

BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC

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Spring 2017 September News Bulletin





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Editor's Note



Dear Members

Greetings! And welcome to the BAA September Newsletter. This year is turning out to be quite eventful in terms of world affairs; elections & wars in Africa, ISIS in the Middle East, Trump and North Korea and, a myriad other controversies around the world and Australia. I suppose it is all fodder for the imagination and helps us all get by.

The BAA has had two functions since the last Newsletter; both were very successful and enjoyable. Thank you to our very hardworking Committee of Management.

As I intimated in the last Editorial, I would love to receive from you members; snippets of information that may be of interest to the membership plus, details of births, deaths and marriages that you might like to share or celebrate. Why not share some travel experiences with us all? The good, the bad and, the ugly; after all, forewarned is forearmed! Please consider contributions to the Newsletter; it is yours, so please, let's make it a standout publication. Committee contact detail on the inside front cover is there to enable you to contact your Committee Members for tickets to the many functions the BAA organises; or simply voice your concerns or appreciation on matters regarding the BAA and its functioning; please get involved and, also please do not forget the AGM later this year. We need your input, voice & attendance please.

The BAA is also happy to accept full page or half page advertisements for publication in the bulletin. Please email me or phone me for details.

Until the next Edition of the Newsletter, best wishes and stay well.

Neville Davidson
Editor



Donald Trump and his driver were cruising along a country road one night when all of a sudden, they hit a pig, killing it instantly. Trump told his driver to go up to the farmhouse and explain to the owners what had happened. About one hour later Trump sees his driver staggering back to the car with a bottle of wine in one hand, a cigar in the other and his clothes all ripped and torn.

"What happened to you?" asked Trump. "Well, the Farmer gave me the wine, his wife gave me the cigar and his 19-year-old daughter made mad passionate love to me." "My God, what did you tell them?" asks Trump.

The driver replies,
"I'm Donald Trump's driver, and I just killed the pig."

Baptising an Irishman!!

An Irishman is stumbling through the woods, totally drunk, when he comes upon a preacher baptising people in the river. He proceeds into the water, subsequently bumping into the preacher. The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of alcohol, whereupon, he asks the drunk, "Are you ready to find Jesus?"

The drunk shouts, "Yes, I am."

So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him back and asks, "Brother, have you found Jesus?"

The drunk replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus!"

The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him again but for a little longer. He again pulls him out of the water and asks, "Have you found Jesus, brother?"

The drunk answers, "No, I haven't found Jesus!"

By this time, the preacher is at his wits end and dunks the drunk again -- but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds, and when the drunk begins kicking his arms and legs about, he pulls him up.

The preacher again asks him, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?"

The drunk staggers upright, wipes his eyes, coughs up a bit of water, catches his breath, and says to the preacher,

"Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

A drill sergeant had just chewed out one of his cadets, and as he was walking away, he turned to the cadet and said, "I guess when I die you'll come and dance on my grave."

The cadet replied, "Not me, Sarge...no sir! I promised myself that when I got out of the Army I'd never stand in another line!"

Criminals Down Under

Published in "Roar" Fri 7th April 2017

By Vinod Moonesinghe

From murder to stealing mudcrab pots, Sri Lankan-origin law-breakers have been active in Australia for a long time. Some were exiled there as punishment, and became model citizens. Others were incorrigible reprobates. Sri Lankans have been part of Australian history since the early 19th century. However, with the "White Australia" policy in place from 1901 to 1973, only those who could prove more than 50% White ancestry were allowed to migrate. Non-white Australians, including under-50% white Sri Lankans, tended to remain in obscurity. Since they were "under the radar", most of the very few glimpses we get of them tend to be of the ones who showed up in criminal cases – which might give observers a somewhat jaundiced view of the islanders. Not all of them were convicted, nor were the convicts always wrong-doers.

Pioneers

According to Paul Thomas, who researched his background thoroughly, Odeen (or Oodeen – probably Ud-Din) served in the British army during the Kandyan War of 1803, deserted to King Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe and fought on his side. In the Kandyan War of 1815, Odeen was captured by General Brownrigg's troops at Gannoruwa. In 1815, Odeen, taken captive, found himself convicted of desertion and condemned to transportation to the British penal colony at Botany Bay. In 1816, Odeen, Eva, and their children arrived in Sydney aboard the *Kangaroo*. Odeen found employment as a night watchman on the docks, and later as a constable. In 1827, he was sent north to the "Top End", to serve as an interpreter between the colonists and Indonesian fishers from Makassar. Returning to Sydney, he worked as an unofficial court interpreter for Lascar sailors and, since he possessed the only Holy Quran in the colony, swore in Muslims. He also became known as a "priest". He died in the Sydney suburb of Wollomoolo in 1860, aged 87.

