

# **BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC**

Postal Address: PO Box 75 Clarinda VIC 3169  
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Web Site: <http://www.burgherassocn.org.au>

## **July 2016 Winter News Bulletin**



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[hermann\\_r\\_loos@yahoo.com.au](mailto:hermann_r_loos@yahoo.com.au)

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Vacant

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Mr Neville Davidson - 03 97111 922  
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Mrs Elaine Jansz - 03 9798 6315  
[bd8cerjansz@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bd8cerjansz@optusnet.com.au)

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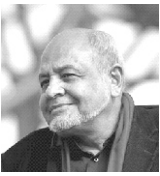
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## **Cecil Balmond**

### **Sri Lankan born internationally renowned architectural maestro**

Cecil Balmond OBE of Sri Lankan origin is feted as one of the world's leading thinkers on form and structure and widely considered to be one of the most significant creators of his generation. Pioneering a new approach in the crossover between advanced art and science Cecil heads Balmond Studio in London, a research led practice of architects, designers, artists and theoreticians who apply Cecil's revolutionary non-linear, generative methods to create extraordinary designs that fundamentally reorganise space. Responsible for creating spectacular buildings and public art works, which appear to defy gravity such as the renowned ArcelorMittal Orbit for the London 2012 Olympics, Pedro e Ines footbridge in Coimbra, Portugal and the CCTV Tower in Beijing to name a few, Cecil Balmond remains one of Sri Lanka's honoured progeny.

#### **The early days.**

Born in Sri Lanka, Cecil travelled the world at the age of 13 with his parents who were posted overseas. Travelling abroad at a young age fuelled young Cecil's passion to learn and succeed. A pivotal moment during his student days came when he grasped with ease complex mathematical formulae. This gift for mathematics swayed Cecil to opt for a career in engineering. He attended Trinity College, Kandy and thereafter the University of Colombo where he studied civil engineering. After a brief sojourn in Nigeria, Cecil moved to Britain and continued his studies in structural engineering at the University of Southampton and also at Imperial College London.

#### **Career highlights.**

Known for making the impossible possible, Cecil has challenged the limits of industrial fabrication and transformed the relationship of designers to the built environment. In a career spanning several decades Cecil has worked as the Deputy Chairman of Arup. He was also Global Leader of Buildings for many years as well as Chairman of the Europe Division. Currently he holds the Paul Philippe Cret Chair at University of Pennsylvania as Professor of Architecture where he founded the Non-Linear Systems Organization (NSO), a material and structural research unit at the prestigious university. He has also been Kenzo Tange Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Architecture, Saarinen Professor at Yale University School of Architecture and Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics.

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## **Receiving recognition.**

He is a recipient of several prestigious awards including the 2002 Japanese Gengo Matsui prize for the Serpentine Pavilion he designed with Toyo Ito, the RIBA Charles Jencks Award for Theory in Practice in 2003 and the Sir Banister Fletcher Prize for his book, informal in 2005. More recently Cecil Balmond has been appointed Officer of the British Empire (OBE) for his services to design and architecture

## **Contribution to public art.**

Famous also for his large scale public art, Cecil Balmond's sculptures include the Orbit which he designed for the London Olympics in 2012, the proposed Star of Caledonia to mark the border crossing between Scotland and England and also the award winning Snow Words in Alaska which was named as one of the top public artworks in the USA for 2013. New public art projects include commissions for the Chicago Transit Authority and landmark public sculptures for the Mesa Art Center, Arizona; Iowa City Pedestrian Mall, Iowa City and the Common Centre Plaza in Syracuse, New York.

Balmond's art has been exhibited internationally to critical acclaim in galleries such as the Tokyo Opera City Art Gallery, Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, Graham Foundation in Chicago, Artists Space in New York and the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Denmark. Cecil has also created several Serpentine Pavilions in London. The most noteworthy being the Ito- Balmond Serpentine Pavilion created in 2001 was crafted in glass and white painted aluminum. The product of an algorithm designed by Balmond, the pavilion is now located at a luxury hotel in the South of France. Cecil Balmond has also collaborated with important contemporary architects and artists such as Anish Kapoor, Daniel Libeskind, Alvaro Siza, Eduardo Souto de Moura and Rem Koolhaas to create extraordinary buildings which are a combination of art and structure.

## **Cecil the innovator**

While working at ARUP, Cecil founded the Advanced Geometry Unit (AGU) in 2000, a research based design group which comprised of architects, artists, engineers, and scientists, to pursue his interest in the genesis of form using numbers, music, and mathematics as vital sources. Under Balmond's direction, the AGU worked to develop new typologies for known building programs, as seen in the Weave Bridge at the University of Pennsylvania, USA, Coimbra Footbridge, Mondego River, Portugal (2006), the office building Twist, London (2004), the Battersea Power Station Master Plan, London (1999-2007) and the Ranchi Cricket Stadium in India (2008). Balmond has introduced innovative structural concepts that have resulted in some of the most challenging buildings in the canon of contemporary architecture. His long standing collaboration with Rem Koolhaas has yielded an array of groundbreaking projects such as the Maison a Bordeaux (1998), the Seattle Central Library (2004), Casa da Musica (2005) in Porto, and the new CCTV tower in Beijing (2009).

