



Burgher Association Australia

Autumn Edition

March 2026

Community Newsletter



Postal Address : PO Box 75 Clarinda VIC 3169

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

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2024/2025

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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 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 2025 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 Elwin and Mrs Mary De Joodt - Dean Park – NSW

Mr Aldric Melville & Mrs Esther Drusilla Knowler – Wheelers Hill –VIC

Mr Ciano and Mrs Margo Schroter – Wheelers Hill – VIC

Mr Desmond and Mrs Judy Foulston – Cranbourne - VIC

Mr Henry and Mrs Corinne Warren - Greensborough – VIC

Ms Josephine Corteling – Narre Warren – VIC

Mr Dave and Mrs Deeniya Vanheer – Narre Warren – VIC





**What's
Happening**
At the BAA



Kothu Roti Lunch

Sunday, 29 March 2026

BAA Community Hall - 358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3169

12.00 noon-5.00pm

Winter Warmers Lunch

Sunday, 21 June 2026

BAA Community Hall – 358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3169

12.00 noon-5.00pm

Hopper Lunch

Sunday, 16th August 2026

BAA Community Hall – 358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3169

12.00 noon-5.00pm

Members & Friends Christmas Party

Sunday, 29 November 2026

BAA Community Hall – 358 Houghton Road, Clayton 3169

12.00 noon-5.00pm

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

Things That Make You Think

“If a kid can unlock an iPad, they can certainly load the dishwasher.

”I’m sixty-eight years old, and my grandkids call me Grandma Erna. Sometimes, with a grin, they also call me “the strict grandma.” That doesn’t bother me one bit. Because I’ve lived long enough to know this: kids don’t just need love. They also need limits, responsibility, and a few chores.

These days, I watch toddlers swipe a screen before they can even tie their shoes. By three years old they’re scrolling cartoons; by ten, they’re downloading apps and beating video games I can barely figure out. But when I ask them to help clear the table or sweep the kitchen, you’d think I’d asked them to climb Mount Everest.

When I was their age, things were different. We didn’t negotiate about chores—they were simply part of life. At eight years old, I stood on a chair at the sink, scrubbing dishes until my fingers wrinkled like raisins. My mother had a simple rule: “If you eat in this house, you help in this house.” At the time, I thought it was unfair. But now, looking back, I see it was one of the best gifts she ever gave me. Responsibility.

So when I tell my grandkids, “Put the phone down and come help me cook,” they roll their eyes. And I just smile. Because I’m not trying to make them into perfect little housekeepers. I want them to understand something bigger: life isn’t only entertainment. Life is community. Life is work. Life is sharing the load.

Too many parents today think love means doing everything for their children. They rush to pick up the toys, carry the backpack, wash the dishes. They mean well, but what they don’t realize is that they’re stealing something from their kids: the chance to grow into independent, capable adults. A child who never takes out the trash won’t magically know how to keep order in their own apartment later.

The truth is simple. If a child has the brains and focus to master the latest phone or gaming system, they absolutely have the ability to vacuum a living room or scrub a pan. The difference isn’t skill. It’s will. And the will to work comes from habits, expectations, and a little good-natured toughness from the adults who love them.

I’ll admit—sometimes my grandkids laugh at me when I repeat my favourite line: “Kids who can run a smartphone can run a broom.” They think it’s old-fashioned. Maybe it is. But I keep saying it anyway.

Because one day, they'll be standing in their own kitchens, with their own kids, realizing Grandma was right.

Strict? Maybe. But at its core, it's love. The kind of love that doesn't just hand over comfort, but teaches courage. The kind of love that doesn't just give but prepares.

So, here's my message to every parent, grandparent, aunt, or uncle reading this: don't be afraid to expect more. Don't be afraid to say no to endless screen time and yes to responsibility. Because one day, those small moments—loading the dishwasher, folding the laundry, carrying the groceries—will shape the kind of adults our children become. And when that day comes, I hope my grandkids look back and smile, realizing that Grandma wasn't just being strict. She was teaching them how to handle life with both hands.

Courtesy of Things that make you think.

A LOVELY THOUGHT—WORTH A READ

I brought my mom to live with me. For good. No big plans, no long discussions—just one day, with one small bag. In it were a pair of tights, slippers with the words “World’s Best Grandma” (a gift from my kids), a cozy robe, a nightgown, and, oddly enough, a pillowcase. She packed it herself.

Now, for the past three weeks, I’ve had a little “girl” of about four years old living in my house. Thin, with a little white bun of hair, shuffling in cotton tights that bunch up at her ankles, walking the hallway in those warm slippers, carefully stepping over invisible obstacles at the doorway. She smiles at the dog in the hallway. She hears invisible people and shares their “news” with me. She’s shy. She sleeps a lot. She nibbles chocolate bars I sneak into her room and sips her tea with both hands—because one of them trembles. She checks her wedding ring over and over, terrified it might slip off her thin finger.

And suddenly, I see her not as “Mum,” but as this fragile, helpless soul. She’s let go. Relaxed. Stopped playing the role of “adult.” And she’s trusted me completely, in every little thing. Her biggest comfort? Knowing I’m home. The way she exhales with relief when I walk in from outside makes me want never to leave for too long. So here I am again, making soup every day like I used to for my kids, putting out a plate of cookies on the table.

What do I feel? At first—fear. For three years after Dad passed, she insisted on living alone. For the first time in her life, at 80, she was living her way. I understood her. But then this cruel virus came along, and two months of isolation broke her. And now, I just feel tenderness. Love. Compassion for this tiny universe entrusted to me.

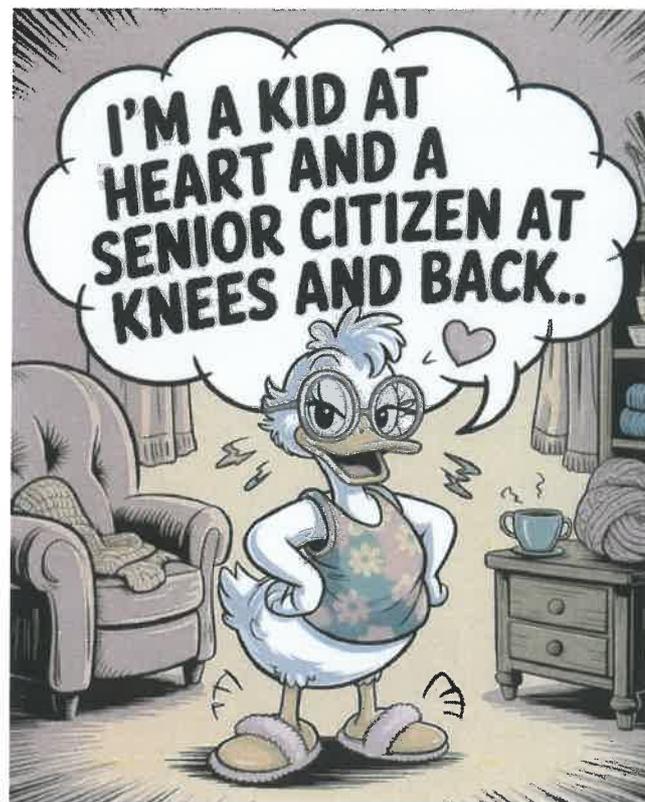
I know exactly where this road leads us. I just want her walk down it to be happy—surrounded by her daughter, in warmth and comfort, with homemade pies and meatloaf. That’s all that matters to her now.

