

BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC

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Web Site: <http://www.burgherassocn.org.au>

Summer Newsletter December 2019





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Mrs Ruth Liu - 0415 463 037, Mrs Fallon De Zilwa - 0414 096 774



The 2019/20 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 2019 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**

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.



WELCOME to our newest MEMBERS!



Join Us For A

Happy
Australia
day



At the BAA

358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3168

26 January 2020

12.00 noon to 5.00 pm

Music for your pleasure!



And Enjoy A

Scrumptious Roast

with all the trimmings

By "Cha's Cabin"

TICKET CONTACTS

Ashley Henricus - 9561 6212

Tamaris Lourensz - 5981 8187

Elaine Jansz - 9798 6315

Breeda or Harvey Foenander - 8790 1610

Carol or Hermann Loos - 9827 4455

Terry Backhouse - 9774 7300

Rita or Bert VanGeyzel - 9503 4841

Fallon De Zilwa - 0414 096 774

Neville Davidson - 0419 880 329

Shoua Liu - 0420 225 600, Ruth Liu -0415 463 037

Hans De Zilwa - 0419 292 939



Burgher Association (Australia)

358 Houghton Road, Clayton VIC 3168

HALL



HIRE



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.





A SIGN IN A SHOE REPAIR STORE IN VANCOUVER READS:

We will heel you
We will save your sole
We will even dye for you.

A SIGN ON A BLINDS AND CURTAIN TRUCK:

"Blind man driving"

In a Podiatrist's office:
"Time heels all wounds."

At an Optometrist's Office :
"If you don't see what you're looking for,
You've come to the right place."

On another Plumber's truck :
"Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber."

At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee :
"Invite us to your next blowout."

At a Car Dealership:
"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room :
"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company:
"We would be delighted if you send in your payment on time.
However, if you don't, YOU will be de-lighted."

In a Restaurant window:
"Don't stand there and be hungry; come on in and get fed up."

In the front yard of a Funeral Home :
"Drive carefully. We'll wait."
And the best one for last...

Sign on the back of Septic Tank Truck:
"Caution - This Truck is full of Political Promises"

What the Portuguese Left Behind: The Cultural Influence of The First Colonials

February 2014

Words Richard Boyle

By 1505 the Island then known to the civilised world as Serendib had, over the centuries, experienced a variety of cultural influences, mainly because it became the natural focal point at the southernmost part of the sea routes that connected Asia with the Mediterranean. So it was that Chinese, Greek, Roman, Persian, Arab and Indian sailors and merchants converged on the Island and left their cultural imprint to a greater or lesser degree. But the year 1505 saw the beginning of an utterly different type and intensity of cultural influence. A Portuguese fleet in pursuit of ships belonging to Moorish and Arab traders was blown off course near the Maldives and ended up at Galle. It was the first contact the Islanders had with Europeans and their dissimilar way of life and advanced military equipment.

So alien were the Portuguese that the Sinhalese chronicle Rajavaliya described them when they built a fort at Colombo in 1517 as "exceedingly fair of skin and beautiful. They wear boots and hats of iron: they rest not a minute in one place: they walk here and there. They eat hunks of white stone (bread) and drink blood (wine): and give two or three pieces of gold and silver for one fish or one lime. The report of their cannon is louder than thunder when it bursts upon the rock of Yugandhara: their cannon balls fly for a gawwa (a gawwa roughly equals 6.5km, so this distance is an exaggeration) and shatter fortresses of granite."

At a time when Serendib was vulnerable to invasion from the north, the arrival of the Portuguese prevented the Island from becoming an Indian province. Instead, Ceilão as they named it gained a unique identity as they were the first of three colonial powers—the others being the Dutch and British—to have an imposing influence on the culture over a period of 450 years. Not all of the Portuguese influence was beneficial, but the positive aspects have contributed to an extraordinarily diverse society in which traditional aspects have thankfully survived.

Shihan de Silva Jayasuriya asserts in "The Portuguese Cultural Imprint on Sri Lanka" (2000): "The Portuguese presence in Asia was generally limited to urban areas but Sri Lanka was an exception. The institutions that defined the matrix of social interaction with the local context were extended to non-urban areas. The Portuguese have left their stamp on Sri Lankan social administration, society, fine arts and language."

Roman Catholicism

Roman Catholicism is the main form of Christianity in Sri Lanka, having been the first to be introduced by Portuguese missionaries. However, the over-zealous nature of the conversion is the least tasteful aspect of the Portuguese cultural imprint. But they were more successful in retaining their converts than the Dutch missionaries who tried to spread Protestantism after the Portuguese were expelled.