In 1838, Daniel Detlov von Ranzow, 17, was transported to Botany Bay from Penang, for attempted murder in Mumbai. While his parents, Mannar-born Lodewijk Carel, Count von Ranzow, Resident (1822-6) of the Sumatran province of Riau, and Johanna Elizabeth Cramer, had European genealogies, he looked non-European – yellow skin, dark hair, and dark chestnut eyes. A former ship's captain's mate (they recruited them very young then) he had already been convicted, together with Lodewijk Carel, for the attempted murder of a Malacca magistrate, two years before. Paroled in 1841, he received a conditional pardon, according to the New South Wales Government Gazette of January 9, 1849. While born in Riau, he could be claimed a Sri Lankan, on account of his parentage.

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Black Sam

On January 5, 1843, on a sheep station near Adelaide, a Sri Lankan cut and stabbed a man named John Quartermain (or Quarterman or Gaurderman). The *Adelaide Southern Australian*, of February 7, 1843 referred to him as “*Samuel Davis de Lozay*, a black native of Ceylon, better known as *Black Sam*”, the rest of the Press calling him, variously, Philip de Lozay, Samuel Davy DeSozay, Samuel De Souza or Da Souza – the Australians apparently still retained the English inability to pronounce foreign names. It sounds like they found it difficult to get the hang of “du Bois de Lassosay”. The 30-year-old accused may have been a common-law descendant of Guillaume Joachim Comte du Bois de Lassausay, who came out to Sri Lanka with the Luxembourg Regiment, in the service of the VOC. The Comte appears to have adopted the spelling “de Lassosay” and left several legitimate descendants in Sri Lanka, including Leembruggens, Speldewindes, and Kriekenbeeks.

Quartermain and four or five others, reported the *Southern Australian*, “had been beating Sam, throwing dust in his face, spitting in his tea, and otherwise annoying him by calling him a thief, and upbraiding him with being a black rascal without a God.” In retaliation, he had stabbed Quartermain in five places. Hauled up before the magistrate two weeks later, de Lozay “did not deny the fact, but pleaded great irritation”. With de Lozay committed to trial before the South Australia Supreme Court, the *Southern Australian* of March 10, 1843 reported that neither prosecutor nor witnesses appeared. Because of the continued absence of the prosecutor, de Lozay got bail on his own cognisance, but had been frightened out of his wits. The case of two Aboriginal people Nultia and Moullia, had just been heard and they had been condemned to hanging. Said the *South Australian Register* of March 29 about de Lozay: “The poor fellow, black as he was, almost changed colour, upon being called up immediately after sentence of death had been pronounced upon Nultia and Moullia, but he thanked the Judge very politely for his indulgence, and promised to be in attendance whenever he might be required.”

The case was taken up again on July 18, but again Quarterman failed to appear. “Should not the prosecutor now appear,” reported the *Southern Australian* of July 21, “some means must be employed in order to his being taken.” None appears to have been utilised, since we hear nothing more of the case.

Amadoris and Saranealis

The pearling industry on Thursday Island, off the north tip of Queensland, attracted many Sri Lankan immigrants, mainly jewellers from Galle. On July 17, 1900 Semba Kootie Amadoris and Peter Kuruwaru went in search of a third Sri Lankan, Yahatowgoda Baddallegay Saranealis, a jeweller, intending apparently to shoot him. Saranealis had sold

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his jewellery shop to Amadoris, but re-started a new jewellery shop later. This may have been the object of contention between the two. The *North Queensland Register* of July 23 reported that the pair assaulted a man named Soopaya, and his wife, because they did not tell him the whereabouts of Saranealis. A Chennai Muslim called Bacca came to the aid of the couple, so either Amadoris or Kuruwaru shot him – later, each accused the other. Bacca made a dying deposition, in which he identified his assailants. The case was heard on October 5, in Cooktown. The *Maryborough Chronicle* of October 6 reported that the men were found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. They appealed to the Supreme Court of Queensland, on the basis that the dying declaration could not be taken as evidence, because the declarant did not know surely that he was dying and because he was not particularly religious, being a Muslim. The appeal was denied.

Amadoris seems to have been nothing if not single-minded. The Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin* of October 19, 1906 reported that, on Thursday Island two days previously, Amadoris, having done his time, attempted to stab Saranealis, but was prevented from doing so.