Today I have a daughter who’s 83 years old. And I’m grateful God gave me the chance to make her sunset years peaceful—and gave me the chance to live mine without regret.

Mom, thank you for being here.

Please... stay a little longer.

Author Unknown



The Miraculous Healing Powers of Aloe Vera-By Kalani –



Aloe vera, often referred to as the “plant of immortality,” has been treasured for its remarkable healing properties for centuries. This succulent plant, native to North Africa, has found its way into homes, gardens, and countless skincare and health products worldwide. Its gel, derived from the thick, fleshy leaves, is a natural remedy for various ailments and an essential ingredient in numerous cosmetic and medicinal products. In this article, we will explore the incredible benefits of aloe vera and its diverse applications in health and beauty.

1. Skin Health

Aloe vera is renowned for its exceptional benefits in skincare. Its gel contains a rich blend of vitamins, minerals, enzymes, and amino acids that nourish and rejuvenate the skin.

Whether you have sunburn, acne, dryness, or simply want to maintain healthy skin, aloe vera can be your go-to solution.

- **Sunburn Relief:** Aloe vera’s cooling properties make it an excellent natural remedy for soothing sunburned skin. Its anti-inflammatory compounds help reduce redness and pain while promoting faster healing.

- **Acne Treatment:** Aloe vera's antimicrobial properties can combat acne-causing bacteria. Its hydrating qualities also help prevent the skin from drying out due to acne treatments.
- **Moisturizer:** Aloe vera is an effective natural moisturizer. It hydrates the skin without leaving it feeling greasy, making it suitable for all skin types.

2. Hair Care

Aloe vera is not just for the skin; it works wonders for your hair too. Its enzymes promote healthy hair growth and provide a natural shine.

- **Hair Growth:** Aloe vera contains enzymes that stimulate hair follicles, promoting hair growth. Regular use can lead to thicker and longer hair.
- **Dandruff Control:** Aloe vera's antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties help combat dandruff and soothe an itchy scalp. It can be used as a natural conditioner to maintain a healthy scalp.

3. Digestive Health

Aloe vera can be beneficial for your digestive system.

Drinking aloe vera juice can help alleviate various digestive issues, such as indigestion, constipation, and irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

- **Constipation Relief:** Aloe vera contains compounds called anthraquinones that act as natural laxatives, aiding in bowel movement and relieving constipation.
- **Digestive Soothing:** Aloe vera's anti-inflammatory properties can soothe the digestive tract and reduce discomfort associated with conditions like IBS.

4. Wound Healing

The gel from aloe vera leaves has been used for centuries to accelerate wound healing. It provides a protective barrier over wounds and stimulates the production of collagen, which is essential for skin repair.

- **Minor Burns and Cuts:** Applying aloe vera gel to minor burns and cuts can expedite the healing process and minimize scarring.
- **Insect Bites and Skin Irritations:** Aloe vera can help relieve itching and swelling caused by insect bites and various skin irritations.

5. Oral Health

Aloe vera's natural properties extend to oral hygiene as well. It can be found in toothpaste and mouthwashes for its ability to combat bacteria and promote gum health.

- **Gum Health:** Aloe vera's anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties help reduce gum inflammation and fight against gum diseases.



Aloe vera is truly a versatile and remarkable plant with a wide range of health and beauty benefits. Whether you want to improve your skin, hair, digestion, or oral health, aloe vera can be a natural and effective solution. Incorporating this “plant of immortality” into your daily routine may bring about a healthier and more radiant you, harnessing the ancient wisdom of nature for modern-day well-being.

OH TO BE AN ENGINE DRIVER

By Victor Melder

Once upon a time, when steam was King, it was every young boy's dream to become a steam locomotive driver. Mine was no different, it was heightened by the fact that my father was an engine driver too. Unfortunately, with dieselization and the disappearance of the steam loco, this dream has now vanished for most young boys.

My grandfather, Victor Melder, was a Guard on the Ceylon Government Railway and served from 1897 to 1926, when he passed away prematurely of a heart attack. My father, Randolph Melder, served the railways as an Engine Driver from 1923 to 1963.

It was a colonial tradition, that sons of employees in many services were given preference to employment in the field of their father's occupation. This was also true with the railways, where sons of railway men had preference. It was argued that with their father being a railway man they would be aware of the vagaries of the job and therefore be more suited to it.

I had to wait until 1956 before I was to realize my dream, but was able to get in by about three months, as the cut off point was 21 years and had the recruitment program been initiated three months later, I would have missed out on the age criteria.

The recruitment notice specified the candidates should have passed the Senior School Certificate, (English) its equivalent or higher, but for sons of past or present employees of the Ceylon Government Railway (CGR) the Junior School Certificate (English) or higher. Railway Firemen with adequate experience, Seventh Standard (English) or higher.

Other criteria, was that applicants must be of good physique, height not less than 5 feet 5 inches (without shoes or socks) and chest measurement not less than 33 inches (normal). Appointment was subject to a medical examination and eyesight test.

Selected applicants would be on probation for three months. Provided their work and conduct during this period are satisfactory, they will be retained in service and indentured for 5 years apprenticeship. Written tests will be held at the end of 8 months training and again at the end of the second year of training to assess the suitability of the trainees.

During the period of apprenticeship, they must attend instruction classes and perform whatever duties may be detailed. They are subject to the authority of the drivers whom they are booked to work with.

Rate of Pay of the apprentices are:

First year	Rs 2.20 per day
Second year	Rs 2.60 per day
Third year	Rs 3.00 per day
Fourth year	Rs 3.40 per day
Fifth year	Rs 3.80 per day

On completion of training, apprentices will be required to pass a theoretical and practical test to prove their suitability for appointment to the grade of Engine Driver,

Class III, to fill any existing vacancies. Those who fail the test will be re-examined at the end of another year. Failure in the second test will tender an apprentice liable for discontinuance.

Applications for apprenticeships closed on June 21, 1956. I was interviewed by a panel of three (which included Mr Maxwell Sparkes, C.C.S, who was seconded for Railway service) on 18 September 1956 at the General Managers Office, C.G.R., Colombo. A fortnight later I was informed by post that my application and interview had been successful and that I report for duty on 9.00am on October 16,,1956.