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This is partly reflected in the fact that Catholics, who include both Sinhalese and Tamils, comprise 6.1 percent of the population (1.2 million) as per the 2012 census, while Protestants account for 1.3 percent. Unfortunately, only ruins of Portuguese churches remain. Indeed, insignificant architecture is extant: even the many forts the Portuguese built were reconstructed by the Dutch, the stronghold master-builders of the period.

Surnames

Many Sinhalese adopted Portuguese surnames-although most were modified to a degree-but this practice did not necessarily denote conversion to Roman Catholicism. Such names (and their Portuguese form) include Corea (Correia), Croos (Cruz), De Abrew (Abreu), De Alwis (Alves), De Mel (Melo), De Saram (Serra), De Silva (Da Silva), De Soysa or De Zoysa, Dias, De Fonseka or Fonseka (Fonseca), Fernando (Fernandes), Gomes or Gomis, Mendis (Mendes), Perera (Pereira), Peiris or Pieris (Peres), Rodrigo (Rodrigues), Salgado, and Vaas (Vaz). The last example has become well-known in international cricket due to Chaminda Vaas, formerly Sri Lanka's most successful new-ball bowler.

Portuguese Creole

The interaction of the Portuguese and the islanders led to the evolution of a new language, Portuguese Creole. This flourished as a link language between the 16th and mid-19th centuries and continues to be spoken today (there is no written form) by an extremely small percentage of the population: in 1992 it was estimated to be 30,000.

Speakers of Portuguese Creole are generally members of the Burgher community (descendants of the Portuguese and Dutch) who reside in Batticaloa and Trincomalee. In addition, it is spoken by the Kaffir community (Bantu slaves brought to the Island by the Portuguese and later by the Dutch and British), in Puttalam. Portuguese Creole consists of words from Portuguese, Sinhala, Tamil, and even Dutch and English. It is considered to be the most important creole dialect in Asia because of its vitality and the influence of its vocabulary on the Sinhala language.

Sinhala words of Portuguese origin.

This vocabulary influence was remarkable: there was a rapid absorption of perhaps a thousand Portuguese words into Sinhala. These "loan words" as they termed by lexicographers rarely appear in the same form as the original; the vast majority have undergone naturalisation. Examples include: almariya (wardrobe), annasi (pineapple), baldiya (bucket), bankuwa (bench), bonikka (doll), bottama (button), gova (cabbage), kabuk (laterite, a building material), kalisama (trousers), Kamisaya (shirt), kussiya (kitchen), lensuwa (handkerchief), masaya (month), mesaya (table), narang (orange), nona (lady), paan (bread), pinturaya, (picture), rodaya (wheel), rosa (pink), saban (soap), salada (salad), sapattuwa (shoe), simenti (cement), sumanaya (week), toppiya (hat), tuwaya (towel), viduruwa (glass).

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Music and dance

Apart from Buddhism, the second biggest influence on Sri Lankan music, is Portuguese, for the colonials brought with them western instruments such as the ukulele and the guitar, and introduced musical forms such as the ballad. More significant, though, was the importation of the rhythmic instrumental dance music called *baila*, which was popular with the Portuguese traders and their Kaffir slaves. Characterised by its upbeat 6/8 time, *baila* has today become a fashionable genre of Sri Lankan music. It includes comical lyrics and accommodates modern instruments-electric guitar, keyboards and drums-and is often played during parties and weddings.

Cuisine

Those who assume that Sri Lanka's hot curries were the creation of the Islanders will be surprised to learn that the Portuguese introduced chillies to the local cuisine. Until then, pepper had been the means by which curries were given a 'heaty' (Sri Lankan English) taste. Not so surprising, considering the local lack of knowledge regarding bread revealed in the comment that the Portuguese ate "hunks of white stone", is that they were responsible for the establishment of bread-making. They also introduced the tomato. The Islanders took to Portuguese cakes, such as the *bolo fiado* or *bolo folhado*, a layer cake filled with *cadju* (cashews), and sweets such as *boruwa* and *fuguete*.

Clothing

Illustrations in Portuguese and Dutch descriptions of the Island in the 16th and 17th centuries reveal that the Sinhalese soldier's dress was of Portuguese influence. There is an engraving from *Description of Malabar and Ceylon* (1672) by the Dutchman Philip Baldaeus that depicts the reception of his fellow-countryman, explorer Joris van Spilbergen, by King Vimaladharmasuriya I. The king's guards are shown wearing a Portuguese-type helmet, white jacket and kilt. Moreover, the kings of the Portuguese, Dutch and British era invariably wore Portuguese costume, complete with hat and shoes. This is demonstrated in Robert Knox's *An Historical Relation of Ceylon* (1681), in which there is an illustration of King Rajasingha II (1635-1687). "His apparel is very strange," Knox remarks, "not after his own country. . . he has a long band hanging down his back of Portuguese fashion."

