



# **Burgher Association Australia**

**Spring Edition  
September 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**



## **COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT**

**2024/2025**

### **President**

Mr Hermann Loos 0488 027 558  
[hermann\\_r\\_loos@yahoo.com.au](mailto:hermann_r_loos@yahoo.com.au)

### **Vice President**

Mr Adrian Harris 0407 838 189  
[adrian.harris40@optusnet.com.au](mailto:adrian.harris40@optusnet.com.au)

### **Secretary**

Mrs Helen Backhouse 0438 373 007  
[tbackhouse5@gmail.com](mailto:tbackhouse5@gmail.com)

### **Assistant Secretary**

Mrs Sandra Eliyathamby 0405 732 843  
[sandramely0498@gmail.com](mailto:sandramely0498@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

Mr. Maxwell Eliyathamby 0401 966 024  
[maxwell.e0784@gmail.com](mailto:maxwell.e0784@gmail.com)

### **Assistant Treasurer**

Mr John Blaze 0432 842 104  
[socialeyes@msn.com](mailto:socialeyes@msn.com)

### **Editor**

Mrs Rita Van Geyzel 0419 887 982  
[rvangeyzel@optusnet.com.au](mailto:rvangeyzel@optusnet.com.au)

### **Public Relations Manager**

Mrs Sharneez Backhouse 0434 105 221  
[sharneez.backhouse@icloud.com](mailto:sharneez.backhouse@icloud.com)

### **Customer Relations Manager**

Mrs Carol Loos 0417 391 120  
[gracecloos@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gracecloos@yahoo.com.au)

### **GENERAL COMMITTEE**

Mr Terry Backhouse	0429 987 300
Mr. Darryl Koch	0413 758 501
Mrs Maureen Koch	0400 779 668
Mr Hans De Zilwa	0419 292 939



## **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 until such time we are able to bring back the large audiences at our functions, the ticket price will be based on the cost of the function so as not to make a profit.*

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 Johann and Mrs Maryse Ferdinands - Endeavour Hills - VIC

Mr Hector & Mrs June Berenger- Keysborough – VIC

Ms Myrna Silva and Mr Gordon Bruce- Clarinda – VIC

Mr Loxly & Mrs Elaine Rosairo - Keysborough – VIC

Mr Tyrell and Mrs Sally Loos - Oakley South – VIC

Ms Christine Stork- Dandenong - VIC





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.



**Burgher Association Australia Inc**

# *Christmas Lunch*

BAA Community Centre, 358 Haughton Rd, Clayton 3168

**30 November 2025**

**12.00noon to 5.00pm**

## **Fabulous Christmas Buffet By "Cha's Cabin"**

Glazed Leg of Ham with mustard sauce

Roast Beef / Roast Pork / Roast Turkey / Roast Vegies with Potato

Tossed Salad/Sea Food Salad/Pasta and Tuna Salad

Bread Rolls & Butter

Desert: Sticky Date Pudding & a delicious piece of Christmas Cake

**Members: \$40 pp - Non Members \$50 pp**



**Contact** Hermann & Carol Loos 0417 391 120

Hans De Zilwa 0419 252 939

Terry & Helen Backhouse 0429 987 300/ 0438 373 007

Rita Van Geyzel 0419 887 982

John Blaze 0432 842 104

Adrian Harris 0407 838 189

Sharneez Backhouse 0434 105 221

Maxwell & Sandra Eliyathamby 0401 966 024/ 0405 732 843

Maureen & Darryl Koch 0400 779 608/ 0413 758 501

**Bring your Friend's and Family and enjoy a great afternoon**  
**Come Celebrate**

Pictures taken at the BAA Thai Cuisine Lunch  
Held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025









## A trek through days of milk, honey, and roses

### Menaka's Message



#### Confessions of a struggling survivor

October 10, 2024, was Mental Health Day, and I felt compelled to share a piece of my journey, raw, real, and ongoing. I am Menaka from Vavuniya in north-central Sri Lanka. I just turned forty. I've battled many emotional and psychological challenges over the years, some genetically inherited, others triggered by life's cruel twists, turns, and tantrums. Clinical Depression. PTSD. Postpartum Depression. Hypomania. Bipolar Disorder. You name it, I've likely walked through all of them.

It's been a wild, disorienting ride. And for the most part, those around me have no idea what was going on in my head, until I crashed. Then came the concern, the confusion, the attempts to help that sometimes hurt even more. But today, I'm not writing for sympathy. I'm writing in the hope that someone else who's struggling might find clarity, or at least the courage to begin.

Let me begin with something many won't say out loud:

*If you are clinically depressed, meditation and yoga will not save you.*

Yes, mindfulness has its place. But when your brain's chemical balance is severely out of sync, you need medical intervention. In my case, trying to meditate only intensified my trauma. I ended up crying uncontrollably, even screaming. My advice? See a psychiatrist. Not a healer, not a self-proclaimed expert, but a *qualified* psychiatrist who can diagnose and prescribe the right treatment. Stay far, far, away from soothsayers, witch doctors, and faith healers. Mental health is as medical as a broken bone, don't let anyone convince you otherwise. There are no Satan's involved.

And please, *don't consult your pharmacist about psychiatric side effects*. In fact, don't consult anyone else either. They are not trained to guide you through the emotional and neurological aspects of these drugs. I also urge caution around alternative treatments like Ayurveda or homeopathy. While they might work for some, mental illness is not the place for guesswork. It can, quite literally, be a matter of life or death.

One thing I learned the hard way: *Be alert to signs of mania when on antidepressants.* I thought I was improving, until I started talking endlessly, feeling euphoric for no reason, barely sleeping, and becoming invincible in my own mind. What I didn't realize was that I wasn't just depressed, I was bipolar. This changed everything. *A bipolar diagnosis requires a completely different approach to treatment than depression.* Recognizing this can make a world of difference.

Now, let's talk about therapists. No offence to those in the profession, many do great work, but therapy alone isn't always the answer. A psychiatrist should be the one to assess whether therapy is appropriate, and whether medication is needed alongside it. Mental illness isn't a "talk it out" scenario for everyone. Sometimes, we need biochemistry addressed before emotional healing can begin.

Postpartum Depression is another battle I fought, one that far too many women are forced to suppress. The response from others? "We had four kids and managed just fine." This normalization of suffering is deeply damaging. My PPD was swept under the rug, too. But trauma doesn't disappear. It just builds pressure until it explodes. Men must listen to their women. They must *believe* them.

Another truth: *Depression doesn't always look like sadness.* I've gone through entire weeks with a smile plastered on my face, engaging in social settings, seeming "fine." But inside, I felt like I was slowly drowning. Some days, the pain was so overwhelming, I had nothing left to say. I'd call friends and stay silent on the line. There were moments I felt like I might explode from the weight of it all, but I still couldn't bring myself to talk. Talking isn't always possible. Or healing. Which brings me to this: *Don't force people to open up.*

Yes, communication is helpful. But sometimes, the most powerful form of support is just *being there.* Not judging. Not offering platitudes. Just holding space. There were days when what I needed most was not advice, but presence. Someone to sit by my side and listen. Thankfully, I now have medication that helps me through those episodes, something I never thought I'd accept, let alone rely on.