As I lived at Nawalapitiya at the time of application, I had to attend a medical examination and eye sight test at the Kandy General Hospital, prior to taking up duties. Needless to say, this was successful. And so began an arduous and rigorous training schedule, which in my case was extended by eight months, due to the fact that I was eight months off work, having contracted Infective Hepatitis in 1958, having drunk contaminated water off a steam locomotive tender. The department was kind enough to allow me three months light duty (off the footplate) giving me time to recover further.

There were fifty apprentices recruited and we were given the title Special Apprentice Driver (SAD), we were numbered from 51 to 100 (don't ask me why), and my official position was SAD 63. The title Special Apprentice was because we were being trained on both steam and diesel locomotives. A normal steam apprenticeship was of four years duration, in our case an extra year was tagged on for diesel locomotives. (See Appendix No 1)

Of the fifty apprentices appointed, one was a complete outsider, twenty two were sons of railway men and twenty seven were firemen promoted from the ranks. Before appointment as Engine Driver, one went AWOL, two (from the ranks) were demoted for falsifying education certificates and one failed the eye test, whilst three immigrated to UK and Australia, leaving only the balance forty four to pass out as engine drivers.

The first three months were quite a novelty indeed, working in the sprawling Dematagoda Running Shed, acquainting our selves with the various steam locos in service. The daily grind consisted mainly in cleaning the boilers and tenders of the locos and also checking the under carriages of the bogie tables by working in the pits, as this was the only access to them. It was a mundane 7.00 am to 4.00pm job, with an hour off for lunch from 11.00 to 12 noon. We worked a five day week, plus half day Saturday. All the apprentices were deemed fit to carry on their training and had to sign the indenture papers (see Appendix 2)

THE PITS were dangerous places to work in, they were about 4 to 5 feet deep, had a few inches of water running through them constantly and plenty of oil that had drained off the locos, whilst being serviced, so one had to step very gingerly. As these were locos that were in steam, one had to be wary of falling embers. The bogie tables, generally had ash and other grit that had to be scaped off and oiled. Occasionally one would find pieces of putrefying flesh from animals hit by the locos whilst ON THE RUN.

The next three months was working with an assigned fitter on the various locos, carrying minor repairs, again this was a day job, with Sunday's off. The following

three months were indeed an eye opener as we were assigned as fireman on the steam shunting locos working round the clock, seven days a week at both Maligawatte Yard and Colombo Goods Yard (between Maradana and Fort Stations).

The shunting locos at Maligawatte Yard worked in the carriage stabling yard, where passenger trains were formed and got ready for service. Colombo yard was mainly a goods or freight wagon yard again where goods trains left from and also arrived from the out stations. As such there was an inwards yard and an outwards yard. There was constant movement at these yards both by day and night. It was interesting firing these shunting locos, where the pace of movement was slow and easy, preparing one for the hectic pace on the footplate for the passenger services.

The next three months, saw us once again in the Dematagoda Running Shed working with the fitters on heavy and large repairs. This section of the work was with locos that were out of service, unlike the second three months, which were mainly running repairs. This was again a mundane job of five and a half days. All of sudden the first year had come to an end, combined with the practical work, the lectures and demonstrations, one had by now a working knowledge of steam locos and was trained to carry out minor repairs, so much so, as to be able to nurse a disabled loco home, rather than seek assistance enroute.

The start of the second year, saw work on the footplate of passenger trains begin. The first for months was in the role of the second fireman on the open line. The duties were mainly to ensure the head fireman had an adequate supply of coal readily available on hand for firing whilst on the run (all coal had to be broken down to the size of one's fist for easy firing and ignition).

The duties also included assisting in watering the locos at watering points enroute and also checking when possible that the lubrication points were (outside the loco) in order and topping up with lubricants when and where necessary. One was also expected to keep a sharp lookout whilst on the run, which included the position of signals etc.

The next four months saw us graduating to the role of head fireman. In the case of the lower steam link, this was a one fireman position, for short distance trains. The duties were combined roles of both head fireman and second fireman. The next four months, saw us in the role of head fireman on long distance trains, with an allocated second fireman. This was a responsible task, always maintaining a steady head of steam and water, and maintaining a presentable footplate. Another year had gone by.

The beginning of the third year, saw us firing on the long-distance trains and fast good trains, which seemed to always run at night. One had an assigned Engine Driver to work under and an assigned second fireman, which resulted in teamwork, to ensure the trains arrived at their destinations on time. A head fireman and second fireman, come on duty at last an hour before the driver did. By the time the driver does come on duty, the loco would have its boiler cleaned or brushed down, watered and ready for take off, with a full head of steam. The driver would carry out a cursory inspection of the loco and be ready to whistle out at the appointed time.

FIRING TRAINS on both Upper and Lower sections, were different to each other. In the Colombo area, where the railway did not encounter much hilly terrain, one had to fire infrequently compared to the constant climbing which required frequent firing of

the loco to maintain a steady head of steam and water. On the lower section, express trains were much easier to fire, than stop and start trains, as they did not need that much firing.

On the Upper section, due to the frequency of the firing that took place, the fire-box tend to fill up quickly and half way up the incline, one would have to clean out the excess ashes from the fire box, by rocking the firebox grate to drop the ashes off. This was necessary to enable good ignition and to maintain a bright fire, required for steaming qualities. It was very strenuous and demanding WORK.

The next four months, saw the fifty apprentices temporarily stationed at Nawalapitiya, for upper section service. This was where the Beyer Peacock Garrat locos were in service. Mercifully they had been modified from coal burners to oil burners and only required one fireman, as their was no stoking of the firebox, but a regulator lever operated to control the flow of furnace oil that fired the loco. What looked a laborious task was quite simple indeed, as long as one maintained a steady head of steam for the journey.

THE GARRAT LOCOS, were monstrous locos that were able to haul trains on the incline, that normally two locos did. Whilst a normal loco hauled five carriages on its own, a Garrat loco could haul nine. When passenger traffic warranted it and trains had over nine carriages or had a large number of freight wagons, then a garret loco hauled the train assisted by a loco from behind.

When a train was worked by two normal locos (one pulling, the other pushing) and they reached the summit level at Pattipola (in either direction), the loco pushing (piloting) would travel around to the front the train and be coupled in front the loco already in front and the two locos took the train down the incline. With a Garraat loco this could not be done as the bridges could not take the combined weight. The pilot loco there fore ran down single, following THE TRAIN.

My father was stationed at Nawalapitiya as a senior driver at he time, and it wasn't a picnic working with him. He believed in the practical side of things and always had the apprentices carrying out some extra duties or the other to acquaint themselves with the loco. I had more than my fair share.

