

BURGER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC

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March 2016 Autumn News Bulletin



**Sponsored by
Victorian Multicultural Commission**

The Burgher Association (Australia)

Committee of Management

2015/16

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DAVID VAN DORT - VALEDICTORY

Around two centuries ago a small group of adults in a small south Asian island were forced to contemplate their future. They, together with their families, some nine hundred individuals in total, had been left adrift thousands of miles from their European cultural and linguistic home. Few of them spoke the language of their new colonial masters, English, nor did they possess any political or civic rights under the new regime. Their ancestors came from a dozen European countries as well as the local ethnic groups. The century and a half spent together had given them a common language, a patois which was, like the people themselves, hybrid. This small group possessed, at best, a rudimentary identity.

Yet, amazingly, this miniscule group, equivalent to the population of street today, survived and thrived. They learned the new language, built on their inherited work ethic and industry and grew. They made themselves invaluable to the colonial power which they often dared to oppose on matters of principle. Unfortunately, adaptation resulted in the loss of their former languages but, as always occurs in such circumstances, many elements of their cuisine were retained.

Their language and cultural links enabled them to tune into the great changes occurring in Europe. They were among the first to institute a free press in the island and did not hesitate to use it to oppose the colonial rulers who sought to deny local people the rights possessed by citizens of their home country. They disseminated foreign concepts of democracy and personal rights even when these were actively discouraged by the rulers. As junior administrators their local knowledge and sensitivity often ameliorated harsh colonial rule. They earned a reputation for fairness and equity which is still remembered.

They were among the first locally born to engage in Western art and their works still form part of the cultural heritage of many overseas museums and galleries. The dissemination of international music and literature, often through churches or schools, was another art form they participated and promoted. They enthusiastically embraced many of the British sports such as cricket and hockey and their representation in major teams was out of proportion to their numbers.

They played a prominent part in the development of education and, with invaluable assistance of religious organisations, were instrumental in establishing some of the principal institutions which still flourish.

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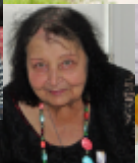
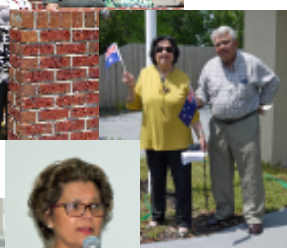
To me that is the miracle of the Burghers.

Yet this is also a farewell for the Burghers of this generation may well be the last to be identifiable as such. They are being rapidly subsumed into the larger communities of Australia, The United Kingdom, Canada, New Zealand and others and it is right and proper that this process continues. Yet it is to be hoped that we ensure our descendants think back to the two centuries where their forebears achieved an importance and excellence greatly in excess of their size.

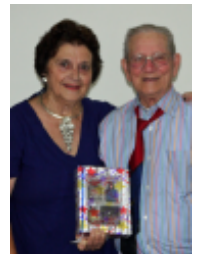
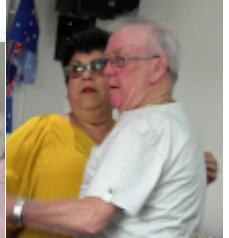
It has been a privilege to edit this small bulletin for the last eleven years. I leave it in good hands and recommend your support and involvement in the Association.

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and the fun continued



OBITUARIES
Compiled by Victor Melder
(E & O.E.)
(JANUARY 2016)

PIERIS – P. I. (IAN), husband of late Gunvor (Gun), father of Jehan & Shiromi, Ranil & Amrita, Anitra & Dirk Flamer Caldera, grandfather of Rebekah, Riahn, Armand & Amaya, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 1.1.2016)

PRONK - SHERWOOD - husband of late Marianne, son of Ruby and late Melvil, father of Sherwin and Annalee, father-in-law of Keith Blom and Desiree Pronk, grandfather of Denise, Shenise, Kevin, Dewin, Joanne and Liam, brother of Howard (Australia), in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 2.1.2016)

WHITTALL - MRS. LEELA - wife of late Thomas Whittall, mother of Julie, Sydney, Jennifer, Jasmine, Tyrone, Judy and late Terrence Whittall, mother-in-law to Deepthie, Cecil, Vinod, Charmaine, Jeremy and Khulood, Grandmother and great-grandmother, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 4.1.2016)