These are the type of cultural influences the Portuguese left behind when they were ousted by the Dutch in 1658. They may have been the earliest colonials in the Island, but their influence was not diluted or eradicated by that of the Dutch and British as it had become an essential component in many aspects of the life of the Islanders.



"If it is to be, it is up to me."
~ Anonymous ~

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:

Death and destruction: this is David Koch's sad legacy

Alex Kotc -Tue 27 Aug 2019

Anarcho-capitalism was the real cancer plaguing the billionaire libertarian. And it spread across universities, halls of Congress and the White House.

In 1992, billionaire industrialist David Koch was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer and given just a few years to live. Thanks to his enormous wealth, he was able to purchase the best treatment in the world, and he survived 27 more years until his death last week.

For all his adult life, he'd led Koch Industries, a diversified manufacturing conglomerate, with his older brother Charles. Now taking in around \$110 bn per year, the company creates chemicals and fertilizers; it produces synthetic materials such as Lycra; it sells lumber and churns out paper and glass products; it makes electronics components used in weapons systems. But first and foremost, Koch Industries mines and refines petroleum and operates pipelines to spread it throughout North America.

Koch Industries, a private company, is the United States' 17th-largest producer of greenhouse gases and the 13th-biggest water polluter, according to research from the University of Massachusetts Amherst – ahead of oil giants Exxon Mobil, Occidental Petroleum and Phillips 66. The conglomerate has committed hundreds of environmental, workplace safety, labour and other violations. It allegedly stole oil from Indian reservations, won business in foreign countries with bribery, and one of its crumbling butane pipelines killed two teenagers, resulting in a nearly \$300m wrongful death settlement. The dangerous methane leakage, carbon emissions, chemical spills and other environmental injustices enacted by Koch's companies have imperilled the planet and allegedly brought cancer to many people. But it took Koch's own struggle with the disease for him to care about cancer and fund research to combat it. This is the tragic mindset of many a right-wing oligarch: The toils, the woes, the maladies of humankind are irrelevant – unless they happen to me, or perhaps my close family members. I've never struggled to live on \$7.25 per hour, so why is it a problem? An ailment has never caused me to go bankrupt, so why would anyone possibly need government subsidies to pay for life-saving medical care? Climate change has never directly affected my life so I'll keep on denying that humans have anything to do with it. Even though I inherited a business and a fortune, I earned every cent of my astronomical net worth. If you worked as hard as I have, you would have what I have, too.

Koch epitomized this grotesquely selfish mentality during his 1980 vice presidential campaign on the Libertarian ticket, when he ran on abolishing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, welfare benefits, the minimum wage and the Environmental Protection Agency. He put \$2m of his own money into the effort and campaigned to axe all campaign finance laws so he and his brother could maximize their bloated political influence without

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any pesky rules attempting to honour the constitutional premise of American elections: “One person, one vote.”

It is this cruel mindset that was the real cancer plaguing David Koch. It wouldn't kill him, but it would spread itself into university curricula, the halls of Congress, regulatory agencies, and the White House. It possessed the unfathomably rich who came before him, and it will infect the opulent oligarchs who come after him. It is the cult of anarcho-capitalism, the faithful worship of the divine free market that has shined so brightly on Koch and his family. If only we could do away with government altogether, we'd become a true utopian society: a handful of corporate monarchs ruling over billions of wretched serfs who toil away until their deaths, faithfully adding zeros to the quarterly revenues of the select few at their own fatal expense. Not only did Koch help unleash countless metric tons of greenhouse gases from the earth, he was a key funder of climate change denialism, stiff-arming scientists in order to further plunder the earth he was destroying. Revelations in Christopher Leonard's new book, “Kochland,” show that Koch played an even greater role in funding climate change denialism than we previously knew. As we careen towards a climate catastrophe that seems more and more likely to happen within the next 11 years, we can rightly pin a portion of the blame on David and his brother.

With Charles, David funded and participated in a network of free-market thinktanks that produced academic literature in support of slashing taxes and gutting regulations in order to aid mega-corporations like Koch Industries. These ideological centres include the Cato Institute, which the Kochs founded and where David was a long-time board member; the American Enterprise Institute, where he was a member of its National Council; George Mason University's Mercatus Center and the Institute for Humane Studies; and the Heritage Foundation. Now alumni of the Koch academic and policy network have become government administrators, regulatory officials, political advisers and lifetime judges.