“Cingalese Deen to Die”

A fracas broke out between two Sri Lankans, Charles Deen and Peter Dina, in Innisfail, about 90 km south of Cairns, northern Queensland, on February 4, 1913. The *Cairns Post* of February 8 reported that Deen had stabbed Dina with “an ordinary butcher's knife, which penetrated the lung and went almost to the spine.” He was remanded to trial at the Townsville circuit court, according to the *Brisbane Courier* of February 13. The newspaper reported on March 5 that he had pleaded guilty the previous day, and on the next, that he had been sentenced to death.

“Cingalese Deen to Die” headlined the *Brisbane Courier's* report on April 18 of the Governor in Council's denial of his appeal. While press coverage of his trial was brief in the extreme, his execution on May 5 at the Boggo Road Prison in Townsville received wide and deep coverage. The *Brisbane Courier* of May 6 said he wore “faded blue shirt and white trousers somewhat soiled and tied around the waist with a piece of tape for a belt... a pair of dark woollen socks and a pair of old rubber shoes without laces.” “He walked with a firm step,” it continued, “and was led unresistingly to the centre of the trap doors. Seeing the group of officials and Pressmen below him he said, in a low voice, a little shaky, but perfectly self-possessed: “Good-bye, gentlemen; I am going now.” His last words were that he had nothing to say.

Row at the Cingalese Club

By the early 20th century, there were so many Sri Lankans in Woolloomooloo that there was even a “Cingalese Club” there, at 18 Judge Street (now bisected by a railway line), not far from where Odeen died. The building was demolished in the '20s or '30s. The *Sydney Evening News* of February 11, 1919, reported somewhat excitedly, “a shooting affray, in which three Cingalese and one Arab were concerned,” the previous evening, “the outcome of a quarrel at the Cingalese Club.”

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The true facts came out during the inquest, and were published in the Sydney Evening News and Sun of May 15, 1919. It appears that Handy Amadoris, 49, was preparing to have dinner at the Cingalese Club with his uncle Arles de Silva (the “Arab”), a cook who lived there; Joseph Francis, a kitchenman; Thomas Dionis; and Joseph Bundar (Banda?). They got into an argument, and Dionis threw a plate of steaming rice over de Silva. Amadoris and Bundar tried to stop Dionis, a bad-tempered 25-year-old, who then assaulted Amadoris repeatedly, knocking him down. Amadoris picked up a carving knife, but Bundar took it away from him. Amadoris fled the scene, got drunk, went to a pawn-broker, pawned his gold watch and, with the proceeds, bought a revolver and cartridges.

He then went to 174 Duke Street, the house of William Perera. There, Dionis knocked him down with a shovel, cutting his ear so it bled. Amadoris then shot Dionis in the head and Bundar in the abdomen. Bundar survived but Dionis died from the wound. The Sun of June 24 reported that Amadoris pleaded guilty to assault on Bundar and manslaughter of Dionis. The Judge sentenced him to 15 years, instead of life, because he was “a coloured man”. He did not live out his sentence – he died of tuberculosis on February 4, 1921. The Newcastle Sun said that he had been moved from Goulburn Jail to Long Bay prison on January 19 on account of his lung trouble, and had to be taken to the Coast Hospital, where he died.

Mudcrabs

In 2000, Allen Keith Appo, 66, of Bunderberg, was charged with possessing undersized and female mudcrabs. He claimed that, as an Aboriginal person, he could fish without restriction. However, government legal officers found that his heritage was “purely Sri Lankan”. Five years earlier, another Appo had been found guilty of the same offence. In their defence, many of the hundreds of Sri Lankan migrants to Queensland in the 1880s were absorbed into the Aboriginal population, and several Appos, such as Bradley and his elder brother Lyall, have gained fame as Aboriginal sportspeople. The Appos are representative of the generations of Sri Lankan immigrants from before the “White Australia” policy, many of whom have forgotten their origins. How many thousands of Sri Lankan “boat people” made their way to the Southern Continent over the years, we do not know. Most would have lived within the law: it was just a few who were caught for actual or alleged crimes. The very fact of their “Otherness” resulted in greater than expected publicity. However, this very publicity has preserved a record of the lives of early Sri Lankan immigrants which would not otherwise be available.





**For sale beach front villa boutique hotel near Galle
“The Old Lady At The Sea”**

Sleeps: 23. Bedrooms 9. Bathrooms 9. All rooms fan cooled & fully air conditioned.

Sitting Room, all nicely furnished & reception area & office room. Courtyard.