CRUSZ – VERNON, husband of Melonie, father of Michael, son of the late Clarence and Esme Crusz brother of Tirzah Marie (Sydney), late Gladys (London), late Claude, Audrey (Sydney) and Philomena (London), son-in-law of Maxwell and Yvonne Crusz, brother-in-law of late Noel Crusz (Sydney), Brian Rathnayake (London), Irene Crusz, Oliver Wijeyasinghe (Sydney), Tony Southern (London), Chris & Sherine Crusz (USA), Naomi & Lenny Cramer (Qatar) and Salome & Mahesh Jayasinghe, expired at home in Islington/UK on 06th May 2015. Holy Mass will be held at St. Mary's Church, Dehiwela on Wednesday 6th January 2016 at 11.00 a.m. followed by the Internment of his ashes at General Cemetery Kanatte Borella, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 6.1.2016)

ARNOLD – STANLEY, husband of Beatrice, father of daughters, on January 7, 2016, in Toronto, Canada. (Contributed)

GILLESPIE – MARIE THERESE, wife of Leonard (dec), mother and mother-in-law of Wendy & Trevor Frowd, Judy & Bryan Ward, Len & Gail Gillespie, Susan & Denis Anthonisz, Sandra Brightwell, Linda & Keith Fernando and Keith & Karen Gillespie. Grandmother of 18, great grandmother of 8, on January 7.1.2016, aged 93. (Newsletter of the Silverfawn Club, Qld, January 2016 edition)

PERNIOLA - REV. FR. VITO, S.J. passed away on 07th January at 8.30 a.m. in Negombo, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 9.1.2016)

MORTIER - ALLBUTT ALVERSTON WILSON, father of Blossom and Bunty, husband of Wilma, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 11.1.2016)

PRINS - JULIET AMANDA JESSICA, wife of late J.F.H. Prins, mother of Jan Adolf, mother-in-law of Latha, grandmother of Noeline and Charles, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 11.1.2016)

HENDRICK - ANTHONY, husband of the late Christine Hendrick, father of Suzanne, son of the late Alfred Hendrick & the late Anne Hendrick, brother of Marguerite Chellappah, Annette & Jude, brother-in-law of Nithy Chellappah, Cedric & Claudette Fernando, Bryce & Ayesha Fernando, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 12.1.2016)

MARTIN - JOSEPHINE PATRICIA (PATSY), wife of Anthony Martin, mother of Anne, Bernadette (Australia), Cecilia (UAE), Joseph Joachim, Lucy (UAE), Augustina, Sebastian (UK) and Thomas (late), mother-in-law of Alwin Neydorff, Randolph Simmons, Eustace Paiva, Joyce Joachim and Rosemary Sebastian, grandmother of Taryn, Larina, Rosanne, Bradley, Terence, Trevin, Randel (late), Reneita (HNB), Rossine, Reinfer and Calvin, great grandmother of Shaliyah and Shaniece, in Sri Lanka. – 73/1, Shanthi Road, Hendala, Wattala, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 14.1.2016)

ROWELL - SYBIL. Wife of late Verdon, mother of Blaze, Jovinus, Shiromi, Anusha, Thushara and Sheran (Australia), mother-in-law of Padma, Judy, Lalith, Cristie, Saroja and Visaka (Australia), grandmother of Nisal, Ranuk, Sherif, Sergio, Nathasha, Lakshan, Lenishan, Niroshan, Michelle, Roshni, Bhagya, Sisi and Hemanga, in Sri Lanka. – 259, Jayaweedi Mawatha, Wennappuwa, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 15.1.2016)

VANDERSAY – BRIAN, Husband of Heather (Blossom), father of Dave, Clifford, Angelo (Bahrain) and Tania, father-in-law of Priya, Indika, Shadiya, Mohan - Hayley's, brother of Desmond, late Leslie, Linwood Sherwood, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 16.1.2016)

ADAMS – BABETTE, wife of (late) Anthony Constantine Adams, mother of Romain, Jennifer, Christopher and Sandra, mother-in-law of Royoan Juriansz, (late) Johnny Martin, (late) Romaine Ziegelaar, (late) Terry Hubert, grandmother of Kevin, Tracy, Charmaine, Trudy, Sandrine, Christina, Stephanie and Joanna, great grandmother of Sarah, Aaron, Jessica, Michelle, Madden and Selena, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 21.1.2016)

KELAART - ANDREW BASIL, passed away in Germany on 19th January. Husband of Marianne, father of Sean, Simone, Andrea and Roswitha, father-in-law of Teresa, Christopher, Jurgen and Manfred. Grandfather of eight, great grandfather of three, son of Joseph and Neliya (dec.), brother of Carlyle, Roland, Maurice (dec.), Yvonne, Corrine, Desmond and Derrick. (Daily News 23.1.2016)

