

BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC

Postal Address: PO Box 75 Clarinda VIC 3169
ABN - 28 890 322 651 ~ INC. REG. NO. A 0007821F
Web Site: <http://www.burgherassocn.org.au>

Spring Newsletter September 2019





COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT 2018/19

President

Mr Hermann Loos - 03 9827 4455
hermann_r_loos @ yahoo.com.au

Vice President

Mrs Tamaris Lourensz - 03 5981 8187
wilhelm.lourensz5@bigpond.com

Secretary

Mr Harvey Foenander - 03 8790 1610
bfoenander1@bigpond.com

Assistant Secretary

Mrs Rosemary Quyn - 03 9563 7804
rosemaryquyn@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mr Bert Van Geyzel - 03 9503 4841
bertvangeyzel@gmail.com

Assistant Treasurer

Ashley Henricus - 03 9561 6212
ashleyhenricus@hotmail.com

Editor

Mr Neville Davidson - 03 97111 922
ndav@optusnet.com.au

Public Relations Manager

Mrs Elaine Jansz - 03 9798 6315
bd8cerjansz@optusnet.com.au

Customer Relations Manager

Mrs Breeda Foenander - 03 8790 1610
bfoenander1@bigpond.com

COMMITTEE

Mrs Carol Loos - 03 9827 4455, Mr Shoua Liu - 0415 463 037
Mrs Rita Van Geyzel - 03 9503 4841, Mr Hans De Zilwa - 0419 292 939
Mrs Ruth Liu - 0420 225 600, Mrs Fallon De Zilwa - 0414 096 774



The 2018/19 Burgher Association Australia Donations Pledge



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 announced following their November 2018 Committee Meeting that for the current year donations and sponsorships will be granted to the following.

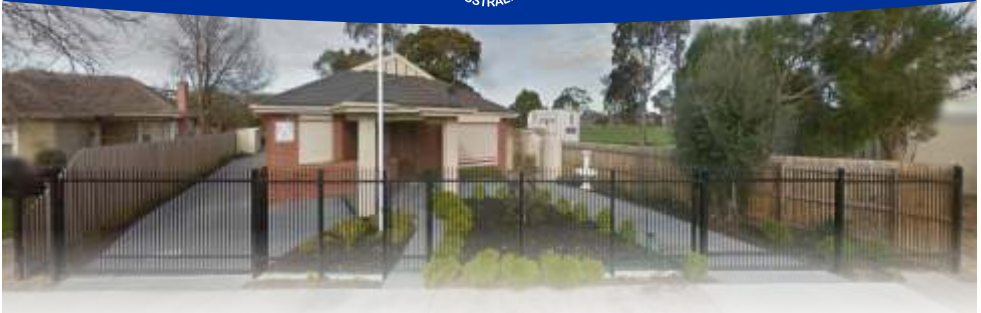
- **Sponsorship of education to children via the Dutch Burgher Union of Sri Lanka for up to 21 Children doing year 11 and 12 studies**
- **Donation to Deaf/Blind Australia**
- **Donation to the Fred Hollows Foundation Australian Aboriginal Fund**
- **Queensland Flood Disaster Relief via Uniting Church**

The General Committee will continue to assess carefully all incoming requests for assistance from the various Charities during the course of the committee year with a view to target better the resources made available for the purpose.



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. 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



For
Members Only

WE JUST WANT TO SAY...
THANK YOU!



Whilst consolidating our cultural and ethnic ties with the Community Response grants Team of the City of Greater Dandenong (city of opportunity) and also strengthening our community focus and commitment, the Burgher Association Australia Inc wishes to thank you, its loyal members for your valued contributions over the past years.

In view thereof, the President and the General Committee of The Burgher Association Australia Inc cordially invites you to partake in a Hopper Luncheon Celebrations as our guest (the guest count is next to your name on the label to the bulletin)

Where: Burgher Association Community House
358 Houghton Road
Clayton Vic 3168

Date: 6th October 2019

Numbers are strictly limited due to availability of space, please call to confirm

ASAP

Time: 12.00 noon

RSVP: no later than 15th September 2019

Yours faithfully

Breeda Foenander
Customer Relations Manager
Burgher Association Australia Inc
0423844101
bfoenander1@bigpond.com

Burgher Association Australia Inc

Christmas Lunch

BAA Community Centre
358 Haughton Road
Clayton Vic 3168

24 November 2019

12.00noon to 5.00pm

**Fabulous Christmas Buffet
By “Cha’s Cabin”**

**Tickets: \$35 pp
\$15.00 per child 12+**



**Come Celebrate with us
Bring the Family !**

The Parsis of Sri Lanka

Very few people today have heard of the Parsi community in Sri Lanka, because there are only about 60 in all including men, women and children. Although small in number, the contributions to our nation by this intriguing community throughout the years, have left an indelible mark in the history of Sri Lanka. They have produced eminent citizens, including a Government Minister, a Judge of the Supreme Court, barons of business and industry, high ranking military officials, media and educational personalities and philanthropists, among others. Prominent Parsi families in Sri Lanka today are the Captain's, Choksys, Khans, Billimorias, Pestonjees and Jillas. Their ancestors were originally from Persia, who later migrated to Gujarat in India. The Parsis are a very religious community who follow the Zoroastrian faith which is basically a monotheistic one, centred on the belief in the One True God whom they call Ahura Mazda or 'Wise Lord' in the Gathas of Prophet Zarathustra and his Great Maga Brotherhood.