After the four months upcountry, we were back at Dematagoda on the K. V. steam locos. From the sublime to the ridiculous, I would say after the garret locos upcountry. Here the work was much easier and at a slower pace, as the trains did not run at speed like their mainline counterparts. The last two months of the third year saw us on the two types of diesel locos on the K.V. line, the Hunslett and Krupp diesels, which worked the passenger trains. For once this was a 'cushy, sit-down' job, doing nothing exciting, but keeping a sharp lookout and exchanging tablets on the run. The third year had come to an end and 'the light at the end of tunnel was getting closer'.

The fourth year saw us all at the Diesel loco shed at Maradana, which was check by jowl with the Maradana railway station. The first three months we worked with the diesel mechanical fitters and the following there months with the electrical fitters. Heavy emphasis was placed on a working knowledge of the electrical circuits of the different diesel locos in service, to ensure the drivers were able to attend to electrical

faults enroute and bring the train home. This was again a period of lectures and demonstrations.

We also spent three months at the Ratmalana workshops, where the diesels were stripped down to the core and refitted after major repairs, to ensure we had a look at what went on inside the many closed and sealed working parts. This was again a 7.00am to 4.00pm day job. Back again at the Diesel shed, Maradana, saw us riding as assistants for the next three months on all the diesel locos in service – The Brush Bragnal (M1), General Electrical (M2), Hunslett locos (G2) and Diesel Rail Cars.

After the final written test on Diesel locos we began our fifth and final year, which was that of shunting engine driver. The first six months were spent at Maligawatte Yard on steam shunting locos and the next three months as shunting drivers on the diesel shunting locos at Colombo goods yard. The final three months were spent as assistants on the M1 and M2 locos working all the fast passenger and mail trains.

I was finally appointed Engine Driver Class III on July 6, 1962, as mentioned earlier I lost eight months of my apprenticeship due to my being ill and had to make up the time up. This appointment was on three years' probation, on the initial salary of the scale Rs 1,680 – 72 – Rs 2,184, per annum.

Little did the general traveling public realize that they had well trained and qualified engine drivers working their trains to time

DONKEY RACE

A Pastor entered his donkey in a race and it won.

The Pastor was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in the race again and it won again.

The local paper read: **PASTOR'S ASS OUT FRONT.**

The Bishop was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the Pastor not to enter the donkey in another race.

The next day the local paper headline read: **BISHOP SCRATCHES PASTOR'S ASS.**



This was too much for the Bishop so he ordered the Pastor to get rid of the donkey.

The Pastor decided to give it to a Nun in a nearby convent.

The local paper, hearing of the news, posted the following headline the next day: **NUN HAS BEST ASS IN TOWN.**

The Bishop fainted.

He informed the Nun that she would have to get rid of the donkey so she sold it to a farm for \$10.

The next day the paper read: **NUN SELLS ASS FOR \$10**

This was too much for the Bishop so he ordered the Nun to buy back the donkey and lead it to the plains where it could run wild.

The next day the headlines read: **NUN ANNOUNCES HER ASS IS WILD AND FREE.**

The Bishop was buried the next day.

The moral of the story is . . . being concerned about public opinion can bring you much grief and misery and even shorten your life.

So be yourself and enjoy life.

Stop worrying about everyone else's ass and just cover your own !!!

You'll be a lot happier and live longer!

Worth a Read to improve your memory.

Taking a walk down “memory lane” is one of the best things seniors can do for their mind and body. There are many benefits of nostalgia that allow seniors to resolve issues from their past, deal with negative emotions, and come to a more mature understanding of their lives, which also benefits their health.

Reminiscing can be triggered by viewing old photographs, listening to a familiar song, the taste of food, or even smells. The feelings of nostalgia bring back moments long forgotten—moments we may have not thought that important until they became a memory to savour.

BENEFITS OF NOSTALGIA AND REMINISCING Studies have shown that seniors who reminisce have lower blood pressure and heart rates. Reminiscing can also provide a host of other benefits:

Reduction in negative emotions. Many seniors experience depression and boredom. Sharing memories with other people can provide opportunities for laughter, and a feeling of being connected to those around them while recalling stories about the past.

Improved communication skills. To talk about the past requires using word skills, and it creates new pathways in the brain associated with the ability to communicate.

Less stress. Reminiscing has been shown to reduce stress and its effects: headaches, back pain, indigestion, and heart palpitations, as well as cognitive and emotional issues such as poor concentration, indecisiveness, crying, irritability, and edginess.

Enhances personal value. Recalling the past can provide several benefits of nostalgia – such as reminding seniors of their accomplishments, their contributions to society and family, and their value as a person who has led a meaningful life.

Encourages emotional strength and confidence. Remembering the past and how one overcame challenges and obstacles can provide the strength and assurance to a senior that he or she can handle the challenges and obstacles of the present.

Preserves family history. Passing on information about the family history is not only important to the senior but provides a bridge to younger generations of family members.

REMINISCENCE THERAPY This is a therapy often used to help people with poor memory recall, and it is especially helpful for seniors living with dementia. The therapy targets the timespan most easily recalled by people, typically between teenage years and early adulthood.

Memories from that timeframe are prompted by a familiar object, photograph or activity, and the therapy has been shown to improve the overall quality of life, effectively treat depression, and improve cognition.

One technique of reminiscence therapy is the mock interview. Open-ended questions include:

What did you like to do as a child? What is your favourite thing your mother made for dinner? What was your favourite holiday tradition? What was your first job like? How did your spouse propose? Have you ever been to a foreign country? Prompting reminiscence for any senior can also be accomplished by talking about their favourite movie, reliving and observing holiday traditions, preparing a favourite family recipe with the senior, and asking for the story behind an object in the home.

THE POWER OF REMINISCING AND NOSTALGIA People taking a trip to the old neighborhood where they grew up feel the impact of memories. Seeing those familiar places creates a brief life review—the things felt there, the friends from long ago, and what happened on that street corner one summer. The memories can provide a new perspective that may not have been achievable until time had passed.

But it doesn't even require seeing something to reminisce. Even hearing terms like Etch a Sketch, eight-track tapes, roller disco, or latch-hook rugs can produce a memory and a story to go with them.

Some of you are smiling already.

Seniors should delve into their past; they can find much there to help them with their present.

Author unknown



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.