CALDERA – HELEN, leaving a family Brad, Sue, David, Claude and Rob, their partners Grant, Jacqui, Jackie and Debbie. Grandchildren – Brandon, Dean, Bronte, Calum, Genevieve, Sonia, Timothy, Alex and Samantha. Sister of Russell and Rhonda, in West Australia. (The West Australian 23.1.2016)

THURGOOD – GEORGE JOSEPH, on January 19, 2016, a month shy of his 85th birthday, in West Australia. Father of Jackie, Leigh, Ginny and families. (The West Australian 23.1.2016)

PEREIRA – MYRA (May), passed away on January 21, 2016. Wife of Percy (dec), mother of Leslie (dec), Audrey and Judy. Mother-in-law of Sandra, Colin and Gerry. Grandmother of Colette, Nicki, Bernette, Jeremy, Luiz, Louisa, Gillian, Lindsay and Sonia. Great-grandmother of Charlotte, Kasey, Liam, Shanice, Rory, Bastian, Ethan, Tamara and Amelie, in West Australia (The West Australian 25.1.2016)

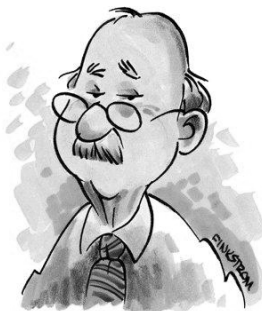
VAN DORT – CECIL BRIAN, husband of Daphne, father of Janis Ricciardello, father-in-law of Tony Ricciardello, grandfather of Isiah and Sebastian Ricciradello, in West Australia. (The West Australian 27.1.2016)

DE LIVERA – ARROL EARDLEY JOSEPH, (15.3.1930 – 8.1.2016), husband of Carmen, father of late Dhanika, Dappula and Ariththa (Can), father-in-law of Marini and Sonali (Can), grandfather of Dr Ryan (UK), Deanne (Scotland), Dinoosh (Belarus), Sindhu and Avishka (Can), great grandfather of Thea (UK), brother of late Felix, late Loyola, late Dirley, late Brinsley, late Marie, Shirlene (USA) and Nalini, in Sri Lanka. – 124/10, Pipe Road, Koswatte, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka. (Sunday Observer 31.1.2016)

Note: All spelling of names as taken from Sri Lankan newspapers

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I DON'T DO DRUGS...



I GET THE SAME EFFECT
BY STANDING UP FAST!

Below is the edited version of a report compiled by Mr Gerald De Zilva in his capacity as editor and published in the association's newsletter at the time.

FOUNDATION OF THE BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA)

The Burgher Association Australia is just over five years old and it is fitting to pause and assess the progress and achievements of the BAA over this short period of time. The concept of this Association grew in the minds of a few persons, and on 2nd February 1980, eight foundation members gathered together to form the BAA. They were Benjamin & Dorrit Blaze, John & Annette Blaze, Duncan & Lorna Kreltshheim, and Ralf & Pauline Moldrich. At this inaugural meeting the prospective Members were armed with a Draft Constitution and proceeded to amend it and elect the First Committee consisting of seven Office Bearers, two Committee Persons and an Auditor. All positions were Honorary.

The First Committee consisted of:

President

Rev John Blaze

Vice President

Mr Ralf Moldrich

Secretary

Mrs Pauline Moldrich

Treasurer

Mr Duncan Kreltshheim

Fund Raiser

Mrs Lorna Kreltshheim

Editor

Mr Benjamin Blaze

Sports Secretary

Mr Kingsley VanTwist

Committee

Mrs Dorrit Blaze

Mrs Annette Blaze

Auditor

Mr Ivor Kelaart

The aims of the Association as embodied in the Constitution are:

- A) To afford relief to needy members of the Community in Sri Lanka and Australia.
- B) In general, to foster friendships and good relations between Members and the people of the Country of our adoption by bringing them together and, assisting particularly in the areas of childhood, adulthood and, old age welfare of the destitute and handicapped.

I believe the Foundation Members were motivated by a strong desire to help relieve the hardship and the suffering of their less fortunate brethren in a practical way and work in an overriding spirit, harmony and goodwill. These ideals without question are high indeed and present many challenges to time, temper and tolerance.

The BAA has just negotiated the purchase of a large house in Haughton Road, Clayton. This building is ideally located and offers scope for a multiplicity of uses which come within the scope of the Association. It appears to be a feasible proposition and will be administered by an elected Board of Trustees.