The Parsis have made invaluable contributions to the economy and development of Sri Lanka. The Captains are a Parsi family who have long settled in this country. Sohli Captain owned Wellawatte Spinning and Weaving Mills and his son Rusi went into corporate investments. The Captains are well-known for their services to humanity. Sohli Captain developed Sri Lanka's first Cancer Hospital, and his sister Perin Captain has contributed immensely to the Child Protection Society. Another long established Parsi family in Sri Lanka were the Billimorias who established the Britannia Bakery in 1900. Homi Billimoria, a renowned architect who designed Mumtaz Mahal, the official residence of the Speaker of Parliament and Tintagel, which became the family home of the Bandaranaike family. The Khan family owned the Oil Mills in Colombo and built the famous Khan Clock Tower, a landmark in Pettah. The Jillas, another well-known Parsi family, established Colombo Dye Works. Homi Jilla became an army Physician, Kairshasp Jilla became a Naval officer, and Freddy Jilla served as a civil aviation officer.

The Pestonjee family arrived in Sri Lanka much later. Kaikobad Gandy was the father of Aban Pestonjee, the founder of the prestigious Abans Group. He was a marine engineer who sailed around the world and finally made Sri Lanka his home, which he called 'the best place in the world'. In 1930 he was awarded a Distinguished Citizenship by S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike in recognition of his services to the country's ports as Chief Engineer. His daughter Aban founded Abans Group, a business conglomerate that handles everything from hospitality and electronic goods, janitorial services to garbage disposal and keeping our streets clean.

"Sri Lanka is our home, we love this country, and our small community lives in peace and harmony with the people of this country, always looking for ways and means to contribute towards its development and prosperity," said Aban Pestonjee.



START WITH A LAUGH!



Did I read that sign right?

"TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW."

In an office:

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.

In an office:

AFTER TEA BREAK, STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD.

Outside a second-hand shop:

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

Seen during a conference:

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR.

Notice in a farmer's field:

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

Proofreading is a dying art, wouldn't you say?

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife

And Daughter

Now that's taking things a bit far!

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over

What a guy!

Miners Refuse to Work after Death

No-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

See if that works better than a fair trial!

War Dims Hope for Peace

I can see where it might have that effect!

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Ya' think?!

From African slave to royal princess: Writer unravels his astonishing link to the little girl Queen Victoria saved and adopted as her daughter.

- **Arnold Awoonor-Gordon, 85, found out truth about his great-great grandmother**
- **Sarah Forbes Bonetta became tenth child of Queen Victoria and husband in 1850**
- **She had been saved from slavers in Africa after her family was brutally murdered**
- **Her story was brought to life in ITV show Victoria starring Jenna-Louise Coleman**
- **Princess Sarah died of tuberculosis in 1880 aged 37 and was buried in Madeira**

By JAMES WOOD FOR MAILONLINE

PUBLISHED: 20:59 AEST, 21 June 2019

When Arnold Awoonor-Gordon first heard stories from his great-grandmother Emilie of how his great-great-grandmother had been the adopted daughter of Queen Victoria he 'thought they were the ramblings of an old lady'. But when he moved to his terraced house in Chatham, Kent from Sierra Leone around 25 years ago he set about finding the truth, contacting the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle as a starting point. To his amazement, he found out that his relative Sarah Forbes Bonetta had become the tenth child of Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg after she was saved from slavers in Africa in 1850.

'I got the necessary security clearance and went off to Windsor Castle to see all the photographs and letters myself', Mr Awoonor-Gordon, 85, told the Daily Express. '[My great-grandmother] was very proud of the royal connection and so are we, her relatives.' Born Omoba Aina - meaning princess - in 1843 in Nigeria, Princess Sarah was just five when she was captured by the merciless King of Dahomey in 1848. Her family were killed in the war, as the daughter of an African chief. Sarah was kept in captivity as a state prisoner, either to be presented to an important visitor, or to be sacrificed at the death of a minister or official to become his attendant in the next world. But before she too could be killed, British naval officer Frederick Forbes rescued her while on a mission to end slavery among the Dahomans.

He managed to convince Princess Sarah's captors to present the child as a 'gift' to Queen Victoria and sailed back to England with her on his ship HMS Bonetta, which became her adopted name. The Queen was so enamored with the child, that she adopted her as her daughter and also made her a goddaughter. She was now safe, and went on to become quite an intellect, with a particular aptitude for music. But she suffered with the change in climate, and so was sent to be schooled in Sierra Leone. But as befits a royal princess, she did not share a dormitory with the other girls and was given a room of her own. Princess Sarah returned to England in 1855, where she joined her royal siblings in the palace. 'Victoria didn't have prejudices at all and I think she saw people as her subjects, and didn't discriminate between them,' Mr Awoonor-Gordon continued. 'It's quite unexpected, but it's true. She was surprisingly broad-minded and modern.'

Her story was brought to life in the ITV television series Victoria, starring Jenna Coleman as Victoria and Zaris-Angel Hator as Princess Sarah. In the series, Princess Sarah is seen amazed by the snow in Britain. The creator of Victoria, Daisy Goodwin, said the queen did not have any prejudices though acknowledges Sarah did suffer some discomfort in Buckingham Palace. But whatever difficulties the young princess had, the queen remained an important influence in her life, even pressuring her into marrying wealthy businessman Captain James Davies in 1862. Sarah, then 18, had been unsure of her proposed husband because he was 13 years older. Even after walking down the aisle Sarah continued to visit the queen, and introduced her to her oldest daughter who took the monarch's name. Victoria senior agreed to be the child's godmother.