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## Connecting with Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka during the boxing day tsunami in 2004, Cecil, his wife and children had a miraculous escape. Faced with such trauma Cecil was unable to talk about it for two years afterwards. He attributes his survival, and that of his family, to having studied the water and perhaps being helped by his instincts about forces. Post tsunami Cecil begun to spend more time in Sri Lanka working on various projects including the creation of Palagama Beach - a boutique hotel designed in collaboration with his eldest son John Balmond. John now heads up the Balmond Studio Colombo and is expanding architecture across Asia.. Frequent trips back to Sri Lanka also helped Cecil form a strong working relationship with John Keells Holdings who have sought his expertise to design Waterfront, their new flagship building development in the heart of Colombo. To use Cecil's words 'The design projects to infinity, to the ocean with the city marching up to meet it'. Cecil believes his Sri Lankan heritage has played a role in the design process, with the main structure organically echoing the shape of the Sandakadapahana.

Cecil is also designing the interiors which will be a spectacular addition offering a truly integrated world class creation. Waterfront will be a new centre point for Colombo, a new iconic landmark propelling Colombo into the upper echelons of architectural brilliance.

### Cecil the visionary

A visionary in his field, Balmond sees his work as an open-ended visual application of theory, following the principle that “structure as conceptual rigour is architecture”. His approach to structure is derived by theories of complexity, non-linear organisation and emergence. Recognizing that the universe is a constantly changing array of patterns (both random and regular), he also draws on ancient wisdom and non-western mathematical archetypes. Taking structure to be as much a verb as a noun-as structuring, organizing and patterning-Balmond redefines the relationship between structural engineering and architecture beyond the ethos of rationalism, efficiency and optimization, which has characterized not only high-tech design but modern architecture in general.

His experimental, constructive and algorithmic methods open a rich territory for design at different scales and in different media and regimes of matter, extending the horizons of both reason, beauty and possibility. Soft spoken Cecil Balmond who shows no signs of slowing down, through his long and distinguished career has sought to transform the role of the creator in contemporary architecture with his unorthodox and visionary approach that merges architecture and engineering. A respected and revered luminary in the field of architecture, design and art, the name of Cecil Balmond commands much respect and remains an icon in his genre.

Text Tina Edward Gunawardhana



Twilight  
**JAZZ**

with  
**Pippa Wilson  
& Friends**



Sunday  
**2 October 2016**

5.00pm to 8.00pm

**Burgher Association Centre**

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**BYO**  
Alcohol



Refreshments will be served during breaks

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## Lexophilia Anyone?

1. I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.
2. Police were called to a day care, where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
3. Did you hear about the guy whose whole left side was cut off? He's all right now.
4. The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.
5. To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
6. When fish are in schools they sometimes take debate.
7. The short fortune teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
8. A thief who stole a calendar... got twelve months.
9. A thief fell and broke his leg in wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.
10. Thieves who steal corn from a garden could be charged with stalking.
11. When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U. C. L. A.
12. The math professor went crazy with the blackboard. He did a number on it.
13. The professor discovered that his theory of earthquakes was on shaky ground.
14. The dead batteries were given out free of charge.
15. If you take a laptop computer for a run you could jog your memory.
16. A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.
32. A calendar's days are numbered.
33. A boiled egg is hard to beat.
34. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
35. A plateau is a high form of flattery.
36. Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.
37. When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.
38. If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
39. Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
40. Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

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The only difference between a good day and a bad day is  
**ATTITUDE !**

# Banishment of the first Ceylonese family to Australia

By M.D (Tony) SALDIN

Sunday Island, January 12, 2003

Drum Major O'Deane, a Malay Non commissioned officer of the 1st Ceylon Regiment, who deserted to the Kandyans in 1803, was absorbed into the service of the Kandyan Monarch and provided with a Sinhalese girl as his wife. When the Kandyan Kingdom was captured by the British in 1815, O'Deane was arrested for treason, court-martialed and sentenced to be shot. However, O'Deane's sentence was later commuted by Governor Robert Brownrigg to "transportation to the Penal settlement of New South Wales in Australia because of the uniform good conduct of the Malay Regiment." After ousting the Hollanders in 1796, the British were able to gain a foothold in the maritime provinces of Ceylon. Despite this victory, they were now eyeing the Kandyan Kingdom to consolidate their position as masters of the whole island.

When General Hay MacDowall attacked Kandy in 1803 on the orders of Governor Fredrick North, King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe retreated, after a brief resistance, to the mountains of Hanguranketa, carrying with him the Sacred Tooth Relic, albeit after checking the auspicious time from the court astrologer.

Some bamboo rafts were made by the troops, but the river was not navigable. Attempts to secure ropes across the river were also thwarted when the Kandyans severed the ropes on the far bank.