Donations to local groups have been made; to the Elvis Thurgood Appeal Fund, the Street Kids Project run by Father Glover, the Ceylon Welfare Organisation, the Queensland School for Deaf Needy Students for assistance with tertiary studies, the Voluntary Outreach Club and, to individuals in distress both in Australia and Sri Lanka.

These actions demonstrate a sincerity of purpose and concern for the welfare of others and can be aptly summed up in the words of 'Paul,' "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men."

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A definition worth remembering:

There's an annual contest at Bond University, Australia, calling for the most appropriate definition of a contemporary term.

This year's chosen term was:

"Political Correctness".

The winning student wrote :

"Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and promoted by mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of poop by the clean end."

Sri Lanka ranked highest in South Asia

June 4, 2014

2014 Environment Performance Index of Yale University

In 2014 Sri Lanka is ranked 69th in the EPI which is a Global Environment Assessment index. It stands in sharp contrast to its regional neighbours India (155) Bangladesh (169) and Pakistan (148) in the EPI, which is an exhaustive environmental impact assessment study made annually by the Yale University USA.

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) identifies targets for several core environmental policy categories and measures how close countries come to meet them. The EPI is a collaborative project between the Yale Centre for Environmental Law & Policy (YCELP) and the Centre for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at Columbia University. It is supported by the World Economic Forum.

The EPI is arrived at in a process that calculates and aggregates 20 indicators that reflect environmental data at the national level of each country. These indicators in turn are combined into nine issue categories, each of which fit in to one of two overarching objectives
Environmental Health and Ecosystem vitality.

Environmental Health includes Health Impacts, Air Quality, Water and Sanitation. The Ecosystem Vitality takes account of Water Resources, Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries, Biodiversity and Habitat, Climate and Energy.

EPI index measures Environmental & Ecosystem Vitality to compare and identify the best protectors and worst offenders of the environment in the world.

While health impacts, air quality water and sanitation make up the criteria to measure Environment Health, Ecosystem Vitality is measured by quality of water resources, agriculture, forests, fisheries, biodiversity and habitat, climate and energy. Of particular significance is that Sri Lanka has defied global trend in air pollution and has shown no deterioration of the ambient air quality. Despite the steady and sharp increase in the vehicular population, which has seen a 33% increase over the past four years Sri Lanka has prevented any slide in the quality of air. This encouraging achievement is attributed to the stringent vehicle emission testing programme introduced by Legislation in 2008.

Vehicle Transportation is a principal source of air pollution in the urban space of both developing and developed countries. However, good emission monitoring mechanisms coupled with clean vehicle and fuel technologies can significantly reduce air pollution from vehicles. Road vehicles produce carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides that threaten the atmosphere and are recognized as contributing to global warming. In a related development the World Health Organization in a release from Geneva in March 2014 reported that in 2012 around 7 million people died as a result of exposure to air pollution. This works out to one in eight of total global deaths. It doubles earlier estimates and makes air pollution the largest single environmental health risk. Reducing air pollution can save millions of lives.

Did You Know That?

A SHOT OF WHISKEY

In the old west a .45 cartridge for a six-gun cost 12 cents, so did a glass of whiskey. If a cowhand was low on cash he would often give the bartender a cartridge in exchange for a drink. This became known as a "shot" of whiskey.

THE WHOLE NINE YARDS

American fighter planes in WW2 had machine guns that were fed by a belt of cartridges. The average plane held belts that were 27 feet (9 yards) long. If the pilot used up all his ammo he was said to have given it the whole nine yards.

BUYING THE FARM

This is synonymous with dying. During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000. This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

IRON CLAD CONTRACT

This came about from the ironclad ships of the Civil War. It meant something so strong it could not be broken.

PASSING THE BUCK / THE BUCK STOPS HERE

Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck knife company. When playing poker it was common to place one of these Buck knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted then "the buck stopped there".

RIFF RAFF

The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight but they were expensive so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.

COBWEB

The Old English word for "spider" was "cob"

SHIP STATE ROOMS

Traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins on ships are called staterooms.

SLEEP TIGHT

Early beds were made with a wooden frame. Ropes were tied across the frame in a crisscross pattern. A straw mattress was then put on top of the ropes. Over time the ropes stretched, causing the bed to sag. The owner would then tighten the ropes to get a better night's sleep.

SHOWBOAT

These were floating theaters built on a barge that was pushed by a steamboat. These played small town along the Mississippi River. Unlike the boat shown in the movie "Showboat" these did not have an engine. They were gaudy and attention grabbing which is why we say someone who is being the life of the party is "showboating".