The visits continued even after Sarah returned home to Lagos, Nigeria, and had two more children, Arthur and Stella. But Sarah had been plagued by poor health and Victoria had sent her to school in Sierra Leone because she thought the British climate was making her poorly. She died of tuberculosis in 1880 at the age of 37 and was buried in Funchal, Madeira. Mr Awoonor-Gordon has a picture of her grave in his home. He said: 'Sarah experienced sadness and tragedy but she also had an amazing life - from African slave to royal princess. She was quite some woman and we are very proud to have her in our family.'



The Truth

Be careful what you tell her, she is an echo-maniac!

~ Walter Winchell ~

The Burgher Exodus.

The Sunday Times

Changes in the educational policy shut out the Burghers contends Deloraine Brohier.

There are very few Burghers left in Sri Lanka today. As for the Dutch Burgher, fair of skin and Europeanized in style of dress, they are taken to be by the general mass of the island's people today, foreigners- tourists or expatriates from the West. "What country do you come from?" is the often-repeated question. When speaking on the occasion of a farewell to an outgoing Ambassador for the Netherlands, our Foreign Minister said: "Alas! there are very few Dutch Burghers in Sri Lanka. They began to melt away perhaps most markedly in the 1950s and in the decade that followed."

The exodus of the Burghers saw them emigrating to Australia, Canada or the U.K. In the years between 1948 and the late 1960s, against a total population of which kept growing in leaps and bounds, the Burgher community kept shrinking. In the General Census 1963, the statistics of the Burghers as against the total population figure of 12 million (12.7) had dropped to 0.4 per cent. By the General Census taken in 1971, the statistic while remaining at 0.4 per cent, saw that the total population had risen to 14 million (14.8), indicating a still further drop in the statistic of the Burgher community.

Undoubtedly the two post-Independence decades saw this falling ratio as against the increase of the island's total population. This was due to the departure of many Dutch Burghers. It must be remembered that at this time a "white Australia" policy prevailed and tended to restrict a free and open entry in emigration to the country. Thus, those Burghers who could prove by genealogy their European origin had an advantage. There were church and family records to substantiate their claim. So, with the early exodus of the community, it was the Dutch Burgher who went.

Why? The question might be asked: Why did the Burghers go? Four centuries had elapsed since, as foreigners, the Burghers had come to Ceylon between 1656 and 1796, when the Dutch East India Company had occupied the maritime regions of the island. As Company servants and free citizens, who were designated "the Burghers", they had emigrated from Europe and decided to strike their roots in this tropical land. When the time for change came with the island becoming a Crown Colony of Great Britain, for reasons personal, about 900 families chose to remain in Ceylon. For 150 years thereafter, in the period of British occupation of by then the entire island, the "Burghers" (as the European-Dutch overflow came to be popularly known), were considered as part of the mix of the island's people.

cont'd

The Burghers blended easily with the many races and communities of the population and endeared themselves to all. They entered every sphere of activity in the country and worked toward its development - also in the struggle for Independence. "In literally every walk of life in Sri Lanka, the Dutch Burgher made an outstanding contribution and showed that our national life could be enriched," said the Foreign Minister on the occasion earlier referred to. So, what could have prompted these people - the community, Burghers, and more specifically the Dutch Burghers, to betake themselves away from the land of their birth? Having engaged in many a discussion on the subject this writer is inclined to sum up the reason to - compartmentalization into language streams in our schools.

The decade of the 1940s saw the beginning of significant changes in the country. The emotions of nationalism brought the enactment of policy measures which reflected these trends. In 1942, while still under the British colonial government, there was introduced a ruling that in all national schools in the island, children of one ethnic group had to follow an education in their mother tongue. There was a time-lag before the private missionary schools to which the elite in society sent their children, in Colombo and other leading towns like Kandy, Galle and Jaffna, introduced this policy. So, it was only immediate post-Independence that segregation commenced its implementation island wide. Previously school-goers in all private schools, mainly run by religious missions, studied in the English language, irrespective of which community they belonged to. The latter went up their full educational years, from kindergarten through primary and secondary and then on to university, in English. Examinations in all subjects were held in English - with Sinhalese, Tamil and the older languages like Latin or Sanskrit or Pali taken as separate subjects.

With the policy change in the educational system as referred to, the child became compartmentalized. The child whose parents were both Sinhalese went into the Sinhala stream and the Tamil child into the Tamil stream. Burgher and Muslim went into an English stream, did all their subjects of study in English and took their examinations as such. Eventually the English stream in schools, in the 1960s and early 1970s (maybe due to a steady dwindling in the number of Burgher children), died out. Muslim parents chose to send their children into either the Sinhala or the Tamil streams on the geographic location in which they lived.

An educationist of our present day, Dr. Wimala de Silva, now retired Chancellor of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura said that the Burghers "not being allowed to study in the national language" was a serious detriment to the community. It was not a question that the Burgher did not want to study Sinhala but that he or she was not allowed to do so by being channeled into a language stream that had lost its acceptability in public life, post-Independence. Thus, the Burgher youth emerging at the end of an educational training in English, and at a time when further political measures were being introduced to give importance to the national language, would have been placed at a distinct disadvantage.

cont'd

Moreover, it must be realised that the home language of the Burghers is English — and can be described as their mother tongue. The "mother tongue" being defined by no less a person than Sir Ivor Jennings as "the language a child speaks at his mother's knee".

The Burghers were essentially middle class, by tradition coming from the salaried Public Service sector. When seeking employment, the Burgher could have faced discrimination for not having fluency and working ability in the national language - rather, in having these capacities in a foreign language. This was the apprehension of many a Burgher parent. Entering the Public Service there were language examinations in order to be considered for advancement in one's employment - salary increments, scholarships, even promotions. In truth it should be added here, that with most Burghers the above requirement was no great obstacle and many a case can be cited of Burgher men and women who worked their way up successfully in the Public Service.