Outside covered dining area, possible for 30 persons

Fully equipped kitchen & sub kitchen, 2 bottle coolers ,1fridge-freezer, 1 freezer. Cooking items, porcelain, glasses, cutlery (all imported from Europe).

Parking for 4 cars + garage. 2 Staffrooms, 2 store rooms + large safety box.

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Private swimming pool (10x4 m) with pool house + baby pool with fountain (9x4 m).

Outside BBQ & security hut in the exotic garden. Covered pavilion at the beach.

Powerful MAN generator. 2 water tanks + 2 circulation pumps + 2 pressure pumps.

Land area: 96 p.

Airport: 1 ½ hour drive. Distance to Southern Expressway: 9 km.

Beach: Direct access.

Nearest town: Galle 7 km: Shopping, Supermarkets, Fruit, vegetable & fish market.

Wifi & satellite television.

Website: www.theoldlady.com.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VillaTheOldLady>

This exclusive sea-side property (2 villas) has direct access to a deserted sandy beach. The boutique villa hotel is a reconstruction of a 300 years old Dutch house, and was finished in 2002. Once you enter the boutique villa that old romantic atmosphere overtakes you. All the rooms have very luxury beds ensuite bathroom. There is a sitting room and a covered outside dining area for 40 persons in the exotic garden with unique view on the ocean.

The boutique hotel started up in 2001 and the clients are mainly from Europe, Australia and Western expats living in the Arabian World and Asia. The core business is having groups of friends/family who has exclusive use of the boutique hotel

Price: US\$ 1,290000.00

Contact, for more details, if interested:

Duminda Senaratne. Telephone: +94725746724

Puns for Lexiphiliacs?

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.

Practice safe eating - always use condiments

Shotgun wedding - A case of wife or death.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Dancing cheek-to-cheek is really a form of floor play.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

What's the definition of a will? (It's a dead giveaway.)

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

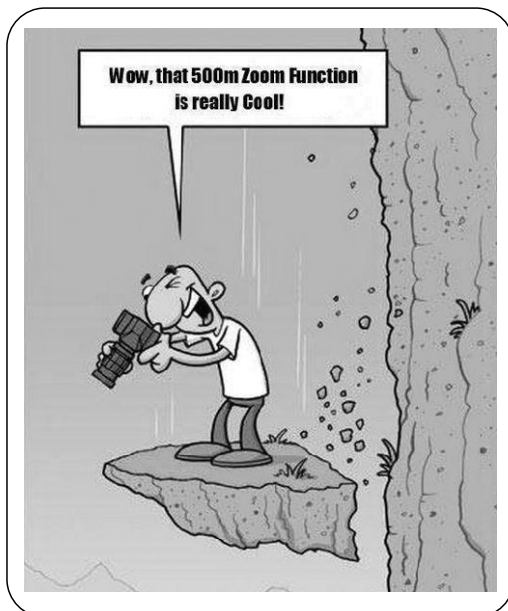
She was engaged to a boyfriend with a wooden leg but broke it off.

A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.

The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia - the LAN down under.





*New
Members*
**In the
Spotlight**

Glen & Noeline Schubert
Edgar & Carmen Fernando
Andrew & Beulah Van Gramberg
Earl La Brooy
Rhona Selvanayagam
Denver & Patty Keegal
Paula Dickson
Maureen McIlwraith

Welcome

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OXTAIL/OX TONGUE	SEENI SAMBOL BUNS
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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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Breeda or Harvey Foemaker - 8790 1610

Carol or Hermann Loos - 9827 4455

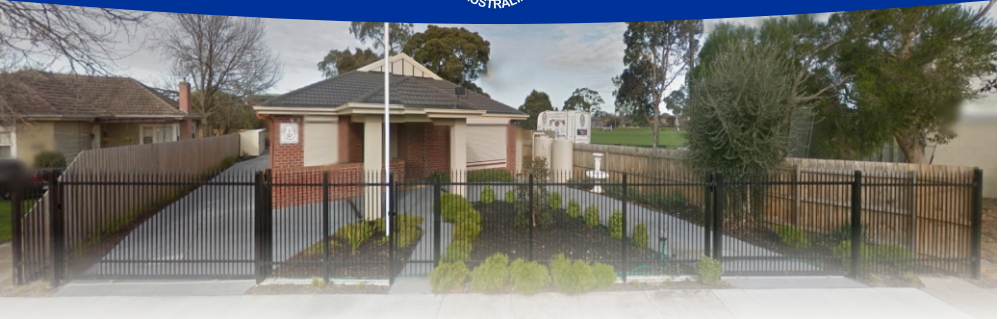
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Burgher Association (Australia)