In 1984, David co-founded the predecessor to the non-profit Americans for Prosperity (AFP), among the first of many political major groups the brothers would fund and operate. The Kochs increased their political spending and engagement over decades, using AFP and other groups to publicize the thinktanks' laissez-faire policy proposals and pressure members of Congress to support them. In 2009, AFP helped get the allegedly grassroots Tea Party off the ground, as it and other Koch network organizations began years of campaigning against President Obama's effort to give millions of low-income Americans health insurance and expanded Medicaid. David has funded research into cancer therapies but appears to believe that only the financially secure deserve treatment.

Spending by the Kochs' political groups and campaign donations from the Kochs and their company's Pac made a wave of right-wing ideologues into lawmakers at the state and federal levels. The Tea Party sweep in 2010, a phenomenon that laid the groundwork for a right-wing nationalist president, would not have been nearly what it was without the Koch largesse. Now the Koch political network claims to be distressed at President Trump's cruel

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immigration policies and tariff wars, yet the network championed the contemporary far-right movement that has seated countless lawmakers who revel in anti-immigrant and nationalist policymaking.

In the current decade, while Koch-backed state legislators made sweetheart deals with oil and gas companies and crippled the progress of solar companies, Koch beneficiaries in the House and Senate were cutting taxes, undoing federal regulations, and doing all they could to kick millions of Americans off of their health care coverage.

When you walk around Cambridge, Massachusetts, you'll pass by MIT's David H Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research or the David H Koch Childcare Center. When taking in upper-crust Manhattan arts and culture, you'll come across Lincoln Centre's David H Koch Theatre. For those who don't know about Koch's business and political operations, he must seem like a generous man.

The directors of these institutions are ever grateful to Koch.

"David Koch was a model philanthropist who funded initiatives across a swath of cultural, scientific, and medical institutions," Robert Millard, chair of the MIT Corporation, said in MIT News. "His generosity has benefited humanity broadly – from the arts to cancer research to science. MIT is deeply thankful for his many contributions to our community." "His contributions to medical research will live on forever; they have and will continue to benefit millions of Americans and others around the world," said Jonathan Simons, CEO of the Prostate Cancer Foundation, in a tribute to Koch. "We will miss his sense of humour, his wisdom and his insightfulness."

Koch may have kept some arts institutions on life support, bolstered the Natural History Museum's dinosaur exhibition, or employed cancer researchers, but we must not let these philanthropic acts cover for a billionaire whose corporate greed has gravely endangered the future of the planet and the human species. This is the point of these seemingly magnanimous contributions: to cast the Kochs in a positive light, deflecting criticism of Koch Industries' shameful business practices and defending the legacy of a heartless robber baron. What was the prime motivator behind the life and career of Koch, an MIT-educated chemical engineer who denied the existence, and the harms, of man-made climate change? Was it his extreme distaste for authority, birthed during his youth under a strict, Nazi-supporting nanny and an often-absent father? Was it a religious commitment to free-market capitalism and an honest belief that the market, if truly unfettered, will solve every daunting problem for humanity? Was it a sincere belief that, although he and his brother were born to a wealthy oil executive, every single poor and working-class person could pull themselves up from nothing, with no help from anyone, in a drastically unequal society, if they just tried harder?

I don't think it was any of these explanations. The answer is very simple. It was greed, the blind pursuit of horrifying wealth and power. An addiction that has left the country less equal and the planet endangered.

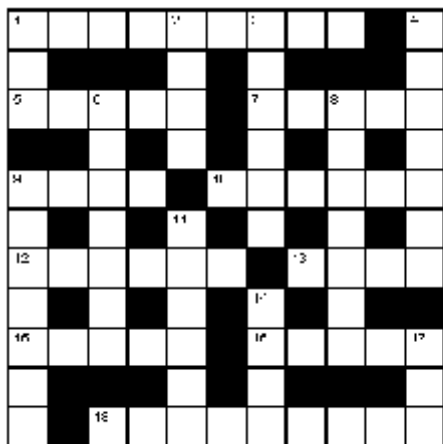
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David Koch died as the eleventh-richest man in the world, with an estimated net worth of \$51bn. His name is plastered on the facades of New England cancer centres and Manhattan hospitals and performance halls. But these historical imprints are temporary and relatively inconsequential compared to his lasting legacy, something far more significant, and terrifying. Koch's never-ending quest for obscene wealth no matter the consequence – and that of his brother, his fellow oligarchs and his political allies – will be part of every future climate change-intensified weather disaster; every city undone by catastrophic sea level rise; every animal species that goes extinct because of warmer waters, desertification, or biblical floods; and every desperate climate refugee.