K.M. de Silva, Professor of History, University of Peradeniya once stated also that the Burghers cherished the security of the Public Service which began to come under greater challenge at the time. With the expansion of educational opportunities more Sinhalese and other minority communities were also brought into the professions. Dr. de Silva also notes that after nearly 70 years, in the Legislative Council "the arithmetic of Council membership was (at this time) definitely against the Burghers". So, there was also a political factor. These were all serious considerations in the general movement of change from a colonial era to one of Independence. Thus, uncertain of their future and the prospects in opportunity for work status and success - in the context of the above, the Burgher parent made the choice to seek other pastures. They departed in a steady flow, leaving behind the land of their birth. It was not an easy decision - especially for those of an older age group. For amongst those who emigrated were men well-positioned in their professions, in private and public employment. They headed government departments, were managers of company plantations, of high rank in the mercantile sector and in banks.

It was a sacrifice for many to pull up their roots and it was not an easy decision for those more advanced in years. The heartache of leaving familiar sights and sounds, the nostalgia and memories of the past, parting from old friends, sometimes aging parents who could not or did not want to uproot themselves - and to go out to face the unknown, to make a new beginning was a tough decision. Lifestyles, living conditions, strange climates to get accustomed to and the need to seek employment anew, were challenges. For the young on the other hand, it was exciting. Political analysts, historians and writers can pontify on the Burghers' exodus from Ceylon - Sri Lanka. The average reader can argue - agree or differ - with hindsight. The writer leaves the subject at that.



Top 10 Best Herbal Ayurvedic and healthy teas in Sri Lanka

By Trip2Lanka on March 29, 2014

The ancient science of Ayurveda teaches how one can be in perfect health and live a long life. Ayurveda deals with the maintenance of one's health and the ways and means to lead a longer and healthy life.

Ayurveda makes the prevention of disease one of its ideals. Man's first medicine was herbal. Herbs grow all round us both in the country and the town. Ayurveda pays a great deal of attention to man's daily diet. Almost everyone who lived in ancient Sri Lanka knew something about the curative value of herbs. At least one item of diet was a herb.

Long before tea was introduced into Sri Lanka, people were used to drinking herbal tea. Even today, we still find herbal plants boiled and brewed and taken as a drink. Some of the most common are Polpala, Ranavara and Beli flowers. These drinks are very popular in Kataragama, Anuradhapura and many other religious places situated in the dry zone.

1. Ceylon Tea – Black & Green Tea

This is not a traditional Ayurvedic drink in Sri Lanka, but it was during the British era that tea first began to be cultivated and manufactured here. Tea (*Camellia sinensis*) from Ceylon soon gained the reputation of being the finest in the world. Perhaps the most significant health-promoting properties of tea lie in the **antioxidants or 'flavonoids'** it contains. Antioxidants are compounds that help remove harmful toxins from the bloodstream, and tea contains uniquely high concentrations of them. Research has shown that consuming such antioxidants can lower the risk of heart disease, strokes and cancer. There are also indications that antioxidants in tea may help protect against Alzheimer's disease and age-related memory impairment. Black and green tea both contain higher levels of antioxidants than common fruits or vegetables. Sri Lankan Tea Research Institute says that black tea also provides health benefits originally attributed solely to green tea. Polyphenolic compounds present in tea may reduce the risk of a variety of illnesses, including cancer, coronary heart disease, oral diseases, diabetes and hypertension.

2. Polpala

Polpala (*Aerva lanata*) is dried and preserved and used to make herbal tea. In Sanskrit it is Pashanabhedi and in Tamil it is known as Tengappu keerei.

This herb is described as “one of the best-known remedies for bladder and kidney stones. Polpala is effective in the treatment of cough and indigestion and is specially used in the treatment of diabetes and urinary troubles. It is a diuretic and is used as an antidote in cases of arsenic poisoning. In Sanskrit Polpala has another name Nagajihva. This name refers to the fact that the tap root resembles the tongue of a naga or cobra. It is used either

by itself or in combination with other herbs to treat snake bites. Polpala can also be made into paste with cold water and used as an application for skin eruptions. Polpala can be cooked as vegetable.

3. Ranawara

Ranawara or Ranavara (*Cassia auriculata*) flower has been widely used from generations in Sri Lanka as a Herbal tea. Totally natural Caffeine Free Ranawara Ayurvedic Herbal Tea offers many medicinal benefits. Ranawara Ayurvedic herbal Tea gives the clear complexion. Ranawara herb acts as an agent in restoring sexual vitality, increases sperm count, and counteracts ejaculatory disorders. Ranawara herb is used as a treatment for diabetes. Ranawara Ayurvedic herbal Tea is also effective in relieving urinary problems, assists in stomach cleaning and restoration of the skin to its natural glow.

Acts as an agent in easing discomfort in women during menstruation. In Africa the herb has been used for treating body aches, eye irritations, diabetes and venereal disease.

4. Beli Flowers

The fresh flowers of the Beli tree (*Aegle narmelos*) gives Beli Mal Herbal Tea which has its significant fragrance and a good and lasting taste and fresh breath. Belimal tea relieves palpitations, heart burn, indigestion, bowel disorders and vomiting. It is used for treating asthma and malaria.

5. Gotukola

Gotukola (*Centalla asiatica*) dried and cut into small pieces can be poured like tea. This is a very popular drink among many. It is a remedy for worm diseases in children. It is a very common plant which could be grown in pots as an indoor plant. This drink enriches the appetite in children. It is also a very effective herbal tea for those who suffer from hay fever and Catarrh.