358 Haughton Road, Clayton VIC 3168

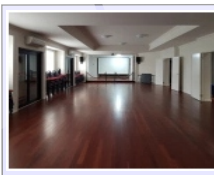


The Burgher Association of Australia Centre is available for private hire (**Dances, Birthday parties, Anniversaries etc**). The BAA Centre is located within a short walk from Clayton railway station. The hall is licensed to hold 150 people. Tables and chairs for this number of attendees are provided. 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. There also is an alfresco area at the back that can be used for making the famous Sri Lankan Hoppers, BBQs or other activity that requires a shielded outdoor space. 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 per day; Non-members \$400 per day. Minimum booking is 5 hours \$300. All bookings require a bond of \$250 that is refunded if the centre is handed back to management clean and undamaged. (\$1000 for age 21 and under, if not signed by parent). To have total control of the cleaning of the premises for next day events a payment of \$100.00 will be deducted from the Security Fee deposit [Hiring Agreement](#).

NB: To book the hall, payment has to be made via the BAA Bank Account – details available on request. Depending on whether you are a member or non-member the full fee plus the deposit of



Let's Have Another Hopper Day

At the BAA

**The Glorious Golden Crispy, Crunchy
Hopper Lunch is back By Popular Demand**



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**Where: 358 Haughton Rd, Clayton 3168
12.30 to 5.00pm**

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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

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Fred Clarke - 8759 0920

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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

BSB: 083 297

A/c No: 51 547 7094

Please detach & enclose the payment slip below if paying by Post.

MEMBER NO:

FROM:
.....

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:

.....

.....

Why they call cunning people 'Emden'

By Janaka Perera

Nearly 10 decades ago this month saw the climax of events that caused a new word of European origin to enter Sinhala and some South Indian languages. Today when anyone says in colloquial Sinhala, "so-and-so is a real 'Emden' " (the E pronounced as A in 'and') it means a crafty person as cunning as a fox. Some years back Sri Lankan mothers used to scare their unruly children with stories about 'Emden billa'. It all began when the German light cruiser Emden sneaked into the Bay of Bengal on August 30, 1914 to terrorize British and Allied shipping in the Indian Ocean, including the crowded shipping lanes between Sri Lanka and India - less than a month after the outbreak of World War I which commenced with Britain's declaration of war on Germany on August 4. Long, lean and graceful, the 3,650-ton Emden was the pride of the Imperial German Navy's Asiatic squadron. She was called the "Swan of the East" but was more like an eagle with razor sharp talons. Commanded by Karl von Muller, the Emden was as deadly as she was beautiful. She mounted ten 4.1-inch rapid-fire guns, and with a top speed of 25-knots she could out run any merchant ship on the sea. This combination of firepower and speed made her the perfect commerce raider

Captain Muller employed a simple yet cunning plan to get close to his victims. Like most German light cruisers, she could be distinguished by her three funnels, British cruisers had four. But Muller added a fake funnel made of wood and canvas to give the false impression she was a British ship. This allowed her to slip in close to her prey without arousing suspicion.

The Emden became a lone marauder on September 9, 1914 when Capt. Muller boarded a 3,400-ton British freighter - setting off scuttling charges and sending it to the bottom. Within six days from September 9 to 14, the Emden captured two ships and sank six others. A month later the toll was 11 vessels, totalling some 50,000 tons. Insurance claims for merchant ships skyrocketed and no captains could afford to leave harbour. By putting a dummy fourth smokestack on the ship, Von Müller made Emden closely resemble the popular British cruiser HMS Yarmouth. Some captains of British merchant ships, seeing Emden approaching, would salute Emden thinking it was the friendly Yarmouth passing by. Instead, Emden would fire a shot over the bow, hoist the German naval ensign, and signal "Stop at Once". Muller however was a compassionate man and before any ship was sunk evacuated its crew. Late on the night of September 22 the Emden - while 14 British warships were desperately searching for it – quietly approached Madras (now Chennai).

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Its target was not ships but giant oil storage tanks there. She fired 125 rounds at them ripping open two huge tanks owned by Anglo-Persian Gulf. The exploding shells set the tanks ablaze and damaged at least three others. The attacker then sailed away before the shore batteries of Fort William could go into action. The bombardment and explosions terrified the Madras population and thousands of civilians fled the area. It caused a panic such as had never before been witnessed in the city. It was a severe blow to British morale that a single German cruiser was effectively putting the entire Indian Ocean into a hopeless gridlock.