The sight which greeted British red-coats when entering the city was an ornately carved horse drawn carriage in flames, a gift from Governor North to the Kandyan Monarch, set on fire by the retreating court. The British then installed their puppet Prince Muttuswamy, half brother of King Sri Wickrama as the new Ruler, but he was largely ignored by the people. Moreover, Muttuswamy was dependent on the British for his protection. Ironically, Major Adam Davie, a Scotsman, was entrusted the command of the British garrison in Kandy which he accepted with much reluctance. Within a few months King Sri Wickrama was able to rally his militia and levies to expel the British. On 24 June, 1803, the Kandyan King's Malay mercenaries referred to as the 'Padikkara Peruwa' led by Sangunglo, their agile captain, commenced the attack on the British garrison. After a short resistance Major Davie, raised the white flag and negotiated terms with Adigar Pilima Talawa for a withdrawal. This arrangement was agreed upon. Davie abandoned 149 of his sick and wounded men in Kandy. After spiking their cannon and throwing their excess powder and shot into nearby waterways, the beleaguered garrison comprising of 30-Europeans, 300-Malays, 12-Bengali gun lascars and 30-Indian pioneers with the drummers beating a staccato beat were making their forced march to Fort Osterburg in Trincomalee together with Prince Muttuswamy, when they were trapped at the Watapuluwa ferry near the village of Mawilmada, on account of the flooded conditions of the Mahaveli river. Some bamboo rafts were made by the troops, but the river was not navigable. Attempts to secure ropes across the river were also thwarted when the Kandyans severed the ropes on the far bank.

On the following day the King's officials arrived with a request to surrender Muttuswamy, which was rejected by the British. Reluctantly, Davie surrendered Muttuswamy, only when the Kandyans threatened to take him away by force. Muttuswamy with three of his relations were then led about a mile away to the presence of the Kandyan monarch and after a summary trial, were condemned to death and beheaded.

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Major Davie thereafter decided to return to Kandy, but found that they were surrounded by about 20,000 of the king's forces. Several soldiers then began deserting to the Kandyanans. Major Davie then gave a strange order, that all troops ground their arms. The British troops were then surrounded and the Asian soldiers were separated from the Europeans, and the officers from the men. They were then given the option of either entering the Kandyan king's service or face death. Those who refused were immediately beheaded. However most of the European officers chose to shoot themselves with their pistols rather than fall into the hands of the enemy. The first war of 1803 proved a disaster to the British.

The rest is history. Kandy, the last bastion of the Kings of Lanka, fell to the British in 1815 due to the insidious plotting, planning and betrayal by the Kandyan nobles who, one by one, turned against their King Sri Wickrema Rajasinghe. For the first time on 5th March 1815, the Union Jack was hoisted in Senkadagala, and British cannon heralded that Sri Wickrema Rajasinghe had been replaced by George the Third of Great Britain.

Our narrative now takes a different turn. Drum Major O'Deane, a Malay non-commissioned officer of the 1st Ceylon Regiment, who deserted to the Kandyanans in 1803, was absorbed into the service of the Kandyan Monarch and provided with a Sinhalese girl as his wife. When the Kandyan Kingdom was captured by the British in 1815, O'Deane was arrested for treason, court-martialed and sentenced to be shot. However O'Deane's sentence was subsequently commuted by Governor Robert Brownrigg to 'transportation to the Penal settlement of New South Wales in Australia' because of the fact that the Governor was impressed with the 'uniform good conduct' of the 1st Ceylon (Malay) Regiment. O'Deane also had much information on his former Commanding Officer, Major Davie, whilst he was a captive of the Kandyan monarch.

On 17 February, 1816, the attention of the residents of Sydney, Australia, were drawn to the following article, about the arrival of a family of five from Ceylon, appearing on page-1 of the Sydney Gazette:

"The HM Brig 'Kangaroo' has brought hither from Colombo several convicts, some of whom are prisoners who had escaped from this Colony. One of the prisoners brought by the 'Kangaroo' is a Malayan, who was a Drum Major of the 1st Ceylon Regiment in the memorable Kandyan war in 1802-1803; and having gone over to the enemy, was upon the late capture of the Kandyan country taken prisoner, and condemned to be shot; which sentence was commuted to transportation for life to this territory; whither he is accompanied by his wife and three fine children. The man, who appears to be intelligent, gives an account of the death of several officers who were made prisoners by the Kandyan Monarch; among whose unfortunate number were Major Davey, of the 1st Ceylon, and Captain Romley, of the 73rd Regiment."

"He is dark complexioned, approaching to a black, and is about 5 feet 10 inches in height. His wife who is a Sinhalese, being a true descendant of the aboriginal inhabitants of the island, is of a small stature, handsomely formed, of a dark olive complexion, and agreeable features, as are also her three children, of whom the two youngest are boys. The appearance of this little family is truly interesting: and the more so, when the feeling mind considers that misfortune has brought them to a part of the world in which it is scarcely conceivable they can find any means of contributing to their own support. Their native country abounds in fruits, and all the natural luxuries of the East, which are attainable almost without the necessity of human exertion."

