Sri Lanka Association of NSW Inc.**  
GPO Box 3120, Sydney NSW 2001

Applicant	I .....
	of address .....
	Email .....
	Phone .....
	I hereby declare that I am a current member of The Sri Lanka Association of NSW and apply to become an Ordinary Committee Member OR Office Bearer (namely this office ..... ) of the above association. In the event of my admission, I agree to be bound by the Constitution of the Association for the time being in force.
	Signature of the applicant: .....
Proposed by	Date applied: .....
	I ..... a member of the association, nominate the applicant, who is personally known to me, for the position noted above (either an Ordinary Committee Member OR an Office Bearer).
	Signature of the person proposing: .....
	Date: .....
Seconded By	I ..... a member of the association, second the above proposal. The applicant, is personally known to me.
	Signature of the person seconding: .....
	Date: .....
Office use only	Date and time of receipt: .....
	Signature of the Secretary: .....

## Special Resolution to Amend Membership Fees

Proposed Amendment to Constitution: Section 10 FEE, SUBSCRIPTIONS, ETC.

### Special Resolution:

That pursuant to the requirements of the Association's Constitution, the following amendments be made to Section 10 FEE, SUBSCRIPTIONS, ETC.:

- Clause 10.2(a) - Life Membership (i.e., per individual) - the membership fee shall be amended from One hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) to Two hundred dollars (\$200.00)
- Clause 10.2(b) – Annual Family Membership (i.e., per couple) – the membership subscription shall be amended from "Twenty dollars (\$20.00)" to "One hundred dollars (\$100.00)".
- Clause 10.2(c) – Annual Single Membership – the membership subscription shall be amended from "Ten Dollars (\$10.00)" to "Fifty dollars (\$50.00)".
- Clause 10.2(d) - Annual Student membership to be removed.
- Clause 10.2(e) - Annual student Family membership to be removed.

These amendments shall take effect immediately upon the passing of this Special Resolution at a duly convened General Meeting of the Association.

**Don Ravi Iddamalgoda**  
**Secretary 2024-25**

## Special Resolution to Amend Appendix 1 and Appendix 3

Proposed Amendment to Constitution:

Special Resolution:

That Appendix 1 and Appendix 3 of the constitution be amended to replace the old postal address with the current postal address: PO Box 114, Castle Hill, NSW 1765

These amendments shall take effect immediately upon the passing of this Special Resolution at a duly convened General Meeting of the Association.

**Don Ravi Iddamalgoda**  
**Secretary 2024-25**

## Special Resolution to form Sub-Organisations

Preamble:

In accordance with the Constitution of the Sri Lanka Association of NSW Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "the Association"), and with the intent of expanding the Association's outreach, cultural initiatives, and community engagement through structured sub-units, it is proposed that the Association formally adopt a mechanism to establish and regulate sub-organisations. This resolution sets out the governance framework, obligations, and procedures for the establishment, operation, and termination of such sub-organisations, aligning them with the strategic objectives of the Association.

Resolution:

It is hereby resolved that: Authority to Establish Sub-Organisations:

The Association shall have the authority to establish sub-organisations by issuing a charter in accordance with this Constitution and subject to the approval of the General Meeting.

Eligibility and Application Process:

A group of persons who are current members or eligible to be members may apply to form a

Sub-organisation. The application must be accompanied by a proposed charter and constitution of the sub-organisation. The Association shall perform due diligence, including assessment of cultural and strategic alignment, before approving such applications.

#### Charter Issuance and Scope:

Upon approval, the Association Committee shall issue a charter outlining:

- The name of the sub-organisation (reflecting its relationship with the Association)
- Its operational boundaries
- Defined purpose and activities,

#### Structure and Governance of Sub-Organisations:

Each sub-organisation shall establish an Executive Committee comprising:

- President/Chairperson
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- (Optional) Vice-President(s)
- All executive members must be current members of the Association.

#### Obligations of Sub-Organisations:

All sub-organisations must:

- Acknowledge and comply with the Constitution, policies, and directions of the Association.
- Operate in alignment with the vision and values of the Association.

- Submit annual returns (financial and activity reports) by 30 September each year.
- Appoint an independent auditor and present audited statements at their own AGM.
- Obtain prior written consent from the Association for any property dealings exceeding \$5,000.

#### Meetings and Voting:

Sub-organisation executives shall meet as necessary.

General meetings may be called as required. Decisions shall be made by majority vote, with the presiding officer having a casting vote in case of a tie.

#### Trustees of Sub-Organisations:

Each sub-organisation shall elect two Trustees, both of whom must be Association members, to hold property on behalf of the sub-organisation. Trustees shall be appointed by the President of the sub-organisation, following a resolution passed at a general meeting.