Death and destruction. That is David Koch's legacy



The Quick Crossword



Across

1. Oily or greasy (9)
5. Bol (5)
7. Young eel (5)
9. Land measure (4)
10. Sultry (6)
12. Dairy product (8)
13. Hex (4)
15. Crowd scene actor (5)
16. Hidden drawback (5)
18. Accumulated (9)

Down

1. Cutting tool (3)
2. Remedy (4)
3. Wildcat (6)
4. Contradiction in terms (7)
6. Article of clothing (7)
8. Findings of a jury (7)
9. Of times long past (7)
11. Attack (6)
14. Dull pain (4)
17. Concealed (3)

Solution



The Hopper Lunch

4 July 2019







In Memorium



Cynthia Plumkett O.A.M

21st September 1931 - 13th November 2019



Message from the President BURGHER ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA INC:-(BAA)

It is with great sadness that Members of the Burgher Association Australia join together with members of Cynthia's family and, her many, many friends to bid her farewell

Cynthia was a Committee Member and Ordinary Member of the BAA since 2005. The welfare of the BAA was always close to her heart and, she headed and was instrumental in the introduction of the Friendship and Care group when the BAA decided to provide services to help seniors spend their retirement years in happy productive ways by minimising the loneliness that ageing brings to our elders by way of home visits, visits to members of the community in retirement homes and meeting in fellowship at our premises at 358 Haughton Road, Clayton, Victoria.

Cynthia was a very helpful and caring person who whenever requested, gave her help in the endeavours of the BAA. She always played a vital part in the running of the activities conducted by the BAA and was very instrumental in obtaining gifts from generous donor businesses, for raffle prizes. She was a gracious and dignified Lady, full of wisdom and concern for others. She will be sadly missed by many. We are all the poorer by her passing

Rest In Peace Dear Friend



*Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art. --
Eleanor Roosevelt*

OBITUARIES

Compiled by Victor Melder
(E & O.E.)
(OCTOBER 2019)

VAN STARREX – HANS ANTON, son of late Mr Hans Andreas Van Starrex and Gertrud Therese Van Starrex, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 1.10.2019)

JURIANSZ – LORENZO (SHANNON), aged 21 years, tragically in Melbourne. (Contributed)

AMBROSE – ANTHONY (TONY), in Melbourne (Contributed)

PIETERSZ- KENNETH (KENNY), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

MARCELINE – MARK, husband of Sonia, father of Dina, Anil, Nirmali, Zaneta and Sanayi, grandfather of Ashani, Nicolai, Camila, Marco and Marianna, great grandfather of Troy. Brother of Hedy and the late Frances, Greg, Annette, Bertha, Bernie, Billy and Hilary, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 2.10, 2019)

FOENANDER – OLGA (nee Gerreyn), daughter of the late Joe & Nita Gerreyn. Wife of Gordon (Weenie), mother of Karen Foenander and Denise Greep, grandmother of Jake Greep. Sister of the late Crosby, Annesley, Flo, Doreen, Lucien, Genevieve, Rita, Stelmond, Trixie and of Phyllis, late Lawrence (Lolly), Christy, Marie and late Henry, in the UK. (Daily Island, 8.10.2019)

FERNANDOPULLE – JENNIFER, wife of Bernard Sri Rajan. Daughter of Hyacinth and Joseph Holsinger, sister of Jacynth and the late Ian (Kinky) Mendis, Travice & Celine, Monty & Wendy, Bernard & Pauline, Janice & the late Iggy Paiva, sister-in-law of Nihal, Neville, Mahen and Praksah, in Sydney, On October 11, 2019 (Contributed & Sunday Observer, 13.10.2019))

PARSONS – HYACINTH, wife of Eric Parsons (dec), mother of Dennis (Aust), Jean (Aust), Romauld (Aust), Ralson (Aust), mother-in-law of Lorna Cole (Aust), Andrew Balfour (Aust), Liya (Aust) and Sharma (Aust), grandmother of 7, great grand Mother of 9. Daughter of Collin & Beatrice Nunna Alvis (dec), sister of Olga Peries (dec), Elmo Alvis (Can) dec, Merrill, Anton, Myrtle (SL) and Gladys De Silva (Australia), in Melbourne. (Daily News 10.10.2019)

FRANCKE – RITA MAUREEN (nee Melder), wife of late Elmo Francke, mother of Collin, late Beverley and of Kevin, mother-in-law of Anne and Anouk, grandmother of Anya, Cian, Kieran, Keanu and Kiera. Daughter of late Felix and Greta Melder, sister of late Juby & Aloy, Lorna, Anette, Dawn & late John (Cuckoo), in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 10.10.2019)

CALLANDER – HELEN MONICA, wife of Ralph, mother of Marina. Daughter of the late Hubert and Connie Congreve. Sister of the late Duncan and of Cynthia and Kenneth, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 15.10.2019)