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The Drum Major was O'Deane. In December 1818, O'Deane, who had taken the first name of William, was assigned as Watchman in HM Dockyards in Sydney, and, in 1825, changed his employment to that of Constable of the Govt. Domain. In May 1827, William O'Deane received a job which he was more familiar with; that of Malay Interpreter for the Australian government. William O'Deane, accompanied by one of his sons, reported for duty to the Commandant at Fort Wellington, Raffles Bay on the Coburg Peninsula in July 1827. O'Deane was required to act as liaison with Macassarese fishermen from Indonesia who used the coastal areas of the Northern Territories to dry their harvest of trepang (sea cucumber) before export to China. For some reason the British considered it advantageous to establish ties with these fishermen and hence O'Deane's role as Malay interpreter. The Macassarese and Malay fishermen in their armed Prahus docked into Raffles Bay from time to time for stocks of water, and it was a familiar sight to see O'Deane accompanied by the Fort Commandant or his Deputy, boarding these vessels to talk to the fishermen. The fishing vessels would fire their guns whilst leaving the Bay, and the cannon in the Fort were fired in return, acknowledging the salute. O'Deane was given a salary of 70 pounds per year plus a residence for his services. From time to time, O'Deane's son also acted as interpreter in his father's absence.

His wife, Eve O'Deane, whom he had left behind in Sydney, and who joined him later at Raffles Bay, was a practical housewife. Records at Fort Wellington shows that she brought with her a table and 4-chairs, beds and bedding, box of clothing, a cross cut saw and other tools, a gun, a basket of soap, 2-boxes of 'Delph' and glass, a box of pipes, some kitchen and laundry utensils, a bag of 'grasstree gum' and a goat and fodder. O'Deane returned to Sydney in 1829 to his previous employment as a watchman at HM Dockyards. He continued as interpreter for the government when required until 1842. O'Deane was probably the first Malay interpreter employed by the Australian govt. William and Eve O'Deane had six children: three were born in Ceylon and three in Australia.

Mrs. Eve O'Deane died in 1839 aged 50 years at the home of her eldest daughter, Sarah Harriet Evans, and was buried at Devonshire St. Burial grounds. William O'Deane, who was also known as John, died on 23 May, 1860, after being resident for 44-years in the colony. His death notice in the Sydney Morning Herald read 'On the 23rd instant, at 111 Woolloomooloo Street, at the advanced age of 87, Mr. John O'Deane, the beloved father of Mrs. T. Purcill and of Mrs. J. Brady of Woolloomooloo, an old and respected colonist, and many years Government Interpreter in this city. He leaves a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn their loss'.

The O'Deanes have left behind many descendants in Australia. Mrs. Glennys Ferguson, a great, great, great, great grand-daughter of William and Eve O'Deane, did a remarkable amount of research on her ancestors. She has traced the life of O'Deane from the time of his arrival in New South Wales in 1816 until his death in 1860. She has tracked down most of his descendants currently spread all over Australia. She is also in the process of writing a book on O'Deane. The reason for her to research her ancestors arose when her family could not figure out how they had black hair and brownish eyes. Many questions still remain unanswered on the Sri Lankan side regarding the origins of O'Deane and his wife Eve. In the past the average Australian was reluctant to reveal his or her ancestral lineage to convicts, but in the present scenario, they take pride in revealing their heritage as descendants of the original settlers of Australia.

References: (1) The Kandyan Wars - The British Army in Ceylon by Col. Geoffrey Powell (2) Tri Sinhala - by Sir Paul. E. Peiris (3) The First Ceylonese Family in Australia — by Glennys Ferguson in the 'Ceylankan' Feb. 2002 issue published by the Ceylon Society of Australia.

## Beautiful words by a thinker.

1. Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout.
2. So why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.
3. Friendship is like a book. It takes a few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.
4. All things in life are temporary. If it's going well, enjoy it, that won't last long. If it's going badly, don't worry, that won't last long either.
5. Old friends are gold! New friends are diamonds! If you get a diamond, don't forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold!
6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; when God doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.
8. A blind person asked St. Anthony, "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"
9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.

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**MEN**tal Anxiety  
**MEN**tal Breakdown  
**MEN**strual Cramps  
**MEN**opause...  
Did you  
ever notice  
how all  
your problems  
begin with  
**MEN** ?



### Question By A STUDENT !!

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**If A Single Teacher Can't  
Teach Us All The Subjects,  
Then..  
How Could You Expect  
A Single Student To  
Learn All Subjects??**

## The 'Whys' and the 'Wherefores' of Sri Lanka – One 'Son of the Soil's' reading of the Past and the Present

Posted on April 2nd, 2016

**By J.B. Müller**

The Sri Lankan Diaspora overseas (mainly in Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the USA) eagerly and indiscriminately absorbs everything appearing about their Motherland in the international print and electronic media. All what is done is done in the naïve belief that there isn't a spin on the news and that it is completely unbiased and objective. Nothing could be further from the truth! Of course, expatriates would like to believe that the BBC, VOA, Deutsche Welle, CNN, Al Jazira and others are feeding their hungry and even curious minds with the unadulterated truth.