OVER A BARREL

In the days before CPR a drowning victim would be placed face down over a barrel and the barrel would be rolled back and forth in an effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you are over a barrel you are in deep trouble.

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BARGE IN

Heavy freight was moved along the Mississippi in large barges pushed by steamboats. These were hard to control and would sometimes swing into piers or other boats. People would say they "barged in".

HOGWASH

Steamboats carried both people and animals. Since pigs smelled so bad they would be washed before being put on board. The mud and other filth that was washed off was considered useless "hog wash".

CURFEW

The word "curfew" comes from the French phrase "couvre-feu", which means "cover the fire". It was used to describe the time of blowing out all lamps and candles. It was later adopted into Middle English as "curfeu", which later became the modern "curfew". In the early American colonies homes had no real fireplaces so a fire was built in the center of the room. In order to make sure a fire did not get out of control during the night it was required that, by an agreed upon time, all fires would be covered with a clay pot called-a "curfew".

BARRELS OF OIL

When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

As the paper goes through the rotary printing press friction causes it to heat up. Therefore, if you grab the paper right off the press it's hot. The expression means to get immediate information.

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Dedicated to those who love the vagaries of the English language where position is as important as grammar and vocabulary.

Professor Ernest Brennecke of Columbia University is credited with inventing a sentence that can be made to have eight different meanings by placing ONE WORD in all possible positions in the sentence: "I hit him in the eye yesterday."

1. ONLY I hit him in the eye yesterday. (No one else did.)
2. I ONLY hit him in the eye yesterday. (Did not slap him.)
3. I hit ONLY him in the eye yesterday. (I did not hit others.)
4. I hit him ONLY in the eye yesterday. (I did not hit outside the eye.)
5. I hit him in ONLY the eye yesterday. (Not other organs.)
6. I hit him in the ONLY eye yesterday. (He doesn't have another eye..)
7. I hit him in the eye ONLY yesterday. (Not today.)
8. I hit him in the eye yesterday ONLY. (Did not wait for today.)

This is why it is important to be precise!

Macquarie's brightest star

John Kehoe



Shemara Wikramanayake, the head of Macquarie Funds Group, took home a total salary of \$16.29 million in 2015, making her the country's highest-paid woman executive by far.

Shemara Wikramanayake is not your typical Macquarie banker. As a diminutive female and immigrant with Sri Lankan heritage, she has already busted the stereotypical assumption that being male, white and egotistical is a prerequisite for success in the testosterone-driven world of investment banking.

The head of Macquarie's most profitable division, funds management, Wikramanayake is being billed for even greater things. When talk turns to who will be Macquarie's next chief executive after Nicholas Moore, Wikramanayake's name figures prominently as a leading candidate. For outsiders that may come as a surprise, but colleagues such as 2011 Australian of the year Simon McKeon say Wikramanayake has been making an impression at the bank for many years. "She is an extraordinary individual, both professionally and what she does outside of Macquarie," McKeon says.

Though she is notoriously publicity shy, Wikramanayake has a spirit of adventure. During her three decades at Macquarie, she has taken time out to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and visited Antarctica. She also took a 12-month sabbatical to set up a charity fund for child education. As head of Macquarie Funds, Wikramanayake oversees more than \$330 billion in assets under management, controls the world's largest manager of infrastructure assets and is responsible for 1400 staff in more than 20 countries.

The only woman on Macquarie's 10-member executive committee, she is regarded as charming and personable. "She's super intelligent and a good people-manager, which is not a trait you always see in investment bankers," says one former colleague. "She's one of the genuinely nice people that have risen the ranks of an investment bank." It is hard to find anyone with a bad word to say about her, which is unusual in the bitchy world of investment banking.

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In 2011, Wikramanayake lived for about six months in the United Kingdom, from where her husband originates. While she kept running Macquarie Funds from London, her husband and two school aged children travelled around Europe. She caught up with them on weekends. After her year-long sabbatical in 2000, Wikramanayake returned to Macquarie. She helped develop the strategy to restructure the investment banking divisions in the early 2000s, working closely with Moore. The equities, corporate advisory and infrastructure and asset management businesses, were merged under Moore when Allan Moss was chief executive. Insiders says it was around this time that Wikramanayake's star began to rise rapidly in the eyes of senior Macquarie figures. After successfully helping complete the integration, she was put in charge of the prudential team at the investment bank and conducted a commercial review of all transactions in which Macquarie Capital took a principal position, including acquiring seed assets for prospective funds. It allowed Wikramanayake to hone her risk skills in a highly complex financial institution. She moved to New York in 2004 to head up the North American division of Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets Division to establish and manage infrastructure and private equity funds in the US and Canada. While Moore was being groomed to take over the top job from Moss, Wikramanayake's reputation continued to grow. Then, when the global financial crisis hit, Wikramanayake had the unenviable task of merging Macquarie's specialised infrastructure and private equity funds from the investment bank into the funds business.