6. Mukknuwenna

Mukknuwenna (*Altemanthera sessilis*) is a common weed used in curry form. This weed is also used as a drink, prepared in the same form as Gotukola. This is a herbal tea that cools the system and clears urinary complaints.

7. Asswanna

Asswanna (*Alysicarpus vaginalis*) is another herb which is used often in Ayurveda. Prepared as tea, this helps the balance of unbalanced watha, and helps to reduce rheumatic pains.

cont'd

Beware of those who fall at your feet. They may be reaching for the corner of the rug!
~ Bill Baker ~

8. Myla Flower

In rural areas Buddhist monks drink more of these herbal teas than the common tea: In the dry zone, the Myla flower (*Woodfordia fruticosa*) is used as a herbal tea. It is a delicious drink. This herb is largely used in indigenous medicine. In Sanskrit it is known in AngiJvala which means fire flame. It is a remedy against dysentery and diarrhoea. This herbal tea reduces flatulence.

9. Adathoda

There is a great deal of influenza in the country and children often suffer from a heavy nose and painful coughs. Adathoda flowers dried or fresh poured as tea is a very effective remedy forth is. Add sugar candy (preferably Thai Sookiri) instead of sugar.

10. Aruda or Rue (*Ruta graveolens*)

Aruda or Rue (*Ruta graveolens*) is a native plant in Europe. Rue was then used as a protection against poison and as a preventive for epilepsy and vertigo. In Sanskrit it is known Anganapriya, a herb dear to women. It was a common practice among mothers to heat a few crushed leaves, in a teaspoon full of gingelly oil or coconut oil, and to rub it over the chest and head, for infantile catarrh. It is widely cultivated in the hill country. It has a pungent smell and bitter taste, and is called the herb of grace. Among the Muslims it is highly revered, for it was blessed by the Prophet after it had cured an illness. It is a very potent herb, and should be taken very sparingly. It cures many mental disorders. It improves the condition of the veins and arteries and will cure muscular cramps. A teaspoonful of Rue leaves infused in three quarter pints of water will give you a bowlful of herbal tea. Take a dessertspoonful of this herbal tea before retiring to bed. It reduces high blood pressure and sciatica and many-forms of rheumatism. Sometimes you find that this herbal tea upsets your stomach.

Source for Ayurvedic tea: Herbal Foods and Medicines in Sri Lanka by Dr Seela Fernando (2003)



Laughter - The Best Medicine!

An attorney arrived home late, after a very tough day trying to get a stay of execution. His last minute plea for clemency to the governor had failed and he was feeling worn out and depressed.

As soon as he walked through the door at home, his wife started on him about, "What time of night to be getting home is this? Where have you been? Dinner is cold, and I'm not reheating it."

And on and on and on.

Too shattered to play his usual role in this familiar ritual, he poured himself a shot of whiskey and headed off for a long hot soak in the bathtub, pursued by the predictable sarcastic remarks as he dragged himself up the stairs. While he was in the bath, the phone rang.

The wife answered and was told that her husband's client, James Wright, had been granted a stay of execution after all.

Wright would not be hanged tonight.

Finally realizing what a terrible day he must have had, she decided to go upstairs and give him the good news. As she opened the bathroom door, she was greeted by the sight of her husband, bent over naked, drying his legs and feet. "They're not hanging Wright tonight," she said.

He whirled around and screamed,

"FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, WOMAN, DON'T YOU EVER STOP?!!?"

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers
Now that's taking things a bit far!

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
What a guy!

Miners Refuse to Work after Death
No-good-for-nothing! lazy so-and-so's!

LAND OF HOPE

BY RYLAND DE HOEDT

They came that fateful night. Smashing down the door with their rifle butts, the three soldiers strode into my parents' room. "Get up" the captain ordered. "You're both under arrest." "We've committed no crime. Why are you doing this?" my father cried in protest. "Have mercy, don't hurt us" my mother pleaded. "Shut up" the captain yelled. "Get moving". With these words he and the other two soldiers literally dragged my parents out the front door. Before they vanished into the night, I saw the look of hopelessness in my father's eyes and the tears on my mother's cheeks, and I heard my mother plead to the captain "Don't hurt Peter, whatever you do, please captain, I beg of you. He's our only child." Then there was silence. Deathly silence! And I was alone in our home. Alone with my thoughts! Fearful of what would happen next. Would I be arrested, too? At fifteen what political "crime" could I commit?

It was only yesterday that our "friendly" neighbour, the mighty Segovia had invaded our tiny, yet prosperous country, Romano. Our country didn't stand a chance against the military of Segovia and, within twenty-four hours the Segovian government had ordered the arrest of a number of local politicians and people like my father who had been members of a political party. Stories also filtered through of executions for political "crimes". What would happen to my parents? Would theyI couldn't bear the thought. The quiet was suddenly shattered by loud voices. "It was the captains." Get up. You're coming with us," he yelled. I was pushed out the door and was ordered to get into a bus parked on the road near our home. There were about fifty youths in the bus huddled together and looking miserable. Soon the bus was on its way. After about two hours it stopped inside a wire enclosed yard. Even in the darkness I could make out the outlines of a huge building that looked like a prison. The captain ordered us to get out and walk single file through a huge door into a large well-lit room where there were several tables with an official sitting behind each. The official recorded our personal details, we were photographed, finger-printed and were ordered into prison garb. We were each directed into a cell, which contained a wooden bed and fibre mattress, a box as a table, a light in the ceiling, a little cubicle for purposes of hygiene and a small window that let in very little light. Each morning at 5 we were awakened by a loud whistle. We were ordered to proceed to the "meal room" where we ate soggy porridge and drank weak, tasteless coffee. We were then marched to work – the task of building a road! In wind, rain, cold, we toiled daily from 5.30 am to sunset, digging, carrying rock, clearing rubble. Sweat trickled down our aching backs. Our legs were cut and bleeding.