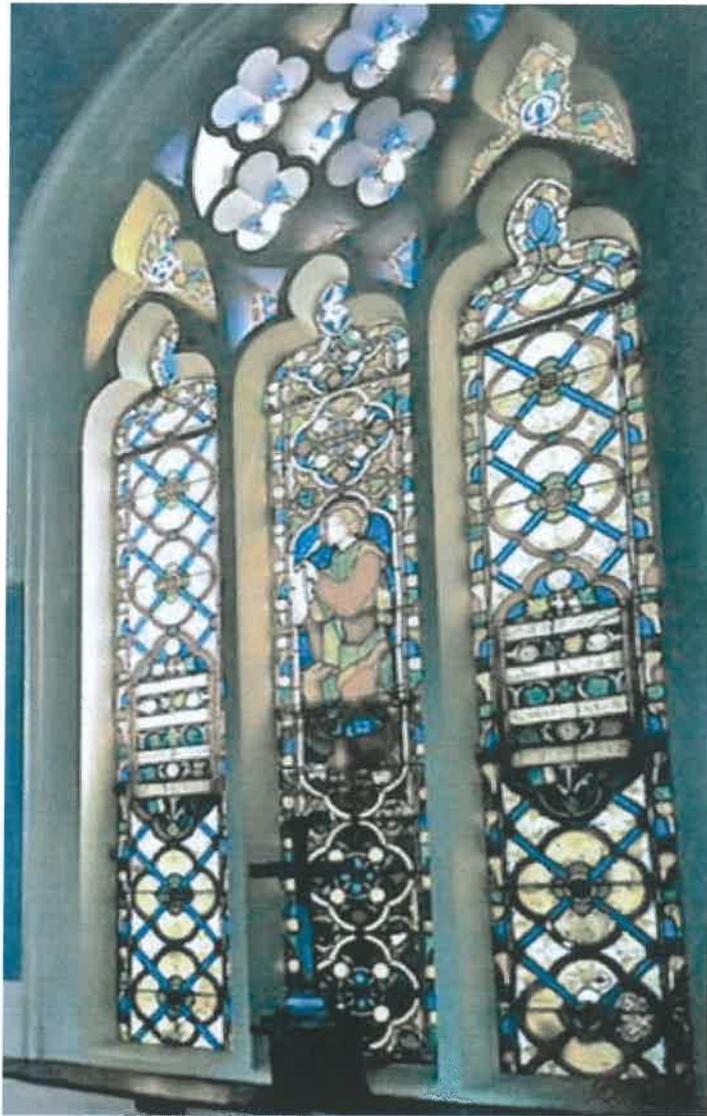
Church by the River Turns 150

Church of St. John the Evangelist Panadura 150th Jubilee



The Church of St. John the Evangelist in Panadura is set to enter its 150th year on September 14, 2025. Known as the Church by the River, it has long served as a spiritual and community hub, offering worship, education, and social support along the Bolgoda River.

- In the cool of the evening, with boats plying the river, this place becomes ideal for silent prayer and meditation
- The parish has grown through the years, nurturing faith, education, and community care for generations.



Our 150th Jubilee emphasizes maintenance, human development, and spirituality, affirming God's grace over the years.

The Church stands by the waters of the Bolgoda river, overlooking the railway bridge and the sea and is referred to as the Church by the river or "Ganga langa Palliya".

Its Neon cross continues to shine at night as a land beacon to those at

sea, symbolizing hope. This coincidentally, also ties in with name of the town, which is Panadura or "lamp at a distance".

The Church which has stood at this site for well over a century, will now enter its 150th year on the 14th of September 2025. The year will commence with a service to mark the anniversary of the Church's consecration, which will be attended by the Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Revd. Dushantha Rodrigo.

"In the cool of the evening, with the setting sun on the Western coast and boats plying up and down on the flowing waters of the river, this place becomes an ideal place for

silent prayer and meditation". (an extract from a past parish newsletter)

It is possibly this vista that Gate Mudaliyar Susew de Soysa, saw, which led him and his wife Engeltina de Soysa Lamaetane (Nee Pieris) to fund and build the Church, which at the time, was able to seat 120 persons and incurred a cost of 1200 Sterling Pounds.

Prior to building the Church, a small Anglican community had regularly worshipped in the Government Boys' English School building at the same site, which was relocated when the Church was built.

Services were conducted by the Catechist Fransisco De Mel, who was later ordained a Deacon in 1852 and subsequently ordained a priest in 1863. He was the 1st Anglican minister for the parish under the Colonial Chaplains of Moratuwa.

The parish extended from the old Digarola bridge in Moratuwa to the Kalutara Bridge and included the areas of Horethuduwa and Sarikkarimulla.

The Church was consecrated by the 4th Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Revd. R.S Copelston in the 1st year of his Episcopate and the occasion was graced by the then Governor, Rt. Hon. Sir William Henry Gregory.

This event also coincided with the laying of the foundation stone of Prince and Princess of Wales College in Moratuwa.

Since 1848, there have been thirty six clergymen who have served the parish, four of them being from the United Kingdom. Of those clergymen who served the parish, four went on to be appointed Archdeacons of the Diocese, both in Sri Lanka and overseas, while ten have been appointed Canons of the Cathedral of Colombo.

In the early years, the Church took an active role in education as well by running three schools. Educationist Cyril Arnold Jansz and his wife Amelia Jansz played a significant part in this aspect, culminating in the establishment of St. John's College in 1903 where co-education took place.

The parish has grown over the years and there have been major renovations to accommodate the growing space requirements, first in 1941 and subsequently in 2001.

There have also been significant repairs done, such as the restoration of the stained-glass window in 1974 and the roof repair in 1984. The Parish remains vibrant through the many organisations which have grown since their inception many years ago. The Choir (1885), Sunday School (1887), Youth Fellowship (1947), Mothers Union (1953), Ladies Guild (1974), Junior Guild (2003) and the Men's Guild (2013), all play their part in taking forward the ministry of the church.

As part of its sharing and caring ministry, the Church over the years has engaged in many aspects of supporting the wider community, while also attending to the need of its own Parishioners. These include building houses for those in need, distribution of Christmas and monthly hampers, providing a cup of tea and a snack for those receiving their monthly pensions, "share a meal program", and the Modera Community project, which involved a medical clinic as well. Some of these continue to this date.

The events planned for the 150th Anniversary year are being handled by a steering committee, while the emphasis of this occasion is on "Maintenance, Human development and Spirituality".

The programs will culminate with the 150th Anniversary on the 19th of September 2026, when once again the Bishop of Colombo will be the celebrant and preacher.

May the activities of the year ahead be an affirmation of God's goodness and grace over the years, an appreciation of all those who do and have done their part, in whatever capacity and most importantly a commitment to continue its ministry as the Church by the River.

By a parishioner

Only the Death Certificate Remains:

A retired Police Commissioner had recently moved out of his official residence into his own house, nestled in a quiet colony. He took great pride in his accomplishments and his former stature.

Each evening, he would go for a walk in the neighbourhood park. Yet, he neither greeted nor acknowledged anyone. He believed the others in the colony weren't of his status — not worth his time or attention.

One day, while he was sitting on a park bench, an elderly man came and sat beside him. The man began a friendly conversation, but the Commissioner wasn't interested in listening. Instead, he talked only about himself — his rank, his authority, his achievements. He often reminded others that he lived here not by necessity, but because he owned the property.

This routine continued for several days. The elderly man listened quietly each time, never interrupting.

Then, one evening, the old man finally spoke.

“Commissioner Sahib,” he said gently, “an electric bulb has value only while it shines. Once it burns out, it doesn't matter whether it was a 10-watt or a 100-watt bulb. All burnt-out bulbs are the same — silent, lifeless, forgotten. I've been living in this colony for five years, and not once have I told anyone that I served as a Member of Parliament — twice.”

The Commissioner's expression shifted.

The old man continued, his voice calm.

“You see the man sitting to your far right? That’s Mr. Verma. He retired as a General Manager from Indian Railways. The man he’s chatting with — Rao — is a retired Lieutenant General from the Army. And the one quietly walking in white, that’s Mr. Shiva. He was once the Chairman of ISRO. None of them speak of their past titles. They don’t feel the need to.”

“I’m only telling you what I know,” the man said, pausing before he added,

“Because at the end of the day, we are all burnt-out bulbs. Whether we were zero-watt, 40, 60, or 100-watt — whether we were LED, CFL, halogen, or decorative — once the power is gone, we’re all the same.”

“After retirement, whether you were a Police Commissioner or a Police Constable, it no longer matters.”

He looked at the Commissioner thoughtfully and said,

“The rising sun and the setting sun are both beautiful. But the world bows only to the rising one. That’s just human nature. We must accept that reality.”

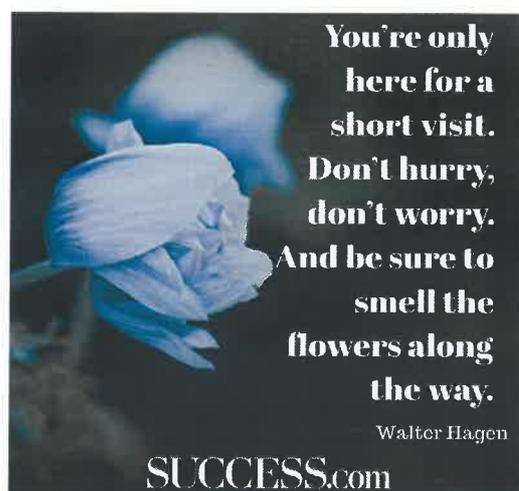
*“Our titles, our positions — they are all temporary. If we let them define us, we’re bound to be lost when they leave us.”

“In chess, every piece — the king, the queen, the bishop, the pawn — has its value only while the game is in play. When it’s over, they’re all returned to the same box and the lid is shut.”

He smiled softly, looking around at the people in the park.

“So be happy in the moment. Hope for happiness in the future. But never cling to what is no longer yours.”

“No matter how many medals or certificates we collect in life, in the end, everyone receives just one.-----**The Death Certificate.**”





In Sri Lanka, superstitions do not live in dusty books or folktales alone, they breathe in the pauses of daily life, in the flick of an eyelid, in the sound of a crow on the parapet wall, in the sneeze that interrupts a conversation. They cling to us like shadows, reminding us that the line between the rational and the mystical is thinner than we care to admit.

I often think of them as quiet rules for survival, whispered down generations, absorbed before one even realizes. You don't ask if they're true, you just obey, because everyone around you does.

The Twitching Eye

It began for me one morning as I was shaving. My left eye twitched suddenly, fluttering uncontrollably for a few seconds. I rubbed it, frowned at the mirror, but it kept pulsing like a secret code.

My grandmother noticed and said, "Left eye twitching means bad news is on its way."

I laughed, dismissing it as muscle fatigue. But that very afternoon, I received a phone call: a relative had been admitted to hospital after a heart attack. The timing left me rattled.

Among Tamils and Sinhalese alike, eye twitching has always carried weight. For men, the left eye twitching means misfortune; the right, good fortune. For women, it's the opposite. Even educated professionals, people who lecture on law or medicine, will pause when their eye twitches, mutter a prayer, and wait uneasily for the day to unfold.

I still tell myself it's coincidence. Yet every time my eye flutters, I cannot shake the dread.

The Crow on the Wall

If a crow perches on the boundary wall, tilts its head, and caws insistently, the household expects visitors.

It happened often in our flat. A black crow would land on the concrete wall behind the banana trees and let out a raucous cry. Without fail, the doorbell would ring within the hour, an unexpected relative, a delivery boy, sometimes even the postman.

My neighbours swore by it. "Crows carry messages from the other world," one aunt declared. "They know before we do." During the month of July, especially in Tamil homes, families leave rice balls (*pinda*) on banana leaves for crows, believing them to be the spirits of ancestors visiting during *Aadi Amavasai*.

Once, during such a ritual, the crows refused to come. The rice sat untouched in the sun. That very evening, news arrived of an uncle's passing abroad. "The spirits had already gone," someone whispered.

The First Sneeze

Another omen lives in the smallest of reflexes. If someone sneezes just as you are about to leave home, you stop. You wait, sometimes a whole minute, until someone else breaks the moment with a blessing or by sipping water.

I saw this often growing up. My uncle, a punctual man, once sneezed as he was stepping out for a train. My grandmother pulled him back by the arm. "Wait. If you leave now, something will happen." Irritated but obedient, he sat down. Ten minutes later, he left again. That day, the train he had meant to catch derailed near Polgahawela. No one who survived that accident dismissed the superstition afterwards. To this day, whenever a sneeze interrupts me, I pause. It's never worth tempting fate.

The Itching Palm

Superstitions also live in our skin. If your right palm itches, money is coming in. If your left palm itches, money is flowing out.

Once, during my school days, my right hand tingled for an entire morning. By evening, I had been given a small scholarship grant. Another time, my left palm itched furiously just before I had to pay an unexpected medical bill.

Skeptics may laugh, but in Sri Lanka, people don't ignore such signs. Many even rub their itching palms on wood or hair to change the outcome.

The Black Cat Crossing

In Colombo's busy streets, I've seen cars screech to a halt, not because of traffic, but because a black cat darted across the road. Drivers simply refuse to move forward until another vehicle passes first, taking the "curse" away.

I once asked an elderly Tamil man about it. He said, "The cat belongs to Saturn. When it crosses you, Saturn blocks your path. If you go, you carry his burden."

It sounds absurd, yet I too have hesitated when a sleek black shadow ran across my way. Rationally, I know it's just an animal. But instinct, trained by culture, tells me to pause, to let someone else go first.

The Broken Mirror

A broken mirror is said to bring seven years of bad luck. My cousin once knocked a mirror off the wall during a house move. The glass shattered into a hundred glittering shards. He laughed it off, but within weeks his engagement collapsed and his business partnership dissolved. The elders around him didn't see failed planning or personal mistakes, they saw the curse of the mirror.

In rural villages, I've even seen people bury broken mirror pieces under neem trees to keep the bad luck from following them indoors.

The Hungry Spirits

During exam season, my mother would boil milk and let it overflow in the pot, *kiri ithirima*, believing it would bring prosperity and success. But she also left a small portion aside for "hungry spirits" at the backyard wall. "If you don't feed them, they will trouble you," she said.

Once, we forgot. That night, strange knocking sounds echoed in the kitchen. A tin cup rolled off the shelf with no one touching it. My mother, unfazed, simply placed a handful of rice at the back door the next morning. The noises stopped.

The Strange Dreams

Dreams, too, are taken as omens. To dream of losing teeth means death is approaching the family. To dream of snakes signals money or unexpected visitors.

I recall dreaming of a large cobra coiled in the corner of our veranda. The next day, an old friend I hadn't seen in years appeared at our gate. He brought a gift of cash for a community project. My aunt smiled knowingly: "Didn't I tell you? Snakes bring wealth."

The Thread of Belief

When I string these stories together, I see a pattern. They are not just about cats or crows or sneezes. They are about how people here make sense of uncertainty. Life is fragile: accidents, illnesses, deaths arrive without warning.

Superstitions are a way of negotiating with fate, of saying: *If I follow these rules, maybe the universe will spare me.*

Part of me wants to resist. I have studied science, read enough to know that a twitching eye is a nerve firing, that a crow calls because it is hungry, that a sneeze is only dust in the nose. But another part of me, shaped by the voices of elders, still pauses when the signs appear.

Perhaps the truth is this: superstitions are not about controlling the world. They are about acknowledging that we cannot control it. By listening to the omens, we bow our heads before mystery. And in that small act of humility, we

Fazli Sameer

A woman was trying hard to get the honey to come out of the jar and was hitting the bottom with the palm of her hand. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her four-year old daughter to answer the phone.

"It's the minister, Mummy," little Suzie said to her mother.

Then she added, "Mummy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

OBITUARIES

(E & O.E.)

(FEBRUARY 2026)

Compiled by Victor Melder

De SILVA, Zarina, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

THAMBYRAJAH, Dillrukshini (Dilu) (née MATHER), on 15th day of January 2026, wife of Dr. Ranjit Thambyrajah, mother of Dr. James Thambyrajah and Dr. Chrishanthi Jayarajah, mother-in-law of Christine and Wyman. Grandmother of Olivia, Daniel and Peter Thambyrajahs, Ruby and Ivy Jayarajahs. Daughter of late Tetley and late Eva Mather, sister of Damayanthi Salakianathan, sister-in-law of Dr. Salakianathan. Daughter-in-law of late James Christadas and late Rani Thambyrajah (nee Worthington), late John & late Sugi Thambyrajah (UK), Gloria & Gunalan Amirthanathan (Can), Rev. Anugoolan & Lilly (SL) and Robin & Kamalini Thambyrajah (SL), in London (Daily News, 1.2.2026)

PINGHE, Rebecca (née Roche), wife of late O'Regan, mother of Shumlika (Can), Rushika (USA) and Nimasha (UK), mother-in-law of Dr. Amritha De Croos, Yohan Selvaratnam and Dr Aaron Yusuf, grandmother of Shannelle, Arianna, Sarisha, Kiran, Anaiah and Neave. Sister of late Dr. Frederick Roche, Sarojini Ilangaratne and Daphne Kirthisinghe,. (Sunday Observer 1.2.2026)

MUSAFER., Lt. Col S, Lt. Col. S. Musafar (Retd), on 21st January, 2026,. husband of the late Deshabandu Chasnyn Musafar (Lye), father of Haroon, father-in-law of Subhashini, grandfather of Praveen and Lilani, son-in-law of the late B. Zahier Lye, M.P. and Mashmoon Lye. (Sunday Times, 1.2.2026)

FERNANDO, Delia, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

WILLIAMS, Catherine, wife of late Thomas, mother of Allan, Helen, Doug, Lyndell, Eileen, Claryl and Jermayne, mother-in-law of Aloma, Lincoln, Sirinimal (dec), Michael and Amali, grandmother of Suzanne & Joanne, Chloe, Rivonia & Chantelle, Katherine & Sean, Delan & Anne, Dwayne & Daegal & Karsh (dec) and great-grandmother of 18 children, sister of Patrick & Paul (dec) & Francis Anthony, in Melbourne on November 3, 2025. (Daily News, 3.2.2026)

FERDINANDS, Trevor, on 2 February 2026, in Perth. (Contributed)

BROWN, Etheldreda Bernadette (June), wife of the late Claude Brown, mother of Esterline, Chester and Johann, mother-in-law of Tania, grandmother of Jacob and Jeremiah, in Melbourne. (Contributed & Internet Resources).

CASIECHITTY, Yvonne (née ADAMAN), wife of late Neville Casiechitty, mother of Clyde, mother-in-law of Radhini, grandmother of Chevaan and Rebecca. Sister of late Mary, Callista, Praxede, Cheryl, late Canute, Carmel, in Sri Lanka on February 4, 2026.. (Daily News, 6.2.2026 & Contributed))

ROOF, Clement George, husband of Selvam Manampulle, father of Edward and Adrian. Brother of Godfrey, Claudette, Evangeline, Melroy, Aloma and Bernadette, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

HUGHES, Deidre Estell (120.3.1948 – 31.12.2026), wife of late Denis Hughes, mother of Tom, Allyson, Peter, Luke and Hayley, grandmother of Daisy & Boston and Arlo & Ellaria. (Adelaide Advertiser, 3.2.2026)

HARDING, Margaret Anne (1.4.1939 – 22.1.2026). Adelaide Advertiser, 3.2.2026)

INGRAM, Lois Anne (née DOUGLAS), wife of John (dec), mother of Bruce and Carolyn, mother-in-law of Simon and Bridget, grandmother of Isabelle, Abby, Eloise, Bree, Emily and Poppy. (Melbourne Age, 4.2.2026)

ROGERS, Bryce Anthony (7.10.1977 – 2.2.2026), son of Trevor & Christine, brother of Peta. (Adelaide Advertiser 6.2.2026)

WILLIS, Merle Norma, (9.8.1940 – 3.2.2026), wife of late Ray "Doc" Willis, mother of Raelene, Julie, Lois and Cheryl, grandmother of 9, great grandmother of 1. (Adelaide Advertiser, 6.2.2026)

ROBERTS, Eleanor (6.7.1939 – 1.2.2026), wife of Richard (dc), mother and mother-in-law of Rick & Claire, Craig & Cheryl, Steve & Kaylene, Peter & Tania and Trudy & Anthony, grandmother of Donna & David, Erica & Josh, Zac & Candice, Dylan, Tamisha & Richie, Aidan & Emika, Cara & Zac, Michael, Jasmine & Nathan, great grandmother of Jack, Tiana, Noah, Lily May, Maddison, Kalan, Lucas, Isla, Xavier and Ophelia. (Adelaide Advertiser, 6.2.2026)