The old millionaire's factory's listed satellite funds model, which Moore was instrumental in building, and which binged on cheap debt and charged hefty management fees, had to be unwound. The management rights to the stable of listed managed funds including Macquarie Airports and Macquarie Infrastructure Group were sold off. Restructures like these not only demonstrated her ability to undertake complex corporate restructures in times of financial stress, but also gave Wikramanayake control of a larger share of Macquarie's business.

FUNDS BUSINESS A BRIGHT SPOT

But it was after becoming head of Macquarie Funds Group and joining Macquarie's executive team in 2008 when she really made her mark. As head of Macquarie's expanding funds management business, she led the 2009 acquisition of United States fund manager Delaware Investments for \$US428 million, in a bid to extend its wealth management activities in North America.

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While several of Macquarie's other offshore acquisitions in the US and Europe have been less than successful, the Delaware deal has proven to be a winner. "That was probably the best deal Macquarie has done behind buying BT," says one close observer.

Off the back of that deal, the funds business has grown to become Macquarie's biggest revenue generator.

At a time when the historical driver of financial returns, investment banking and securities are losing money due to the weak global economy, Wikramanayake's funds business is one of the few bright spots at the Silver Donut. Assets under management have surged from \$197 billion five years ago, to more than \$330 billion today. The division's return on equity is estimated to be above 20 per cent, versus 7 per cent for the group. She also has to manage relationships with big investment institutions and large clients. There is also the task of controlling the egos of Macquarie's own fund managers, one source says. Along the journey in her nearly three decades at the group, Wikramanayake also established Macquarie's corporate advisory offices in New Zealand, Hong Kong and Malaysia. With experience and results like these, it is not hard to understand why she is figuring in talk about a potential successor to Moore, even if his exit is still some years away.

METEORIC RISE DEFIES CONVENTION

If a new chief executive was selected today, Wikramanayake is viewed by close observers as the likely candidate to take the job, should she want it. But Moore is in no hurry and will be hoping the economic environment picks up to avoid his leadership legacy being the last five years when Macquarie has gone through the toughest period in its history. If time is on Moore's side, that will give others a chance to prove they are chief executive material. Macquarie's Fixed Income, Currencies and Commodities head Andrew Downe and Macquarie Capital boss Tim Bishop are viewed as contenders. Deputy chief executive and former chief financial officer Greg Ward is also regarded as a safe pair of hands.

If Shemara wants to beef up her credentials, she may still need to prove she can build a business from the ground up, as Moore did before rising to CEO. This view reflects that the funds business Shemara runs is largely a combination of the infrastructure business and the structured finance business, both of which Moore created.

condensed version ...

Burghers! Who are they really?

The Burghers are a Eurasian ethnic group, historically from Sri Lanka, consisting for the most part of male-line descendants of European colonists from the 16th to 20th centuries (mostly Portuguese, Dutch and British) with local Sinhalese ancestry.

Today the mother tongue of the Burghers is English, but historically other languages were spoken by the community, in particular the Sri Lanka Indo-Portuguese, a creole language based on Portuguese and Sinhala.

Demographics

In the census of 1981, the Burgher population of Sri Lanka was enumerated at 39,374 persons. The current percentage of Burghers in the Sri Lankan population is less than 1%. The highest concentration of Burghers is in Colombo (0.72%) and Gampaha (0.5%). There are also similar, significant communities in Trincomalee and Batticaloa, but due to conflict in those areas during the 2001 census, figures are not available. The world population (mostly in Sri Lanka, Australia, the USA and the UK) is probably no more than 100,000.

Legal definition

The Eurasian Burghers were legally defined by law in 1883, by the then Chief Justice of Ceylon, Sir Richard Ottley, given before the Commission which was appointed in connection with the establishment of a legislative Council in Ceylon. It was decided that in order to be defined as a Burgher, one's father had to have been born in Sri Lanka, with at least one European ancestor on one's direct paternal side, regardless of the ethnic origin of one's mother, or what other ethnic groups may be found on the father's side. Because of this definition, Burghers always have European surnames (mostly of Portuguese, Dutch and British origin, although it is not uncommon to also find German, French, Russian or even Flemish surnames).