At sunset we returned to the prison where we showered as best we could in the trickle of cold water, cleaned our teeth re-attired ourselves in fresh prison garb and proceeded to the "meal room" to partake of mouldy bread and insipid stew.

Many a time at night we were taken into a room and interrogated for hours by an official regarding our political affiliations, if any. On a number of occasions, I had been beaten

cont'd

because my answers were disbelieved. I couldn't take it much longer; I had to escape; or I would go mad. But how could I escape? Prisoners weren't permitted to talk to each other, so I couldn't get help. I must have been there about a year, when suddenly the opportunity presented itself. Close to where I was toiling was a bridge over which the railway lines ran. Suddenly, there was a mighty explosion and the bridge blew up - obviously the work of the resistance movement. Pandemonium broke loose. In the excitement I took my chance. I plunged into the bushes nearby and tore through the undergrowth, unnoticed, to the river flowing under the bridge. I dived into it. Keeping myself hidden behind a floating length of thick timber, I clung to it. Holding onto the timber I floated downstream till I reached the point where the river entered the sea when I spotted several ships. I was in the area of the harbour! About a hundred meters away was a ship. I could just manage to recognise the flag. It was Australian.

I mustered up courage and decided to swim towards it. When I was close to it some sailors spotted me and threw down a rope ladder and hauled me on board and took me to the ship's captain. I explained to the captain who I was and appealed to him to take me to Australia when the ship returned there. He was very sympathetic and agreed to do so, but didn't give me any guarantee regarding, permanent settlement, which he said was not in his hands. We sailed that night and reached Melbourne about two weeks later. I had to undergo quarantine and immigration formalities and after 6 weeks was permitted residence in Australia. I was then taken to the migrant hostel at a suburb known as Springvale, where accommodation was found for me. Arrangements were also made to enter me into Springvale High School. Very soon, I made friends, and the fact that I had learned English in my home country proved a help in my education; and, to my great delight I was able to play football. It wasn't like soccer, which I used to play, but it was more exciting. They called it Australian Rules football. What a great game! That was two years ago. And here I was Peter Rosky, sitting on the reserves bench representing Springvale. I looked at the scoreboard. Springvale Falcons were down by two points. It was time-on in the last quarter! My heart sank. After a year's hard work, we were going to lose the grand final! Suddenly the coach's voice rang out, "You're on Peter. Do your best"

In a daze I ran to take my position on the half-forward flank. It was my first game in the grand final too. I couldn't believe my luck. I heard a voice cry "Hold it". It was a team-mate who had directed the ball to me. I could see the ball coming at me like a bomb. I was terrified! But I had to take that mark. I just had to. Using all my will power I leapt in the air above my opponent and clung to the ball like a vice I'd taken the mark. "Take your time" my coach cried. "We're depending on you to kick a goal". Two points behind. I had to kick a goal. Springvale Falcons depended on me. I held the ball carefully in my hands. I took deliberate steps, lined up the goal mouth and bang went my boot. The ball sailed through the air. But it was in the wrong direction. It was going to hit the left point post. I felt terrible. I hung my head in shame. Suddenly a breeze blew up. Next moment I heard a cheer. My team mates and my coach went wild. I looked up. I couldn't believe it. I'd kicked a goal. We'd won. I looked around at the happy supporters. I felt humble in my achievement, yet I felt proud and happy. Proud to be an Australian, happy in this Land of Hope!

The Ceylonese Welfare Organisation Inc.
Presents

A Christmas Luncheon

on

Sunday 1st December 2019

At

Menzies Hall

41A Menzies Avenue, Dandenong North

12.00noon to 5.00pm

Caterer

“Royal Regale”

Mr Roy De Silva

Music By

“REDEMPTION”

TICKET CONTACTS

Mrs Jennifer Peries - 0430 076 620

Mr Max Ludekens - 0402 477 752

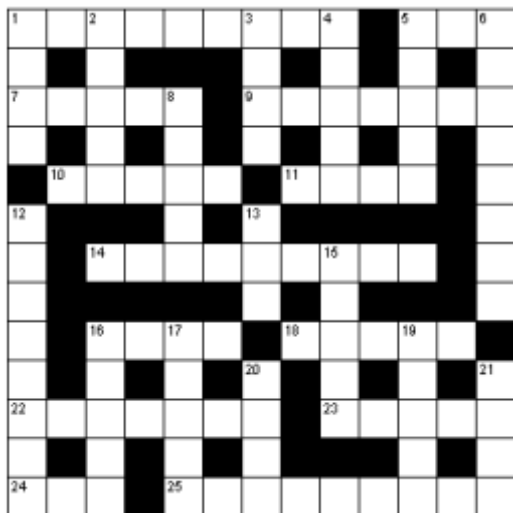
Mrs Rita Van Geyzel - 9503 4841

Mrs Carol Loos - 9827 4455

Members \$30

Non Members \$40

BYO



CATCH - WORDS

Across

1. A little ____ is a dangerous thing (9)
5. Like two peas in a ____ (3)
7. Left on the ____ (5)
9. ____ and spills (7)
10. A hole ____ (2,3)
11. The best things in life are ____ (4)
14. Out of the ____ into the fire (6,3)
16. ____ of the bunch (4)
18. Adam's ____ (5)
22. A tight ____ (7)
23. On the ____ (5)
24. ____ or no (3)
25. A ____ in a pear tree (9)