The Emden then sailed southwards down Sri Lanka's East coast and the news of it caused panic and caused the authorities here to enforce a blackout along the coastal areas at night. The cruiser continued to attack merchant shipping off the island more than a month after her daring raid on Madras. In fact, the warship would have turned her attention to this country had her luck not finally run out on November 9, 1914 when she unexpectedly encountered the Australian Cruiser Sydney. In a memorable encounter, the Sydney set the German vessel ablaze off the Cocos Islands. German losses in the battle were 131 dead and 65 wounded. Captain Von Müller and the rest of his surviving crew were captured by the British.

As a signal mark of honour, the Imperial German Government allowed all of the surviving officers and men to suffix the word 'Emden' to their names; the honour is remembered to this day in the form of the numerous 'X-Emdens' amongst German citizens still extant. It was the Emden crew's legendary dare devilry and their devious strategy that added the new word to Sinhala. In Malayalam, too the word 'Emadan' (Emden) - meaning "a big and powerful thing" or "as big as Emden" – is derived from the same source. An innocent victim of Emden's exploits off the Sri Lankan coast was Henry H. Engelbrecht, the first Game Ranger of the Yala National Park. He was a Boer Prisoner of War - one of many interned in Sri Lanka after the British victory in the South African War of 1899-1902. He was later released and was living in Hambantota looking after Yala. (He had refused to swear allegiance to the British Crown – which was a prerequisite for permission to return to South Africa after the Boer war ended).

At this time, the Emden was operating off our coast and rumours began to float that the Emden's crew had secretly visited Ruhuna to collect provisions. There was even a story that a secret organization based here was working with the Emden. Soon intimation came that empty champagne bottles were found strewn in the jungles around Kirinda. Suspicion fell on Engelbrecht - who like all Boers - was of Dutch-German descent. He was accused of conniving with the German Navy and supplying cattle to the Emden. Though Engelbrecht protested insisting that he was innocent, he was held in the Kandy Detention Barracks.

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He refused to wear prison clothes and pushed the warden into a quandary as the latter could not return Engelbrecht's clothes for fear of violating prison rules. So Engelbrecht spent three months stark naked in the darkness of his cell demanding a trial. At the end of three months owing to lack of substantial evidence to maintain any allegation, he was released. All his belongings which he had left behind when he was whisked off to Kandy were lost or stolen. Heartbroken, still declaring his innocence, he died not long after his release.

For 17 years, the stigma that he had helped the Emden lingered. Then in 1931 Captain Withoef, formerly second in command of the Emden sailed into Colombo on board another German Navy ship. His response to an inquiry by a lawyer of Tangalle, L. G. Poulier, cleared Englebrecht's name. Withoef in his letter to Poulier said that the Emden never received a supply of cattle "never had the least connection with Ceylon," which he called "the beautiful island." But the war that caused Emden to enter the Indian Ocean affected the lives of some people here. In the battles of World War I over 300 young Sri Lankans participated and 49 of them died in action. Among the others killed was the son of Ceylon's Governor Robert Chalmers Sixty-five of the volunteers were from Trinity College Kandy. Thirteen of them were killed, 18 wounded and two taken prisoner. In Trinity's Cadet Room stands a World War I German machine gun, which the British had captured when they were winning the war. King George V (1865-1936) had gifted the weapon to the school as a mark of gratitude. Trinity became the first school outside England – on the other side of the Empire - to be thus honoured.

Sri Lanka's only major tragedy in WW I was when 14 student volunteers from here perished when the Germans torpedoed the French troopship Ville de la Ciodat in the Mediterranean in December 1915. The Sri Lankans who were in action on the Western Front were Richard Aluvihare (who later became independent Sri Lanka's first Inspector General of Police), T.Halangoda, Peter Pelpola and D.B. Seneviratne. Major Pelpola who served in both World Wars was the only Sri Lankan who had the honour of being elected a member of the Legion of Frontiersmen. D.B. Seneviratne was the most decorated WW I Sri Lankan volunteer and hero of the French theatre of the war. He was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and served as a sergeant with the British Army of occupation in Germany from 1918 to 1919. Later he was promoted to Major.



A RABBIT RUNS AND HOPS AND ONLY LIVES 15 YEARS, WHILE A TORTOISE DOESN'T RUN AND DOES MOSTLY NOTHING, YET IT LIVES FOR 150 YEARS. AND THEY TELL US TO EXERCISE? I DON'T THINK SO.