Here's my message to anyone reading this, whether you're struggling yourself or supporting someone who is:

- Don't be afraid of medication. Mental illness should be treated like any other health condition, with care, science, and consistency.
- Trust your psychiatrist. If they've prescribed medication, take it. Don't let fear or stigma stop you.
- Stop treating mental health as different from physical health. Would you tell someone with diabetes to skip insulin and "go for a walk instead"?

## **An Interesting Story**

SWRD's sister who vanished from Ceylon with her adopted son – By Hugh Karunanayake

Anna Florentina Dias Bandaranaike was the elder daughter of the wealthy Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike and was born at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in June 1900, one and a half years after the birth of her elder brother S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, later to be Prime Minister of Ceylon. Anna's mother Daisy Ezlynne was the daughter of Sir Christoffel Obeyesekera, and was herself an heiress.



The Bandaranaike children were to inherit extensive wealth in the form of coconut estates and house property in Colombo. Both SWRD and his sister Anna were born in Elie House, Mutwal, a stately home of which Sir Solomon's family were the last occupants, before it was acquired by the Government for building a reservoir on its grounds.

Anna was surrounded by wealth, and her early years were spent being cared for and pampered by two British maids. In October 1919, Anna, together with her maid Miss Church, accompanied her father Sir Solomon on a voyage to England. Sir Solomon always travelled with his valet Sardiel who was a member of the visiting group. On June 24, 1920, Sir Solomon presented his daughter Anna at a Court held by King George

and Queen Mary at Buckingham Palace, an event described by Sir Solomon as "a very brilliant function, the likes of which is not to be found anywhere else in the world".

Two years later in June 1922, Anna married Abraham de Livera at a wedding solemnised at All Saints Church, Hulftsdorf, followed by a largely attended reception at Udugaha Walauwaa, Silvermith Street, which was the town residence of Sir Solomon.

Despite the opulent lifestyle of her family, Anna's life as a young woman seemed troubled. Her marriage to Abraham produced a son Christoffel and a daughter May, but the marriage was unhappy and she had increasingly turned to the comfort of prayer. It was into this unstable situation that a boy by the name Augustine was adopted by her. She was over 40 years of age and fond of the little boy but constantly feared that her relatives may take him away from her. She would have perceived the threats as real, so much so that when the boy was just 11 years of age she abandoned her family including her two young children and fled to Britain with her adopted son. For years



the two would lead a strange transient life in Britain living on a small monthly allowance from Anna's fortune which she collected regularly from a bank in London. Six years after her departure from Ceylon her only brother SWRD was elected Prime Minister of Ceylon, and three years later to die by the hand of an assassin Neither of these events persuaded her to revisit the land of her birth. She had by then adopted the name Rita and swapped her married name of de Livera for her mother's maiden name Obeyesekera, apparently in a bid to escape detection by members of her family in Ceylon who she feared would take the boy away.

Her daughter May would travel to England to wait outside the bank for hours in the desperate hope of seeing her mother. There were a few fleeting moments in the 1960s when mother and daughter met but Anna refused to reveal where she and Augustine were living. She had in fact bought a small caravan where mother and son had been living moving the caravan around to different locations until finally settling in a field at Cross-in-Hand near Heathfield where they lived for 12 years.

Augustine lived a claustrophobic life with his adopted mother who was worried about any contact with authorities and did not let him attend school, visit a doctor, or make a single friend. She had taught him to read a little and his only contact with the outside



world apart from their monthly visits by train to London was listening to the BBC world service. It was possibly those train rides that sparked an interest in him for model trains of which he had a sparse assortment consisting of bits and pieces of a quality that a frugal lifestyle would afford. Eight years before his mother died, he was finding the situation unbearable and had told his mother "I am only a child. If you die who will look after me?"

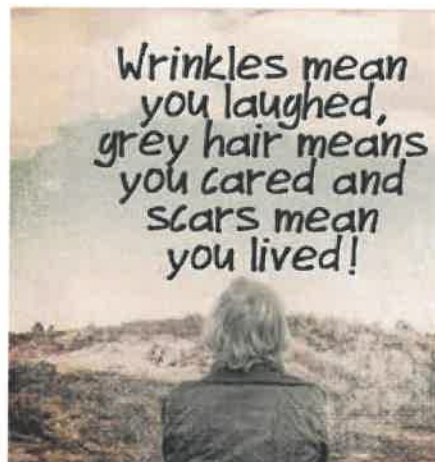
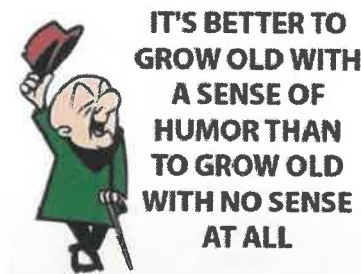
Augustine was 38 when he woke one morning in 1977 to find Anna dead in her bed. "I shook her but she did not wake up, I knew she was dead" Augustine told Charles Glass who had known him. Terrified, he went to a nearby petrol station to get help and suddenly found himself surrounded by police having to explain that he was not responsible for her death. That night a sympathetic social worker found him a bed in an old people's home, his first night's sleep in a bed for years.

Anna was buried at Willingdon Council Cemetery, her funeral attended by her adopted son and her natural son Christoffel who travelled from Sri Lanka. There would be no further contact between Anna's family and Augustine who eventually moved into a

- Educate yourself. Learn about your diagnosis. Understand the symptoms. Know your triggers.
- And above all, be kind. To yourself. To those suffering. To those who don't yet have the words for their pain.

The only way to reduce the taboo around mental health is to normalize it. Acceptance begins not just with awareness, but with empathy.

I am still navigating my own journey. I have good days. And I have days where getting out of bed feels impossible. But I'm learning not to judge myself for that anymore. To anyone who relates to my story: You are not alone. Help is out there. Healing *is* possible. It might not look like yoga, or quiet meditation, or cheerful Instagram quotes. It might look like a psychiatrist's prescription, daily medication, therapy, crying through the night, talking to yourself, and slowly, painfully, rebuilding. But it's your journey. And you are allowed to walk it the way you need to. Let's be gentle with ourselves. Let's be real. Let's be brave. One day at a time. I'm doing it. I know you can, too.



caravan in the grounds of another old people's home and from there he moved into a flat at Chatsworth Road, Brighton where he lived for many years.

Locals in the Seven Dials area may remember his engaging and friendly smile, his eccentric habit of wearing his socks outside his trousers and his entire collection of badges which he wore on his jacket all at the same time. Twelve years ago the final chapter of an extraordinary life was written when Pandukhabaya Augustine Lankatilleke Obeyesekera known as Augustine died aged 71 years in his flat in Brighton, 33 years after the death of his mother.

Anna 's natural son Solomon Christoffel Obeysekera de Livera died a year later in July 2011, the daughter May having predeceased him.

(Acknowledgments to Katy Rice and Charles Glass for their valuable contributions which form the basis of this article.) The article was first published in The Ceylankan, the Journal of the Ceylon Society of Australia, August 2012.

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Nine Arch Bridge placed among 10-most-stunning-railway journeys of the world  
November 4, 2024     Daily News



The Times of India, the fourth-largest newspaper in India by circulation and largest selling English-language daily in the world has placed, Nine Arch Bridge among 10-most-stunning-railway journeys of the world.

Nine Arch Bridge is one of the engineering marvels of the 20th century and a must visit is built between Ella and Demodara train stations. The bridge was designed to accommodate a challenging nine-degree curve and steep gradient and was built entirely by local labor under British supervision and is one of the best examples of colonial-era railway construction in the country.

Completed in 1919, the bridge has since stood resilient, showcasing innovative engineering solutions such as concrete cornice blocks for arch support and locally produced sand-cement blocks for facing.

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## HOW TRUE

### **Here is a wonderful little story - author unknown**

A young cashier told an older woman that she should bring her grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized, "We didn't have this green thing back in my day."

The young clerk said, "Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She gave him a firm stare and a hard grin and said "Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles, and beer bottles. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over. They were recycled.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, which we reused for numerous things. We walked upstairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power did dry our clothes back in our day. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. The TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded-up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap.

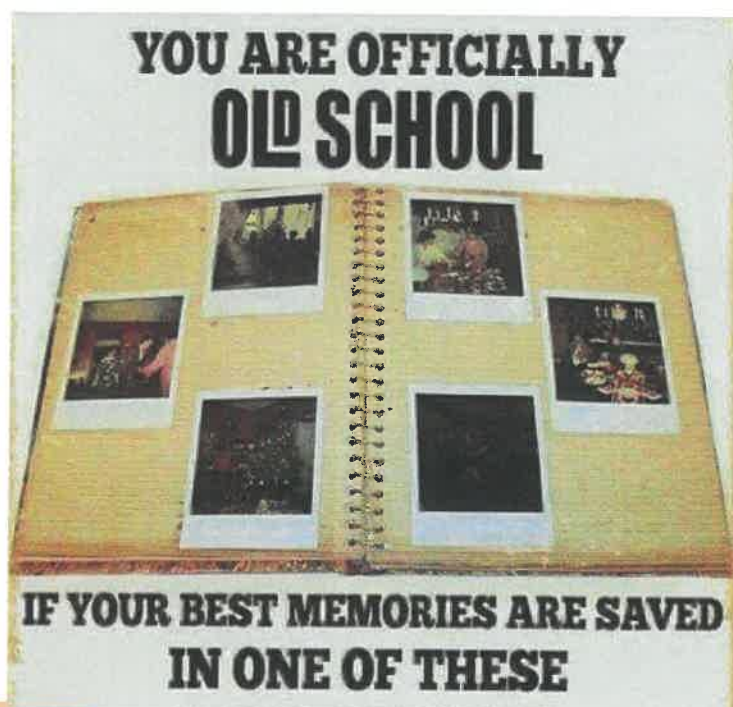
Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades with a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

Back then, people took a bus, and kids rode their bikes instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles in space to find the nearest burger joint.

But the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing."

The cashier stood there still and quiet as the old lady found her wallet to pay. Then lady turned to leave but stepped back and turned toward the cashier. She said "You have a world of knowledge in that little device in your hand. Pity you just use it to gossip, take pictures, and waste time. It would do you good to search a bit of history before you embarrass yourself like this again.



Putting your phone away  
and paying attention  
to those talking to you:  
**there's an app for that.**  
It's called  
**"Respect."**

© BRIGHTSIDE

2025 update, OED.com has said. Among the new entries is "asweddumise", meaning to prepare land for paddy cultivation—a word with roots in Sinhala, long used in Sri Lankan agriculture and land reform discourse. First documented in 1857, it was re-evaluated and finally added after decades of lobbying by local academics.

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) has added several uniquely Sri Lankan words to its June

Another standout addition is “kottu roti”, the beloved street food dish of chopped roti, meat, vegetables, and spices, known for its sizzling preparation and rhythmic chopping sound. The OED also recognises the Sinhala-origin “mallung”, a lightly cooked shredded greens dish mixed with coconut and spices, and “kiribath”, coconut milk rice traditionally eaten during Sinhala and Hindu New Year.

In recognition of Sri Lanka's cultural celebrations, the dictionary now features "Avurudu", the Sinhala and Tamil New Year observed in April, marked by traditional food, rituals, and games. Also included are "watalappam", a Muslim festive dessert made of coconut milk, jaggery, and spices; "baila", a genre of uptempo music with Portuguese influence; and "papare", a lively brass-based music style often heard at cricket matches.

According to the Oxford University Press, the word “Walawwa” refers to a mansion or manor house—the principal house of an estate in Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, “Osari” describes a traditional type of sari worn by Sinhalese women, known for its distinctive frill and draping style.

Following are the Sri Lankan words the OED has added to its June 2025 update:

- \*Kottu Roti\* – Chopped flatbread stir-fried with vegetables, meat & spices
- \*Kiribath\* – Rice cooked in coconut milk, served at celebrations
- \*Watalappam\* – Spiced coconut custard dessert, popular among Muslims
- \*Mallung\* – Lightly cooked greens with grated coconut & spices
- \*Asweddumise\*- To prepare land for paddy cultivation
- \*Baila\* – Upbeat Sri Lankan music genre with Portuguese roots
- \*Papare\* – Lively brass band music played at sports events
- \*Avurudu\* – Sinhala & Tamil New Year celebrated in April
- \*Walawwa\* – A mansion or manor house; the principal house of an estate
- \*Osari\* – A type of sari traditionally worn by Sinhalese women, with a midriff frill and shoulder drape

[illegible]

There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.

## Thomas Aquinas

There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met.

## William Butler Yeats

The only way to have a friend is to be one.

## Ralph Waldo Emerson

# Food for thought



Sometimes,  
life doesn't  
unfold the way  
you want,  
But the  
detours,  
heartbreaks,  
and closed  
doors often  
lead you to  
something  
better.

It's not failure - It's redirection,  
Guiding you toward the path you're  
meant to walk

*The Pharmacist walked into the store to find a man leaning heavily against the wall. He asks the Clerk "whats wrong with that man over there by the wall? The Clerk responds "well he came in to get something for his cough. I could not find the cough syrup, so I gave him an entire bottle of laxative." The Pharmacist yells" you idiot you can't treat a cough with a laxative." The Clerk responds "of course you can, look at him, he is afraid to cough."*



***Husband to wife – ‘when I get mad at you, you never fight back, how do you control your anger?’***

**Husband – “how does that help?”**

[illegible]

News of the Air India plane crash that just occurred has shaken all of us to the core. Watching the visuals - raw, devastating, and painfully real - I couldn't help but put myself in the shoes of those on board. My heart aches for the victims and their families. I can only pray, with every ounce of hope, that as many lives as possible are miraculously saved.

What struck me hardest was not the crash alone - but the quiet, overlooked reality of how we often leave home.

No proper goodbye.

Never walk away without letting someone know what they mean to you.

*Author unknown*

## ***Matara: Where History, Culture, and Nature Converge – By Bhanuka – eLanka***



Matara, located in the Southern Province of Sri Lanka, is a vibrant and historically significant town that offers a delightful blend of rich heritage, diverse culture, and breathtaking natural beauty. Known for its fascinating history, influential people, unique culture, and popular places of interest, Matara is a destination that captivates the hearts of both tourists and locals alike.

**Historical Significance:** Matara's history dates back to ancient times when it served as a trading post for Arab, Chinese, and European merchants. The town has witnessed the ebb and flow of empires, including Portuguese, Dutch, and British colonial rule. Its historical significance is exemplified by landmarks like the Dutch Fort, which stands as a testament to its colonial past.

**Influential People:** Matara has been home to several notable individuals who have made significant contributions to the country's cultural, political, and literary spheres. One such luminary is Anagarika Dharmapala, a key figure in the Buddhist revival movement, who was born in Matara. His legacy is commemorated through the Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, a street named in his honor.

**Culture and Traditions:** The cultural tapestry of Matara is a vibrant mix of Sinhalese traditions and influences from its colonial past. The town hosts various cultural festivals, including the popular Esala Perahera, a grand procession featuring traditional dancers, beautifully adorned elephants, and musicians. Additionally, the vibrant local music and dance forms, such as 'kolam' and 'thelme,' provide a window into the rich cultural heritage of Matara.





#### **Popular Places of Interest:**

1. **Matara Fort:** Built by the Dutch in the 18th century, Matara Fort is a well-preserved historical site that offers panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. It is a perfect spot for a leisurely stroll and a glimpse into the town's colonial history.
2. **Star Fort:** This star-shaped fortress, located within the Matara Fort complex, is another architectural gem. It's an excellent place for history enthusiasts and photographers.
3. **Weherahena Temple:** Known as the "Veherahena Raja Maha Viharaya," this temple is renowned for its colossal Buddha statue and intricate murals that depict Buddhist teachings. It's a serene and spiritual destination.
4. **Polhena Beach:** Matara boasts stunning coastal areas, and Polhena Beach is a local favorite. Its tranquil waters and vibrant coral reefs make it an ideal spot for snorkeling and sunbathing.
5. **Paravi Duwa Temple:** Situated on an island, this temple is accessible via a bridge. It's a serene place to explore and offers panoramic views of the surroundings.
6. **Parey Dewa:** Known as the "Rock in the Sea," this islet is famous for its striking natural beauty and is often frequented by nature enthusiasts.

**Conclusion:** Matara, with its captivating history, influential figures, rich culture, and natural wonders, stands as a unique gem in Sri Lanka's treasure trove of destinations. Whether you are an avid history buff, a culture enthusiast, or a nature lover, Matara has something to offer everyone. Its warm-hearted residents and welcoming atmosphere make it a must-visit place on your Sri Lankan journey, leaving you with cherished memories of this charming coastal town.

*The following may be a repeat, but it is a good read*  
***Money Money Money Money by***

### **THE DEFINITION OF MONEY**

Money is very funny indeed.

How interesting .... I never thought Money has different names!!!

In temple, church or mosque, it's called donation.

In school, it's fee.

In marriage, it's called dowry.

In divorce, alimony.

When you owe someone, it's debt.

When you pay the government, it's tax

In court, it's fines.

Civil servant retirees, it's pension.

Employer to workers, it's salary.

Master to subordinates, it's wages.

To children, it's allowance.

When you borrow from bank, it's loan.

When you offer after a good service. it's tips.

To kidnappers, it's ransom.

Obtaining money through force or threats, it's extortion.

Illegally received in the name of service, it's bribe.

The question is, "when a husband gives to his wife, what do we call it???"

ANSWER: Money given to your wife is called DUTY, and every man has to do his duty because wives are not DUTY FREE.—Ha Ha Ha!!!

Take it from here- ABBA..

\*\*\*\*\*

One Chinese walks into a bar in America late one night and he saw Steven Spielberg. As he was a great fan of his movies, he rushes over to him and asks for his autograph. Instead, Spielberg gives him a slap and says "You Chinese people bombed our Pearl Harbour, get out of here."

The astonished Chinese man replied "It was not the Chinese who bombed your Pearl Harbour, it was the Japanese".

"Chinese, Japanese, Taiwanese, you're all the same," replied Spielberg.

In return, the Chinese gives Spielberg a slap and says "You sank the Titanic; my forefathers were on that ship."

Shocked, Spielberg replies "It was the iceberg that sank the ship, not me."

The Chinese replies, "Iceberg, Spielberg, Carlsberg, you're all the same."

This particular joke won an award for the best joke in a competition in Britain

## ***Dehiwala Zoo – The National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka*** ***by Kalani***



The Dehiwala Zoo, officially known as the National Zoological Gardens of Sri Lanka, is one of the oldest and most famous zoological gardens in Asia. Located in Dehiwala, a suburb of Colombo, this iconic zoo has been a center for wildlife conservation, education, and entertainment for nearly a century.

### **History and Background**

The origins of the zoo date back to the late 1920s, when it was first established by a German animal trader named John Hagenbeck as a private collection center for exporting animals. In 1936, the Government of Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) took over the facility, officially turning it into a public zoological garden. The first director, Major Aubrey Weinman, played a major role in transforming it into a scientific and educational institution.

### **Animal Life and Exhibits**

Today, Dehiwala Zoo is home to around 2,500 animals from over 250 species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. The zoo is known for its well-maintained enclosures and lush, green surroundings that offer a relaxing and educational experience for visitors.

## **Major Attractions:**

- Elephants – Visitors can see both Sri Lankan and African elephants. A popular attraction is the elephant feeding sessions and educational talks.
- Big Cats – Lions, tigers, and leopards (including the Sri Lankan leopard) are highlights of the zoo.
- Big Cats – Lions, tigers, and leopards (including the Sri Lankan leopard) are highlights of the zoo.
- Aquarium – One of the finest in South Asia, with a wide variety of freshwater and marine species.
- Bird Park – Colorful flamingos, parrots, pelicans, and eagles can be seen in spacious aviaries.
- Reptile House – Home to snakes, crocodiles, turtles, and other reptiles.

## **Education and Conservation**

The zoo plays an important role in wildlife conservation and public education. It conducts breeding programs for endangered species and collaborates with international zoos for animal exchange and research. The Young Zoologists' Association, based at the zoo, helps educate children and students about wildlife and conservation.

## **Challenges and Modernization**

Like many institutions in Sri Lanka, the zoo has faced challenges, especially due to the country's recent economic crisis. Rising costs of animal feed and medicine have put pressure on zoo operations. However, efforts are being made to modernize the zoo, introduce sustainable practices, and continue animal welfare programs.

## **Visitor Information**

- Opening Hours: 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM (last entry at 5:30 PM)
- Location: Anagarika Dharmapala Mawatha, Dehiwala
- Facilities: Rest areas, food stalls, children's play area, and guided tours

**Tips:** Visit during the morning or late afternoon to avoid the heat. Weekends may feature special animal shows.

## **Cultural Importance**

For generations, Dehiwala Zoo has been a favourite outing spot for families, school trips, and tourists. It is more than just a zoo – it is a symbol of Sri Lanka's commitment to biodiversity, conservation, and education.

*The above may be of interest for those who are planning a visit to Sri Lanka*



## This is a beautiful story.

A lady worked at a meat distribution factory. One day, when she finished with her work schedule, she went into the meat cold room (Freezer) to inspect something, but in a moment of misfortune, the door closed, and she was locked inside with no help in sight.

Although she screamed and knocked with all her might, her cries went unheard as no one could hear her. Most of the workers had already gone, and outside the cold room it's impossible to hear what was going on inside. Five hours later, whilst she was on the verge of death, the security guard of the factory eventually opened the door. She was miraculously saved from dying that day.

When she later asked the security guard how he had come to open the door, which wasn't his usual work routine, this was his explanation:

"I've been working in this factory for 35 years. Hundreds of workers come in and out every day, but you're one of the few who greet me in the morning and say goodbye to me every evening when leaving after work. Many treat me as if I'm invisible. Today, as you reported for work, like all other days, you greeted me in your simple manner 'Hello'. But this evening after working hours, I curiously observed that I had not heard your 'Bye, see you tomorrow'. Hence, I decided to check around the factory. I look forward to your 'hi' and 'bye' every day because they remind me that I am someone. By not hearing your farewell today, I knew something had happened. That's why I was searching every-where for you."

Moral Lesson to reflect upon: Be humble, love and respect those around you. Try to have an impact on people who cross your path every day, you never know what tomorrow will bring. Let this story be an inspiration.

*Author: Unknown*

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**The Importance Of Going To Church** A blonde hadn't been to church for many, many months. She always promised to go, but never did. One day, the minister was astounded when she suddenly rocked up for Sunday service. Thereafter, she was at every Sunday service, every prayer meeting, every home group meeting, etc.

Three months later, one Sunday after the service, the minister asks her, "What happened to you? You always dodged church and now it looks like you can't get enough of it?" She replied, "It's this new car of mine pastor; they told me the warranty will lapse if I miss even one service!"

## MURPHY'S HAT

Murphy showed up at Mass one Sunday and the priest almost fell down when he saw him. Murphy had never been to church in his life.

After Mass, the priest caught up with him and said, "Murphy, I am so glad you decided to come to Mass. What made you come?"

Murphy said, "I got to be honest with you Father, a while back, I misplaced me hat and I really, really love that hat. I know that McGlynn had a hat just like mine and I knew he came to church every Sunday. I also knew that he had to take off his hat during Mass and figured he would leave it in the back of the church. So, I was going to leave after Communion and steal McGlynn's hat."

The priest said, "Well, Murphy, I notice that you didn't steal McGlynn's hat. What changed your mind?" Murphy replied, "Well, after I heard your sermon on the Ten Commandments, I decided that I didn't need to steal McGlynn's hat after all."

With a tear in his eye the priest gave Murphy a big smile and said; "After I talked about 'Thou Shalt Not Steal' you decided you would rather do without your hat than burn in Hell?"

Murphy slowly shook his head. "No, Father, after you talked about 'Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery' I remembered where I left my hat."



## OBITUARIES

(E & O.E.)

(AUGUST 2025)

Compiled by Victor Melder

**ADAMS, Raymond George.** (2.9.1940 – 31.7./2025), husband of Margaret, father of Tony, Carolyn and Damien. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 16.8.2025)

**ANDREE, Donna Winifred** (11.3.1932 – 29.7.2025), wife of Willi (dec), mother of Louise, Simon and Christian, grandmother of Nicholas, Angus, Isabella and Sebastian. Twin-sister of Margaret. (Hobart Mercury, 2.8.2025)

**ANDREWS, Shirley Henrietta Ellen,** on August 6, 2025, aged 89 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 16.8.2025)

**BECKMEYER, Mystica Marie** (2.6.1960 – 15.8.2025), wife of Reuben Jeevanayagam, mother of Ryan Jeevanayagam and Garrett Jeevanayagam, in Canada (Contributed & Chapel Ridge, Funerals, Ontario, Canada)

**BRERETON, Joyce** (20.6.1940 – 9.8.2025), Daily Mirror, 12..2025)

**BRODIE, John Rex "Rex"** (3.6.1948 – 11.8.2025), husband of Betty (dec), father of Jean, Michael (dec) and Trish, grandfather of Liam, Callum, Eamon, Luke Kellie (dec), Emma and Jack, great grandfather of Ezra. Brother of Leslie (dec), Dorothy (dec) and Janet. (Canberra Times, 16.8.2025)

**BROWN, Janet Rosemary (née ANDERSON),** 2.4.1953 – 27.8.2025, mother of Skye and Asha, grandmother of Miles and Max. Daughter of Ian and Jean (both dec), sister of Diana and David. (Adelaide Advertiser, 30.8.2025)

**CARNIE, Roslyn Joy (née ISON),** wife of John, Mother and mother-in-law of Chris & Carina, Drew & Nikki and Georgie & Simon, grandmother of Luna, Francie, Noah, Flynn and Ros, on July 28, 2025, aged 71 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 31.7.2025)

**CHAPMAN, Gerald,** father of Robert and Helen, grandfather of Tomas, Luis and Ryan, on August 4, 2025.. (West Australian, 6.8.2025)

**CHAPMAN, Victor Ross,** husband of Bev, father and father-in-law of Jan & Kim, Lesley & Peter, Neville & Tara and Rhonda & Matthew, grandfather of 8, great grandfather of 4. (West Australian, 28.8.2025)

**CLEMENTS, William James "Bill"** (5.2.1931 – 26.8.2025), husband of Marie, father of Michele, Sue, Karen and Kathleen, grandfather. (Sydney Morning Herald, 30.8.2025)

**D'CRUZE, Eve Hope,** in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**DAVID, Christie. D,** husband of Gladys (née Arnold), father of Jeremy and Clifford, father-in-law of Amali, grandfather of Sereta and Diresh. Brother of late Sarojini Gnanakan, Raja, Vendra, Dr Benjamine, Chitra, Rabindra and Mark (UK), in Sri Lanka on August 2, 2025. (Contributed)

**DAVIDSON, Raymond Joseph,** father of Wayne, Sharon and Debbie. (West Australian, 16.8.2025)

**DE FONSEKA, Eric William Anthony,** husband of Carmen (dec), father of Warren and Richard, grandfather of Lana, Hannah and Kian, on August 26, 2025. (West Australian, 28.8.2025)

**DE JONK, Rosemarie,** mother of Sabrina Maartensz, grandmother of Melina La Faber and Widad Maartensz, great grandmother of Lorenzo De Motte, Nicolette De Motte and Calvin De Motte. Daughter of late Joseph De Jonk and late Bertha Van Sanden, sister of late Brian De Jonk, late Lynette De Jonk and Stanmore De Jonk, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

**de KRETZER, Yvonne Miriam (née FOENANDER),** 5.5.1945 – 26.7.2025, wife of Rev. Crosbie, mother and mother-in-law of Michael & Jenny, Jan & Yvonne, Sean & Lyn and Keith & Susan, grandmother of Shane & Mereshah, Ryan & Emma, Tyra & Jesse, Jacob, Olivia, Malachi & Zechariah, Charlie and Elle & Louis, in Melbourne. (Order of Service Booklet)

**DIAS, Maxwell,** in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**DUCKWORTH Margaret** (3.5.1950 – 16.8.2025), wife of Allan, mother of Todd and Brent, mother-in-law of Tara, grandmother of Makayla, Josh and Riley. (West Australian, 20.8.2025)

**EASON, Stephen John,** father of Alexandra. Son of Patricia and Owen (both dec), brother and brother-in-law of Kristina (dec), Andrew & Mel, Simone, Charmaine & Emilio and Lisa, on August 6, 2025. (Melbourne Age, 15.8.2025)

**EATON, Margaret (Peg) OAM (née RINDER),** (19.2.1924 – 3.8.2025), wife of Ken (dec), mother of Lee (dec), John, Peter, Doreen and David, grandmother of 14 and great grandmother. (West Australian, 9.8.2025)

**EDWARDS, Albert David,** (8.10.1938 – 10.8.2025), husband of Fay. Son of Herbert and Eileen (both dec), Brisbane Daily Telegraph, 15.8.2025)

**EDWARDS, Norman Stanley (Norm),** (31.1.1939 – 31.7.2025), husband of Elaine, father of Debbie, Bruce (dec), Robyn, David, Michelle, Peter and Tracey, grandfather of 11, great grandfather of 7. (West Australian, 9.8.2025)

**EDWARDS, Rodney Arthur,** husband of Jan, father of Blake and Gaynor, grandfather of Hunter, Kya, Eleanor, Alice and Roy, on July 27, 2025, aged 76 years. (West Australian, 30.7.2025)

**FELSINGER, Esther "Bubsy" (née BUULTJENS),** wife of Douglas, mother of Sandra and Jacqueline. Sister of late Sweeny, late Rita, Joe, late Nellie, Dorothy and Yvonne, in Sri Lanka on July 29. – 110/15, Jubilee Mawatha, Mirihana Road, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka. (Sunday Times, 3.8.2025)

**FERNÁNDEZ, Bernice,** in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**FERNÁNDEZ, Charles Anthony,** in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**FERNANDO Rev. Sr Rosita,** Convent of The Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary, 15 Don Carolis Road, Colombo 5, Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 6.8.2025)

**FERNANDO, Lashan,** in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**FURLONG, Gary William**, (21.1.1970 – 1.8.2025), husband of Deb, father of Harrison, Austin and Georgia. Brother of Robert and Allan. (Brisbane Daily Telegraph, 12.8.2025)

**GEDDES, Ronald**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**GNANARATNAM, Sanjivan Robert**, (3.8.1960 - 5.8.2025), son of John and Ruba Gnanaratnam, brother and brother-in-law of Sumi & Earle, Manju & Snjezana, Aji & Monique and and Dushy, Sofia & Archie. Father, father-in-law, grandfather of Marisha, Elya, Sofia and Archie, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**GRAY, Rodney John** (24.7.1946 – 29.7.20125), husband of Marion, father of Shannon and Keryn, grandfather of Coltan and Mylah. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 2.8.2025).

**GURUSINHA, Iranganie Sepalika (née MOLLIGODA)**, wife of late I.A. Gurusinha, mother of Anjali, Roshini and Asanka (Aus), mother-in-law of Maj, Nalin Tillekeratne (Rtd) and Kushlani. Sister of late D.U. Sepala, late Mallika Jayawardena, late Raja, Para and late Gamini, sister-in-law of Bandu, Geraldine, late Dr. Lionel, Harriet, Chandra and Sally (UK), late Prof. Hiran and Yasoma Jayasuriya, Lakshman and Leela Gurusinha, grandmother of Yuwantha, Onella, Andrew, Harintha, Svanthi and Heshini, great-grandmother of Logan and Ripley. (Contributed & Funerals lk)

**HILL, Ian**, husband of Shirley, Father of Sharon and Craig, Father-in-law of Graham, grandfather of Teagan and Chris, great grandfather of Henry and Edward, on August 17, 2025, aged 96 years. (Adelaide Advertiser, 23.8.2025)

**HILLS, Devereaux Herbert Randal**, husband of late Christine Hills. Son of late Bertie and late Frederica Hills. Brother of the late Desiree Woutersz and David. Father of Chrisangelo and Mariangela Hills. Brother-in-law of the late Wilhelm Woutersz and Maryanne Hills, Father-in-law of Melrose Hills and Sanjeev Niles. Grandfather of Andreo, Jordan and Leanne, on 30.7.25 Aged 82, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

**HOLMES, Marilyn**, on August 7, 2025. (Adelaide Advertiser, 16.8.2025)

**HONTER, Frederick Lucian George "Bill"**, (5.1.1942 – 11.7.2025), husband of Marie, father and father-in-law of Jan & Jayne, Dean & Tracey and Craig & Alison, grandfather of 6, great grandfather of 4. (West Australian, 28.7.2025)

**HUGHES, Terry Michael** (14.3.1940 – 18.7.2025), husband of Rahnee (dec), father of Janet, Meagan and Clare, father-in-law of Justin, Michael and Robert, grandfather of Anna, Grace, Zara, Darcy, Leo, Harrison, Oliver, Isobel and Owen. Son of Owen & Iris (both dec), brother of Alan (dec). Sydney Morning Herald, 28.7.2025)

**HUNTER, Robert "Bobby"**, (18.2.1943 – 1.8.2025), husband of Kaye, father of Cheryl, Robyn and Trevor, grandfather of six, great grandfather of six. (Adelaide Advertiser, 9.8.2025)

**ISAACS, David** (23.9.1950 – 2.8.2025), husband of Carmel, father of Anna & Peter, ben (dec), Tom and Mark & Tika, grandfather of Charlie, Zoe, Jacob, Tanah and Asri. Son of Susanna and Alick, brother of Steve and Harriet (dec). Sydney Morning Herald, 9.8.2025)

**JACKSON, Neomi Therese**, mother of Pendry, Esric, Spence, Mitchell and Charmaine, in Melbourne, aged 97 years. (Contributed)

**JACOBS, Philippa Helen**, partner of Philip. Sister of Leola, on July 21, 2025. (Sydney Morning Herald, 29.7.2025)

**JANSZ, Claude** (16.8.1930 – 2.8.2025), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**JANSZÉ, Derek Douglas Budd**, husband of Jennifer, father of Delon and Nigel, father-in-law of Danielle and Kylie, grandfather of Kian, Georgia, Harrison, Jaxon, Ella and Maddison. West Australian, 30.8.2025 & Contributed)

**JAYASURIYA, Rohini**, wife of Laksiri, mother of Kanishka and Pradeep, on August 24, 2025. (West Australian, 30.8.2025)

**JAYEWARDENE, Jayantha** (27.3.1944 – 30.7.2025), husband of Christine, in Sri Lanka. – 615/32 Rajagiriya Gardens, Nawala Road, Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka. (Contributed & Internet Resources)

**JEYASUNDARAM, Rajeswary (Rajesh)**, wife of late Amirthalingam Jeyasunderam, mother of Mythili and Nithya, mother-in-law of Neethirajan and Carlo, grandmother of Pragalath and Joshua, on August 9, 2025, in Brisbane, Australia.. (Daily News, 14.8.2025)

**JORDAN, David Cyril** (24.7.1938 – 9.8.2025), husband of Margaret (dec), father of Michael, Catherine and Stephen. Brother of Tony and Jean (Sydney Morning Herald, 16.8.2025).

**JORDAN, Raymond George "Ray"**, (26.1.1937 – 23.7.2025), husband of Ursula (dec), father of Michelle and Greg, grandfather. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 2.8.2025)

**JOSEPH, Cedric Eliston** (26.11.1934 – 7.8.2025), husband of Christobel (née de Kretser), father of Anja & Camille and Jim, grandfather of Katrina & Onur, Joshua & Jessica and Sacha & Leigh, great grandfather of Dylan Bekar, Summer & Antonio Koussia. Brother of Maureen & Mervyn (dec), Arlene & Ron and Winston & Rowena., in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**KANAGASABAPATHY, Sivabalasunderam**, (16.6.1936 – 9.8.2025), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**KANDASAMY, Baskaran**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**KELLY, Joseph Charles**, 6.5.1942 – 29.7.2025), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**KIRIWANELIYA, Thesath Methsitha**, in Melbourne (Contributed)

**KITTO, Henry Donald**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**KOCH, Douglas Cedric**, (21.5.1946 – 2.8.25) husband of Judy, father of Brenton, Amanda, Natalie and Wayne, grandfather of Tyson, Jake, Jaimee, Hayden, Brodie and Ryan. (Adelaide Advertiser, 9.8.2025)



**KURUPPU, Hiran**, husband of Harshi, son of late Mr Neil Kuruppu and late Mrs Sriya Kuruppu, brother of Hasanthi, Ramani, Chandani, Maya and Ajith, brother-in-law of late Milton, Geoff, Manik and Mithila, uncle of Manthika, Danuke, Mahin, Nayanthi and Hesara., in the US. (Contributed)

**LEEMBRUGGEN, Edda**, (17.1.1931 – 23.8.2025), wife of Bert (dec), mother and mother-in-law of Glenn & Kate and Sue & Greg, grandmother of Chris, Hayden and Kristabella. (Sydney Morning Herald, 25.8.2025)

**LIYANAGE, Ariyaratna Dharmabandu Koggala**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**LORD, Michael**, (27.7.1968 – 30.7.2025), son of Robert John (dec) and Shirley, brother of Anne, brother-in-law of Mark. (Adelaide Advertiser, 2.8.2025)

**LUCAS, Merylyn**, on August 18, 2025. (West Australian, 28.8.2025)

**LUDEWYKE, Gladston Anthony** (1978 – 25), son of Godfrey & the late Sylvia Vancuylenburg Ludewyke, brother of Gladwin Ludewyke and Gavin Ludewyke, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

**MADESAN, Ponniah**, (30.1.1946 – 15.8.2025), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**MASON, Olive, Mary** (2.2.1927 – 6.8.2025), mother of Helen, Anne (dec), Linda and Rosey, grandmother of 9, great grandmother of 12. (West Australian, 9.8.2025)

**NELSON, Brian Frank**, husband of Sylvia, father of Lisa and Ashley, father-in-law of Jonelle and Steve, grandpa of Georgia, Jackson, Keely and Rhian, great grandfather of Charlotte and Myles, on July 31, 2025. (West Australian, 2.8.2025)

**NEWMAN, Bernadette Majella** (10.8.1965 – 6.8.2025), wife of Bruce. Daughter of John (dec) and Silvia. (Sydney Morning Herald, 13.8.2025)

**NEWMAN, William Alfred**, (3.1.1939 – 4.8.2025), husband of Annette, father of Gavin, Wayne and Lauren, father-in-law of Alastair and Leanne, grandfather of Katie, William, Dylan, Jack, Jordan, Emily, Maddison and Tyler. (Brisbane Courier mail, 9.8.2025)

**NICHOLAS, Gregory Ross**, brother and brother-in-law of Jane and Henry. (West Australian, 6.8.2025)

**ORR, Margaret Elizabeth “Meg”**, (30.8.1945 – 22.7.2025), daughter of Robert and Lillian Orr (both dec), sister of Roberta and John, Douglas (dec) and Frances and James & Elizabeth. (Sydney Morning Herald, 2.8.2025)

**PARARAJASINGHAM, Dr Thambimuthu**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**PARSONS, Jeffrey William** (20.9.1950 – 13.8.2025), husband of Pat/Trish, father of John, and Janell, father-in-law of Steven, grandfather of Jay, Zane and Scarlett. (West Australian, 16.8.2025)

**PARSONS, Robert Wayne** (7.10.1946 – 7.8.2025). Adelaide Advertiser, 23.8.2025)

**PECK, James**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**PEREIRA, Noble (Dalla)**, husband of Irene, father of Rev.Shehan and Dilshan, father-in-law of Ashanthi and Michelle, grandfather of Aaron, Atarah and Drushan. Son of late Chummy and Lauida, brother of Chaemi, late Prithie, Bunt, Erwin, Jennifer, Pinky, Heloise, Monroe, Lincoln and Tania, brother-in-law of late Jerene and Felicia. (Daily News, 6.8.2025)

**PERERA, Maureen Mary Ferdinands**, mother of Rohan Perera, Randolph Perera, late Romaine Weerasinghe, Radcliffe Perera and Robin Perera, on August 28, 2025. (Daily News, 29.8.2025)

**PERERA, Rev. Br Clinton** (2.2.1940 – 25.8.2025)

**PERERA, Supipi**, (St Anthony’s Parish, Noble Park, Bulletin)

**PETERSON, Patricia Philippa “Pip”**, wife of Ewan, mother of Clare (dec), Finlay and Daniel, on August 5, 2025. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 16.8.2025)

**PHILLIPS, Heather (née COOKE)**, wife of Michael. Daughter of late rev. Ken and Eva Cooke. (West Australian, 9.8.2025)

**RAJENDRAN, Yvonne** (St Anthony’s Parish, Noble Park, Bulletin)

**RAYMOND, Cheryl**. (West Australian, 20.8.2025).

**RAYMOND, Nigel**, husband of Melody, father of Jade, Jamin, Jadin and Jude, father-in-law of Leonardo, grandfather of Luka, on July 25, 2025, aged 56 years. (Contributed)

**REV. SR. MARY TILDA A.C. (née Mary Matilda ANDREW)**, on 19th August 2025. Carmel Convent, 88, Ananda Rajakaruna Mawatha, Colombo 10). Daily News, 20.8.2025)

**SABANADESAR, Kandasamy**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**SETHUPATHY, Joe**. (Contributed)

**SIVAKUMAR, Krishnapillai**, (21.9.1963 – 8.7.2025), in Sydney. (Contributed)

**SIVAPATHAN, Santhakumari**, (19.5.1958 – 19.8.2025), in Sydney. (Contributed)

**SR. STELLA MARIA (COLE), A.C.**, (15.4.1936 – 7.7.2025), daughter of Richard and Myrtle Cole, sister of Bernard (Kingsley), Eustace (Willie), Angela (Iona) dec, Anton, Nesta, Noeline, Brian, Christine (dec) and Therese. (Contributed)

**SUBASINGHE, Chandrika**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**SUBRAMANIAM, Felicia (Feela) Mary (née MELDER)**, (30.5.1927 – 20/8/2025) wife of late Sinnadurai Anthony Subramaniam, mother of Selvaranee Machado, Pusparani Balendra, Eisvaran Subramaniam, late Indrani Subramaniam, Rohini Selvanayagam, Kumar Subramaniam, Eivaree (Vasanthi) Rodrigo and Raj Subramaniam, .mother-in-law of Lionel Machado, late Vadivelu (Bala) Ranjendra, Nirmala Subramaniam, Rajini Rita

Subramaniam, Jeremy Rodrigo and Juliette Subramaniam, grandmother of Naresh and Roslyn Machado, Kashmira and Gihan Walpola, Senthil Balendra, Christine Huynh, David and Dharmine Subramaniam, Mereka Smith, Jermaine and Ranika Rodrigo, Joachim Subramaniam and Annemarie Subramaniam, great grandmother of Kaylan Machado, Dylan Machado, Ella Walpola, Savannah Smith and Shanaya Rodrigo. Daughter of late Felix Melder and Margaret Elizabeth Melder (née Kerner), sister of late Connie Ferreira, late Betsy Ferreira, Felicitas (Girila) Appathurai, late William Melder, late Senaka De Silva, late Joachim (Sidney) Melder and Veronica (Loo) Perera, in Sydney. (Contributed)

**TAMBIMUTTU, Stafford** ( 25/3/42 - 27/8/25), husband of April Carol (née Vanderwall), father of Tammy, Tania and Shaun, grandfather of Aaron, Trent, Hayden and Jackson, great grandfather of Matthew, Zayn, Zoey, Heidi and Lucas. Son of Walter and Dulcie (née Scharenguivel), brother of Winston, Karina, and Nihal Gunewardene, in Melbourne. The Funeral will be Tuesday 9th September St Joesph's Church Springvale at 11am. Burial at Springvale cemetery 1pm

**TALWATTE, Dilhara Sonali (née MEDONZA)**. wife of Asite, mother of Duhitru, Bihini and Sishru, mother-in-law of Kaushal Siriwardena and Manojith Weerasuriya, grandmother of Vihane, Viru and Seyara. Daughter of the late Titus Medonza and the late Iris Dhanapala, sister of Tamara. - No. 14, Cambridge Terrace, Colombo 7. Sri Lanka. (Daily News 20..2025)

**THURASINGHAM, Rajasingham**, (23.1.1957 – 18.8.2025), in Sydney. (Contributed)

**TREK, Sheadon**, (11.2.2006 – 27.7.2025), son of Sam and Niroshi (Marion), brother of Sheyon and Shennen, (Elanka News, 3.8.2025)

**WARDNER, Barbara (née ALTENDORFF)**, (15.4.1931- ?) in Queensland. (Contributed)

**WEBSTER, Peter Grant** (25.11.1926 – 7.8.2025), husband of Barbara (dec), father and father-in-law of Andrew, Annette, Christine, Elizabeth (dec) and Andrew, grandfather of Amelia, Michael, Jess, Hugh (dec), Christopher, Alice, David, Andrea, Stephan and Pippa, great grandfather of James, Will, Sam and Harry. (Melbourne Age, 14.8.2025)

**WEBSTER, Rosaleen Marie** (29.9.1938 – 18.8.2025), wife of David, mother of Philip, Alison and Bronwen, grandmother of Rhyen, Jack, Jade, Andrew, Sarah and Josephine. (Sydney Morning Herald, 23.8.2025)

**WIJESOMA, Don Jayantha**, in Queensland. (Contributed)

**WIJETUNGE, Palitha Rohan**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**WITHAM, Lawrence Noel (Lawrie)**, husband of Ruby, father and father-in-law of Jacquie, Bernie & Caroline and Rachel & Evan Willis, grandfather of Tome & Chelsea, Hugh, Ethan, Ella and Henry, great grandfather of Howard, aged 87 years. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 2.8.2025)

**WRIGHT, Roger**, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

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

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

## 2025/26 Subscription Reminder

Dear Member

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

**Please refer to the address label and if the “Paid to Date” is a prior financial year we would appreciate your continued support of the Burgher Association.** The Annual Subscription is \$20 and is payable on 1st July of each year. If you prefer you may make payments in advance for a future year’s subscription. Please send your remittance to:

### The President

Burgher Association (Australia) Inc  
No 1 St Georges Court, Toorak Vic 3142

OR, pay by Direct Deposit at the nearest National Australia Bank quoting your Membership Number & Surname

**BANK** : National Australia Bank  
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Please detach and enclose the payment slip below if paying by Post

**MEMBER NO.** .....

**FROM:** .....  
.....:

Please find attached remittance for \$20 being member fees for the financial year

☐ 2025-26    ☐ 2026-27    Other .....

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

**If undelivered please return to**

**The Editor**

**33B Campbell Street,**

**BENTLEIGH VIC 3204**



**To:**