It might be useful for those in the Diaspora to know, understand and acknowledge that Sri Lankans are no longer Eurocentric Anglophiles having at long last seen through the various Anglo-Saxon-Celtic ploys to continue their domination and exploitation by other, indirect means. No longer are Sri Lankans willing to regard their erstwhile masters as 'superior' beings with a 'higher' civilization to which they should slavishly defer. Those 'good old days' are gone and good riddance!

Sri Lanka is a very old country with a long history of civilization and a matured polity unlike some 'Johnny-come-lately' countries with hardly 500 years of history. The latter period of its history was marred by 443 years of European exploitation, each European power building on its predecessors to refine its instruments of exploitation. The British were the worst and the bloodiest when it came to merciless brutality as is evidenced by the manner in which it quelled the uprising of the Kandyans between 1818 and 1822. It committed genocide before that word was coined by slaughtering every man, woman, and child (including babes suckling at the breast!) in the Uva Province. That province comprised of the present Badulla and Moneragala Districts is yet to recover and is just now being developed by government. The Colonial Office 54 series of documents available at the Public Records Office in London holds all the General Orders issued by Lt. Gen. Sir Robert Brownrigg, governor and c-in-c, to Maj. General Hay McDowall and the correspondence with the Colonial Secretary, the Earl of Bathurst. (The Great Rebellion of 1818 by Prof. Tennekoon Vimalananda, Five Volumes, Gunasena Historical Series, Colombo, 1970)

In 1823 the British began selling Crown Land at two shillings an acre to British entrepreneurs—first, to cultivate cinchona [from which quinine is obtained], then coffee,

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then tea and rubber—from which they made huge profits for 149 years—and Mincing Lane and the members of the London Stock Exchange prospered beyond the dreams of avarice. (Land Reform Commission Report by Colvin R. de Silva, tabled in Parliament)

They created a huge ethnic and social problem by transporting indentured labour from the Ramnad district of Madras Presidency (present day Tamil Nadu). These helpless people were auctioned off at Matale like the African slaves at Charleston, SC, and families were cruelly torn apart. They reached Matale walking over 100 miles from Talaimannar along a route that came to be known as the 'Skeleton Road' because of the numbers that had perished by the wayside from hunger, thirst, snakebite, attack by wild beasts, cholera, dysentery, and what-have-you. Their tragedy has been carefully documented by Donovan Moldrich in his 'Bitter Berry Bondage'—the story of the 19th century coffee workers in Sri Lanka. Another Burgher author, Lorna Ruth Wright, OAM, wrote "Just another shade of Brown" which graphically details the sexual exploitation of the women plantation workers and the creation of the Eurasian Community (disowned by their very prim and proper British fathers!) Many authors domestic and foreign have written about what colonialism did to Sri Lanka (Ceylon up to 1972) and it is a wonder that the people of this country tolerated what was done to them for so long, so patiently. ('Bitter Berry Bondage' by Donovan R. Moldrich and 'Just another shade of brown' by Lorna R. Wright)

Father Paul Caspersz, SJ, head of Satyodaya, Kandy, has been labouring amongst the Tamil plantation workers of Indian origin for decades and has written extensively about how these human beings have been mercilessly exploited. They have lived in sub-human conditions for over one hundred years and their emancipation has been a long and hard struggle to restore to them their intrinsic dignity as human beings. (Satyodaya Centre, Kandy, Sri Lanka)

When I was working at the then Ceylon Broadcasting Corporation as a Relief Announcer on the Commercial Service I distinctly remember reading a sign affixed to the gate of a British Club facing the Dutch Burgher Union headquarters which said: "Natives and dogs NOT allowed." This was in 1969! I phoned friends working on the 'Ceylon Daily News' and they sent a photographer round to snap a picture. It was published and shortly thereafter the Government ordered the Club to take down the offending notice. Do any self-respecting people endowed with inherent dignity have to tolerate such barefaced arrogance?

Britain was one of the most 'successful' imperial powers on earth and they created a worldwide empire (on which the sun never set because it was everywhere on the globe) and bled its colonies. London is such a magnificent city despite its foul weather because it

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has risen, literally, on the blood, sweat and tears of countless millions in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Australia. In their imperial schema of things Australia produced the wool, New Zealand the milk, Malaya the rubber, Ceylon the tea, Rhodesia the tobacco, South Africa the diamonds and gold, Mauritius the sugar, West Africa the cocoa and so on—to the great delight of those who sat in London and counted their pounds, shillings and pence. They didn't mind exploiting their own in the textile mills of Lancashire and the coal mines of Scotland. [Charles Dickens]. They exported their poor Scots, Irish, and Welsh to all these colonies to supervise the black, brown and yellow natives [and the 'half-caste' Eurasian offspring known as Burghers, Anglos and even bastards]. The slightest rumble from their workers and the Redcoats (now Khakied) were there to shoot their b\*\*\*s off!