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 Ysabella. 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)



As we grow older, our capacity for enjoyment shrinks, but not our appetite for it.
Mignon McLaughlin

This woman stole around 5000 children from the poor to give to the rich

June 20, 2017 - 10.24pm



Georgia Tann, the woman who led one of America's biggest black-market adoption schemes. Picture: Special Collections Department/University of Memphis **Nick Poppy NY Post**

BABIES were snatched off the streets by strangers in passing cars. Or taken from daycare centers or church basements where they played. Or stolen from hospitals, right after birth, passed from doctor to nurse to a uniformed “social worker” — before vanishing in an instant. Some were dropped into dismal orphanages; others were sent to a new family, their identities wiped, no questions asked. Most would never see their birth parents again.

While it sounds like something out of Dickens or the Brothers Grimm, this happened in the United States in the 20th century. Thousands of times. It was the dark handiwork of the Memphis branch of the Tennessee Children's Home Society, a supposedly charitable organisation, led by a woman named Georgia Tann. Tann was a pious woman without scruple; she was the mastermind behind a black market for white babies (especially blond-haired, blue-eyed ones) that terrorized poor Southern families for almost three decades. It's estimated that over 5000 children were stolen by Tann and the society between 1924 and 1950 and that some 500 died at the society's hands as a result of poor care, disease and, it is suspected, abuse. Particularly vulnerable were newborns. In 1945 alone, as many as 50 children perished in a dysentery outbreak. The precise figure, like so many terrible details about the society, is not known. Tann had various means of procuring babies and children for her wealthy customers. She bribed nurses and doctors in birthing wards, who would then tell new parents that their babies had been stillborn. Her organisation was quick to snatch babies born in prisons and mental wards. Older children were grabbed off the street by Tann's agents and were told their parents had died. To cover their tracks, the society falsified adoption records and destroyed any trace of these children's origins.

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Joan Crawford's twin daughters Cynthia and Cathy were unknowingly adopted from Tann's black-market scheme. Source: *Getty Images*

Lisa Wingate brings these shocking crimes and their long-term emotional impact to light in her affecting new novel, *Before We Were Yours*, out now. The book tells the story of two families — the wealthy, connected Staffords and the dirt-poor “river gypsy” Fosses. Though her tale is fictional, it stems from the true, terrible events of the Tennessee tragedy. Tann and her associates would tear apart one family to benefit another, creating wounds not easily healed. The loss would linger, like a phantom limb, for generations. Tann would tell adoptive parents that the children were “blank slates,” Wingate tells the *New York Post*. “What really resonated with me is that they’re not. Foster kids, adopted kids, they’re not blank slates. They’re people. And they have genetic tendencies and ... talents and abilities that are all their own.” Tann’s background was a privileged one. Born in Hickory, Mississippi, in 1891, her father was a district court judge. One of Judge Tann’s responsibilities was dealing with homeless children who were wards of the state. Georgia’s older brother, Rob Roy Tann, may have been one of these children, adopted by the Tann family.

Tann had designs on a career in the law, but her father deemed that profession too “masculine” for his only daughter. Forced to study music, she taught for a time before finding a job in the nascent field of social work in 1916. Working as a field agent for the Mississippi Children’s Home-Finding Society in Jackson, she may have gotten a taste for the power that she would later wield over so many families. She began placing poor children in adoptive homes, without the consent of both birth parents. Child welfare laws weren’t as strict as they are today, allowing Tann to wheel and deal in her role. But Tann was not careful with her work, nor with covering up her trail, and at least one birth parent sued for return of her children.

It seemed Mississippi was not the right market for a baby-resale business. Judge Tann had connections in Memphis, and after a brief foray in Texas his daughter moved there to work for the Tennessee Children’s Home Society in 1924. Soon after, she launched her adoption scheme. To drum up business, Tann placed advertisements aimed at potential adoptive parents in newspapers. One featured a photo of smiling, towheaded infants with the caption, “Want a Real, Live Christmas Present?” As if children were dolls or puppies. Tann

presented herself as a kindly matron and pioneer of a new kind of social work — all the while destroying lives and families. Tank was abetted by the famously corrupt political machine in Memphis, headed by E.H. “Boss” Crump. Crump, also a transplanted Mississippian, was the sometime mayor and leader of politics in the city for much of the first half of the 20th century. He developed a cozy patronage relationship with Tann — she paid him off and brought the fame of her society to Memphis. He in turn protected her from prying investigations, while city police ignored the complaints of families who'd lost children to Tann and sometimes even helped Tann seize kids. Tann's most useful co-conspirator was Camille Kelley, a juvenile-court judge in the city. Like Tann, Kelley pretended to act in the best interests of children. With the stroke of a pen, Kelley would remove parental rights and transfer them to Tann, clearing a path for adoption. Tank was essentially waging class war. She held to the belief that there were two kinds of people: the poor, whom she viewed as incompetent parents, and the wealthy. She fattened her own coffers in the process.

