

BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC

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Winter 2017 News Bulletin





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Editor's Note



Dear Members & Friends

2017 is already turning into a bumper year for the Burgher Association. We have celebrated some occasions and, will be having more fabulous and very economical events for your pleasure throughout this year. It has been noticed that, given the age demographic of some of our members, the mid-day events have proven to be very popular and really well attended. It seems we are coming up with a happy medium at last.

It is extremely gratifying to see groups of friends; young and old; meeting, greeting each other and, catching up on old times at these functions. What is most heart-warming, is the vision that was started by the founders of the Association to continue to maintain our Burgher traditions, culture and, the style of enjoyment that we are used to, familiar with and enjoy, whilst embracing the diversity that epitomises a Sri Lankan. The BAA truly embodies these tenets; with your continued involvement and support we will keep the flag flying at full mast for many more years. We are also very indebted to consecutive Committees of Management who kept the original vision of the BAA in focus throughout their tenure with the Association. It would be great to see all of them continue to be involved with BAA events when able and, mingling with function guests who now continue to enjoy the fruits of their past hard work.

You are all probably aware that the BAA Function Room is available to you at member rates. Please celebrate those special events in your life at the BAA. The facilities are second to none and, you and your guests' comfort is guaranteed. Please also keep those emails and letters coming in; if you have special greetings for relatives and friends that you would like published in a future Newsletter, please send them to the Editor (email address is on the Committee page or, address your letters to the Secretary of the BAA). We are also happy to publish "appreciations," and, "searching for old friends," if you send them through.

Until the next Newsletter, please take care & stay well!

Neville Davidson
Editor

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Did You Know?

If the world's entire population lived like the citizens of the United States, it would take 4 planet Earths to sustain that amount of resource consumption.

An old Australian priest lay dying. He sent a message to an Australian Tax Office Supervisor and his Lawyer requesting them to come to the hospital. When they arrived, they were ushered into his room. As they entered the room, the priest held out his hands and motioned for them to sit on each side of the bed.

The priest grasped their hands, sighed contentedly, smiled and stared at the ceiling. For a time, no one said anything. Both the Australian Tax Office Supervisor and the lawyer were touched and flattered that the old man would ask them to be with him during his final moments. However, they were also puzzled because the priest had never given any indication that he particularly liked either one of them.

Finally, the Lawyer asked, "Father, why did you ask the two of us to come here?" The old priest mustered all his strength, and then whispered weakly..... "Jesus died between two thieves, and that's how I'd like to go."

World's first curry was made 5,000 years ago: Indians have been eating their national dish since the Bronze Age

- Ancient Indians used advanced farming techniques to bring in rice, bean, lentils tuck into curries, dhal and rice dishes
- Archaeologists have discovered that rice was cultivated in India at the same time farming techniques were developed in China
- New information confirms the Indus people were world's earliest farmers

By DAILY MAIL REPORTER

PUBLISHED 21 November 2016

Indians have been tucking into curries, dhal and rice dishes since the Bronze Age, according to new research, and probably even had takeaways.

Ancient Indians used advanced farming techniques to bring in rice, bean, lentils tuck into curries, dhal and rice dishes - around 5000 years ago; Archaeologists have discovered that rice was cultivated in India at the same time farming techniques were developed in China, around 2800BC, and 400 years earlier than previously thought. Indians have been tucking into curries, dhal and rice dishes since the Bronze Age, according to new research, and probably even had takeaways.

Research discovered that the ancient Indus Civilisation, which stretched across what is now Pakistan and northwest India during the Bronze Age, had massive cities of up to 40,000 people because their advanced farming techniques meant they could grow surplus food and spices that would be traded at central hubs. The new information confirms that the Indus people were the world's earliest farmers, after they were previously thought to have learned rice farming techniques from the Chinese.

The research also confirms that Indus populations were the earliest people to use complex multi-cropping strategies across both seasons, growing foods during summer, like rice, millets and beans, before swapping to winter crops in the colder seasons - like wheat and barley.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge reckon a network of regional farmers supplied assorted produce to the markets of the civilisation's ancient cities.

cont'd ..

Study co-author Dr Jennifer Bates said: 'We found evidence for an entirely separate domestication process in ancient South Asia, likely based around the wild species *Oryza nivara*.

Archaeologists have discovered that rice was cultivated in India at the same time farming techniques were developed in China, around 2800BC, and 400 years earlier than previously thought. 'This led to the local development of a mix of 'wetland' and 'dryland' agriculture of local *Oryza sativa indica* rice agriculture before the truly 'wetland' Chinese rice, *Oryza sativa japonica*, arrived around 2000 BC.

'While wetland rice is more productive, and took over to a large extent when introduced from China, our findings appear to show there was already a long-held and sustainable culture of rice production in India as a widespread summer addition to the winter cropping during the Indus civilisation.'

Evidence for very early rice was discovered at a site in the central Ganges basin, but it has long been thought that domesticated rice agriculture did not reach South Asia until towards the end of the Indus era, when the wetland rice arrived from China around 2000 BC; but researchers found evidence of domesticated rice in South Asia as much as 430 years earlier, making them the earliest farmers.

The new research is published today in the journals *Antiquity* and *Journal of Archaeological Science* by researchers from the University of Cambridge's Division of Archaeology, in collaboration with colleagues at Banaras Hindu University and the University of Oxford. Co-author Dr Cameron Petrie says that the location of the Indus in a part of the world that received both summer and winter rains may have encouraged the development of seasonal crop rotation, way before other major civilisations of the time, such as Ancient Egypt and China's Shang Dynasty.

Dr Petrie added: 'Most contemporary civilisations initially utilised either winter crops, such as the Mesopotamian reliance on wheat and barley, or the summer crops of rice and millet in China - producing surplus with the aim of stockpiling.

'However, the area inhabited by the Indus is at a meteorological crossroads, and we found evidence of year-long farming that predates its appearance in the other ancient river valley civilisations.'

cont'd ..

The archaeologists sifted for traces of ancient grains in the remains of several Indus villages within a few kilometres of the site called Rakhigari. They reckon their advanced farming techniques meant the Indus civilisation could support cities with massive populations of up to 40,000 people. As well as the winter staples of wheat and barley and winter pulses like peas and vetches, they found evidence of summer crops: including domesticated rice, but also millet and tropical beans. They used radiocarbon dating to provide the first absolute dates for Indus multi-cropping, discovering they began growing them around 2890-2630 BC for millets and winter pulses, and 2430-2140 BC for rice.

Millets are a group of small grains, now most commonly used in birdseed, which Petrie describes as 'often being used as something to eat when there isn't much else'.

Urad beans, however, are a relative of the mung bean, often used in popular types of Indian dhal today.

The variety of crops may have been transported to the cities, which would suggest that there was some sort of bartering system in place for people to trade services for food - like modern-day takeaways. Urban hubs may have served as melting pots for produce from regional growers, as well as meats and spices, and evidence for spices have been found elsewhere in the Rakhigarhi region. Dr Bates said: 'It is certainly possible that a sustainable food economy across the Indus zone was achieved through growing a diverse range of crops, with choice being influenced by local conditions.

'It is also possible that there was trade and exchange in staple crops between populations living in different regions, though this is an idea that remains to be tested.' Dr Petrie added: 'Such a diverse system was probably well suited to mitigating risk from shifts in climate. 'It may be that some of today's farming monoculture could learn from the local crop diversity of the Indus people 4,000 years ago,'



Blasphemy

A law to protect an all powerful, supernatural deity from getting its feelings hurt!

Ricky Gervais

History of Smoking

Although the adverse effects of smoking are widely publicised, little is known of the history of this obnoxious habit. When Columbus discovered America in 1492 he encountered this practice, which was prevalent among the American Indians, and had been so since antiquity. Some of his sailors got addicted and as a consequence transported tobacco back to their homeland, where its influence spread. Sir Walter Raleigh, the eminent English explorer introduced tobacco into England in the 16 century during the reign of Elizabeth I, on his return to that country following an overseas trip. According to the story, when Sir Walter first smoked at home, his servant panicked when he saw smoke issuing from his mouth, and assuming his master was on fire threw a bucket of water over him — much to Sir Walter's annoyance and discomfort. By the middle of the 17th century smoking was widespread. Even at that time there was strong opposition to the habit. Smokers in Spain and Italy were excommunicated, in Germany they received the death penalty and in Russia their nostrils were slit. King James I of England, who instituted the first translation of the Bible to English, loathed the habit. In 1604 he proclaimed a "Counterblast to tobacco" which was as follows:

"Smoking is a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs"

Till the late 19th century smoking a pipe was the most popular form in western society. There were a variety of pipes, some ornate and costly, the latter being synonymous with "gentlemen" smokers. Cigarettes were manufactured just before the 20th century. They gained popularity very rapidly, reaching a peak for men in 1945 and for women in 1973. It was noticed in medical circles that with the sharp increase in smoking, there was a corresponding rise in the incidence of lung cancer. Two scientists, R. Doll and A. Hill, carried out an extensive investigation in 1947 to ascertain the health effects of this habit. They discovered a distinct link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer. Evidence started emerging from several other countries linking the habit not only to lung cancer but several other medical conditions. Concerned by the situation, the Royal College of Physicians, London, stated in a report released soon after, in 1983:

"Few smokers realise that one in four of them will be killed by smoking and that on average a smoker of 20 cigarettes a day will lose about five or six years of life. Nor do they realise that the dangers of smoking are greatly reduced by stopping."

By Ryland de Hoedt (Medical Scientist)

R.I.P: de HOEDT-Ryland Lovell. Beloved husband of Mary, **son of Trilby and Ryland (Senior)**, brother of Royce and Andrew (dec.), uncle of Nathan and Corey and loved by his in-laws Brian, Marie, Gerard, Kelly, Paul, Amanda, Tallulah and Vivienne Harnan. Gone much too soon Now safely in the arms of the Angels - *Published in the Herald Sun on 21/04/2017*

Bamba "Lion House" boys

Once again to those days!

by Geoff Wijesinghe

George Siegertsz, who passed away in London at the age of 82, was one of the last of a generation of post-World War Two musicians. George was a regular at Lion House at the Bambalapitiya Junction. He was one of the motley group of young men who visited the popular eatery, which served more as a "cup tea punt" (a cup of tea and a fag) club where these youths chatted for long hours of this, that and the other.

Although the group comprised many toughs who walked around like pocket editions of Humphrey Bogart, George Raft and Spencer Tracy, the tough guys at the time of the silver screen, George Siegertsz was more interested in chatting and in music. He was the country's number one whistler, a fine art and often his friends at Lion House, would gather round a table and listen to him whistling the popular tunes at the time. About one in two months or so, George Siegertsz had a 15-minute program over Radio Ceylon and would whistle the popular tunes of the day, haunting melodies, many of them World War Two favourites such as "Time Goes By", "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", "A Long Way to Tipperary" and "The White Cliffs of Dover".

Many of us younger ones who kept in touch with the Lion House crowd knew well in advance when George Siegertsz, a lean, tall, gangling figure was going to whistle over Radio Ceylon. Incidentally, although some of his pals operated in grey areas, George never blew the whistle on them to the cops. He was only interested in whistling fine musical tunes. The Lion House group, I would not like to describe them as a mob, although some of them were men of violence looking out for a fight.

One morning we read the sensational news in the "Daily News" of two of the Lion House boys having stowed away successfully on board a ship from Colombo to Southampton. If my memory serves me right they were Hula Mortier and Kingsley Rodrigo who, according to their buddies, have gone to the UK to become coal miners.

When I last heard of them many years ago they had in fact made their way to London and were domiciled there. The years following World War Two produced musicians of fine vintage in this country. Foremost of them was Erin de Selfa who was discovered by the doyen of Sri Lankan showmen Donovan Andre, a former racing correspondent attached to the Times of Ceylon, which was published in the evenings and on Sundays.

cont'd ..

She was recruited to sing in the group which was known as Red Tail Minstrels and grew up to be dark and dusky, and her voice was very much like the posh Shirley Bassey. Once she grew up, Erin was a regular over a Radio Ceylon. She then left for London under contract to the famous "Talk of the Town" nightclub in London, which was patronized by celebrities.

I had the privilege of listening to Erin over the BBC one night. This was the first time that a Sri Lankan musician had been honoured by BBC, at the time the premier broadcasting station in the world, a highly prestigious achievement. Her renditions of "Blue Moon", "As Time Goes by", "I can't help Falling in Love with You" and several other sentimental songs, were of the highest international standards. Several years later, another Sri Lankan Yolande Wolfe, an old girl of Holy Family Convent of Bambalapitiya and whose father owned a building at the top of Retreat Road, followed in Erin's footsteps and became popular in the US. That was in the early 1950s, the George and Gerry Crake brother were the seniors in the local music scene and they too were regulars over Radio Ceylon. They had a band known as the Crake Brothers, Gerry had a rich, deep tenor. There was also the Millionaires' dance band who practised in a house at Edward Lane. They had the big band sound and their rendition of the Glenn Miller favourite "Take the A-train", which is a perennial, was superb.

The biggest end-of-the-year dance in the late 1940s was at the Town Hall where several bands played and there was one hectic rush for tickets. Some of the Lion House "boys" got involved in a brawl at one of those New Year's Eve dances, which ended tragically in the death of a young man, who fell out of an upstairs window when taking a punch.

The pint-sized Carl Cooke, the former Thomian wicket-keeper, had a ballroom dancing school opposite Lion House directly behind the petrol shed at the Bambalapitiya Junction. In this sprawling old house he also established the 20th Century Club, no doubt getting the inspiration from the name 20th Century Fox, the international film producer.

One night, some of the boys who had the habit of dropping in for drinks at the 20th Century Club, imbibed more than they should have had and inspired by Bacchus, took all the club's flower pots and placed them on Carl Cooke's billiard table. Being a mild mannered man, all Carl could say was "what have you fellows done? You have damaged my billiard table. And I will have to replace it with new clothes." Carl, of course, being a peace-loving man, paid for the repairs. But the neighbourhood was very angry with the Lion House crowd for having abused Carl Cooke's hospitality, for he was very popular. Carl's brother Percy who has played for St. Thomas' was my headmaster for long years



Wise Sayings

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger.

- Proverbs 15:1

A good deal of trouble has been caused in the world by too much intelligence and too little wisdom.

A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.

- Hugh Downs

A man has three names: the name he inherits, the name his parents give him, and the name he makes for himself.

A man who wants to lead the orchestra must turn his back on the crowd.

A pint of example is worth a gallon of advice.

A reputation may be repaired, but people always keep their eyes on the place where the crack is.

A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral.

- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

A sharp tongue sometimes cuts its own throat.

- Jim Scancarelli

A singer starts by having his instrument as a gift from God. When you have been given something in a moment of grace, it is sacrilegious to be greedy.

- Marian Anderson

A smile is the lighting system of the face and the heating system of the heart.

cont'd ..



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BURGER ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

Presents



**Plain Rotti, Coconut Rotti, Pittu, Pork Curry,
White Fish Curry, Tempered Potatoes,
Coconut Sambol, Lunu Miris
Dessert: Fruit Salad & Ice Cream**

16 July 2017

BAA Centre

358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3169

12.00noon to 5.00pm



TICKET CONTACTS

Tamaris Lourensz - 5981 8187

Elaine or Bevill Jansz - 9798 6315

Breeda or Harvey Foenander - 8790 1610

Carol or Hermann Loos - 9827 4455

Rosemary Quyn - 9563 7298, Ashley Henricus - 9561 6212

Rita or Bert VanGeyzel - 9557 3576

Fred Clarke - 8759 0920, Dyan or Neville 97111 922

Music for your pleasure!

Burgher Association Australia

Presents

A Twilight Musical Soirée

With

Keith Potger

of The Seekers fame

24 September 2017

5.00pm to 8.00pm

Burgher Association Centre
358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3169

Refreshments Served
Between Breaks

\$35
Single

BYO

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Rosemary Quyn - 9563 7298, Ashley Henricus - 9561 6212

Rita or Bert VanGeyzel - 9557 3576

Fred Clarke - 8759 0920, Dyan or Neville 97111 922

MELBOURNE CUP Lunch



Come party at the BAA

358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3169

7 November 2017

10.00am till 5.00pm



TICKET CONTACTS

Tamaris Lourensz - 5981 8187

Elaine or Bevill Jansz - 9798 6315

Breeda or Harvey Foenander - 8790 1610

Carol or Hermann Loos - 9827 4455

Rosemary Quyn - 9563 7298, Ashley Henricus - 9561 6212

Rita or Bert VanGeyzel - 9557 3576

Fred Clarke - 8759 0920, Dyan or Neville 97111 922



Burgher Association Australia
Presents

Christmas Dance 2017

at

Good Shepherd Hall

34 Academy Avenue, Wheelers Hill 3150

7.30pm to 12.30am

9 December 2017

Music By

"NEXT GENERATION"

Sumptuous Smorgasbord Dinner By

"JOLLY J"

BYO

Members
\$45 Single

Non Members
\$50 Single

TICKET CONTACTS

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Breeda or Harvey Foenander - 8790 1610

Carol or Hermann Loos - 9827 4455

Rosemary Quyn - 9563 7298, Ashley Henricus - 9561 6212

Rita or Bert VanGeyzel - 9557 3576,

Fred Clarke - 8759 0920

I'm glad YOU think
its funny !



Teacher: "Anyone who thinks he's stupid may stand up!"

Nobody stands up

Teacher: "Im sure there are some stupid students over here!!"

Little Johnny stands up

Teacher: "Ohh, Johnny you think you're stupid?"

Little Johnny: "No... i just feel bad that you're standing alone..."

I was in in the public restroom

I was barely sitting down when I heard a voice in the other stall:

"Hi, how are you?"

Me: (embarrassed) "Doin' fine!"

Stall: "So what are you up to?"

Me: "Uhhh, I'm like you, just sitting here."

Stall: "Can I come over?"

Me: (attitude) "No, I'm a little busy right now!!"

Stall: "Listen, I'll have to call you back. There's an idiot in the other stall who keeps answering all my questions!"

When I see lovers' names carved in a tree, I don't think its cute. I just think it's crazy how many people bring knives on a date.

20 years ago we had Johnny Cash, Bob Hope and Steve Jobs. Now we have no Cash, no Hope and no Jobs. Please dont let Kevin Bacon die!

Trump and Hillary are on the same plane. Plane crashes, who survives? America

I farted in an Apple store today and everyone yelled at me. It's not my fault they don't have Windows.

EBay is so useless. I tried to look up lighters and all they had was 13,749 matches.

My girlfriend broke up with me because I stole her wheelchair. I knew she'd come crawling back.

Just back from the zoo. Saw a slice of toast lying in one of the enclosures. It was bread in captivity.

The answers to my anatomy test were inside me the whole time.

Did you know that the invention of the shovel was a ground breaking invention?



Reminder - Your Annual Subscription Please

Dear Member

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 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:

BANK: National Australia Bank
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Please detach & enclose the payment slip below if paying by Post.

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FROM:
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Please find attached remittance for \$20 being Member Fees due for the Financial
Year 2017/18 ☐ 2018/19 ☐ other ☐

MAIL TO: The President, Burgher Association (Australia) Inc. No. 1 St Georges Court,
Toorak 3142.

Your Comments:
.....
.....

How young rich lister Sam Prince built the Zambrero fast food empire

APRIL 25, 2017 - 9:33PM

dana.mccauley@news.com.au



Sam Prince is one of Australia's richest young entrepreneurs. Picture: Quentin Jones
SAM Prince is one of Australia's richest Gen Y-ers, but you wouldn't know it if you saw him walking down the street. The 33-year-old founder of Zambrero, Australia's largest Mexican chain, is as relaxed and down-to-earth as they come — but he is a man on a mission. Ranked 10th in last year's BRW Young Rich List, which placed his net worth at \$294 million, Dr Prince has been on a relentless campaign to grow the business he founded as a 21-year-old medical student in 2005 with just \$17,000. In the past two years, Zambrero has more than doubled its reach from 71 to 164 stores, boosting his wealth as the sole owner of the franchise company. But it's not just money that drives him; Dr Prince decided early on that he wanted to build philanthropy into his business model.

“After completing my internship and residency, I felt guilt that my parents came from a very humble beginning, and I now owned a couple of restaurants and had become a doctor,” Dr Prince told news.com.au. He uses his platform and business profits to help the needy, funding health programs and donating a meal for every Zambrero meal sold as part of its Plate 4 Plate initiative, which has now given more than 30 million meals to people in the developing world.

A second-generation immigrant of Sri Lankan heritage, Dr Prince draws inspiration from his parents, who pulled themselves out of poverty and brought him to Australia as a young child. His mother was the first person in her village in Sri Lanka to attend university, and she went on to become an economist at the Australian Bureau of Statistics — with five degrees and a PhD. “I think there was a baton of kindness that was passed onto me,” he said. “I strongly believe that people shouldn't end up in the same place — that's not fair, because some people work very hard to get where they are — but I think that where we can it's important to make sure that people start from the same place.

“My mother comes from a family where her brother passed away because they couldn't afford health care and, for many years, the household income was zero when she was growing up ... [But] one thing my parents had is they had those basic human rights of education and healthcare, which helped them propel themselves forward.”

cont'd ..

But having a heartfelt mission does not guarantee success in the rough-and-tumble world of Australian retail. So how did Zambrero become such a prolific fast food presence? One thing that helped Dr Prince stay on track was his willingness to ask more experienced entrepreneurs for advice. “I have been very blessed by the generosity of the people who were happy to mentor me, including Nobel prize winners and very successful entrepreneurs, since I was really a punk kid,” he said. He counts some of Australia's greatest business minds as his personal mentors, having boldly reached out to his idols as a young upstart.

Guys like Terry Snow from Canberra, who built the airport, there were a lot of local legends that I followed,” Dr Prince said. “They're not the Elon Musks or Steve Jobs of the world — and I love those guys, too — but for me they were more accessible ... I knew I could reach out and have a cup of coffee with them.” Another close mentor is fellow philanthropist Glenn Keys, the managing director of private healthcare provider Aspen Medical. And, while he died before Dr Prince could reach out to him, Crazy John's late founder John Ilhan — a Turkish immigrant who became the richest Australian under 40 in 2003 — was a formative influence.

It was through devouring books by his heroes that the young Dr Prince discovered his entrepreneurial spirit in his youth. “While I hadn't met any of those people yet, they were characters in my life; I felt like I was learning through their wisdom and their stories,” he said. It was with “reckless naivety” that he decided to go into business at just 21, he said, and through “grit, luck and some passion for the business”, a single Zambrero takeaway joint in Canberra became two and then three, with the profits from each outlet funding the opening of the next. When the landlord agreed to chip in \$100,000 to fit out the third, he was stunned, saying: “I didn't know there was such a thing as fitout contributions.” After this initial success, Dr Prince returned to the country of his birth to do aid work in the area where his mother had grown up, where the villagers had to contend with dengue fever and snake bites, and went on to build schools. As well as the Zambrero chain, Dr Prince owns sit-down restaurants Mejico and Indu in Sydney, genetic testing company Life Letters and One Disease, the not-for-profit he founded which aims to eliminate preventable diseases from remote indigenous communities.

After initially focusing his overseas relief efforts on school building, he launched the Plate 4 Plate program after realising that “education doesn't have its full effect where kids have to decide whether to work and bring money back to the family”.

But it wasn't until Zambrero was a few years old that it began to weave this philanthropic purpose into its marketing. “We actually didn't even talk about it at the beginning,” he said.

And while customers are informed about the Plate 4 Plate program, Zambrero does not trumpet the fact that it underwrites an entire indigenous aid organisation.

The balance was about demonstrating the brand's “personality” while allowing the food to speak for itself, Dr Prince said. “In a free market it's innovate or perish, and I think you just need to compete on your product, frankly, and not ask to be sanctioned by a good vibe.”



OBITUARIES

Compiled by Victor Melder
(E & O.E.)

NUGAWELA – FREDRIKA, sister of Murray, sister-in-law of Marjorie, in West Australia. (The West Australian 3.1.2017)

FOENANDER - BRIAN loved husband of the late Monica Foenander (née de Zilwa) and father of Peter. Brother of Bertram, Conrad and Monica passed away on Sunday 23rd April 2017. Will be sadly missed . RIP.

DE SOUZA – DR IVOR FRANCIS, husband of Sriyani, father and father-in-law of Justine & Kim, Michelle & Paul, Harsha & Anneleise and Raji, grandfather of Charlotte and Josephine, in Perth, on January 3, 2017, aged 69. (The West Australian 7.1.2017)

WEERAMANTRY - CHRISTOPHER GREGORY, husband of Rosemary (nee de Sampayo), father of Ravi, Shala, Nili, Romesh and Roshi, father-in-law of Julie, Jay, Harsha and Pat, grandfather of Samantha, Shaan, Menique, Jamie, Amahl, Shenelle, Tahlia, Marnie, Maneesha, Zara and Ishana, in Sri Lanka. Funeral in Sri Lanka (Daily News, 7.1.2017)

POMPEUS - DOROTHY (DOLLY), wife of late Alex, daughter of late Vincent & Evelyn de Cruze, mother of Deanna & Arlene, mother-in-law of Anton Martil & Maxie Pietersz, grandmother of Angelo, Tamara, Jason & Leeroy, great grandmother of Nathan, Aiden, Jarence, sister of Felicia Franke, Margie Bulner, Stanley & Leonard (all deceased), in Sri Lanka (Daily News 7.1.2017)

NICHOLAS – VICTOREEN (Nee Simons) (Pat), wife of the late Edward, mother of Marco, Ramona and Jackie, mother-in-law of Clotilda, Jeffry Claessen and the late Suren, grandmother of Lorenzo, Kelvino (Saudi), Mario, Julian, Joshua, Reno and Noel, in Sri Lanka. (Sunday Observer 8.1.2017)

JAYAMANNE – FRANCIS, husband of Karu, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

WIMALARATNE – IONA (nee De Alwis), wife of Wimal (dec), mother of Ralph and Russell (dec), Ramona (UK), Roshan (SL) and Shiranee (Dinko), in Melbourne, on January 6, 2017. (Contributed)

BARTHELOT - MIGNONNE (Nee PIERES), daughter of late Earle and Irene Pieres. Sister of late Merille. Sadly, missed by Placi & Romie; Verna & Upali; and The Watsons family, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 14.1.2017)

FERDINANDS – NITA BRIDGET, sister of Rev. Marcus Ferdinands, late Winifred, late Ignatius, Francis and Cyril, in Sri Lanka. – 47/10, Dhammaaruchi Mawatha, Wadduwa. (Daily Island 14.1.2017)

DE LA HARPE – PETER, son of the late Elmo & Naomi, husband of Leela, father of Heather, father-in-law of Chaminda Perera, brother of Melville (late), Anton (late), Lorraine and Elaine Assauw, Pamela, Christopher, Marie and Caryl de la Harpe, brother-in-law of Bernadette, Jennifer, Jayantha Panditharatne, Kit Abeywardena, late Brian Mackay, Ranjini, Sarath Dias Jayasinghe and late Princely Dason. (Sunday Times 15.1.2017)

WEBER - MARIO WILHAM, husband of Arlene Nee Kelaart (Australia). Son of late Mr & Mrs E.F. Weber, brother of late, Alexis, Glenn and Leon, Barbara (Greece), Patrick (Australia), Polita (Italy), Jessica, Jennifer, Rio (Abu Dhabi), brother-in-law. Rienzie, Minette, Jovita (Aust.) Brian, Amal, Heather Weeraman, in Sri Lanka – A31, Samaranayake Square, Welisara, Ragama, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 16.1.2017)

d'ABRERA – BERNARD LAURENCE (28 August 1940 – 13 January 2017), husband of Lucilla, father of Dr Juan Carlos and Ysabell. Son of Dr Victor St Elmo d'Abrera and Emily (both dec), brother of Robin (dec) and of Mary-Ann and Imogen, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

DE LIMA – DOREEN, wife of the late Merville, mother of Carina and Russell, mother-in-law of Chitrasena Jayawardena and the late Valerie, sister of the late Anton Joachim and Barbara Joachim, grandmother of Gehan, Rukshan and Bjorn and great grandmother of Soraya, Kayla and Joshua, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 20.1.2017)

NATHANIEL – F.R. (TONY), husband of Primrose Nathaniel, father of Camelia and Thushari, grandfather of Zuo long, Lianna and Ethan, on January 20, 2017, in Sri Lanka. (Sunday Observer 22.1.2017)

CLAESSEN – RADLEY LORENZ, husband of late Angela, father, father-in-law and grandfather, step-grandfather of Christopher (dec), Desiree, Peter, Jordan and Tanner, Patsy, Keith, Brad and Paige, Debbie, Adam, Tiana and Harley, Russell, Sheryl, Bonnie, Madi and Lucy, in Adelaide on January 22, 2017. (Adelaide Advertiser 24.1.2017)

CLOGSTOUN - GASTON DYLEROY ANTONY, son of Glenroy & Maureen, brother of Christina, in Sri Lanka. – 67/2A, Sri Medananda Road, off De Mel Road, Laxapthiya, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 24.1.2017)

CLAESSEN – TOBY, son of Francis Claessen (Deceased) and Joan Pereira (Australia), brother of Jeremy and Cathy, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 6.1.2017)

BERMAN – IAN GORTON of Glen Iris, Melbourne (formerly of Manning Town, Colombo, Sri Lanka) husband of Joan, father of Joanna Snadden and Andrew Granddad of Georgia, Chloe and Isabelle, son of Alfred & Mary Berman, brother of Michael Bryan of Sydney and Moyra Brohier of Caterham, Surrey passed away on 28 April 2017.

LODEWYKE - RITA PRIMROSE, wife of the late Fabian Lodewyke, mother of Charmaine, Jasmine, Darrell, late Rex and of Anslem (Australia), mother-in-law of Raymond Rodrigoe, Adrian Lodewyke, Sunethra and Chris (Australia), grandmother of Rienzo and Imasha, Joann., Anton, Melissa, Melanie, Andrea, Ethan, Erin and Isabell, great grandmother of Ayden, Ashlyn and Leyandra, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 27.1.2017)

MATTHYSZ – MAURIE VIVIAN AMOS (10.9.1926 – 22.1.2017), husband of Joyce (dec), father and father-in-law of Vivienne & Vernon and Lorraine. Grandfather of Georgina, Bernadette, Guy, Adam and Patrick and their partners. Great grandfather of Tom, Roxy and Olivia, in Sydney. (Sydney Morning Herald 28.1.2017)

FREDERICK – ALLEN JOSEPH, father of Oscar, son of Walter Frederick & late Ailene Carmel Joseph (nee Ohlmus), brother late David, late Miles and late Roger, in Melbourne. – 4, Winmalee Drive, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150, Australia. (Sunday Island 29.1.2017)

JANSZ - Natasha. Beloved daughter of Bevill and Elaine. Loving mother of Timothy. Sister of Mayanni. Forever in our Hearts. Published in Herald Sun on 30/05/2017

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

England's Fishing Fleet

By the 19th century, trade with India, the jewel in Britain's burgeoning commercial empire, was vast and the promise of wealth and success – if they survived disease and peril - beckoned the young men of the East India Company. Some formed marriages or liaisons with Indian beauties. But for others, India was seen as a marriage market for British girls neither pretty nor rich enough to make at home what was known as “a good match”, at the time the aim of all respectable young women. In India where European women, they would be besieged by suitors, many of whom would be richer or have more prospects than anyone they could meet in England. These young women who travelled out to India in search of a husband were known as the “Fishing Fleet”.

The tradition began on a small scale in 1671 and ran right through to the start of World War II. In the days of sail, the men who worked for the Company seldom got leave, as the only possible route to the sub-continent was via the Cape of Good Hope, a voyage that took several months, sometimes a year. With these travel difficulties, Company employees could expect to return home perhaps only once before retirement, so that finding a British bride was difficult.

To make this quest easier, from time to time the Company paid the passage out to India of a number of willing women. Each shipload of prospective brides was divided into “gentle – women” and “others”; the Company gave them a set of clothing each and maintained them in India for a year, during which time they were expected to have found a mate. They were warned that if they misbehaved they would be put on a diet of bread and water, and shipped back to England. Women who were rejected by even the most desperate Company men also had to return home, and were known as “Returned Empties”.

As the reputation of India as a place where even the plainest could find a mate increased, so did the number of young women travelling out there. By the middle of the 19th century the Fishing Fleet no longer consisted only of girls sent out by the East India Company but by of others as well, sent by their families (sometimes against their will) in the hope of making a good match. In England, a land where women outnumbered marriageable men, a girl without beauty, money or grand relations had little hope of this; in India, she was showered with immediate proposals. During the nearly 300-year tradition of the Fishing Fleet, the shift from sailing ships to P&O liners brought huge increases in the comfort level of passengers, but conditions were still Spartan by our standards as late as 1911. Fresh water for washing clothes was in such short supply that many women who knew they were going to travel saved their most work underwear and then discarded it overboard on the voyage, leaving – one imagines – a trail of dirty threadbare nightdresses and knickers across the Indian Ocean.

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Ruby Madden, daughter of Sir John Madden, Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of an Australian state, was one who took advantage of this custom. Ruby wrote cheerfully that she had very little laundry to do when she arrived as she had, “worn most of the rags and thrown them overboard”.

The mid-Victorian habit of keeping a small farmyard on board and slaughtering pigs, cows, sheep and hens as needed – to serve the copious meals demanded – had long passed, but seven courses was still the norm, with beef tea or ice-cream at 11am. Service, too had become more stylist and elaborate: after the soup had been served the head waiter would walk round and, when he thought everyone had finished, beat a gong. In would rush the stewards, pounce on the empty plates and then as one man serve the fish.

For those in love the sea, when calm, was a perfect setting. “There was the excitement of sleeping on deck, which we did if the nights were excessively hot as the tiny cabins were like ovens after the day’s heat,” wrote Violet Hanson, who sailed India in 1920. “It was a lovely experience to lie under those brilliant stars and watch the tall mast gently swaying against the marvellously clear dark sky. The pleasure of the little wafts of air after the heat was wonderful”.

So dazzling was the romantic potential of sea travel that it could spill over into ordinary life – in one case, it was even acted as a subliminal advertising medium. In the 1939 film, *Love Affair* – the story of two strangers who meet aboard on an ocean liner and fall deeply in love, despite the fact that they are engaged to marry other people – there is a scene where Charles Boyer and Irene Dunne gaze into each other’s eyes while sipping pink champagne. Immediately, sales of the then little-known drink rocketed. Unsurprisingly, many of the Fishing Fleet found husbands when they reached India – or even before arriving. There was a pretty good chance on the ship itself, filled as it was with nubile (if chaperoned) young women and a number of bachelors, some of whom had tried unsuccessfully to find a bride during their months of leave and were delighted to be offered another chance. Thus, many romances started on the voyage out, as warm starlit nights succeeded the fogs of a British November, waltzes from the ship’s echoing faintly in the air as the couple gazed dreamily at the glimmering phosphorescence in the ship’s wake.

Sometimes the engagement lasted only a matter of days with a wedding the moment they arrived. Bombay, Calcutta and Rangoon were full of churches to facilitate this: the authorities very much disliked the idea of unattached European women in India – they had to be there as someone’s wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt or niece and the man to whom they were related, or who was their host, was responsible for them (women

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teachers, governesses, missionaries or doctors were the responsibility of their employees). But for a number of the Fishing Fleet and the bachelor who had struck lucky on his return voyage, the plethora of churches was often an answer to prayer – if only because both sides were anxious that the other should not change his or her mind. For many of the Fishing Fleet girls, the romance of shipboard life was soon lost to the harsh realities of life in an unfamiliar country where knowing how to treat snakebite was a basic requirement. But some felt its magic all their lives, enthralled by the beauty and grace of the people, the landscape that ranged from steamy jungle to the glittering, ethereal purity of the high Himalayas, and the wild creatures, the elephants, grey langurs, and above all the birds – friendly little bulbuls with red and yellow rumps, green parrots, golden orioles that flashed from tree to tree, hoopoes in their Art Deco plumage of orange, black and white, Paradise flycatchers with tails like long white streamers. As Veronica Bamfield, child of a family that had spent three generations in India, put it: “I was one of the lucky few on whom India lay s a dark, jewelled hand, the warmth of whose though never grows cold to those who have felt it.”

Author Anne de Courcy



Rants & Raves

Letter of the week – from Traveller.com
April 8, 2017

BLISS ON THE TEARDROP ISLE

My friend and I have just returned from a wonderful 15 days in Sri Lanka, we had a tour put together by Mosman Travel and, Authenticities.

It was perfect in every way, and we were not disappointed with any aspect of the holiday. From Geoffrey Bawa's stunning hotel built into rock and overlooking forest, where resident monkeys peered at us through the window while we showered, to the terribly British feel of Tea Trails bungalows where we were treated like royalty, to the hustle and bustle of Galle and Kandy, we hardly had time to stop marvelling at this vibrant country.

Everywhere we went, driven by our wonderful driver we were informed of the diverse history of this small island, and we returned with memories that will last forever. The food along the way was prepared with pride, and we ate it all with relish. Buffalo curd with palm treacle was a dessert to die for.

Go there if you are considering it, but the roads take some getting used to. Our driver dodged cows wandering over the road, dogs sleeping on it, and thousands of tuk-tuk drivers defying all the road rules; not to mention the battered buses hurtling towards us at speed. He did so with a calm befitting these gentle people and ignoring our cries of horror for the first two days. After that, we relaxed and accepted it; not once did we experience road rage: Australians, take note. **Sandra McVitty, Beaumaris, Victoria**

Vale Tom Blaze

Knox Council's three-time Mayor

Knox Council is mourning the loss of its former leader who served three terms as Mayor across more than 20 years as Councillor. He passed away on 6 February 2017.

Former Mayor, Dr Tom Blaze first served 14 years as Councillor of the then Rowville/Scoresby Ward from 1980 to 1994. That period included terms as Mayor in 1985-86 and then in 1994. When Tirhatuan Ward was formed following Council amalgamation, Tom again returned as the local Councillor from 1997 to 2003, during which time he also served as Mayor in 1998-99. "Tom is someone who lived and breathed Knox," Mayor Darren Pearce said in tribute. "He was a man who loved his community and they loved him back. Knox is privileged to have been led by such a man," he added. Most notably, Mayor Tom Blaze was the leader at the helm when the Council suffered a devastating fire at its Civic Centre in 1994. Tirhatuan Ward Councillor Nicole Seymour said many staff from that period would remember his leadership.

"Mayor Tom had a calming presence, talking and encouraging the whole Council team to keep their chins up while efforts were made to rebuild the lost office space," she explained. "That's the sort of person he was; calm, reassuring, and a leader we can all be proud of."

Another key achievement of former Mayor Blaze was in being an important figure in the early discussions towards the discussions of

EastLink, when Council presented a proposition to the State Government of the day for an integrated transport strategy.

Mayor Pearce said Tom served in local groups such as the Knox Rotary Club, and numerous memberships of sporting groups, demonstrating a love for tennis, hockey, cricket, golf and squash.

Dr Blaze served on several representative bodies, including Chair of the Knox Community Recreation Association, along with key roles in the Knox Leasureworks Development Committee, Arts Facility Steering Committee, Waterford Valley Golf Course Advisory Committee, the steering group for the development of Knox's Municipal Recreation Plan, Chairperson of the Police Paddocks Advisory Committee, Tirhatuan Park Recreational Area Management Committee, and Dandenong Valley Park Advisory Committee. "We all mourn his loss this month, and have his family in our thoughts and prayers," Mayor Pearce added,



Dr Tom Blaze

3 August 1944 – 6 February 2017



UPcoming EVENTS

16 July 2017

Rotti & Pittu Lunch

At BA Centre - \$25.00 per person - BYO
12.00noon till 5.00pm

24 September 2017

Twilight Musical Soirée

At BA Centre - \$35.00 per person - BYO
Refreshments Served
5.00pm till 8.00pm

7 November 2017

Melbourne Cup Get-together

At BA Centre - \$25 pp - BYO
Scrumptious Refreshments
10.00am till 5.00pm

9 December 2017

Christmas Dance

Good Shepherd Hall, 34 Academy Ave, Wheelers Hill 3150

Music by "Next Generation"

Smorgasbord by "Jolly J" - BYO

\$45.00 per member - \$50.00 per non- member
7.00pm to 1.00am

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

If undelivered please return to:

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