Down

1. ____ and tell (4)
2. A drop in the ____ (5)
3. Blind ____ (4)
4. Trial and ____ (5)
5. Keep a finger on the ____ (5)
6. One good turn ____ another (8)
8. ____ dress (5)
12. A ____ of justice (8)
13. All good things must come to an ____ (3)
15. ____ over the cracks (5)
16. It never rains but it ____ (5)
17. Talk is ____ (5)
19. Straight ____ (5)
20. ____ and tear (4)
21. Ireland, the Emerald ____ (4)

SOLUTION



ENGLISH HUMOUR

Rioters have gone on the rampage in Manchester, killing anyone who's English. Police fear the death toll could be as high as 8 or 9.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IN THE ANZAC MARCH

Contribution from: Leslie Fernando

The Ceylon Ex- servicemen's Association salutes

Mr Mervyn Vanderwert (DECEASED)

(Founder Member, Past Co-Ordinator, President, and Life Member) (Now Deceased)

In 1983 thirty-two Ex-Servicemen of the Ceylon Defence Forces residing in Melbourne Proudly marched under the leadership of the late Major Paddy Crozier in the annual ANZAC commemorative march in the City of Melbourne. It was solely through the Representations made by Mervyn Vanderwert that ANZAC authorities extended this Honour to the fledgling Ceylon Ex- Servicemen's Association. To enlighten the critics and many others who were wondering why Ceylon Ex-Servicemen should participate in this revered commemorative march Brigadier Rossi of the RSL Victoria, writes in a letter to Mervyn

**"To those of your Members who harbour some doubts about whether Ceylonese Ex-Servicemen are welcome to the ANZAC Day Commemoration March, I can Say"
Learn the Military history of your Mother Country, this learning will reveal that no country has a higher claim to participation, because apart from a few senior British Officers with their personal staff, the A and NZ Army Corps that landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in April 1915 was made up of units from three countries – Australia, New Zealand and Ceylon. The Ceylon Unit, The Ceylon Planters Rifles, Was small, but it was there and thus its members were true ANZACS."**





Real Estate Licence No. 080394L

SERVICES:

Property Sales - Residential and Commercial

Property Leasing and Management - Residential and Commercial

We service all areas within Victoria

ON OFFER:

- **FREE NO OBLIGATION PROPERTY APPRAISAL**
- **FOR YOUR PROPERTY SALE: LOW PERCENTAGE COMMISSION OR FIXED COMMISSION AMOUNT***
- **PROPERTY LEASING: NO LETTING FEE FOR YOUR FIRST PROPERTY IF UNDER OUR ONGOING MANAGEMENT***
- **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT: LOW PERCENTAGE MANAGEMENT FEE**

PLEASE CONTACT **ADRIAN CASPERSZ** OR **ELLIE WANG**, JOINT PRINCIPALS FOR A NO OBLIGATION CONSULTATION ON TEL: **(03) 9939 8272**



ADRIAN CASPERSZ

M. 03 9939 8272

M. 04 7276 080

adrian@linkandconnect.com.au



ELLIE WANG

M. 03 9939 8272

M. 03 9939 8272

ellie@linkandconnect.com.au

WE 'VALUE' YOUR BUSINESS & ARE COMMITTED TO "Delivering Success" - WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK

*Plus Marketing and other costs as applicable and agreed to in individual agreements

If your property is currently listed exclusively with another agent, please disregard this communication

Website: www.linkandconnect.com.au

OBITUARIES

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

HENDRICKS – FERGUS, husband of the late Maureen, father of Portia and Shawn, father-in-law of Silmiya, grandfather of Dephane. Brother of Horatious & late Lorna, late Hiyazeene & Bobby Crusz, Fabian & Lorraine, Sheila & Herbert Kreltsheim, Rodney & Wendy and Esme & Ralph De Visser, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 4.7.2019)

MARTYN – SCHOLASTICE (MARIE), wife of G. A. (Maurice) Martyn, mother of Sandra Walgama, Charmaine Mathews and Sean Martyn, grandmother of Shane, Jessica, Shanese, Shontel, Shanelle and Stefan. Daughter of late Clement and Zena Pereira, sister of late Kevin, Angela, Therese, Bernard, Marie, Annette and Bernadette, in Sri Lanka. – 74, Halpe Mawatha, Kandana, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 9.7.2019)

KELLY – GERTRUDE, wife of late Rex Kelly, mother of late Trevor, Tyronne, Therese, Rhonda, Radley, Sandra and late Rennet, daughter and sons-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 11.7.2019)

PULLE – BERTHA MONICA (nee Marcelline), wife of Dr Christopher Pulle. Daughter of Mr & Mrs B.M. Marcelline, sister of Frances, Greg, Annette, Heddy, Mark, Berny, Billy and Hilary, sister-in-law of the Pulle family – Dunstan, late Josephine, Stan and Austin, on July 7, 2019, in California, USA (Daily News, 13.7.2019 and contributed)

ROELOFSZ – ANGELA DAISY, wife of Malcolm, mother of Jennifer and Geoffrey, mother-in-law of Peter, on May 25, 2019, aged 102, in Sydney. (Sydney Morning Herald, 13.7.2019)

JOACHIM – CLAUDE DENZIL, father of Aubrey and Doyné Joachim, father-in-law of Nelum and Angela, grandfather of Ryle and Dale, Nichole, Linda and Suzette, great grandfather of Zara and Hazel, in Sydney on July 10, 2019, aged 96 years. (Elanka, 12.7.2019)