Look at the Burghers. The British looked down on them with great disdain classifying them as 'half-castes' and included them amongst the indigenous population. In 1796 they issued the Burghers an ultimatum—learn English or leave. Many who had the means went to Batavia (modern Jakarta). The others stayed and learned the new tongue. Very soon, these Burghers knew better English than the British themselves and were therefore enlisted in that great corps of clerks that they employed. These Burghers also learned how to play cricket and challenged the British to a one-day on Galle Face Green. They were superciliously asked what the name of their 'club' was to which a Burgher sharply retorted: "Nondescripts Cricket Club, Sir!" The name stuck. The club still exists (from 1889). So do the 'nondescript' Burghers. The entire British establishment including the 'shoppies' turned out one fine Sunday morning to watch these half-caste upstarts being licked. The imperial governor himself came and occupied the clubhouse that now stands before the Taj Samudra Hotel. Well, to cut a long story short, the Burgher 'nondescripts' beat the British who were 'hoist with their own petard!' They were learning, ever so painfully, that other people were not only their equals but could also better them in many spheres and they learned this lesson on this Island. (People Inbetween by Michael Roberts, Ismeth Raheem, Percy Colin-Thôme, Sarvodaya, Ratmalana, 1989).

There is no land on the globe that the British touched that has not been left with a wholly untenable legacy of problems: India with Pakistan have Kashmir; the Holy land has Jewish Israel contending with Arab Palestine; the Cypriots are divided between the Greeks and the Turks; Africa is an indescribable mess. Glaring problems were created on the North American continent with the marginalization of the native Amerindian and Inuit peoples not to mention the stand-off between Blacks and Whites. In Australia the original inhabitants, the aborigines were decimated and then marginalized whilst their land was robbed from them by white colonists. It is a despicable record of man's inhumanity to man carried

cont'd ....

forward on the specious premise that 'White is Right' and because they had a head-start in the practice of barbarism! What is even more despicable is that their so-called 'Christianity' condoned their barefaced discrimination and unfettered brutality.

Today, these Anglo-Saxon-Celts pontificate to the whole world about human rights—yes, fundamental human rights which they denied millions from the 16th to the 20th centuries of the Common Era. They sanctimoniously presume to interfere in the internal affairs of countries that attempt to stand-up to their bullying (amply exposed by Wiki-Leaks). The ongoing bloodletting in Afghanistan and Iraq demonstrate their manifest hypocrisy.

They left behind what were basically alien concepts, structures, systems, and constitutions that have confused and confuted the peoples they formerly ruled. They uprooted and deliberately destroyed indigenous systems that had endured for millennia and which the indigenous people were comfortable with. Today, the peoples of these lands are divided into innumerable factions and cliques contending bloodily for command and control in the name of the 'democracy' they left behind. They are happy with what they see because it is a continuation of their 'divide et imperia' or 'divide and rule' policy. It is easy to manipulate and exploit those who are divided!

Sri Lanka's problems which some expatriates gleefully point out (as a justification for their living overseas) is a damaging inheritance bequeathed by the departing British to a class of indigenous people brainwashed and nurtured by them in their own image: the English-speaking Middle Classes represented by several leading families of Low-country upstarts and Up-country traitors. These families have lick-spittle hangers-on who have attained some upward social mobility and the privileges that go with that mobility and occupy the second and third tiers of governance. Whether they inhabit the governing party or the Opposition or their sundry and various coalition cohorts they have become the 'corrupt of the earth.'

The decent and law-abiding majority are a patient, tolerant and hospitable people (sometimes referred to as the 'broad masses') who have taken much abuse. If you believe the many travellers who passed through, they are a giving and forgiving people. If we are to trust the historical record, these gentle, hard-working people have been driven to and fro by the Pandyan, Cholas, Cheras, Pallavas and Javakas; then, by the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British—each, in turn, more subtly brutal than the previous. Ever since 1186, when the indigenous polity began disintegrating with the breakdown of central authority [and fissiparous tendencies manifested themselves], there has been a traumatic crisis that is yet to come to a conclusion. We know that history works in cycles and that

cont'd ....



that conclusion will come, perhaps unobtrusively or dramatically to sweep away the detritus of several centuries.

True civilization does not consist of the worship of science & technology or the tinsel and glitter of modernity or of roads, railways, harbours, airports, and the frenzied rush one might be bemused by. It consists of the maturity and wisdom gained through the practice of virtue, the development of good moral character, to decent family life and values, the unswerving commitment to social justice and equity. This also means and implies the practice and active pursuit of harmlessness and a belief in the sacredness of all life—all mankind is of one blood. The serene tranquility of spirit thus attained is a universal norm that needs no sectarian labels. This is the civilization that grew and was nurtured on this Island for centuries until rudely and repeatedly disturbed. It is yet the goal of those who appreciate the intrinsic beauty of Nature rather than that of soulless concrete, glass and steel.