History

The Portuguese arrived in what was then known by outsiders as Ceylon, in 1505. Since there were no women in the Portuguese navy, the Portuguese sailors married local Sinhalese women. This practice of intermarriage with local people was encouraged by the Portuguese, not only in Ceylon, but also in other Portuguese colonies, such as Macau in China and Malacca in Malaysia.

When the Dutch took over in 1653, they expelled all the Portuguese. However, they permitted stateless persons of Portuguese-Jewish (Marrano) descent, and of mixed Portuguese-Sinhalese ancestry to stay. As a result, Burghers with Portuguese names are likely to be of either Jewish or mixed Portuguese-Sinhalese ancestry.

During the Dutch period, all Dutch colonial operations were overseen by the VOC, ('Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie' or *Dutch East India Company*). Virtually all Burghers from this period were employees of the VOC. The VOC employed not only Dutch nationals, but also enlisted men from the Southern Netherlands, the German states, Sweden, Denmark and Austria. It is therefore not unusual to find ancestors from these countries in many Burgher family trees.

It was during the Dutch period that the term "Burgher" was first coined to denote people of mixed European, and Asian descent. It comes from the Dutch word *Burger*, meaning "citizen" or "resident". People of mixed ancestry were not allowed citizenship of the country of their European fathers, nor of their Asian mothers, so a compromise was found whereby they would be citizens ("Burghers") of the towns of their birth. When the British took over in 1796, many Dutch people chose to leave. However, a significant number chose to stay, mostly those of mixed descent. One condition of their being allowed to stay, was that they had to sign a Treaty of Capitulation to the British. Many Burghers can find their ancestors' names in this treaty. At the time of the British conquest, there were about 900 Burgher families residing in Ceylon, concentrated in Colombo, Galle, Matara and Jaffna.

Until the early 1900s, as well as English, many Burghers also spoke a form of Portuguese Creole, even those of Dutch descent. It is now only spoken in parts of the coastal towns of Trincomalee and Batticaloa. Most of its vocabulary is from Portuguese, but its grammar is based on that of Tamil and Sinhalese. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, many Burghers left the island and emigrated to Australia (where there is an area of Melbourne known as "Little Ceylon"), the USA and Great Britain.

Culture

Burgher culture is a rich mixture of east and west, reflecting their ancestry. They are the most westernised of the ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. Most of them wear western clothing, although it is not uncommon for a man to be seen wearing a sarong, or for a woman to wear a sari. A number of elements in Burgher culture have actually extended to become part of the cultures of other ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. For example, Baila music, which has its origin in the music of 16th century Portugal, has found its way into mainstream popular Sinhalese music. Lacemaking, which began as a domestic pastime of Burgher women, is now a part of Sinhalese culture too. Even certain foods, such as love cake, *bol fiado* (layered cake), *ijzer koekjes*, and *frikkadels* (savoury meatballs), have become an integral part of Sri Lankan national cuisine.

Burghers are not physically homogeneous. It is possible to have a blond, fair-skinned Burgher, as well as a Burgher with a very dark complexion and black hair. Fair-skinned and dark-skinned children can even appear as brother and sister in the same family of the same parents. Burghers share a common culture rather than a common ethnicity. While the older generations of Burghers tried to dismiss the obvious Asian side of their ancestry, many younger Burghers today highly value this variety in their heritage.

Burghers have a very strong interest in their family histories. Many old Burgher families kept *stamboeks* (from the Dutch for "Clan Books"). These recorded not only dates of births, marriages and deaths, but also significant events in the history of a family, such as details of moving house, illnesses, school records, even major family disputes. An extensive, multi-volume *stamboek* of many family lineages is kept by the Dutch Burgher Union. Individual families have traditions which reflect their specific family origins. Burghers of Dutch origin sometimes celebrate the Feast of Saint Nicholas in December, and those of Portuguese-Jewish origin observe customs such as the separation time of a woman after childbirth (see Leviticus 12:2-5), the redemption of the Firstborn (Pidyon ha-Ben), and the purification bath (*taharah*) after a daughter's first period (see niddah). Most of the latter Burgher families, being unaware of the Jewish origins of these customs, have given them a Catholic slant.

However, some of these so-called Jewish left over traditions can also be explained as borrowings or retention from neighboring Tamil and Sinhalese communities with whom many Burgher families also share genetic admixture. For example the purification bath after a girl's first period is a common cultural feature of the Tamil and Sinhalese communities of Sri Lanka and neighboring India. Hence its prevalence amongst some Burghers families of Sri Lanka is not necessarily of Jewish origins.

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Fr. Joe de Mel was a Josephian legend – By Elmo Fernandopulle

Rev. Fr. Joe de Mel who passed away some time ago was a blue blooded Josephian, as blue as they came. He was an outstanding cricketer at the Darley Road School and many were his achievements that are etched in the record books of Josephian cricket. Unusual, I would add for men of the cloth. Standing over six feet, Fr. Joe was a feared fast medium bowler, a brilliant fielder quick of eye and a twinkle toed batsman who did not respect any bowling attack when he was wielding the willow.

According to my former colleague and Old Josephian M.J.M. Aka 'Zorro', Zarook who watched Fr. Joe performing for St. Joseph's said he was a stylist in batting and played under Malcolm de Costsa and Neil Weerasinghe. His brother Cletus was a hard hitting opening batsman. Fr. Joe would certainly have sported the country's colours in cricket, had not the call from god come to shed pads and bat and join in the vineyard serve the lord and give praise and spread the gospel of the Lord. But Fr. Joe did not lose his thirst and hunger for the game he loved best and played with great respect. He would never miss a 'stag nite' and Joe-Pete big match and when invited to do commentary on radio did so with great knowledge and aplomb.

Fr. Joe gave up playing cricket when he joined the seminary. Had he continued, he would have been Sri Lanka's Rev. David Sheppard who donned pads for England when in robes. Fr. Joe who hailed from an illustrious family was Chairman, 'Samata Sarana', former Vicar General, Archdiocese of Colombo, former Rector, National Seminary, Ampitiya. A little anecdote - On the eve of our wedding day, the priest who was to say our wedding mass and give us in marriage Fr. Amirthapillai could not be contacted because he had gone on holiday to Nuwara Eliya. I was running around. But my Sports Editor at that time in the 'Times' Ramsay Zieglaar managed to contact Fr. Rufus Benedict who was then in charge of Peterite cricket who promised to do the needful. When I nervously arrived at St. Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya where our marriage was to be solemnized, hey presto there was Fr. Amirthapillai, and standing by were Fr. Rufus Benedict and Fr. Joe de Mel. Fr. Rufus and Fr. Joe were aware of my achievements at cricket, having captained St. Benedict's College and taking a hat trick against St. Peter's College when Fr. Rufus was master in charge and five wickets against St. Joseph's whose cricket Fr. Joe would not miss and were on the ready to help out. He respected the "googly" that I had bowled to my wife Gina! Fr. Joe was laid to rest on at Kanatte. May the turf that he walked with great distinction and respect lie softly on him.

Your Member Subscriptions

If you have not paid your subscriptions for the previous or current Financial Year, we will not worry you with further reminders; except to say that you are a valued member of the Burgher cultural identity and we, through this Association, endeavour to maintain a focal point for the continuity of our cultural community traditions and unique identity. Please consider renewing your Membership

Please refer to the address label and if the 'Paid to Date' is a prior financial-year, we would appreciate your continued support of the Burgher Association .The Annual Subscription is \$20 and is payable on 1st July of each year. If you prefer you may make payments in advance for a future year's subscription. Please send your remittance to:

The Secretary

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Your Comments:
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MARCH

6th March 2016 (Sunday) Karaoke - 12 noon to 4.00pm. any genre/song
BAA Centre

APRIL

10th April 2016 (Sunday) Hopper Lunch - 12 noon to 4.00pm
BAA Centre 12 noon to 4.00pm

MAY

7th May 2016 (Saturday) Migration Ball
Glen Waverley Community Centre, Glen Waverley

JULY

17th July 2016 (Saturday) The 40's Singles - BAA Centre
12noon to 4.00pm

SEPTEMBER

4th September 2016 (Sunday) "Jazz Afternoon"
BAA Centre - 12 noon to 4.00pm

NOVEMBER

1st November 2016 (Tuesday) - Melbourne Cup Family Fun Day
BAA Centre - 11.00am to 4.00pm

DECEMBER

3rd - 9th December 2016. Burgher Heritage Exhibition
BAA Centre

-

17th December 2016 (Saturday) - End of Year Festivities Ball
Valguarnera Social Club, Heatherton Rd, Clayton South
7.30pm to 1.00am



**Please contact a Committee
Member for further details and
Tickets.**

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