#### Termination of Sub-Organisations:

A sub-organisation may be dissolved via a special resolution of its members, returning its charter to the Association. The Association Committee retains the right to remove or suspend executives or terminate sub-organisations for non-compliance or misconduct.

**Don Ravi Iddamalgoda**  
**Secretary 2024-25**



# Why study the “Balance of Power” theory?

By Kithsiri Senadeera

When you hear the phrase “balance of power,” it probably sounds like something only politicians or academics worry about. But in reality, it’s a really useful idea for understanding how countries deal with each other, why conflicts happen, and how peace is sometimes kept.

The main objective of this article is to provide a theoretical framework for understanding the balance of power theory, which is useful to comprehend international relations among nations and their relevance to the contemporary international system. With interconnectedness fostered by globalisation we are affected by events happening in other parts of the world thousands of miles away. That’s why Therefore, we should be aware of international relationships, interactions, and interdependencies that exist among various nations in the international sphere. This topic intersects with History, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, and other disciplines, offering a rich, interdisciplinary perspective that encourages critical thinking and comprehensive understanding.

Studying the balance of power provides invaluable insights into the evolution of modern political and economic systems, ensuring that future generations can learn from the lessons of the past. It helps us understand the interplay between power, diplomacy, and

governance in shaping the modern world. As long as international politics is influenced by a nation-based state, the balance of power theory will continue to be a fundamental principle. This Balance of Power theory has been pivotal in shaping the foreign policies of nations for centuries and remains a cornerstone in understanding global politics today. So it is better to be aware of the balance of power theory, which is an important concept in a deeper understanding of the complexities of global politics.

In Sri Lanka, most people don’t really think about the balance of power or international relations at all. Many of us are highly skilled in our own professions—medicine, engineering, IT, science—but we don’t often look beyond our fields. On the other hand, those who study the arts or social sciences rarely engage in science and technology. That lack of cross-disciplinary or Interdisciplinary thinking limits our perspective. In Australia, for example, I have seen medical and science students taking courses in Anthropology, Ancient History, or even Egyptology. This kind of learning builds creativity, problem-solving skills, and helps people understand the bigger picture of how societies function. Unfortunately, our own education system has been slow to change. It’s still largely shaped by old colonial structures and has not embraced a truly holistic approach.

The current Education Minister has spoken about reforms and the need for holistic development, but the idea of combining disciplines hasn’t been emphasized enough. This is something we should be encouraging because it would prepare future generations to understand not only their professions but also the world they live in.

## What is Balance of Power?

The balance of power is one of the oldest and most fundamental concepts in international relations theory. Although there are many variations of the balance of power theory and interpretations of the concept, all are premised on the recurrent equilibrium model. According to this model, imbalances and concentrations in military and material capabilities among the great powers are checked, and the equilibrium is restored. At its core, this concept suggests that international stability is most effectively maintained when power is distributed in such a way that no single state or alliance is strong enough to dominate all others. This distribution of military, economic, and diplomatic capabilities among nations creates a system of checks and balances that theoretically prevents hegemony (the dominance of one state over others), and promotes security for all participants in the international system. The theory operates under the assumption that the international system is anarchic, meaning there is no overarching authority to enforce rules or provide security. In such a world, states must rely on themselves and their alliances to maintain equilibrium and avoid being overpowered.

The basic idea of the balance of power is pretty simple: no one country (or group of countries) should be powerful enough to dominate all the others. When power is more evenly spread out, countries are forced to negotiate, form alliances, and compromise, rather than just bullying their way through. Think of it as a kind of “global checks and balances.”

This concept isn't new. Way back in ancient Greece, city-states (polis) would team up to stop any single 'polis' from becoming too

powerful. The same principle continues today, only with modern tools like nuclear weapons, trade agreements, and diplomatic summits. But the balance of power isn't always clear-cut. Scholars have debated what it really means for centuries. It has been defined differently by International Relations scholars. “The trouble with Balance of Power is not that it has no meaning, but that it has too many meanings.” —Innis L. Claude Jr. Some say it's a system, others call it a strategy, and sometimes leaders even use it as propaganda to justify their actions. For example, the U.S. publicly accused China of creating COVID-19 as a way of reshaping the global order—whether true or not, that accusation itself was tied to balance of power politics.

At the end of the day, studying the balance of power isn't just about politics—it's about understanding how the world works. It helps explain why nations act the way they do, why alliances form, and why conflicts sometimes break out. For Sri Lankans especially, being more aware of these ideas could help us think beyond our own little “wells” and engage more meaningfully with global issues.

In short: balance of power might sound like a theory, but it's actually about everyday reality—and it's worth paying attention to.

To be continued