Let's discuss this further if you are minded to,

[jb.muller@gmail.com](mailto:jb.muller@gmail.com)



**THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA** (OAM) In the General Division of the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2016, acknowledges **Mrs Cynthia PLUNKETT** of 1/3 Evelyn Street, Glen Waverley Vic 3150. Cynthia was cited for services to the community through a range of Cultural, Community and Charitable Organisations. Her services included: Assistant Treasurer, Fundraiser and Member, Australia-Ceylon Fellowship, from approximately 2004. **She has been a Member of the Burgher Association Australia for over 25 years and is the current Coordinator, Friendship and Care Group;** She is Vice-President of the Ceylonese Welfare Organisation and held various executive roles including Assistant Secretary, Membership Chairperson and Fundraising and Raffles Coordinator for over 35 years. She has been a Committee Member and, Fundraiser and Raffles Coordinator for the Voluntary Outreach Club for several years; a position that is ongoing. We are proud of you Cynthia!

To be inspired is  
great.

To inspire is  
**INCREDIBLE!**



## OBITUARIES

Compiled by Victor Melder

(E & O.E.)

(MAY 2016)

**DE ALWIS – MARIE ASSUNTHA** (Nee Pereira), wife of the late Newton, mother of Karen, Roshan, Jo-anne, Sherine and Angela, mother-in-law of Ashley Henricus, Darrell Prins and Erantha Adikaram, grandmother of Dane, Darron, Mishka, Jenessa, Dyandra and Katelyn (all Aust). Sister of the late Hugh, Ronnie, Oscar, Tony and of Terry (SL), in Sydney, on April 20, 2016. (Sunday Observer 1.5.2016)

**HAKEL – ARTHUR**, husband of Angela (nee Hingert), father of Natalie, Vanessa and Adrian, father-in-law of Devapriya Perera, Sheyantha Abeykoon and Alwyn Martinesz, grandfather of Melissa, Dirane, Lyara and Jaiden, in Sri Lanka. – 59, Medawelikada Road, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka. (Sunday Observer 1.5.2016)

**FERNANDEZ - SANGINNUS LOYALA** (LALA), husband of Maryse, father & father-in-law of Pio and Chish (Dubai), Charmaine and Oshadh (Australia), Anna and Shan, grandfather of Oshain, Vijain, Michain, Chadhain, Jayden, Jemocca and Jason, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 2.5.2016)

**RABOT – CHRISTOPHER**, husband of Hillrene, father of Richaryd, Lozanne & Beven, brother Florence, late Mary, Maurice and Anton, father-in-law of Johnnifer, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 2.5.2016)

**ALDONS - CHARMAINE ROSEMARY**, loving daughter of late Roland Cuthbert Aldons and Anne Marguerite Aldons, sister of late Roland Geraint Aldons and lone Bernice Amerasinghe, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 5.5.2016)

**SMITH - SYDNEY OSBERTH**, beloved husband of Jennifer, father of Jeremy and Stephen, father-in-law of Sithara, grandfather of Sandrina. Son of late Conrad and Bubsy. Brother of Malcolm, Blossom, Tony (deceased) and Tyrone, in Sri Lanka. – 52/C, Walpola, Ragama, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 5.5.2016)

**BAINES - MARJORY (MARGIE)**, daughter of Mary & William Baines, sister to Amanda, Maud, Winnie, Alice, Robert, Isabelle, Sam, Sheila, Alex (all deceased) and Julian in Brisbane, in Sri Lanka (Daily News 7.9.2016)

**MAHESWARAN – JAYARANEE**, daughter of late Nadaraser and late Kanchanamalai, wife of late Arumugam Maheswaran, mother of Sumi and Dr Ramani, mother-in-law of Prabhakaran and Dr Sivakadadchan, grandmother of Nishan, Ragu and Lakshi, sister of late Jayasingam, late Pararajasingam, Indranee Vignarajah, Yogaranee Mahesan and Dr Sugirtharanee Kathirgamar, passed away peacefully in Melbourne, Australia on 7th May 2016. (Daily News 9.5.2016)

cont'd ....

**BRAINERD – MARY**, wife of David, mother of Christine, Sherine, Christobel, Hepzibah and Adolphus, mother-in-law of Ajit Perera, Roy Jawaheer, late Bakthi David, Bagawath David and Nirmala Brainerd, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 14.5.2016)

**DIDON - REV. FR. ANDRE JOSEPH, O.M.I.** (The last French Oblate Missionary in Sri Lanka), in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 17.5.2016)

**MEEGAMA - RITA** (nee ARNOLDA), wife of late Gamini, mother of Rohan, Nihal and Jehan, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 18.5.2016)

**SPELDEWINDE – WILHELM** (9 Nov 1938 – 18 May 2016), husband of Gaye, father and father-in-law of Robyn & David and Michael & Deirdre, grandfather of Sam, Jean-Louis, Rachel, Aran, John, Molly, Kate and Max, great grandfather of Amelia. Brother of Charles and Byron (dec). (The Canberra Times on May 21, 2016)

**RAJAPAKSE – AGNUS MALLIKA**, wife of late Cyril Rajapakse, mother of Visaka and Sujatha, mother-in-law of Eustance Mathuranayagam, grandmother of Dhanuka, Bhathiya, Ruwanki, Aravinda and Sanjeewa (all of Australia), on 21st May 2016 aged 92 in Melbourne, Australia. Informant: Sujatha Mathuranayagam Tel. +61421076754 (Daily News 26.5.2016)