The big money came from interstate adoptions, especially to New York and LA, for which the agency would charge as much as \$5000. Most of that fee was pocketed by Tann, who was given to travelling in chauffeured Packards. Among the Tennessee Children's Home Society's clientele was that paragon of maternal love, Joan Crawford, who adopted her twin daughters Cathy and Cynthia through the organisation in 1947. Mid-century Hollywood power couple June Allyson and Dick Powell used the agency to adopt their daughter, Pamela. Lana Turner, Pearl S. Buck and New York Gov. Herbert Lehman were also clients. And future pro wrestler Ric Flair was among Tann's abductees.



June Allyson adopted her daughter Pamela from Tann.

Picture: Mondadori
Portfolio/Getty Images
Source: *Getty Images*

As word of Tann's tactics started to spread, even some adoptive parents started to object. But, in many cases, Tann had these people over a barrel — they were complicit in her operation and feared losing their children. Whispers and accusations went nowhere. For years, she was too prominent, too well connected, for anything to stick. In the mid-1940s, Tann was diagnosed with uterine cancer and could sense that her adoption racket was beginning to unravel. Boss Crump's political influence was starting to wane. Gordon Browning, a Crump enemy, was elected governor in 1948. When rumours of Tann's baby racket reached his ears, he saw a way to humiliate his political rival. In the final months of Tann's life, Browning appointed a special investigator to look into her practices. Such was Tann's remaining influence that the state's case against her was announced only days

before her death, in September 1950. Even then, the brunt of the accusations against Tann had to do with her pocketing money from a state-funded enterprise, rather than kidnapping. Georgia Tann was 59 years old when she died at home of cancer. She never had to face the music for her terrible crimes. She left no money to children's causes, nor to the Tennessee Children's Home Society. The home was closed two months later.

Word of Tann's shocking crimes became national news. "Dead Director Blamed in Baby Black Market," reported the Chicago Tribune. But though Tann had placed children in every state, few attempts were made at the time to connect birth parents with their children.

A version of the Tann story was told in the 1993 made for TV movie *Stolen Babies* (Mary Tyler Moore starred as the infamous baby-dealer), and a more thorough account of her crimes can be found in the nonfiction book *The Baby Thief* by journalist Barbara Bisantz Raymond.

Shortly after Tann's death, her co-conspirator Kelley announced her retirement from her judgeship. Protected by the Crump machine, she, too, avoided prosecution and died in 1955 from a stroke. Boss Crump preceded Kelley in death by a year. Memphis drivers honour the former mayor by taking Crump Boulevard across town from Route 55 to Route 78. Today, the legacy of Georgia Tann and the Tennessee Children's Home Society is a painful and complicated one. Ironically, an accidental benefit of her work was popularizing adoption for parents unable to conceive. Before Tann, adoption in the United States was uncommon, but after she became known, the stigma over the practice was largely lifted.

At the same time, a damaging legal procedure was put in place: Tann championed the practice of closed, secretive adoptions. Adoption records were sealed, and adopted children were barred from learning the identities of their birth parents. This legislation is still in place in many states. Tellingly, Tennessee was the first state to lift these laws, in 1999.

Meanwhile, the emotional cost of Tann's decades-long scheme is incalculable. Thousands of families were torn apart; parents never saw their children again and siblings were permanently separated. Lisa Wingate's novel tells of one such family. "If you'd invented that story, it would seem so far-fetched that you would think, 'That could never happen. Not in this country,'" Wingate says. "And yet, it did, and it did for a long time." For Wingate, this story "still matters today, because there are still so many kids that need that one advocate, that one place to be, that one person who will step in." She continues, "we do have to still be watching for things that are not above board or are corrupt, where children are being used for profits of one kind or another. That's on all of us, as a public."

This article originally appeared on the New York Post.



Hee ... Haw ...

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?'

Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.'

'Really!? Like a newborn baby!?' 'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

Mark Your Calendars
UPCOMING EVENTS



24 September 2017

Twilight Musical Soiree
With Keith Potger
At BA Centre - \$35.00 per person - BYO
Refreshments will be served
5.00pm till 8.00pm

12 November 2017

Hopper Lunch
At BA Centre - \$25 pp - BYO
Scrumptious Golden Treats
12.30 noon 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
7.30pm to 12.30am



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