DELAMOTTE – MARIE, friend to Joe (dec), Zalie, Dowson, Tanya and family for 40 years, in Perth. (The West Australian, 12.10.2019)

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DEVADASON – DR INDRAN, father and father-in-law of Jeyanthi & Dushan and Inbam & Lashitha, grandfather of Benjamin, Sonya, Nathan, Rebekah, Ranisha, Chrishan, Sitara and Haran, in Perth, on October 8, 2019. (The West Australian, 15.10.2019)

CASPERSZ – DAWN RITA (nee Weinman), wife of Trevine (dec), mother of Sharon, Charlene, Tracy, Donella, Jeremy and Tamara and their partners. Grandmother of 13, great grandmother of 10, in Perth, on October 12, 2019. (The West Australian, 15.10.2019)

DE SILVA – SUNALINI (LINA), wife of late Dr D.P.K.M. De Silva (Metta), mother of Dr Chinthaka and Dr Ramela, mother-in-law of Sharmela and Mahesh, grandmother of Shehan, Shamil and Shanya, in Perth, WA. (Daily Island, 16.10.2019)

WILLIAMS – MERLE, daughter of the late Capt. Hendrick Mariampillai Williams and V.H.A. Rosaline, sister of the late Mary, Emily, Bernard, Emil and Anton, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 16.10.2019)

SIMMONS – GERTRUDE (MONA), nee Coenraad, wife of late B.M.T. (Ben) Simmons, mother of Sherwood, Randolph (Aust), Bernadine Soertsz and Sandra Vanderlaan, mother-in-law of Indrani, Bernadette Darrell Soertsz and Ashley Vanderlaan, grandmother of Geraldine, Janine, Rozanne, Bernard, Diana, Ryan, Bradley and Stefan, great grandmother of Rihanna, Monique, Shahilyah, Shaniece, Shania, Amelia and David.

Sister of Olga Ekanayake and the late Ralph, Vere, Victoreen and Rex, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 18.10.2019)

SCHOKMAN – FELIX, husband of Mala Schokman, father of Ashan Schokman, grandfather of Swetha, Marissa, Nicole, Miron and Joel. Brother of Concey Janz and Sydney Francios Schokman, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News 19.10.2019)

DIAZ – PATRICIA OLIVE, wife of late Hamilton (Bonnie), mother of Hamilton, Patrina, Keith, grandmother of Anslem, Heidy, Hailey, Adele, Kimberly and Yaniah, great grandmother of Aaron, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 19.10.2019)

KRONENBERG – DR HARRY AM, partner of Robyn, father of Ruth Ann (dec) and partner David, Coralie and partner Luke and Hugh. Grandfather of Clare, Yanni, Heather, Mischa, Alex, Lucien, Luca and Sam, great grandfather of Jasper, Odette, Elvira, Jude and Rufus, in Perth, on October 11, 2019, aged 93 years. (The West Australian, 19.10.2019)

DAVIOT – CARL, husband of Shirley, father of Stephen and partner Lea, Bev and Phil and Mark. Grandfather of Jay and Radi, Stacey and Robin, Renee and Ryan, Matt and Brooke, Todd and Jake, great grandfather of Darcie, Ashton, Max, Elvie and Hunter, in Perth. (The West Australian, 21.10.2019)

SIMONSZ – ANTHONY TYRONE (TYRONE), husband of Paulette, father and father-in-law of Nigel and Kimber, grandfather of Zachary and Allison. Brother to Cody, Suzie, Rosie, Arlene (dec), Maurice (dec) and Penny (dec), in Brisbane, on October 13, aged 77, years. (The Courier Mail, 21.10.2019)

MANT – WALTER EDWARD, husband of Leila, father of Tina, Bradley and Jay, father-in-law of Ross. Grandfather of Shantia and Pearl, in Brisbane, on October 18, 2019, aged 77 years. (The Courier Mail, 21.10.2019)

JANSZ – MONICA (BUDDY) nee Feltman, wife of late J. E. H (Joe) Jansz, mother of Rienze, late Trevine, late Randolph, Berny (Aust), Judy, Shane (USA) and Remo, mother-in-law of Audrey, Indranie, late Waldo, Hillery, Nadira and Indu. Sister of late Olga Jansen and late Shirley Feltman, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 22.10.2019)

cont'd

MOLDRICH – JOSEPH LISTER ALLISON, (24 April 1946 – 17 October 2019), Son of Benjamin Augustus Moldrich & Constance Magdalene Holmes (both dec). Husband of Camille, nee Willenberg (dec), father of Merc, Mallory, Marvin and Mellany and their partners Abbie, Cassanra & Martina. Grandfather of Ethan, Coen, Zachry and Caleb. Brother of late Chalice (Syd), Christopher (UK), Royce and Travis (Qld), in Sydney. (Sydney Morning Herald, 23.10.2019 & Contributed)

CRAMER – IRENE, wife of late Joseph (Joe) Cramer, mother of late Brian, mother-in-law of Rani, grandmother of Lenny, Adrian, Jacqueline, Rinnety and Darrel, great grandmother of Andrea, Keith, Spencer, Sondra, Marlon, Daphne and Jayden, in Sri Lanka, aged 103 years. (Daily News, 24.10.2019)

WILLEMBERG – TRAVIS, husband of the late Barbara, father of Brandon and Tamaris, in California, USA, aged 88 years. (Contributed)

EDMONDS – GEORGE CECIL WILLIAM, husband of Betty (dec), father & father-in-law of Robert & Gail, Stephen & Patricia and Peter and Jonathan, grandfather of Anthony & Renee, great grandfather of Aila and Kade, on October 10, 2019, aged 94 years, in Sydney (Sydney Morning Herald, 25.10.2019)

MILLS – DR BENJAMIN AMIRTHANAYAGAM, (3.4.1927 – 22.10.2019), husband of Leelawathy Pathmaranee Mills, father of Ravi & Dr Ruth, Anusha & Dr Binojan, Selvan and Dr Tiasha, grandfather of Dr Nilani, Priyanka, Jesuran, Jaden and Zale, in Sydney, aged 92 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 25.10.2019)

DE SILVA – KARUNA (nee Siriwardena), wife of Chandana De Silva, mother of Priyani Bond, Kumari De Silva and Anjali (Kemp) De Silva, in Sydney, Australia. (Daily News, 29.10.2019)

FREDERICKS – MELVYN ANTHONY, husband, brother, father, father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather, in Perth, on October 19, 2019, aged 76 years – Esther, Sylvia, Nigel, Mark, Neil, Martyn, Michelle, Angela, Rebecca, Dustin, Jeremy, Amanda, Elijah, Bryce, Kaleb and Max. (The West Australian, 30.10.2019)

VANHEER – DAVE J., husband of Minola Vanheer, father of Ivana. Son of the late Clarence Vanheer, the late Therese and Kingsley Kanangara, son-in-law of late Monty and Ayesha Janiel. Brother and brother-in-law of Valerie & Jorge (USA), Anslem & Romaine (Aus), Ophelia (Aus), Susan & Raj, Dilshan & Chamica (Aus), in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 30.10.2019)

INCH – MABEL (DOTTIE), wife of late Herbert Inch, mother of Leonard and Milroy (Can), mother-in-law of Christine and Sabrina (Can), grandmother of Andre (NZ), late Sean (Can) and Shane (Can), great grandmother of Jarryd (NZ). – 50/4, Gunasinghe Gardens, Tennekumbara, Kandy, Sri Lanka. (Daily News 30.10.2019)



Old age is a tyrant, who forbids, under pain of death, the pleasures of youth. -- *Francois de La Rochefoucauld*



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The President
And Committee of the BAA



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



HAPPY NEW YEAR



Stay Safe

10 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT THE VATICAN

By Christopher Klein

1. Vatican City is the smallest country in the world.

Encircled by a 2-mile border with Italy, Vatican City is an independent city-state that covers just over 100 acres, making it one-eighth the size of New York's Central Park. Vatican City is governed as an absolute monarchy with the pope at its head. The Vatican mints its own euros, prints its own stamps, issues passports and license plates, operates media outlets and has its own flag and anthem. One government function it lacks: taxation. Museum admission fees, stamp and souvenir sales, and contributions generate the Vatican's revenue.

2. St. Peter's Basilica sits atop a city of the dead, including its namesake's tomb.

A Roman necropolis stood on Vatican Hill in pagan times. When a great fire leveled much of Rome in A.D. 64, Emperor Nero, seeking to shift blame from himself, accused the Christians of starting the blaze. He executed them by burning them at the stake, tearing them apart with wild beasts and crucifying them. Among those crucified was St. Peter—disciple of Jesus Christ, leader of the Apostles and the first bishop of Rome—who was supposedly buried in a shallow grave on Vatican Hill. By the fourth century and official recognition of the Christian religion in Rome, Emperor Constantine began construction of the original basilica atop the ancient burial ground with what was believed to be the tomb of St. Peter at its center. The present basilica, built starting in the 1500s, sits over a maze of catacombs and St. Peter's suspected grave.

3. Caligula captured the obelisk that stands in St. Peter's Square.

Roman Emperor Caligula built a small circus in his mother's gardens at the base of Vatican Hill where charioteers trained and where Nero is thought to have martyred the Christians. To crown the center of the amphitheater, Caligula had his forces transport from Egypt a pylon that had originally stood in Heliopolis. The obelisk, made of a single piece of red granite weighing more than 350 tons, was erected for an Egyptian pharaoh more than 3,000 years ago. In 1586 it was moved to its present location in St. Peter's Square, where it does double duty as a giant sundial.

4. For nearly 60 years in the 1800s and 1900s, popes refused to leave the Vatican.

Popes ruled over a collection of sovereign Papal States throughout central Italy until the country was unified in 1870. The new secular government had seized all the land of the Papal States with the exception of the small patch of the Vatican, and a cold war of sorts then broke out between the church and the Italian government. Popes refused to recognize the authority of the Kingdom of Italy, and the Vatican remained beyond Italian national control. Pope Pius IX proclaimed himself a "prisoner of the Vatican," and for almost 60 years popes refused to leave the Vatican and submit to the authority of the Italian government. When Italian troops were present in St. Peter's Square, popes even refused to give blessings or appear from the balcony overlooking the public space.

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5. Benito Mussolini signed Vatican City into existence.

The dispute between the Italian government and the Catholic Church ended in 1929 with the signing of the Lateran Pacts, which allowed the Vatican to exist as its own sovereign state and compensated the church \$92 million (more than \$1 billion in today's money) for the Papal States. The Vatican used the payment as seed money to re-grow its coffers. Mussolini, the head of the Italian government, signed the treaty on behalf of King Victor Emmanuel III.

6. Popes did not live at the Vatican until the 14th century.

Even after the construction of the original St. Peter's Basilica, popes lived principally at the Lateran Palace across Rome. They even left the city altogether in 1309 when the papal court moved to Avignon, France, after King Philip IV arranged for a French cardinal to be elected pope. Seven popes, all French, ruled from Avignon, and the papacy did not return to Rome until 1377, by which time the Lateran Palace had burned and the Vatican started to be used as a papal residence. Much repair work needed to be done, however, because the Vatican had fallen into such disrepair that wolves dug for bodies in the cemetery and cows even wandered the basilica.

7. The Swiss Guard was hired as a mercenary force.

The Swiss Guard, recognizable by its armor and colorful Renaissance-era uniforms, has been protecting the pontiff since 1506. That's when Pope Julius II, following in the footsteps of many European courts of the time, hired one of the Swiss mercenary forces for his personal protection. The Swiss Guard's role in Vatican City is strictly to protect the safety of the pope. Although the world's smallest standing army appears to be strictly ceremonial, its soldiers are extensively trained and highly skilled marksmen. And, yes, the force is entirely comprised of Swiss citizens.

8. At several times during the Vatican's history, popes escaped through a secret passageway.

In 1277, a half-mile-long elevated covered passageway, the Passetto di Borgo, was constructed to link the Vatican with the fortified Castel Sant'Angelo on the banks of the Tiber River. It served as an escape route for popes, most notably in 1527 when it likely saved the life of Pope Clement VII during the sack of Rome. As the forces of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V rampaged through the city and murdered priests and nuns, the Swiss Guard held back the enemy long enough to allow Clement to safely reach the Castel Sant'Angelo, although 147 of the pope's forces lost their lives in the battle.

9. The majority of Vatican City's 600 citizens live abroad.

As of 2011, the number of people with Vatican citizenship totaled 594. That number included 71 cardinals, 109 members of the Swiss Guard, 51 members of the clergy and one nun inside the Vatican walls. The largest group of citizens, however, was the 307 members of the clergy in diplomatic positions around the world. With Benedict XVI residing as a pope emeritus in the Vatican, the population will increase by one when a new pope is named.

10. The Vatican Observatory owns a telescope in Arizona.

As Rome expanded, light pollution from the city made it increasingly difficult for astronomers at the Vatican Observatory—located 15 miles from the city at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo—to view the night skies, so in 1981 the observatory opened a second research center in Tucson, Arizona. The Vatican conducts astronomical research with a state-of-the-art telescope that sits atop Mount Graham in southeast Arizona.



What's Happening At the BAA

AUSTRALIA DAY

26 January 2020

A Scrumptious Roast Lunch by "Cha's Cabin"
with delicious accompaniments

12.00noon to 5.00pm

BAA Community Hall

358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3168



~

String Hopper Lunch

26 April 2020

12.00noon to 5.00pm

BAA Community Hall

358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3168



~

A Buriyani Lunch

2 August 2020

- Details to be advised -

~

Christmas Party & Lunch

29 November 2020

- Details to be advised -

**If you have had
a great time in 2019
Watch out for a really
fun 2020**

~

Details in next Newsletter!

Join Us!

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