BARTLETT – DR RENE. Wife of late Dr Jayam. Sister of Inez Gunawardena and of the late Bertille De Silva, Leah Fernando, Maureen Jayatileke, Dr Melva Perera and the late Fr Claver Perera, in Sri Lanka. – 19, First Lane, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 20.7.2019)

JESURASINGHAM – DR ANTHONY ALEXANDER, husband of Imelda, father of Nathan and Elaine. Brother of Violet, Wilfred, Josephine, Hamilton, Daisy, Fr Patrick, Philip, Jeyam, Nussy and Rajie, in Brisbane, aged 84 years. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 20.7.2019)

FERNANDO – MARY BEATRICE, wife of late Stanley Fernando, mother of Sunimal and Chrysanthé. Sister of the late Eva, Leela, Mervyn, Violet and Margie, in Sydney. (Daily News, 25.7.2019)

VANDERWERT – ROLLO, husband of Betzy, father and father-in-law of Dexter – Asuntha, Pollyann – Kumar Fernando, Sharon, Marissa – Olga Perera, Chomo – Tharanga, Sandra – Jude Gunasekera, Rezleigh – Pomoda, grandfather of Christine, Marlon, Fiorenza, Tania, Sara, Shanie, Naveen, Kevin, Genesis and Malathi, great grandfather of Malinka, Maleesha, Khane, Eron, Jeynon, in Sri Lanka. – 152, Suhada Mawatha, Mahahunupitiya, Negombo, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 25.7.2019)

APONSO – LUCIAN STANLEY, husband of late Beryll, father of Shivanthie and Lasha, father-in-law of Toni and Gerard. Brother of late Nimal (George), Connie and Jackson, in Melbourne on July 22, 2019. (Daily News, 26.7.2019)

MOLLIGODA – ERIC WENDY (nee Pereira), 03.02.1944 – 10. 07.2019, wife of Bandula, mother of Suriya. Sister of Joan, Edda (Switz), Jeanne, late Heather, Sylvia (Lalla) and Megan (UK), Rudy, Clem and Esther (Aust), in Melbourne. < edda.pereira@gmail.com > (Daily News, 26.7.2019 & 31.7.2019))

GUNASINGHE – E.D., husband of Chandralatha, father of Darshana and Ajitha, father-in-law of Yameng and Tharishi, grandfather of Ruwana and Sarah, Seshan, Luckni, Harini, Kushil, Chaniru and Ashni, great grandfather of Isaiah, in Sydney. (Daily News, 27.7.2019)

ELIAS – CLEMENT JOHN, husband of Margo (dec), father of Neil (dec), Sandie (dec) and Trish, grandfather of Tracey, Nigel, Marion, Jo, Mel and Kate, great grandfather of 9, in West Australia. (The West Australian, 27.7.2019)

FRANCIS – JOSEPH JEROME, husband of Gail, father of Jason and Joel. Son of late Giles and Therese (Dolly), brother of late Jennifer and of Darrel, brother-in-law of Dicky, Jacqueline, Dave Rhonda, Astrid, Tania and Kevin, in Sri Lanka. (Sunday Observer, 28.7.2019)

FAREED – YVONNE (YASMIN), nee Koch, wife of late Colonel A. M. M. Fareed, mother of Rev. Richard and Dawn Brohier, grandmother of Andre and Amanda, great grandmother of Asher, Sierra and Aaliyah. Daughter of late Walter and Ruby Koch, sister of late Mervyn, late Zena Koch (Syd), Mavis & late Elmo White (Syd), late Louis & Fortune (UK), sister-in-law of late Inudeen, late Kahideen & Lyna, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 31.7.2019)

PEREIRA, Noel Winston 04.01.1920-26.07.2019

Passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side. Loving husband of Iola. Loving father to Tyrone, Charmaine (deceased), Russell and Charlene. Loved Papa of Royce, Jasmin, Liam, Jade, Allan (deceased) and his five great grandchildren. Father in-law to Jennifer. Now is your time to rest forever in our hearts.

Vander Poorten, Bronwyn ...Precious daughter of Hals and Betty, adored mother of Harry and Ben, and beloved sister of Nicky and Fiona, passed away peacefully on 10/6/2019, after a short illness. 64, Gardiner Road, Waterford, Qld. 4133.

HERFT – KARL IGNATIUS MARIO, husband of June Herft, father of Kylie Strong and Jason Herft, father-in-law of Godfrey Strong and Danielle Herft, grandfather of Joaquin, Dion, Joshua, Samuel, Grace, Hope and Elijah. Son of Sam and Ensie Herft (dec), brother of Elaine Barbut (dec), Frank Herft and Anna Delf, brother-in-law of Kenneth Barbut (dec), Doris Herft and David Delf, in Melbourne. (Contributed, 29.6.2019)

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

2019/20 Subscription Reminder

Dear Member

If you have not paid your subscriptions for the previous or current year 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 Vic 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: 2019/20☐ 2020/21☐ other☐

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

COMMENTS:
.....



MEMBERS ONLY FREE LUNCH

Sunday 6 October 2019

Hoppers Galore

12.00noon to 5.00pm

(see p5 for details)

Christmas Lunch

Sunday 24 November 2019

Sumptuous Christmas Buffet

by "Cha's Cabin" - 12.00noon to 5.00pm

\$35pp - Children 12+ \$15.00ea - BYO

Music for your listening pleasure!

Join Us!

BRING THE FAMILY!

If undelivered please return to:

The Editor
96 Darren Road,
Keysborough VIC 3173

**P R I N T
P O S T
100018493**

**P O S T A G E
P A I D
A U S T R A L I A**

To: