



Burgher Association Australia

Autumn Edition

March 2025

Community Newsletter



Postal Address : PO Box 75 Clarinda VIC 3169

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

ABN- 28 890 322 651 ~ INC. REG. NO A 0007821F



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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

Considering the high cost of living expenses, the BAA General Committee has decided that the ticket price for all members will be based on cost and non members to pay a small premium to cover the running cost of the Association.

As such the BAA has taken the view that all sponsorships/donations, excluding the sponsorships of children in their education via the DBU in Sri Lanka, will not take place until further notice. Accordingly the BAA has just announced following the November 2024 General Meeting (AGM) that for the current year donations and sponsorships will be granted only to the following.

**Sponsorship of Education to children via the Dutch Burgher
Union of Sri Lanka for up to 25 children doing year 11 and 12**

We will review again annually the position to set up a budget for new/continued sponsorship to be adopted in the following year.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Mr Thiru Saravanamuttu – Boronia, Vic
Mr Denzil Errol La Frenais – Noble Park, Vic
Mr Peter and Mrs Marguerite De Niese - Chadstone, Vic
Mrs Maureen Alles – Dandenong North, Vic
Mr David Van Cuylenberg – Blackburn North East, Vic
Mr Michael and Mrs Aloma Kelly – Springvale, Vic
Mr Ralph and Mrs Anne Martyn – Endeavour Hills, Vic
Mr Varden and Mrs Maureen Harris - Berwick, Vic
Mrs Marzia Sultana – Noble Park, Vic
Mr Milroy and Mrs Jacinta Martyn – Endeavour Hills, Vic
Mr Randolph and Mrs Frances Alvis – Ferntree Gully - VIC



Please note this Newsletter is also available on the Burgher Association Australia website <http://www.burgherassocn.org.au> and may be downloaded in PDF Format

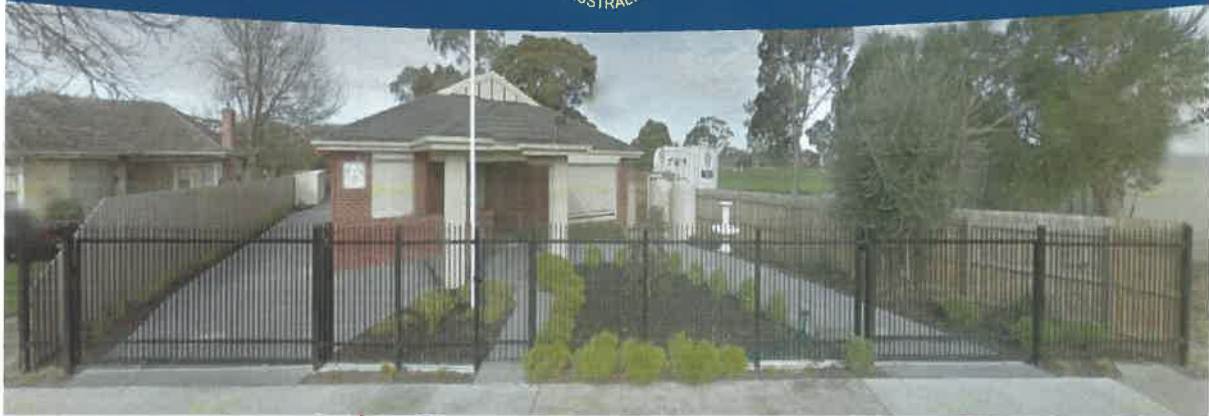
Burgher Association (Australia)

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 The BAA Centre 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. (\$2000 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.

What's Happening

At the BAA



Thai Cuisine Lunch

Sunday 22nd June 2025

BAA Community Hall – 358 Haughton Road,
Clayton 3169
12 noon – 5.00pm

Hopper Lunch

Sunday, 17th August 2025

BAA Community Hall – 358 Haughton Road,
Clayton 3169
12 noon – 5.00pm

Christmas Lunch

30th November 2025

BAA Community Hall – 358 Haughton Road,
Clayton 3169
12 noon – 5.00pm

Thai Cuisine Lunch



22 June 2025

Come and join us

Places are limited... So get in quick!

At THE BAA

358 Haughton Road, Clayton

Catch up with friends for fellowship music/dancing

12.00 noon to 5.00 pm

By "Thai Street Food/Thai Style"

**Veggie Spicy Fried Rice, Coconut Rice,
Beef Curry, Green Curry Chicken, Spicy Fish Fillets
Stir Fry Vegies with Basil, Chicken Lard
Spicy Sausage, Chili Oil and Prawn
Spring Rolls and Prawn Crackers**

Members \$30pp Non Members \$40pp – BYO

Contact.

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Young Lankan prodigy Nureshi Ruwithma Hettiarachchi clinches World Rank No. 1 at SEAMO-X 2025

2025/02/2 Island



Nureshi Ruwithma Hettiarachchi

In a moment of immense pride for Sri Lanka, 7-year-old Nureshi Ruwithma Hettiarachchi, a student at Lyceum International School, Kurunegala, has achieved a historic milestone by securing World Rank No. 1 and winning a Gold Medal at the South-East Asian Mathematical Olympiad (SEAMO-X 2025) Global Round. The competition, held on January 18, 2025, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, saw participation from over 24 countries, with Nureshi emerging as a standout talent in the Paper-K category.

Nureshi's remarkable achievement is a testament to her exceptional mathematical prowess and dedication. Among the four Sri Lankan students who won Gold Medals at the prestigious event, Nureshi's top global ranking has brought immense honour to her school, family, and the nation. Her success serves as an inspiration to young learners worldwide, showcasing the potential of Sri Lanka's youth on the international stage.

A brilliant all-rounder, Nureshi has consistently excelled in her academics and extracurricular activities. She has also made her mark in inter-school literary festivals in 2023 and 2024, further cementing her reputation as a multifaceted talent.

Nureshi's parents, Dr. Kushan M. Hettiarachchi, a medical professional at Polgahawela Hospital, and Sugandini Udattawa, a lawyer based in Kurunegala, expressed their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who supported their daughter's journey. They extended special thanks to her dedicated teachers, the SEAMO Sri Lanka platform, and all those who contributed to nurturing her talent.

Karapincha (Curry Leaf): A Nutritional and Medicinal Powerhouse-by Kalani

Karapincha, commonly known as curry leaf, is an essential ingredient in Sri Lankan and South Asian cuisine. Known for its aromatic flavour and rich nutritional profile, this small green leaf has been a staple in households for generations. Scientifically known as *Murraya koenigii*, karapincha offers a wide array of culinary, medicinal, and environmental benefits.

Karapincha leaves are a key ingredient in Sri Lankan cooking, used to enhance the flavour of curries, soups, and stir-fried dishes. These leaves are often tempered in oil with mustard seeds and onions to release their distinct aroma before being added to dishes. Dried or powdered forms of karapincha are also used as a convenient alternative to fresh leaves.

Karapincha is packed with essential nutrients, including:

- **Vitamins:** Rich in vitamins A, B, C, and E, which contribute to overall health and immunity.
- **Minerals:** Contains iron, calcium, phosphorus, and magnesium, essential for bone health and other bodily functions.
- **Antioxidants:** The leaves are a good source of antioxidants that help combat oxidative stress and reduce inflammation.
- **Fiber:** Helps improve digestion and maintain gut health.



Beyond its culinary applications, karapincha is valued for its medicinal properties:

1. **Digestive Aid:** It helps improve digestion and is commonly used in traditional remedies for stomach ailments.
2. **Diabetes Management:** Studies suggest that karapincha may help regulate blood sugar levels.
3. **Cholesterol Control:** The leaves are known to reduce bad cholesterol levels while promoting good cholesterol.

4. **Antimicrobial Properties:** Karapincha has natural antibacterial and antifungal properties, making it useful in treating infections.
5. **Hair and Skin Health:** Regular use of karapincha is believed to strengthen hair roots, reduce dandruff, and improve skin texture.

Karapincha trees are not only beneficial for human health but also for the environment. They are hardy, drought-resistant plants that improve soil quality and provide shade and shelter for small wildlife. Cultivating karapincha in home gardens is an excellent way to promote sustainable living.

Growing karapincha at home is easy and rewarding. Here are some tips:

1. **Planting:** Use seeds or cuttings to propagate the plant. Ensure it is planted in well-draining soil.
2. **Sunlight:** Karapincha thrives in warm, sunny climates but can tolerate partial shade.
3. **Watering:** Water regularly but avoid overwatering to prevent root rot.
4. **Pruning:** Regularly prune the plant to encourage bushier growth and a continuous supply of fresh leaves.

Karapincha is more than just a flavourful addition to meals; it is a treasure trove of health benefits and environmental advantages. Whether you use it as a spice, herbal remedy, or garden plant, karapincha truly deserves its place as a superfood in every household.



DAILYSQUAT.COM

Circuses struggling to find new clowns as top prospects continue to go into politics

Dolly Parton surpasses 200 million books gifted to children worldwide



For past 25 years, my wife has been complaining about me not putting the cap back on the toothpaste.

This anniversary, I decided to change this bad habit and make my wife happy.

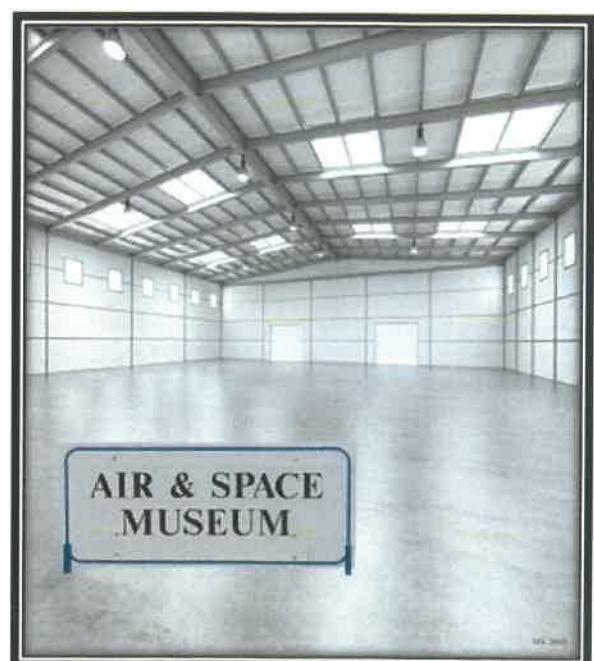
For a week, I was diligent, always capping the toothpaste.

I was expecting my wife to thank me, but she never did it.

Finally, yesterday while having dinner, she turned and looked at me and said - "Why have you stopped brushing your teeth ??"

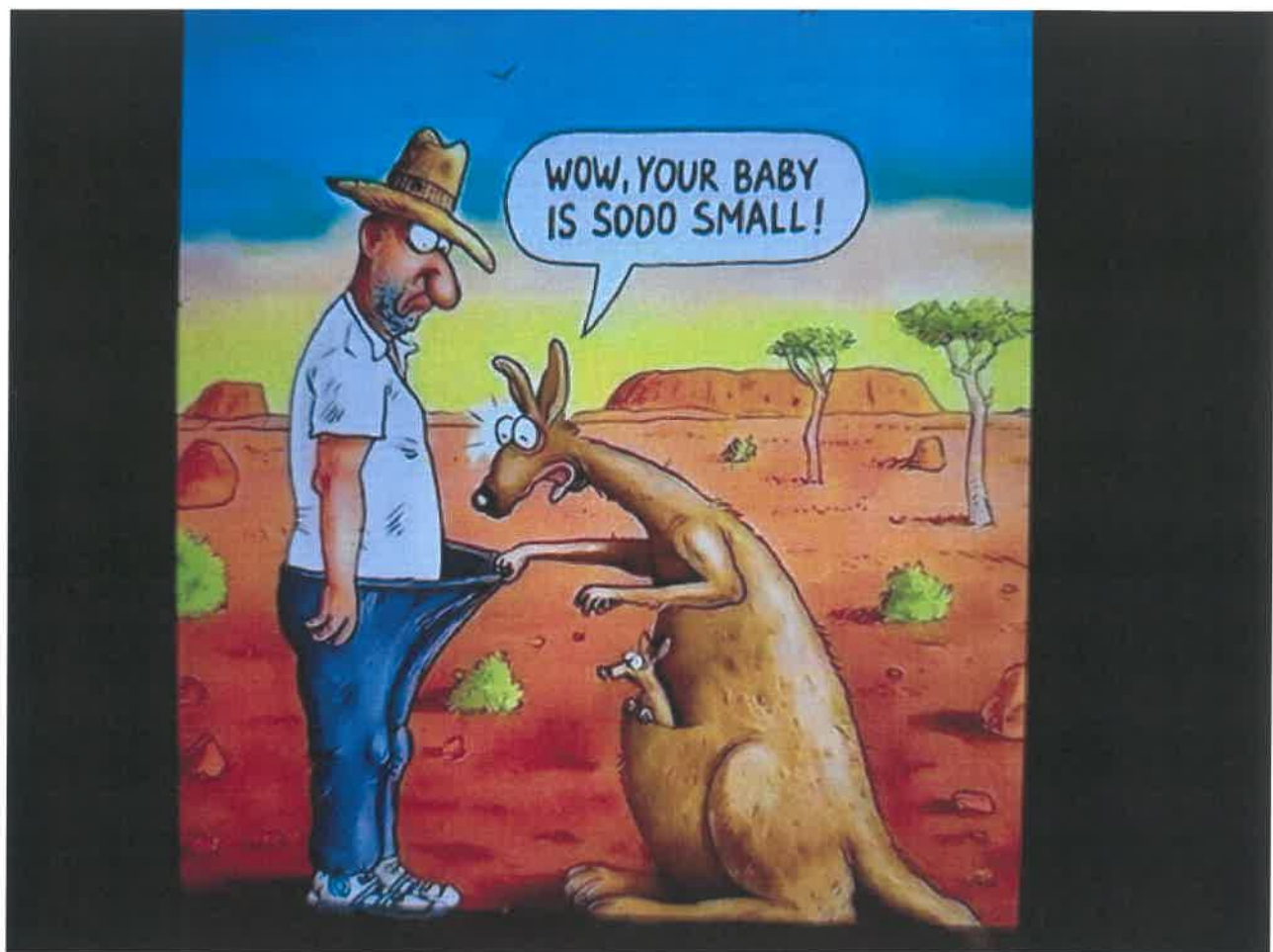
Marriage is a difficult relationship, I tell you. 🙄 😊

11:45 AM





**IT'S BETTER TO
GROW OLD WITH
A SENSE OF
HUMOR THAN
TO GROW OLD
WITH NO SENSE
AT ALL**



**Give me a sense of humor Lord, give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life, and pass it on to other folk.**

USED vs LOVED



Thought its worth sharing.

While a man was polishing his new car, his 6-year-old son picked up a stone and scratched lines on the side of the car.

In anger, the man took the child's hand and hit it many times, not realising he was using a wrench.

At the Hospital, the child lost all his fingers due to multiple fractures.

When the child saw his father... , with painful eyes he asked, ' Dad, when will my fingers grow back ?'

The man was so hurt and speechless. He went back to his car and kicked it a number of times. Devastated by his own actions, sitting in front of the car, he looked at the scratches, the child had written "LOVE YOU DAD".

Anger and love have no limits; choose the latter to have a beautiful lovely life.

Things are to be **USED** and people are to be **LOVED**, but in today's world people are **USED** and things are **LOVED**.

In this year, let's be careful to keep this thought in mind:

Courtesy of Read with Patience.

Please read this - Very Important !!

In Medical college a professor was teaching clinical medicine to students in the fourth year of medicine, he asked the following question:

"What are the causes of mental confusion in the elderly?"

Some answer: "Tumours in the head".

He answered: No!

Others suggest: "Early symptoms of Alzheimer's".

He answered again: No!

With each rejection of their answers, their responses dry up.

And they were even more open-mouthed, when he listed the most common cause:

- dehydration

It may sound like a joke; but it isn't.

People over 60 generally stop feeling thirsty and consequently, stop drinking fluids. When no one is around to remind them to drink fluids, they quickly dehydrate.

Dehydration is severe and affects the entire body. It may cause abrupt mental confusion, a drop in blood pressure, increased heart palpitations, angina (chest pain), coma and even death.

This habit of forgetting to drink fluids, begins at age 60, when we have just over 50% of the water we should have in our bodies.

People over 60 have a lower water reserve. This is part of the natural aging process.

But there are more complications. Although they are dehydrated, they don't feel like drinking water, because their internal balance mechanisms don't work very well.

Conclusion:

People over 60 years old dehydrate easily, not only because they have a smaller water supply; but also because they do not feel the lack of water in the body.

Although people over 60 may look healthy, the performance of reactions and chemical functions can damage their entire body.

So here are two alerts:

1) Get into the habit of drinking liquids. Liquids include water, juices, teas, coconut water, soups, and water-rich fruits, such as watermelon, melon, peaches and pineapple; Orange and tangerine also work.

The important thing is that every two hours, you must drink some liquid.

Remember this!

2) Alert for family members: constantly offer fluids to people over 60. At the same time, observe them.

If you realize that they are rejecting liquids and, from one day to the next, they are irritable, breathless or display a lack of attention, these are almost certainly recurrent symptoms of dehydration.

The Burgher Association Australia does not necessarily endorse contributor's views, nor is it responsible for the accuracy and the authenticity of the material published in this Newsletter.

Quotations from famous people

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending;
And to have the two as close together as possible.

- George Burns

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

- Zsa Zsa Gabor

Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian, you should have Remained a virgin.'

- Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)

I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: - 'No good in a bed, but fine against a wall.'

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, You'll become a philosopher.

- Socrates

The English Language

Sounds complicated, but we learnt it all

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes;
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese;
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.

If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?

Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose;
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim !

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.
There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger;
Neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
English muffins weren't invented in England.

We take English for granted,
But if we explore its paradoxes,
We find that quicksand can work slowly,
Boxing rings are square;
A guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.
Why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing,
Grocers don't groce & hammers don't ham?

Doesn't it seem crazy that ...
You can make amends but not one amend?
If you have a bunch of odds and ends ...
And get rid of all but one of them,
What do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?
If a vegetarian eats vegetables,
What does a humanitarian eat ?

Sometimes I think all people who speak English
Should be in an asylum for the verbally insane.
In what other language do people recite at a play,
And play at a recital ?

We ship by truck but send cargo by ship ...
We have noses that run and feet that smell;
We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.
And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same,
While a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language
In which your house can burn up as it burns down;
In which you fill in a form by filling it out,
and in which an alarm goes off by going on.
And in closing

If Father is Pop
How come Mother's not Mop? ? ? ?

Author Unknown.



Sunday Observer

By Nandasiri Jasentuliyana

Sri Lankan among four astronauts in simulated mission to Mars



The National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) in the United States has selected a new crew of four volunteers, including a Sri Lankan, to participate in a simulated mission to Mars within a habitat at the agency's Johnson Space Centre in Houston. Issuing a statement, NASA stated that Jason Lee, Stephanie Navarro, Shareef Al Romaithi, and Piyumi Wijesekara will step into the agency's Human Exploration Research Analog, or HERA, on Friday, May 10.

Sri Lanka's Dr. Piyumi Wijesekara will be part of the primary crew selected to participate in the simulated mission to Mars. Piyumi Wijesekara is a postdoctoral research scientist in the Radiation Biophysics Laboratory at NASA Ames Research Centre in California's Silicon Valley.

Her research focuses on developing tissue models to investigate the effects of spaceflight stressors, including ionizing radiation and lunar dust, on the human respiratory system with the eventual goal of applying them to ensure the health and safety of astronauts during lunar and Mars Missions.

Dr. Piyumi Wijesekara is a multidisciplinary researcher with experience in tissue and organ engineering and regenerative medicine.

She received her B.S. in Bioengineering from the University of California San Diego in 2015 and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 2017 and 2022.

While pursuing her Ph.D. at Carnegie Mellon University, she focused on stem cell and organ engineering, with a particular emphasis on lung engineering, to investigate human respiratory pathophysiology.

Subject: DRINK PLENTY OF WATER BELIEVE IT OR NOT!!!



The Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Otto H. Warburg, born 8 October 1883, devoted his life to the study of and cause of cancer.

Dr. Warburg was one of the 20th century's leading biologists, and he discovered that the root cause of cancer is too much acidity in the body, meaning that the pH in the body is below the normal level of 7.365, which constitutes an “acidic” state. Warburg investigated the metabolism of tumours and the respiration of cells and discovered that cancer cells maintain and thrive in a lower pH, as low as 6.0, due to lactic acid production and elevated CO₂. He firmly believed that there was a direct relationship between pH and oxygen. Higher pH, which is Alkaline, means higher concentration of oxygen molecules, while lower pH, which is acidic, means lower concentrations of oxygen...the same oxygen that is needed to maintain healthy cells.

In 1931 Dr. Warburg was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine for this important discovery. He stated, “*Cancerous tissues are acidic, whereas healthy tissues are alkaline. Water splits into H⁺ and OH⁻ ions, if there is an excess of H⁺, it is acidic; if there is an excess of OH⁻ ions, then it is alkaline*”.

In his work *The Metabolism of Tumours* Warburg demonstrated that “*all forms of cancer are characterized by two basic conditions: acidosis and hypoxia (lack of oxygen). Lack of oxygen and acidosis are two sides of the same coin: where you have one, you have the other.*” “*All normal cells have an absolute requirement for oxygen, but cancer cells can live without oxygen – a rule without exception. Deprive a cell 35% of its oxygen for 48 hours and it may become cancerous.*”

Dr. Warburg has made it clear that the root cause of cancer is oxygen deficiency, which creates an acidic state in the human body. Dr. Warburg also discovered that

cancer cells are anaerobic (do not breathe oxygen) and cannot survive in the presence of high levels of oxygen, as found in an alkaline state.

[illegible]

SOME LIGHTHEARTED THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

When we are in heaven - Our money is still in the bank.

When we are alive - We don't have enough money to spend.

When we are gone - There is still a lot of money not spent.

One tycoon in China passed away. His widow, with \$1.9 billion in the bank, remarried his chauffeur.

His chauffeur said, "All the while I thought I was working for my boss. Now I realise that my boss was all the time working for me !!! "

The cruel reality is:

It is more important to be strong and healthy than to have more wealth.

So, we must strive to have a strong and healthy body, it doesn't matter who is working for whom.

A high-end hand phone - 70% of the functions are useless

An expensive car - 70% of the speed is not needed

A luxurious villa - 70% of the space is not occupied

A whole wardrobe of clothes - 70% of it is not worn

A whole life of earning - 70% is for other people to use.

So, we must protect and make full use of our 30%.

Go for medical exam even if you are not sick - Drink more water even if you are not thirsty

Must let go even when you are faced with grave problems

Must give in even if you are in the right.

Must be humble even though you are very powerful.

Must be contented even if you are not rich.

Must exercise even when you are very busy.

*LIFE IS SHORT - SO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST. DON'T BE THE RICHEST MAN
IN THE CEMETERY*

The Parsi's of Sri Lanka -

A small but vibrant community

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 Captains, 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, Kairhasp 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.

Credits to Daily Financial Times

Then

and

Now



....



Beautiful words Written by Sophia Loren (Italian Actress)... _

" When I got enough confidence, the stage was gone.....

When I was sure of Losing, I won.....

When I needed People the most, they Left me.....

When I learnt to dry my Tears, I found a shoulder to Cry on.....

When I mastered the Skill of Hating, Someone started Loving me from the core of the Heart..... And, while waiting for Light for Hours when I fell asleep, the Sun came out.....

That's LIFE!! No matter what you Plan, you never know what Life has Planned for you.....

Success introduces you to the World..... But Failure introduces the World to you.....

Always be Happy!! Often when we lose Hope and think this is the end... God smiles from above and says, “Relax Sweetheart; It’s just a Bend, not the End..!”_

The pedestrian light on the corner beeps when it's safe to cross the street.

I was crossing with an 'intellectually challenged' co-worker of mine.

She asked if I knew what the beeper was for.

I explained that it lets blind people know when the light is red.

Appalled, she responded, 'What on earth are blind people doing driving?'

She is a government employee in Adelaide P.O.



Queens Hotel Kandy-by Kalani

The heart of the picturesque city of Kandy, Sri Lanka, Queens Hotel stands as a testament to a bygone era, blending colonial charm with modern luxury. With a history

dating back to the late 19th century, this iconic hotel has witnessed the ebb and flow of time, evolving into a cherished landmark.

Queens Hotel Kandy was originally built in 1895 during the British colonial period. Serving as the residence for the Governor of Queen Victoria, it was a symbol of elegance and sophistication. The architecture, characterized by its Victorian style, reflects the grandeur of the era. The hotel's initial purpose was to accommodate the elite and dignitaries visiting Kandy, offering them a luxurious retreat amid the lush hills of central Sri Lanka.

Despite facing challenges and transformations, Queens Hotel Kandy has stood resilient. Over the years, the hotel underwent renovations to preserve its historic charm while integrating modern amenities. Today, it continues to welcome guests with its timeless elegance, offering a unique blend of old-world charm and contemporary comforts.

The architectural marvel of Queens Hotel Kandy is a showcase of intricate craftsmanship. The imposing facade, adorned with Victorian detailing, captivates visitors from the moment they arrive. The interior maintains its regal aura, with high ceilings, ornate chandeliers, and classic furnishings that transport guests to a bygone era.

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While preserving its rich history, Queens Hotel Kandy has embraced the demands of the modern traveller. The hotel boasts a range of amenities, including spacious and well-appointed rooms, a swimming pool surrounded by lush gardens, and a selection of dining options that showcase the vibrant flavours of Sri Lankan cuisine.

Queens Hotel Kandy stands as a living legacy, narrating the story of Kandy's evolution through the ages. From its origins as a colonial residence to its present-day status as a luxury hotel, it continues to enchant visitors with its timeless allure. Whether seeking a glimpse into history or a luxurious retreat, Queens Hotel Kandy remains a jewel in the crown of this enchanting city.



Source : [Sri Lankan Planters \(SLP\) Official FB page](#)

‘Pitakotuwa’ in Sinhala and Pura kottai in Tamil means ‘outside the fort’. That is obviously how the Sinhala term for Pettah was coined to distinguish the area outside Fort. Pettah is an Anglo-Indian word from the Tamil ‘pettai’ introduced by the British to the area, which was identified by the Dutch as the ‘oude stad’ or old town. During the Portuguese period, the roads in Pettah had been narrow and crooked. The Dutch had replaced these with straighter and broader thoroughfares. Main Street had been in existence even during the time of the Portuguese who had called it ‘Straight’. It had linked Fort with Pettah as it does today. The Dutch named it ‘King’s Street’.

Pettah market was always a popular place where traders did business, even at the time of the Dutch. Here is a typical description of the Pettah market in Dutch times: “The Dutch churchyard is in the middle of the city, enclosed with a wall, on which a Malabarian school stands. On the outside of the churchyard there is sold, all week long, silks, stuffs, and linen, by the Moors and Persians; and all sorts of fruits, dried fish, onions, sugar and rice by the Malabarians, Maldivians, Cingalyans (Sinhalese) and other inhabitants of Colombo”. This description indicates that traders were from various races and communities. Colombo was a cosmopolitan place.

When the British started attacking the Dutch, the British soldiers attacked from the north of Colombo with the support of their ships from the sea. They crossed the Kelani river on bamboo rafts without opposition, captured Korteboam and reached the Pettah through Kayman's Gate. Colombo was captured by the British in 1796.

Unlike today, Pettah was a residential area in the early days. There were many fine houses, trim gardens and shady walks. What a different picture from what we see today? The houses were usually coloured bright yellow with bands of red or orange round the doors or windows. Most of the wealthy descendants of the Portuguese and Dutch lived in the Pettah.

Pettah was described as "neat, clean, regular, and larger than Fort" at the beginning of the 19th century". Five streets, each half a mile in length, run parallel to one another; and the same number intersect them at right angles". This plan is valid right up to today. There are five cross streets linking Main Street and Olcott Mawatha. They are all full of shops mainly those of wholesale traders. Some of the streets have been named after the trades that were carried out in them. Barber Street is an example. Chetty Street and Moor Street have been named after the communities that lived in them. Messenger Street was named after the messenger boys who worked in colonial firms. The Dutch had called this street 'Rue de massang' because masang trees grew in plenty here. From Sunday Times LK. photo credit to Lankapura

THE PREGNANT DEER - Such a beautiful story ! - More a fairy story

In a forest, a pregnant deer is about to give birth. She finds a remote grass field near a strong-flowing river. This seems a safe place. Suddenly labour pains begin.



At the same moment, dark clouds gather around above and lightning starts a forest fire. She looks to her left and sees a Hunter with his bow extended pointing at her.

To her right, she spots a hungry lion approaching her.

What can the pregnant deer do? ... She is in labour!

What will happen? Will the deer survive?

Will she give birth to a fawn? Will the fawn survive?

Or will everything be burnt by the forest fire? Will she perish to the hunters' arrow? Will she die a horrible death at the hands of the hungry lion approaching her?

She is constrained by the fire on the one side and the flowing river on the other and boxed in by her natural predators. What does she do? She focuses on giving Birth to a New Life.

The sequence of events that follows are:

- Lightning strikes and blinds the Hunter.
- He releases the arrow which zips past the deer and strikes the hungry lion.
- It starts to rain heavily and the forest fire is slowly doused by the rain.

The deer gives birth to a healthy fawn.

In our life too, there are moments of choice when we are confronted on All sides with Negative Thoughts or Possibilities. Some thoughts are so powerful that they Overcome us and Overwhelm us.

Maybe we can learn from the deer. The priority of the deer in that given moment was simply to give birth to a baby. The rest was not in her hands and any action or reaction that changed her focus would have likely resulted in death or disaster.

Ask yourself, Where is your focus? Where is your faith and hope? In the midst of any storm, do keep it on GOD Always?

He will never ever disappoint you. NEVER. Remember, HE Neither slumbers nor sleeps.



Sri Lankan Fishing Cat: A Fascinating Feline of Coastal Wetlands – By Nadeeka

The Sri Lankan fishing cat, scientifically known as *Prionailurus viverrinus*, is a remarkable and elusive feline species that inhabits the lush coastal wetlands and mangrove forests of Sri Lanka. While these cats may not be as famous as their larger cousins, such as the majestic leopard or the regal lion, they play a vital role in the delicate ecosystem of the island nation. In this article, we will delve into the world of the Sri Lankan fishing cat, exploring its unique characteristics, habitat, behaviour, conservation status, and the importance of safeguarding this endangered species.



Distinctive Features and Characteristics:

Sri Lankan fishing cats are easily distinguishable by their small to medium-sized build, short legs, and distinctive coat pattern. Their fur boasts a striking combination of gray-brown spots and stripes, which helps them blend into their watery surroundings. These

cats have webbed toes, a trait uncommon in feline species, which assists them in their aquatic pursuits.

Habitat and Range:

These cats are primarily found in the southwestern and northwestern coastal regions of Sri Lanka. They are most commonly spotted in the wetlands, marshes, and mangrove forests, making use of the abundant water bodies for their hunting and fishing activities.

Diet and Hunting Behaviour:

As their name suggests, fishing cats have a unique affinity for water. They are skilled swimmers and are often seen wading into the shallow waters in search of prey. Their diet primarily consists of fish, crustaceans, amphibians, and small mammals. They use their sharp claws and keen eyesight to detect and catch their prey.

Behaviour and Social Structure:

Fishing cats are solitary creatures and are known to be primarily nocturnal, which means they are most active during the night. They are also known for their elusive nature, which makes them challenging to study in the wild.

Conservation Status:

The Sri Lankan fishing cat faces numerous threats to its survival. Habitat destruction, due to human activities such as urbanization and deforestation, poses a significant risk. Furthermore, they are often victims of accidental snaring and poaching. Their population is dwindling, and they are currently classified as an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Conservation Efforts:

Efforts are being made to protect the Sri Lankan fishing cat and its habitat. Conservation organizations and local authorities are working together to raise awareness, implement protective measures, and promote responsible tourism to ensure the survival of these beautiful creatures.


Conclusion:

The Sri Lankan fishing cat is a unique and precious part of Sri Lanka's natural heritage. These enigmatic felines, with their webbed feet and remarkable hunting skills, are a testament to the diversity of wildlife that can be found on this tropical island. As we continue to learn more about their behaviour and ecology, it becomes increasingly evident that safeguarding their habitat is essential not only for the fishing cats themselves but also for the health of the coastal ecosystems they inhabit. It is our responsibility to protect and conserve this endangered species to ensure that future generations can marvel at the beauty and resilience of the Sri Lankan fishing cat.

UNBELIEVABLE FACTS




In Minnesota, there is a tiny unincorporated community called Dorset that elects its mayor by pulling a name out of a hat during an annual festival called the "Taste of Dorset." In 2012, a three-year-old boy named Bobby Tufts became mayor, and he was elected for a second term the following year.

 unbelievable-facts.com



In 2016, Japan kept an entire train station open for just one passenger named Kana Harada, who lived in a neighborhood of only 36 people. Every day, she took the train to school, which was 35 minutes away. So, the authorities kept the station operational just until she graduated.

 unbelievable-facts.com

OBITUARIES
(E & O.E.)
(FEBRUARY 2025)
Compiled by Victor Melder

RANASINGHE, Peter (Carlyle), husband of Karin, father of Deszree, Patricia, Peter, Nilanthi and Elizabeth,

father in law, grandfather and great grandfather, in Cairns, aged 92 years. (The Cairns Post, 1.2.2025)

SAMARAWICKREMA, Jeanette, (1930 – 2025). Elanka.

KUMARESAN, Sanmugavadivel, (25.5.1938 – 31.1.2025), in Melbourne. (Tamil Thakaval, 1.2.2025)

BARNES, Ravi (14.3.1961 – 31.1.2025), husband of Priscilla, father of Nicola, Darren and Natalie . Son of late Wilfred and Rani Barnes, brother of late Romesh and Sona Barnes, in Sri Lanka.. (Sunday Observer, 2.2.2025)

DE SILVA, Delrene Genevieve (née MARTIL), daughter of the late Reginald and Norah, wife of late Undsay, mother of Melissa and mother-in-law of Warren Baptiste, grandmother of Hailee Emma. Sister of Blossom, Daphne, Maureen, late Bradma Noeline, Christobel and Felicia, sister-in-law of late Malcolm De Kauwe, Glen Ragell, Clair Fourlze, late Spencer Leitch, late Amarajothi Dynaranjan, Nimal Nanayakkara, late Errol De Silva and Lorna Shirom, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 3.2.2025)

BALENDRA, Ken, (28.11.1940 - 3.2.2025), husband of Swyrie, father of Natasha and Krishan, in Sri Lanka - No. 47/1, Ward Place, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 4.2.2025)

JAYAWARDENA, Don Harold Stassen “Harry”, (17.8.1942 – 3.2.2025), husband of Priya, father of Stasshani and Hasitha, in Sri Lanka. (Wikipedia and Internet Resources)

CLAUDE, Daniel, husband of late Grace, father of Conrad, Gerald and Cherubim, father-in-law of Wendy, Dushyanthi and Anita, grandfather of Shalomi and Yadavan, great grandfather of Yadiran. Brother of Dennis, Freddie, David, Ernest, Basil, Dora, Samson (all dec) and Robin. (Daily News, 5.2.2025)

PRABAHARAN, Dr Prasanna (21.9.1986 – 31.1.2025), in Sydney. (Tamil Thakaval, 3.2.2025)

WILSON, Marie, (12.3.1933 – 5.2.2025), in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

LINGESWARAN, Thanasleka, (23.10.1973 – 8.2.2025), RIP Book, 9.2.2025

OHLMUS, Elisabth Maragret, in Alice Springs, NT. (Contributed)

WENDT, Yolande Therese, (9.2.1940 – 29.1.2025), wife Montague Juriansz and then Maurice Wendt, mother of Corrina, Mitchum, Mark and Sandrine, 11 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Daughter of Venantius and Winifred Rosairo, Sister of Nesta and Joyce. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 5.2.2025)

MENZIES, Bathsaba Margaret, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

SELVADURAI, Velauther, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

KARUNARATNE, Parakrama, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

SELVADURAI, V, husband of Dr Sathyaledchumy Selvadurai, father of Kishani. Son of Kasipillai Velauther and Vallipillai Velauther, brother of Kanman Nadarajah and Nadarajah, late Kandiah Velautheer and Vigneswary Kandian and Sinnamma Ganesharajah and Ganesharajah. Son-in-law of Sivasubramaniam Sinnar and Kanakgammah Subramaniam, brother-in-law of the late Soothereswary Shanmuganathan and Shanmuganathan Gunaratnam, late Parameswaran Subramaniam and Dr Sellanchi Subramaniam, in Melbourne on February 7, 2025. (Contributed)

VASAVAN. Gnanusha, (3.5.1970 – 6.1.2025), in Melbourne. (RIP Book, 18.1.2025)

WENDT, Lorraine Joy (née KROEHN), wife of David, mother of Mark, sister and sister-in-law of John & Margaret and David & Roswitha, on February 9, 2025, aged 79 years. (Adelaide Advertiser, 11.2.2025)

THEABOLD, Yvonne (née PERERA), wife of late Thotawatte Don Theobold (Theo), mother of Delanie, Marie and Virasmi, mother-in-law of Duleep Vethavanam, Giuseppe Monaco, Mahesh Premachandra and Giovanni Goonetilleke, grandmother of Manosh, Shehana, Dinesh, Dinushka, Givanke and Vinoli, great grandmother of Ashenka, Ashane, Brandon, Kyle, Daavi, Daliana and Elliott. (Daily News, 13.2.2025)

VAN ROOYEN, Bridget Kathleen, mother and grandmother. (Daily News, 13.2.2025)

FERNANDOPULLE, Robin, youngest son of the late Dr. I.R.N. Fernandopulle and Othelia Pragasi, son-in-law of late Mr. Ponnursa and Mrs. Chitty, husband of Therese, father of Leonie, father-in-law of Charith Harshana, grandfather of Alexandria, Briget and Nathan, brother of Frances, Manik and Helen, on 26th of January. (Daily News 3.2.2025)

NANAYAKKARA, Neela Sirance, wife of late Sisira, mother of Charshani, mother-in-law of Ranil Coorey, grandmother of Ravini and Jayani. Sister late Swarna Lokuge and late Rukmal Nanayakkara, in Perth. (Contributed)

SAMBASIVAM, Abiramy, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

KOCH, Dr Lucien, in Perth. (West Australian, 15.2.2025)

SINNATHAMBI, Sellathurai, in Sydney. (Tamil Thakaval, 15.2.2025)

AKBARALLY, Inayet, husband of Farida, father of Dr Shabbir/Sajeda, Huzefa/Munira and Alefiya/Omar, grandfather of Imran, Jamila, Taha, Mohamed, Maryam, Iman and Amira. Brother of late Abbas and Abid, in Sri Lanka. (Daily Mirror, 17.2.2025)

MULVANEY (Formerly CASINADER), Romany Therese (née WRIGHT) 1.11.1927 – 4.2.2025. **Mother of**

Niranjan, Tarini and Robin, Grandmother of Justin and Simon and Róisín. Daughter of Oswin and Grace Wright (dec), sister of Raine, Malcolm and Adrian (dec), in Melbourne. (Daily News, 18.2.2025 & Contributed)

DON, Leelarathna Withanage, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

RANASINGHE, Edwin, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

PERANANTASIVAM, Sivanadian, (23.4.1949 – 16.2.2025), in Sydney. (Tamil Thakaval, 18.2.2025)

SOLOMON, Beryl Veronica, wife of Roger (dec), mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, on February 2025, aged 83 years. (Townville Bulletin, 18.2.2025)

MUTTUKUMARU, Philip Rajkantha, (21.6.1947 – 11.2.2025), husband of Geri (dec). father of Cath, Marina, Alison, Michelle (dec) and Kamini, grandfather of Anna, Caitlyn, Sophie, Izzie, Claire, Gaby, James, Tommy, Patty and Ben, father-in-law of Steve, Mark and Anthony. Son of Anton and Peggy, and son-in-law of Peter and Doreen (all dec). Canberra Times, 19.2.2025)

MATTHIAS, Marlene Joan, Marlene was a loving wife to Ken. Mother to Jenny, Phil, Rich & Davey. Mother-in-law to Don, Janine & Karen. Grandma of Casey, Jake, Jesse, Ashlee, Talya & Great Grandma of Ella, Toby & River. Passed away peacefully February 12th 202, Aged 91 years (Melbourne Age, 20.2.2025)

EDMONDS, Daphne May, (26.8.1937 – 13.2.2025), wife of Bruce (dec), mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 21.2.2025)

DE SILVA, Devasiri, (4.5.1969 – 13.2.2025) in Sydney. (Alebrt & Meyer Funeral Directors, Sydney)

MANICAVASAGAR, Irene, wife of Somasagaram (dec), mother of Vijaya and Reva, aged 99 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 22.2.2025)

STRONACH, Bruce, brother of Trish, on February 18, 2025, aged 78 years. (West Australian, 22.2.2025)

TENNEKOON, Ivy, (West Australian, 22.2.2025)

HERBERT, Rennie Elaine (née NEWMAN), wife of Baden (dec.). on February 16, 2025. (Hobart Mercury, 22.2.2025)

ORR, Robert George 'Bob', husband of Judy, father of Karen and Greg (dec), grandfather of Dylan and Shannon. Great Grandfather of Emily and Matthew, Riley, Charlotte and Liam. Passed away peacefully February 12th 2025, aged 91 years. (Geelong Advertiser, 22.2.2025)

PRIYADARSHINI, Pratheep, (27.5.1984 – 20.2.2025), in Melbourne. (Tamil Thakaval, 21.2.2025)

SRI RANGANATAN, Arunthathy, in Sydney. (Tamil Thakaval, 21.2.2025)

SOORIYAPRAGASAM, Anandhi “Anandal Acca”, in Melbourne, on February 20, 2025. (Tamil Thakaal, 21.2.2025)

MEEGODAGE, Hemalatha, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

WICKRAMARATNE, Herty Nimal Jayantha, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

GANESHASUNDRAM, Rathnasamy, (11.11.1950 – 18.2.2025), in Canberra. (Tamil Thakaval, 20.2.2025)

JAGANNAYAN, Yogita, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

HERMON, Richard “Dickie”, son of Reginald Hermon and Violet Winter, brother of Rex and Maurice, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

FORBES, Noelle Therese Daphne, in Melbourne. (18.12.1926 – 24.2.2025) Contributed and Internet Sources)

THAMBIMUTTU, Zeila, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

JANSZ, Hugh Anthony, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

DASSANAYAKE, Irene, (24.3.1940 – 25.2.2025), mother of Nelum Joachim, mother-in-law of Aubrey Joachim, in Sri Lanka. (Sri Lanka Catholic Association, NSW)

DE ALMEIDA, Claudette Therese Brnadette (née PEREIRA). Daughter of late Bertram and Pearl Pereira, wife of Peter De Almeida, mother of Shehan and Samantha (Aust), mother-in-law of Chandani, George (Aust) and Andre (Aust, grandmother of Stephanie and Hamzath (Aust), Sharon and Isuru, Joshua and Kaitlyn (Aust), Alicia and Vish (Aust), Tasha, Tamika (Aust), great-grandmother of Kayden, Anaya and Skylah-Blu (Aust). Sister of Beulah, Joe, Dian (Aust) and late Yvonne and Cynthia, sister-in-law of late David, Michael (Can), Rosy, Ivon, Vernon (Aust), late Beede and Anton, in Sri Lanka (Daily Mirror, 26.2.2025)

SUMANATHASA, Chithrakala, (17.9.1967 – 25.2.2025), in Melbourne. (Tamil Thakaval, 27.2.2025)

SOYSA, Priyani Bandumathi, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

CORERA, Crescentia, wife of Dominic, mother of Sr. Josita (RGS) and Stephen, mother-in-law of Niluka, grandmother of Jasper and Keegan. on 26th February 2025. (Daily News, 28.2.2025)

DE SILVA, Leslie (BLR), husband of late Ranjani, father of Niranjani, father-in-law of Harinee (Aust). Brother of ,Sextus, brother-in-law of Nilanthi (USA), in Sydney, on February 12, 2025. (Daily News, 28.2.2025)

PERERA, Nicholas, (Sunday Bulletin, St Anthony’s Church, Noble Park)

SCHOKMAN, Doreen, (Sunday Bulletin, St Anthony’s Church, Noble Park)

Note: Spelling of names as taken from original notices and contributors

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If you have not paid your subscriptions for the previous or current Financial Year, we will not worry you with further reminders except to say that you are a valued member of the Burgher cultural identity and we, through this Association, endeavour to maintain a focal point for the continuity of our cultural community traditions and unique identity. **Please consider renewing your Membership.**

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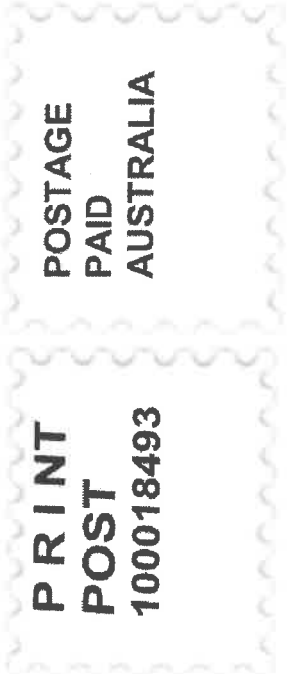
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