**PEREIRA - ANGELINE BIANCHA**, wife of late Anton Peter Pereira, mother of late Carlyle, Kenneth, Heather Gunasekara (Australia), late Rodney, Tyron, Charmaine Bartholomeausze (Canada), Deanne Devas (Canada) and Valentino (Australia); sister of Dorathy Garth (Canada), late Eric & Willie La Brooy. (Daily News 27.5.2016)

**BROOKE-SMITH – CHARLES FEARON**, husband of Rosemary, father of Christopher and Jane, grandfather of William and Alice, in the UK on May 17, 2016, aged 99 years. (Sunday Observer 29.5.2016)

**DORAI RAJ – BRIDGET**, wife of Joseph (dec), mother of Theresa, Nicholas, Romauld and June (dec), mother-in-law of Mary and Arthur, grandmother of 5, great grandmother of 3, in Perth on May 27, 2016, aged 84 years. (The West Australian 30.5.2016)

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

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*“When my wife and I argue, we’re like a band in concert: we start with some new stuff, and then we roll out our greatest hits.” — Frank Skinner*

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### Inspiring Quotes

**Commitment** is making a choice to give up other choices.

– *Scott Stanley*

The bonds of matrimony are like any other bonds they mature slowly. - *Peter De Vries*

**No** one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another. -- *Charles Dickens*

I'll never forget where I'm from. It's essential to remain humble and evolving. -- *Freida Pinto*

To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors, nobleness. -- *Benjamin Franklin*



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FISH/PRAWN	BEEF/FISH BUNS
OXTAIL/OX TONGUE	SEENI SAMBOL BUNS
KOTHU ROTTI CURRY PACKS	CURRY PIES/PRAWN PARCELS

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PRAWN	WADAIS
VEGETARIAN	

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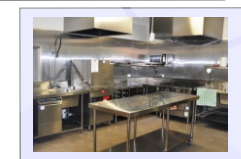
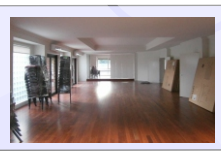


The new Burgher Association of Australia Centre is available for private hire (**Weddings, Dances, Birthday parties, Anniversaries etc**). The BAA Centre is located within a short walk from Clayton railway station. The hall is licensed to hold 150 people. Tables and chairs for this number of attendees are provided. There is usually plenty of parking across the road and a few spaces on the property. Disabled access via ramps is available to both the front and rear doors and a disabled parking space is available. There is also a 'horseshoe' driveway permitting the dropping off of attendees under cover.

Commercial kitchen facilities are available including stainless steel splash walls, a commercial glass washer, dishwasher, stove, oven, hot water boiler, large freezer, refrigerator and a bain marie. Limited quantities of crockery and cutlery could be made available on request for an additional charge. There are multiple reverse-cycle heating and cooling units servicing the main hall and kitchen.

There are separate male, female and disabled toilets. More pictures are available on our website <http://burgherassocn.org.au/baa-centre/>

How to make a booking: Call Bevill Jansz on 0419 385 462 to enquire whether the date, you wish to hire the hall for is available. (If this phone number is unavailable please contact Breeda Foenander on 0402 297 394) If you are a member of the BAA, the price of hiring the Centre costs \$350. If you are a non-member the price is \$400, for the day. Additionally, a bond of \$250 is charged, but will be refunded if the Centre is handed back to management undamaged. Cleaning the premises and disposal of rubbish, by the BAA cleaner will cost \$100 which will be deducted from the bond money. For a meeting of 3 hours or less the charge is \$180. Every hour thereafter will cost a further \$60 per hour. A bond of \$250 is payable and will be



**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 President**  
Burgher Association (Australia) Inc  
No 1 St Georges Court, Toorak 3142

**Or**, pay by Direct Deposit at the nearest National Australia Bank quoting your Membership Number & Surname:  
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Please detach & enclose the payment slip below if paying by Post.

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Mark Your Calendars

# EVENTS



## **Sunday 28 August 2016**

A Winter Lunch By

Ambula Sri Lankan Restaurant

(Yellow Rice, Beef Curry, Pepper Pork, Dhall, Tempered Potatoes, Egg  
Plant Moju, Pickle, Pappadums, Tossed Salad PLUS Watalapan Dessert)

\$25.00pp - BYO

at BAA Centre - 12.00 to 5.00pm

## **Sunday 2 October 2016**

"Twilight Jazz" with Pippa Wilson & Friends

at BAA Centre - 5.00pm to 8.00pm

Refreshments served - \$45 single - BYO Alcohol

## **Tuesday 1 November 2016**

"Melbourne Cup Family Fun Day"

at BAA Centre - 11.00am to 4.00pm

## **Saturday 17 December 2016**

"End of Year Festivities Ball"

at Valguarnera Social Club, 587 Dunlop Rd, Clayton 3169  
(off Heatherton Road). \$45 Member Ticket, \$50 Non-Member  
Ticket. Music by "Next Generation" Catered By "Jolly J" - BYO



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

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