BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC

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Spring 2018 September News Bulletin





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The Burgher Association Australia Donations Pledge

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The Burgher Association Australia Incorporated (BAA) is passionate about supporting the community and is proud to be helping make a difference in the area of health and wellbeing. It is our goal to empower wellbeing and healthy lifestyles across Australia and Sri Lanka. The BAA is pleased to have considered charitable contributions, donations and sponsorships to children's education in Sri Lanka and other charitable donations/sponsorship based in Australia

The BAA has just announced following their November 2017 Committee Meeting that for the current year donations and sponsorships will be granted to the following.

- Sponsorship of education to children via the Dutch Burgher Union of Sri Lanka for up to 21 Children doing year 11 and 12 studies
- Donation to the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children in Australia
- Donation to the Fred Hollows Foundation Australian Aboriginal Fund
- Donation to the Brighter Futures
- Donation to MiLife Victoria

The BAA has approved via the general committee meeting to contribute up to 30% of its net profit per year to satisfy the commitments of the above.

The same procedure will be adopted annually at the AGM to set up a budget for new/continued sponsorships to be adopted in the following year

Message from the President



Dear Members & Friends

Welcome to this Spring Edition of the BAA Newsletter. This is a rather important one in that the Annual General Meeting is just around the corner and, as with previous AGMs your attendance is strongly solicited to endorse the continuation of the BAA and its brief.

As members of this iconic cultural and community based organisation you are aware that we need to continue the work of previous Committees to ensure that we maintain and continue our unique identity into the future. The several functions organised by the Committee and, attended by so many of you, has re-kindled long-lost friendships and neighbours, brought together relatives and also, created new friendships and contacts that no doubt continue to be strengthened by your regular attendance at these functions; and, I am sure also endures in your social lives.

Thank you to all of you who forward congratulatory emails and letters acknowledging the work of the Committee and the informative articles in the Newsletter. Please keep them coming! We on the Committee will do our utmost to maintain and improve our contribution to you Members; feel free to send in your ideas on how we may improve the Association and make it even more relevant into the future.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee Members for their loyalty and self-sacrificing hard work over the past year.

Yours Sincerely

Hermann Loos President



Paddy had long heard the stories of an amazing family tradition.

It seems that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been able to walk on water on their 18th birthday. On that special day, they'd each walked across the lake to the pub on the far side for their first legal drink. So when Paddy's 18th birthday came around, he and his pal Jim took a boat out to the middle of the lake, Paddy, stepped out of the boat... And nearly drowned!

Jim just barely managed to pull him to safety.
Furious and confused, Paddy went to see his grandmother.
"Grandma," he asked, "Tis me 18th birthday, so why can't
I walk across the lake like me father, his father and his father before him?"

Granny looked deeply into Paddy's, troubled blue eyes and said, "Because ye father, ye grandfather and ye great-grandfather were all born in December, when the lake is frozen, and ye were born in August, ya feckin idiot!"

Adam and Eve were the first people to not read the Apple Terms & Conditions!

Outside a Church: Honk if you love Jesus; text whilst driving if you want to meet Him!

Woman to her husband while at it: "Please say dirty things to me!" Man: "Bath, Kitchen, Living room..."

Police officer talks to a driver: Your tail light is broken, your tires must be exchanged and your bumper hangs halfway down. That will be 300 dollars.

Driver: Alright, go ahead. They want twice as much as that at the garage.

Q. Why do the French like to eat snails so much?

A. They can't stand fast food

I asked my daughter if she'd seen my newspaper. She told me that newspapers are old school. She said that people use tablets nowadays and handed me her iPad. The fly didn't stand a chance.

How many gorillas can fit into a car? Eight. How many chickens can fit into the car? None, the car is already full of gorillas.

Interesting & Educational

Do you know the best residential area in Colombo during the Dutch times?

Yes it was 'Grandpass': (from Grande Passo)

Some old Dutch houses and even a Dispensary are still there? Other interesting names that still survive from those days:

Main Street: (Roa Direto)

The Dutch remembered one of their governors – Hulft who died during the siege of Colombo, with Hulftsdorp and recalled some of their native place names like Leyden and Delft.

The Dutch named Maliban Street to identify the fashionable promenade in Pettah – Maliban meaning the MMall.

Kayman's Gate refers to 'kayman' – crocodiles that were found in the area where the rivulet entered the sea.

Wolvendaal meant the dale of wolves.

Bloemendahl is a vale of flowers.

Korteboam means short trees.

Beira (mythology), the mother to all the gods and goddesses in the Celtic mythology of Scotland

There was a time when Kollupitiya was known as Baradeniya. It was a beautiful rustic village with coconut gardens and cinnamon trees that grew wild and narrow cart-tracks which connected the few villas and homes here with the rest of the country. For the purpose of postal services 'Colombo 03' consists of Kollupitiya. How Baradeniya became Kollupitiya - The year was 1664 and the king was Rajasinghe II whose cruel acts embittered his subjects. Three Kandyan chiefs sought to slay the king and place his 12-year-old son on the throne. One of the conspirators was Udanuwara Ambanwela Appuhamy. When the plot failed, the king had two of the rebel leaders beheaded. However, instead of executing Abanwela Appuhamy, the most feared of the rebels, he handed him over to the Dutch to undergo what he thought would be a more brutal torture. Instead, the Dutch set him free. Ambanwela Appuhamy took the Dutch name of Van Ry-cloff and built up a good relationship with the Dutch who gave him a large plot of land by the sea where he grew a coconut plantation which soon expanded over the ancestral farms of the natives

who dared not complain. They could only retaliate by calling the plantation Kolla-ke-pitiya meaning 'Plundered land'. Today, there is still an area in Kollupitiya that is called Polwatte.

The footprints of Galle Face (Colombo 03) begins with Galle face south of Colombo Fort (Colombo 01). Originally a vast swamp, the Portuguese and Dutch used this piece of land as a strategic defense. It was the British who developed the Green into a leisure ground.

The 19th century paintings of John Deschamps, show the Galle-Face esplanade with a high road running through the centre of it. Added later was a promenade by the sea and a driveway bordering the lake where the Dutch Military cemetery was. Deschamps describes it as forming not only the principal exercising ground of the garrison, but also the general promenade of the inhabitants of Colombo and its vicinity. On foot, on horseback, or in carriages, people flocked to this salubrious setting to inhale the delicious breeze which is almost always to be found by the sea side of this part of the Island. The Galle Face esplanade or Green was established by Governor Ward in 1859. An inscription reads "in the interest of the ladies and children of Colombo".

Cricket, football and polo were played on the Green. In 1829, horse racing was established under the auspices of Sir Edward Barnes. Everyone enjoyed a day at the races: the vendors poured in from early noon, servants on leave spent their day there, as well as schoolboys who didn't make it to school, palanquin carriages with shutters down and curtain drawn conveying Mohammedan ladies and of course the European community. A circular race stand was built by subscription. Initially it was a building of brick, coated with a plaster of chunam. Its conical roof was covered with an excellent thatch of kehjan (woven coconut leaves). From here a view of the whole course could be obtained. The race-balls were held here, the upper room being cool and airy for dancing; card-tables were placed in the verandahs, whilst the lower portion formed a good supper-room. Subsequently the roof was tiled. By the 1870s it had become a more substantial building and was known as the Colombo Club. This building still stands, even though maybe not in its original modest form, and is now the Crystal Ballroom of the Taj Samudra Hotel Colombo.

At one end of the green was the Galle Face Boarding House, forerunner of the present Galle Face Hotel, which was constructed in 1887. Today the green has lost much in its extent; but after a long period of neglect has recently been restored back to the chief leisure ground of modern Colombo for people of all walks of life. A temple, a church, a school, Kollupitiya Walukarama Buddhist Templeis said to be the oldest temple in Colombo. It was founded in the 1800s by Ven. Panditha Valane Sri Siddhahatta Maha Nayake Thera, who was also the founder member of the Maha Sangha Saba of theSiyam Nikaya of the Kotte Chapter. The land for the construction of the temple was donated by a famous indigenous medicine physician of Kollupitiya, Arnolis Silva. St. Andrew's Scots Kirk founded in 1842 as a Church of Scotland by Scots living in Ceylon, has today become the International Church in Colombo welcoming into its fellowship

people of all nations and denominations of the Christian faith.

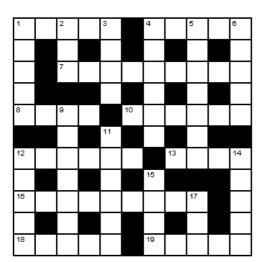
Jinaraja Kanista Vidyalaya down Dharmakirthi Ramya Road dates back to 1898. Then named "Jinaraja Buddhist English School" this was the oldest Buddhist English mixed school in Colombo. This school was established for boys and girls of Colombo managed by the Buddhist Theosophical Society, Colombo, under the guidance of Col. Henry Steele Olcott.

A jeweller, a textile dealer, a baker, a grocer, an optician and a private hospital in Galle Face Court 1 was the first multi storey block of flats in Sri Lanka and the domed addition which followed as Galle Face Court 2 were both buildings that were initiated by the Macan Markar family as residential, business and real estate ventures. The dome housed an observatory. The road here was renamed Sir Macan Markar Mawatha on account of the contribution of the Macan Markar family towards industry, business, trading and politics.



Hee ... haw





Crossword Page

Across

- 1. Twelve (5)
- 4. Hoard (5)
- 7. Unaware (9)
- 8. Gape (4)
- 10. Wore away (6)
- 12. Birds of prey (6)
- 13. Notion (4)
- 16. Large spider (9)
- 18. The lowest point of anything (5) 12. Consumed (5)
- 19. Implied (5)

Down

- 1. Journal (5)
- 2. Menagerie (3)
- 3. World's longest river (4)
- 4. Secret or hidden (6)
- Bustling (7)
- Abated (5)
- 9. Placed à bet (7)
- 11. Thinner (6)
- 14. Proficient (5)
- 15. Female relative (4)
- 17. Part of a circle (3)

The Solution



Desmond (George Lorenz Desmond) de Silva QC who practises on the South Eastern circuit (News Standard Telegraph)

Sir Desmond de Silva Brilliant QC and bon vivant who was determined to bring Charles Taylor to trial for war crimes.

SIR DESMOND DE SILVA, who has died aged 78, was one of Britain's most outstanding and colourful jury advocates; as a defence counsel he was often the saviour of celebrities, especially sporting stars, and later became a scourge of war criminals as an international prosecutor. His greatest legal achievement was the role he played in the prosecution of Charles Taylor, the former President of Liberia, who in 2012 became the first head of state to be convicted of war crimes since Grand Admiral Doenitz at Nuremberg.

A witty, generous man who had a great love for the finer things in life, de Silva was particularly fond of Armagnac and, as he recounted in Madam, Where Are Your Mangoes? a lively volume of memoirs published last year, he once threatened to sue a newspaper for reporting that he spent £400 a week on his favourite tipple. It was, he protested, an "outrageous slur that damages my reputation. I spend much more." In fact, his love of brandy once saved him from an excruciating death – one of several attempts on his life over the years. On July 29 1981, a Marxist coup took place in the Gambia, a former British colony. Once the rebellion was put down de Silva, who had an awesome record of success (mainly as defence counsel) in trials in the Commonwealth that carried the death penalty, was sent out to prosecute the ringleaders for high treason.

One night, returning to his hotel suite, he poured a glass of brandy for himself and for a junior in his chambers. A slight discolouration was sufficient to alert him and enable him to stop his junior before he could take a sip. Analysis the following day showed that the brandy in the bottle had been poisoned. In Britain, de Silva was probably best known for his remarkable success in defending sports personalities who, had they been convicted, would have faced ruin and imprisonment. Those for whom he secured acquittals included Hans Segers, the Wimbledon goalkeeper charged along with John Fashanu and Bruce Grobbelaar in a matchfixing case that put the integrity of English football on trial; Lee Bowyer, the Leeds United midfielder tried for grievous bodily harm; John Terry, the Chelsea and England player (also on GBH charges); and Jacqui Oliver, one of the leading woman jockeys of her time, tried for fraud. De Silva also prosecuted a number of intriguing murder cases, most notably the extradition of Roderick Newall, a former Royal Green Jackets officer, accused of murdering his parents in Jersey in 1987. He also represented Lord Brocket in an insurance fraud case and appeared for the defence in the Roger Levitt City fraud trial.

In the press, de Silva was often referred to as "the Scarlet Pimpernel of the Bar" for his success in saving so many from the noose in murder and treason trials in Commonwealth countries. And like Baroness Orczy's chivalrous hero, he was tall, dandyish and patrician in his ways. George Desmond Lorenz de Silva was born in Kandy, Ceylon, on December 13 1939, into an extraordinary legal and political family. His grandfather, George, also a lawyer and a dandy, was one of the founding fathers of Ceylon's independence and a revered statesman. In childhood Desmond lived at his grandfather's home in Kandy at the time of the Japanese attacks in 1942, when his grandfather was a minister in Ceylon's War Council.

His father, Frederick, another barrister, succeeded George as the member of parliament for Kandy and later became a diplomat. In 1968, when his father was ambassador to France, he was persuaded by Desmond to secure him a temporary diplomatic appointment so as to fulfil a long-held ambition to meet President de Gaulle; wearing one of his father's diplomatic uniforms, with a suitable number of oak leaves removed from the collar, he accompanied Frederick to a reception at the Élysée Palace, where de Gaulle and his prime minister, Georges Pompidou, were so taken with him that they spent more time talking to him than anybody else present. Apart from his Sri Lankan background, de Silva had Dutch ancestry through his paternal grandmother, and English and Scottish ancestors through his maternal grandmother, whose antecedents lay in the landed gentry of Co Down.

After the war his parents brought him to England and sent him to board at Dulwich College Prep School. However, his father wanted him to master the Sinhalese language in case he wanted to make a life for himself in the law and politics of that country, so he was sent to Trinity College in Kandy, run on English public-school lines with an English headmaster and other English staff. De Silva's mother, however, took the view that her son would not fit into the new Ceylon (renamed Sri Lanka in 1972), and with most of the family having emigrated to Australia, she decided he should settle in England. Called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1964, de Silva entered the chambers of Sir Dingle Foot, QC, MP, the Solicitor General, and took silk 20 years later. In 1987 he became head of chambers at 2 Paper Buildings in the Temple and remained head until 2002, when he was nominated by the Government of Sierra Leone, and accepted by the Secretary General of the UN, as the first Deputy Prosecutor to the UN-inspired War Crimes Tribunal, set up to deal with the horrors of Sierra Leone's savage civil war. De Silva went on to negotiate the transfer of Charles Taylor, who had been indicted for aiding and abetting war crimes, and crimes against humanity, in Sierra Leone, to the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and subsequently to The Hague for trial. Once that was accomplished, in 2006 de Silva retired - as Chief

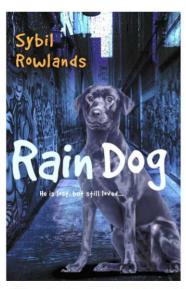
Prosecutor – for health reasons, leaving his successor to conduct the trial. Taylor is currently serving a 50-year jail term in a British prison.

In his memoir de Silva recalled many amusing moments in his long legal career. Early on, he shared a chamber with Learie Constantine, the former West Indies Test cricketer and later Britain's first black peer, who had three trays on his desk, marked "In" "Out" and "LBW". When asked what the initials stood for, Constantine replied, "Let the buggers wait". The title of his memoir referred to an occasion when the 28-year-old de Silva and bon vivant Noel Gratiaen, QC, to whom he was acting as junior, unwittingly took rooms in a Freetown hotel that turned out to be a brothel. Returning to their rooms after an evening in the bar, they were accosted by a scantily clad lady of the night who asked if they would like some mangoes. A few minutes later de Silva, disturbed by sounds in the corridor outside, opened his bedroom door to see Gratiaen towering over a topless prostitute, wailing: "But madam, where are your mangoes?" In 1980 de Silva, a staunch Conservative, decided to stand in a by-election for Farringdon Without – the largest ward in the City of London. In a contest with four candidates he received 60 per cent of the vote and remained a councilman for 15 years, retiring in 1995 when the demands of his practice outside London prevented him from attending committee meetings. In 1987 he married Princess Katarina of Yugoslavia, the great-great-great granddaughter of Queen Victoria, thereby becoming related by marriage to most of the royal houses of Europe; indeed, he was consulted by some of their members.

In 2002 he flew back from his duties in Sierra Leone to attend the opening by the Queen of the Memorial Gates in Constitution Hill commemorating the contribution made by the soldiers of Empire in two world wars – a project in which he had been intimately involved. He also gave more than 30 years of support to St John Ambulance and for many years served as vice president of St John, London District. In 1995 he was appointed a Knight of the Order of St John. He was knighted in 2007 and sworn of the Privy Council in 2011, when he headed the inquiry into alleged links between the security services and assassinations in Ulster during the Troubles. At the launch party for his memoirs de Silva revealed that among the guests was one of the many would-be assassins who had tried their luck over the years. The man was later named as Daniel Chadwick, a landowner who, as de Silva's memoir revealed, had once drunkenly burst into his bedroom at a country house weekend "with a sword in his extended hand" after he mistakenly thought the lawyer was in bed with his girlfriend. De Silva's marriage to Princess Katarina ended in divorce, though they remained friends. She survives him with their daughter, Victoria.

Sir Desmond de Silva, born December 13 1939, died June 2 2018

Advertisement



Rain Dog by Sybil Rowlands



Can be purchased online from Dymocks Book Stores and also Koorong online.

REVIEWS

'Rain Dog is a great story with a strong moral. It is very descriptive which makes the story easier to visualize.' - Jeremy (10 years).

'What a delightful book you have written. As I read the book, it emerged how you had wrapped a deeper message within a children's story.' - Chris (adult).

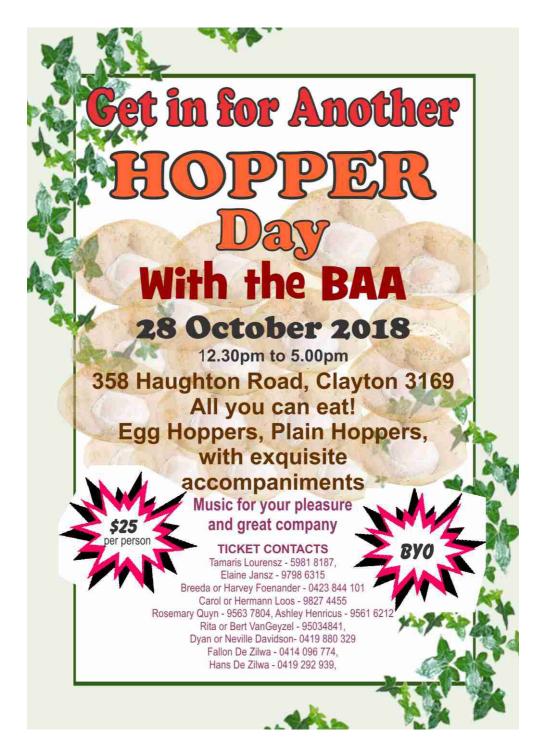
'Although written for older children, I have read Rain Dog and loved the story. Rain Dog is the first non-sports story I have read in about 20 years and I couldn't put it down until I had finished reading it.' - Harry (adult).

'Rain Dog. A simple story but skillfully written and extremely interesting. I couldn't put it down and read it from cover to cover. My interest was captured with the tale of the mother dog and her pups and the enchanting account of the activities of the growing pups. The descriptive passages set the stage for the continuation of the story whilst bringing to the attention of the reader, the plight of homeless people and frightened animals lost in storms. You brought the story to a satisfying and conclusive end and left your reader completely fulfilled. Congratulations on a great book.' - Cherie (adult).

e is a black puppy of uncertain breed, the runt of a litter born in a severe storm, frightened of almost everything. Although at first not keen to do so, Ned's parents allow him to keep the little puppy as his special pet. Ned names his new pet Hero in the hope that he will live up to his name, but to no avail.

Hero runs away in a storm and meets some homeless men who rename him, as he has lost his collar. Hero especially befriends one of the men. Hero's owners do not give up looking for him and finally locate him in a surprising way. Hero's plight leads the homeless man to reassess his own life

Ned's love for Hero is demonstrated when he makes a momentous decision regarding the future of his beloved pet.







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. 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 Breeda Foenander on 0423 844 101 to enquire whether the date, you wish to hire the hall for is available. 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. Hours of operation Friday/Saturday 11AM to 12 Midnight, other days 10AM to 10PM. 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). A payment of \$100.00 will be deducted from the Security Fee deposit for cleaning of the premises, for the next day's Events. 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 \$250 must be paid to secure the date booked.









The violent history of land distribution in South Africa explained IT has caused problems for centuries and led Australia to offer asylum to white farmers. There is more to this problem than meets the eye.

Tarryn Harbour APRIL 15, 2018

IT'S an issue that has led to fears of chaos ravaging South Africa, with Australia even offering to fast-track humanitarian visas for persecuted white farmers.

But the incendiary issue of land reform is as vast and complex as South Africa itself. So complex that the final two words in the nation's anthem — "our land" — show how sensitive it is. The issue raised its head again in South Africa in February this year, when Julius Malema, the ever-controversial leader of the radical political party Economic Freedom Fighters, tabled a motion in parliament to allow the seizing of land without compensation. Debates immediately broke out among politicians, members of the media and ordinary citizens, on the internet, on radio and television stations, and in offices and backyards throughout the country. Land ownership, land reform, land redistribution and land restitution — these are vast, complex issues, as vast and complex as South Africa itself. If you truly want to understand why the mere mention of "land reform" is like a spark to kindling, you must take a look at the history of this beautiful and tormented land

SOUTH AFRICA'S TROUBLED HISTORY

Ever since the Dutch colonialist Jan van Riebeeck first set his clogs on the shores of southern Africa in 1652, the issue of land ownership has been a cause of conflict — a stark, tense thread running throughout the tapestry of South Africa's history. Van Riebeeck, an employee of the VOC (Dutch East India Company), was sent to the Cape to establish a refreshment station for passing VOC ships. The Dutch settlement was immediately at odds with locals: the pastoral Khoikhoi, and later the foraging San. Through impositions of Western-style bureaucracy by the Dutch and a series of wars, the Europeans gained control of large swathes of fertile Cape land. The arrival of the British in 1795, followed 25 years later by the first of the 1820 Settlers, only worsened the situation as the 4000 mainly artisanal British workers were granted land for farms in the Eastern Cape. The intention was for them to act as a buffer zone between the eastern border of the British colony and the local Xhosa population. Naturally, this led to warfare — over land. As the British population increased and the colonial government-imposed laws that the now-homegrown population of Dutch-descended farmers did not particularly like, a series of journeys inland, known as treks, began to take place. This movement of around 14,000 Boer (farmer) families between 1835 and 1846 is known as the Great Trek (we like the names of things to mean what they say). As these thousands of people moved into the interior, they inevitably came into contact with the local people: debele, Xhosa, Zulu, Sotho, Pedi. Although some of these encounters were peaceful, fighting was most often the result.

Then in 1852 and 1854, the independent Boer countries of the South African Republic and the Orange Free State were, respectively, agreed to by the British, who were feeling satisfied that the Boers were now too far to bother with and that their land had nothing they wanted anyway.

That is, until the discovery of diamonds and gold, which brought the British back in a hurry. After — you guessed it — more warfare, the British finally triumphed in the second South African War (1899-1902, also known as the Boer War) and established the Union of South Africa in 1910. And what about the indigenous population during this time? Although they did achieve victory in some battles with the Europeans, they were ultimately overwhelmed by more advanced military technology and ruthless bureaucracy. The most severe insult yet came with the passing of the Natives Land Act in 1913, which restricted black property ownership to just 7 per cent of the land of South Africa. Although this amount was later increased to 13 per cent. the land black people were allowed to own was restricted to rural "native reserves". Under the Apartheid regime, the Group Areas Act of 1950 brought the system of apartheid (literally "separateness") to urban areas: assigning the different racial groups to different residential and business zones. If black people had to work in the white areas (and, let's face it, of course they did), they had to carry a pass, identifying themselves and their employer. This worked out well for the ruling whites, as they got all the benefits of black labour without any of the annoying business of having to provide services or infrastructure for them. A devastating consequence of the Group Areas Act were the forced removals of black populations from areas that had been designated "white", such as District Six in Cape Town and Sophiatown in Johannesburg. Iconic images of graffiti reading "WE WONT MOVE" (sic) and black and white photographs of razed buildings and people being borne away on the backs of trucks, clutching all their worldly possessions, bear testament to those times. This legacy of apartheid, to use a well-worn phrase, is clearly visible in towns and cities throughout South Africa. Spend any time driving around and you will notice the stark differences between areas — no

Spend any time driving around and you will notice the stark differences between areas — no longer regulated by race, but by income, which, as a result of the racial policies which divided South Africa for so long, has largely been determined by race in terms of historical access to resources. "White privilege" is a real thing.

THE TRUTH ABOUT LAND REFORM

In the new democratic dispensation, to use another well-worn phrase, the principle of land reform is provided for in the Constitution, but with important caveats: It states land may be expropriated when it is within the public interest to do so, and that the amount, time and manner of the compensation made must be "just and equitable". While the policy of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) has been market-driven "willing buyer, willing seller", this is not in fact part of the Constitution, and many critics, more than 20 years after the end of apartheid, agree that it has not particularly been a success. This brings us all the way up to the present. Many people tend to have a knee-jerk reaction of fear to any discussion of land reform.

Images of Zimbabwe-style farm invasions — which took place 20 years ago under thenpresident Robert Mugabe's rule and turned the breadbasket of the southern African region into a basket case — fill people's minds with panic and impulses to flee the country. Yet most of the issues around land today have to do with access to well-located land within cities.

The recent land invasions that have taken place have been in cities and towns: Pretoria, Midrand, Hermanus. People are fed up with unequal access to urban land which sees many lower-income families relegated to the outskirts of the cities and having to spend 40 per cent of their income on unreliable public transport to get to their places of employment. Land reform is a difficult, complex topic — it touches the people of South Africa right on their heritage and identity. The 1955 Freedom Charter included the clause: "The land shall be shared among those who work it!" The final declaration of the national anthem is "South Africa — our land!"

The very concept of belonging is tied to the land. When one looks at the history, it is easy to see that we have a historical wrong that urgently needs to be righted.

But the best way to do that? The debate will rage on.

Tarryn Harbour is a former journalist and South African resident.



Golden Memories Of A Lost One

They say memories are golden well maybe that is true.

I never wanted memories, I only wanted you.

A million times I needed you, a million times I cried. If love alone could have saved you, you never would have died.

In life I loved you dearly, In death I love you still. In my heart you hold a place no one could ever fill.

If tears could build a stairway and heartache make a lane, I'd walk the path to heaven and bring you back again.

Our family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same. But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

OBITUARIES

Compiled by Victor Melder (E & O.E.) (JULY 2018)

NUGERA - CHERYL. Wife of late Chesley Nugera, daughter of the late Joseph and Norma Hindle, mother of Senorine Kodikara and Patrine Vantwest, sister of Tuline and Melanie Hindle, mother-in-law of Rohan Kodikara and late Elsworth Vantwest, grandmother of Bevan, Elvina, Shamara, Shemine and Shenara in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 3.7.2018)

FORBES – SHEILA (Nee Krause), wife of Gerald (dec), mother of Estelle (Aust), Gladstone (Aust), Eden, Bernie, Royle (Sweden) and Agatha (Aust), mother-in-law of Mohan Gomez, Jean, Nedra, Ranjith Balasuriya, Agnetha and Vindana Fernando. Sister of Anton (dec), Maureen and Blanche (Can), Malcolm (dec), Anne (dec), Barbara and Rusty (Aust), in Melbourne. (Daily News 4.7.2018)

DE SILVA – SUE, wife of Jim, mother of Natasha, grandmother of Nicky. Sister of Judy, Gai and Keith (dec), in Sydney on July 2, 2018, aged 66 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 4.7.2018)

ABAYASIRIWARDANA – **BUDDHADASA**, of Perth, WA, husband of Chandra, father of Chula. Son of late Mr & Mrs K.D.P.Abayasiriwardana, brother of Samarapala (NZ), Thilaka, Sri (UK), Leela, Harischandra and Dr C.H.L. (UK), on July 2, 2018. (Daily News 5.7.2018)

THIELE – LESLIE GRANVILLE, Son of late Granville and late Myra, father of Laramie, Laraine and Lester, father-in-law of Dale and Sharika, grandfather of Kurt and Kristen, in Sri Lanka. – 24, Balagalwatte, Hendala, Wattala, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 5.7.2018)

WILLIAMS – ANANDAWATHY (Ana), nee Appiah, wife of Robert Williams, mother of Hilary, Michael and late Taniya, mother-in-law of Dharshini and Sally-Ann, grandmother of Micah and Ebonie. Sister of Dr Tharmarajah, Dr Laliwathy, and of late Rupwathy, Pathmarajah, Varathjarasa, Leelavathy and Amirtharajah, sister-in-law of Daniel, Harriet, Ambu, Swarna, Uma, Pancharatnam and of the late Frank, Edmund, Samuel, John, Thillainathan, Saku, Shanmuganathan and Mahendran, in Queensland on June 30, 2018. (Daily News 5.7.2018)

THURGOOD – **ELIZABETH**, wife of Desmond (dec), mother of Steve (Dubai) and Tania (Aust), mother-in-law of Gail (Dubai) and Ronald (Aust), grandmother of Davis, Nicola (Dubai) and Ornella (Aust), in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 6.7.2018)

BURKEY – TERRENCE LEONARD, husband of Kanthi, father Angelo and Tania, father-in-law of Nishalie and Aravinda, grandfather Ethan, Nathan and Andrea, in Sri Lanka. – 58, Press Garden, Samagi Mawatha, Ekala, Ja-Ela, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 7.7.2018)

BARBIZZI – DIANA BERNADETTE (nee De Niese), wife of Flavio, mother of Stacey, Natalaya aznd Joad, stepmother of Jessica. Daughter of late Alexis & Dorothy De Niese, sister of Michael, Aubrey, Errol (Aust), Jennifer, Valerie (UK), David (UK) and Adrian, sister-in-law of Malkanthi, Vedette, Leanne (Aust), Steve Vanhoff, late Pau De Silva (UK) and Radha, in Australia. (Sunday Observer 8.7.2018)

SOERTSZ – ANNETTE (nee Hamer), wife of the late Anton Soertsz, mother of Camille, Francis, Gladys, Johan and Gary, mother-in-law of Fred Keuneman, Daphne, Milroy Berenger, Deanna and the late Tilak Yatawara, grandmother of 9, great grandmother of 9. Sister of Audrey Bolgstra (Melb) and late Rita Jilla, Vernon, Ben, Sheila Attygalle, Rozelle, Noel, Magaret Pieris and Joyce Henricus, in Sydney, on July 4, 2018. (Sunday Observer 8.7.2018)

LA FABER - T.R. (Tony), husband of Yolande (nee Candappa), father of Shenmnon and Dave, father-in-law of Sharon and Jilska, grandfather of Mikaela and Aiden. Brother of Elvin, Sherwin, Marlene and Maurice (all dec) and of Barbara, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 14.7.2018)

VAN DER HOEVEN – ESWALD CONRAD, (19.08.1935 – 08.07.2018), husband of Barbara, father of Andrew and Peter (dec), Father-in-law of Karen,

grandfather of Jazmin, Blake, Hannah and Elijah, in West Australia. (The West Australian, 14.7.2018)

BARTHOLOMEUSZ - DR FRANCIOS RISIEN IVAN (04.09.1922 – 11.07.2018), husband of Evelyn, father of Chiron, Dylan and Delyse, father-in-law of Anne-Marie, Kelly and Frances, grandfather of Serena and Matt, Ramon and Kate, Lorenz, Nelson, Elana, Brandon, great grandfather of Jake, Olivia and Henry, in South Australia, (The Adelaide Advertiser, 14.7.2018)

De SILVA – DR MERL (02.08.1935 – 12.07.2018), in New South Wales, (The Hobart Mercury, 14.7.2018)

NELSON - VALERIE (nee Jordan), on 9 July 2018, in Melbourne, Australia. Daughter of the late Maurice and Ada Jordan, mother of Ryan, Dana and Leam, mother-in-law of Niamh, Jan and Jennifer, grandmother of Tobias, Lily-Angele, Jasper, Tara and Oran. Sister of Desmond, Errol, Charmaine, Bobby, Marina and Chippa, sister-in-law of Irena, Jill, Rohantha, Curt, Adrian and Christian. (Sunday Island, 15.7.2018)

TRANCHÉLL – NORMA MILDRED, wife of Derrick (dec), mother of Anthony (dec) and Judith, mother-in-law of Krishan and Jean, grandmother of Dillen, Tashia, Miran and Nikita. Sister of Lorna (dec), Blanche, Therese (dec), Ashton (dec), Gerald (dec), Tyrone and Neil (dec), on July 14, 2018, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 17.7.2018)

ALVIS – EUNICE (nee Berhardt), wife of late Mayhew, mother of Yvone (Aust), Wizmar, Roma, Jean and Harold (Aust), mother-in-law of Basil (Aust), Oliver, Claude (dec), Bucky and Bernadine (Aust), in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 20.7.2018)

ADAMS – WILMA AURELIA (nee Stephen), wife of Anton, mother of Valerie (Iran), Franklin (Aust), late Beverley, Aneesa (Toni) (Aust), Claudette, Jerome (Aust) and Sean (Qatar), mother-in-law of Abrahim Akbarpour, Frankie Edmonds, Sharir Azoor, Lylie Almeida, Harshini Weerawardene and Kelly Kaur, grandmother of Mehdi, Ruhullah, Roghiya, Mohamed Hussain, Indra, Dwayne, Zarah, Akram, Graham, Gareth, Ruchi and Marvan, great grandmother of 7. Sister of late William, Shirley, Melrose and Dagma, sister-in-law of Iris, Cynthia and late Thomas Paulusz, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 21.7.2018)

LABROOY – RIENZIE ARTHUR, husband of the late Eunice, father of Romaine, Michael, late Ralston, Sandra and Tina, father-in-law of Ari, Len and Sampath. Brother of Bunny, Carl, Marie (all dec), Donald, Edward and Anne, brother-in-law of late Yvonne, Jenny, late Eric, Babara, Trilby and Roy, in Sri Lanka. – 3B. Seevali Road. off Sumanarama Road. Mount Lavinia. Sri Lanka. (Daily News 23.7.2018)

ERNST – DEREK MICHAEL, (10.6.1935 – 19.7.2018), husband of Judith, father of Patrick, Karalyn and Stephen, step father to Chris and Annette. Grandfather and Great Grandfather, in Adelaide. (The Adelaide Advertiser, 23.7.2018)

BARTELS – RUSSELL, father of Gail. Brother of late Bob, late Moreen and Jean, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 28.7.2018)

STEPHENS – ROSE VICTORIA (nee Joseph), wife of late John, mother of Eugene (Christobel), Olga (Lloyd), grandmother of Mitchella (Dishan) and Annemarie, great grandmother of Zechariah and Amelia Rose. Daughter of George and Samathanam, sister of Benny (Cecil), Annie (Raj Sebagnanam, David (Isabel), Emily, Fred (Ruth) (all dec) and of Thangam (late J.E.Christy), Johan and Rose, in Canada, on June 9, 2018. in her 100

th year. – 19/10, Parakrama Mawatha, Baddegana Road, Kotte, Sri Lanka. (Sunday Observer 29.7.2018) **ASHTON – MARIE JACINTHA**, wife of late Douglas Ashton, mother of Jean De Hoedt, Maxwell Aston, Joy Ashton, mother-in-law of Silvester De Hoedt (Bangladesh), Rasika Priyadarshini and Ayesha Ranaweera Sister of Mary Clare, in Sri Lanka. – 480?1D, Bodhiya Road, Thalahena, Malabe, Sri Lanka. (Sunday Observer, 29.7.2018)

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



Courtesy of OSPA by Mr N P Hadow Operation Blowfish Colombo Harbour

It is safe to assert that there is no country in the world where quarrying is practiced and where there is an effective method of ensuring that every entire stick of dynamite can be accounted for with complete and certain accuracy. In one way or another before, during, and after quarrying has taken place, some portion of the charges and detonators will eventually find a route onto the black market, a market which thrives in coastal lagoons and which causes indiscriminate destruction of fish stocks. In response to urgent representations by Fishery Officers and others concerned with the preservation of stocks in coastal waters, the Government Analyst undertook to carry out experiments with the aim of finding a method of quickly recognising dynamited fish on display in the markets. But first of all, he had to obtain a temporary licence to possess and use explosives and then he had to find someone who was expert in the technique of dynamiting fish; ie, weight of explosive necessary for modest results; type of detonator; length, of fuse etc in relation to the depth of water.

But enough of such official idiom, let us have the real story: The first step was easy. The Criminal Records Office did not need to spend much time in turning up the name of Simon Hettiarachi, better known as "Dynamite Simon". He had a string of convictions as long as your arm in every Magistrate's Court from Negombo to Bentota. He ought to fit the bill as expert whether voluntarily or not. The next step was to find him. Enquiry among the pool of plain clothes Detectives in the CID turned up the knowledge that PC Podiappuhamy came from the same village as Simon, so he was despatched to bring him in for a talk. He returned in a couple of days and reported that Simon was "missing". Obviously and not very surprisingly, he was shy of authority and had gone underground. A further attempt to contact him would need more careful preparation and patience, to convince him that he, Hettiarachi alias Dynamite Simon, was being invited to give a public demonstration of his expertise without penalty.

PC Podiappuhamy was very carefully briefed on the why and the wherefore of the proposition he was to put to Simon and told not to hurry back until he had contacted Simon in person and secured his willingness to cooperate in the experiment.

After a few days, Podiappuhamy returned and reported that he had contacted Simon who, though at first convinced that the authorities were laying a trap for him, was eventually persuaded to "think about it" and even to visit Colombo so as to hear more of the proposition. It took a prolonged parley and the promise of Rs 25 to secure his final acceptance to carry out a "controlled Explosion" in the presence of the Government Analyst.

A quiet corner of Colombo Harbour was selected for the experiment, free of launch traffic and few people on shore. The Government Analyst appeared with the DIG and we all looked round for PC Podiappuhamy and his charge. For 10 minutes or so there was no sign of them, but finally two figures approached down the jetty: Simon and his "escort". He was a slim figure, very dark from frequent exposure to all weathers, and dressed simply in a cotton vest and sarong, with a loose turban wound round his head. He looked shyly at the assembled company and clearly would have liked to flee but his way back along the jetty was barred. Then he saw a small bundle of dynamite sticks, with a coil of fuse and some detonators lying in a box at his feet, and his interest overcame his misgivings. It really was true: the invitation to give a demonstration of his artistry was genuine.

He inspected the sticks of dynamite, remarked that it was "good stuff" (Which indeed it was: Eley Kynoch fresh from the Colombo Commercial Co) and turned his attention to the fuse and detonators. These too were given the seal of expert approval, and Simon pronounced himself ready to start, if someone would kindly tell him whether they wanted lots of fish or only a few for starters. A few was prescribed.

A solitary stick of dynamite was detached from the little bundle and handed to Simon who looked round about as though searching for something. He spotted a pencil sticking out of PC Podiappuhamy's breast pocket and deftly extracted it, looking to see if it had a sharp point. He then bent down, picked up a detonator, bit off a short length of fuse and paused for dramatic effect. With gusto and energy, he started boring a hole in the end of the stick of dynamite, briskly pushed in the detonator, and turned around to see if everyone was watching. They were, but from a distance of several yards which unanimously and athletically the assembled company covered in a single bound.

Simon remained a solitary figure at the end of the jetty, but all could see him draw himself up and cast the charge 8 or 10 yards from the jetty. The duty boat nervously

backed water. After what seemed quite a long pause, there was a modest swirl on the surface of the water, and every eye watched for results. Nothing happened for quite some time, and then suddenly the surface was broken by the silvery shapes of fish rising belly uppermost and obviously dead or stunned. The duty boat was hailed to come inshore and pick up the catch, which numbered six or eight fish of about a pound in weight.

Simon turned around and spoke with briskness and authority; what had been achieved so far was pretty modest stuff, and he suggested that a second shot should be fired and at a greater depth so as to get some really decent fish. Approval was given and he busied himself for a second time with preparing the charge. The spectators crept a little nearer in fascination, but not too close. Again, the charge was cast out from the jetty and this time the wait seemed longer before the surface boiled into a mushroom-shaped dome of water. Again, the wait before the surface was broken by some much bigger silvery shapes, which were collected gleefully by the crew of the duty boat.

At this point, the Government Analyst and the DIG said that enough fish had been "caught" for the purpose of the exercise; the fish were brought ashore, and the company prepared to leave. All that is except Simon who felt that he had only just started. There were four sticks of dynamite lying there unused, and he could do something really big and useful if allowed to continue. Sadly, he accepted that the display had ended, glanced wistfully at the explosives which were being whisked away, but accepted with dignity the thanks of the powers for his collaboration, and tucked the promised Rs 25 into his waist band. Meantime, the crew of the duty boat made off at speed with the remainder of the fish after the Government Analyst had selected enough for his experiment; and, the outcome of that Experiment? Precisely nil in terms of visible damage or injury to the fish. Only by dissection of the head and examination of the fishes' brainpan could any clear distinction be made between a dynamited fish and any others on the fishmonger's slab in the market. Which was not much use to the Fishery Officers, or anyone else looking for a shortcut to apprehend Simon and his fraternity. Still, it had been fun, and a novel experience for Simon to be working with the forces of law and order rather than against them!





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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

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UPCOMMG EVENTS

2018 Events at BAA Premises

358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3168

28 October
Hoppers Galore
12.00noon to 5.00pm
\$25.00pp - BYO

2 December Carols & A Christmas Feast 12.00noon to 5.00pm \$30.00pp - BYO

Contact a Committee member for further details or tickets

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