RICHARDSON, Gayleen Judith, (3.7.1936 – 31.1.2026). Adelaide Advertiser, 6.2.2026)

MASON, Patricia Marjorie, (30.7.1928 – 4.2.2026), wife of Richard (dec), mother of 5, grandmother of 9, great grandmother of 14. (Adelaide Advertiser, 6.2.2026)

EDWARDS, Marjorie Jean, (17.12.1935 – 4.2.2026), wife of David (dec), mother of Angela, Carmel, Paul, Peter, Monica and Christopher, grandmother of 12, great grandmother of 16. (Adelaide Advertiser, 6.2.2026)

BOWEN, Gloria Hannah Berry, on January 24, 2026. (Adelaide Advertiser, 6.2.2026)

ANDERSON, Christine Mary (née KAVANAGH), (11.6.1948 – 29.1.2026). Adelaide Advertiser, 6.2.2026.

TAYLOR, Robert James, (18.7.1941 – 4.2.2026), husband of Pam (dec), father of Katrina, Andrew and Debra, grandfather of Jesse, Madelyn, Jack, Thomas, Hanna, Anja, Nikita and Natalya. Son of Joyce and Henry (both dec). Herald Sun 6.2.2026),

ANDERSON, Brian James, (9.9.1929 – 24.1.2026). Adelaide Advertiser, 6.2.2026)

CAMPBELL, Valerie Alice (6.8.1934 – 29.1.2026), wife of Don, mother and mother-in-law of Fiona & Mark, Stuart & Kirsty and Graeme & Melanie, grandmother and great grandmother. (Canberra Times, 7.1.2026)

FERGUSON, James 'Jim' Alexander (29.11.1940 – 27.1.2026), husband of Lies-Ingrid, father of Douglas and Karin, grandfather of Kristin, Jacalyn, Aiden, Liam and Ines. Son of George and Joyce Ferguson, brother of Janet, John, Alison, Katherine and Jeannie. (Sydney Morning Herald, 7.2.2026)

WISE, Dr Grahame Allen, husband of Tigger, father of Simon, Emma, Rebecca and Sophie, father-in-law of Cameron, grandfather of Elsa and Esther, aged 91 years. (Sydney Morning Herald 7.2.2026)

YOUNG, Barbara Ellen, (15.1.1933 – 23.1.2026). Sydney morning Herald 7.2.2026)

CHAPMAN, Allan Noel (27.2.1930 – 1.2.2026), husband of Ivy (dec), father of Allan Ross, Judith and Glenda. Grandfather of 7 great grandfather of 11. Brother of Colin (dec, Douglas (dec) and Athlie. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 7.2.2026)

CLARKE, Simon Andrew, (5.3.1988 – 20.1.2026). Brisbane Courier Mail, 7.2.2026. husband of Shirley.

PHILLIPS, Peter Robin, (26.3.1942 – 2.2.2026). Brisbane Courier Mail, 7.2.2026)

ROBINSON, Neville James, on January 26, 2026, aged 84 years. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 7.2.2026)

ANDERSON, Geoffrey. (West Australian, 7.2.2026)

HICKMAN, Merle Marie. (West Australian, 7.2.2026)

MORGAN, Barbara. (West Australian, 7.2.2026)

RATNA-SINGAM, Mary Francis, (11.5.1953 – 25.1.2026), wife of Puvi Singam, mother of Sharmini and Sunita, mother-in-law of Adam and Mark, grandmother of Jehdeiah, Elijah, Shalisha, Malachi, Nathaniel and Daniel. (West Australian, 7.2.2026)

CHAPMAN, Stuart. (West Australian, 7.2.2026)

PEREIRA, Douglas, husband of Ingrid, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

MANJUSRI, L. K. P (Kushan),. Son of the late Dr. L.T.P Manjusri and Mangala Manjusri, brother of Manjista and Mandalika. (Daily News, 10.2.2026)

INDRAHARAN, Punithambikai, (18.1./1947 – 9.2.2026), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

MORTIMER, Elizabeth Rta, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

LE MARCHAND, Russell Tyrone, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

HAYES, Annette (Dolly), (19.12.1940 – 9.2.2026), wife of late George Hayes, mother of Ralph, Elsworth and Jacqueline, mother-in-law of Emma, Andrea and Shane, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

FERNANDO, Beatrice Dawn (1955 – 2026), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

PEREIRA, Michael, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

FERDINANDS, Trevor, in Perth. (Contributed).

FERNANDO, Dr Harsha Gamini, (4.5.1948 – 3.2.2026), husband of Dr Lalanie Pushpa, father of Dr Asanga and Nilanga, father-in-law of Dr Joanna and Dr Sonia, grandfather of Phoebe, Ava, Jude and Daniel. (Contributed)

PERERA, Shanika. Resurrection Parish Bulletin, Keysborough, Vic.

CALLANDER, Errol. Resurrection Parish Bulletin, Keysborough, Vic

JACOTINE, Ian. Resurrection Parish Bulletin, Keysborough

VARATHARAJAN, Komathy, (7.2.1963 – 11.1.2026), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

DODAMA, Chanara Hashanya, in Melbourne. (Contributed).

HESSE, Hyacinth. (West Australian, 10.2.2026)

MENZIES, Vivienne Mary, wife of Donald (dec), mother of Anne, Jim and Kathy, mother-in-law of Hilde and Danny, grandmother of Ron, Ehud and Hadas, on February 5, 2026, aged 94 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 10.2.2026)

WILLIAMS, Ronda. (West Australian, 11.2.2026)

NELSON, Patricia Frances (16.10.1935 – 8.2.2026). West Australian, 12.2.2026)

CLARKE, Cheryl Lorraine, mother of Terri, Bradley, Donna and Kylie, mother-in-law of Sean and Jason, grandmother of Cameron, Allish, Connor, Isabella and Lilly. (West Australian, 12.2.2026)

MARSHALL, Robert William. (West Australian, 13.2.2026)

EDWARDS, Bruce. (West Australian, 13.2.2026)

BROWN, Graeme Ronald. (Adelaide Advertiser, 13.2.2026)

CLARKE, Avis Jean, (13.6.1935 – 10.2.2026), wife of Geoff, mother and mother-in-law of Lyn & Ian, Kathy, Jenny & Derek and Malcolm & Julie, grandmother of 11, great grandmother of 10. (Adelaide Advertiser, 13.2.2026)

MARSHALL, Douglas Arthur, (14.11.1942 – 9.2.2026), husband of Barbara, father of Brian, Graham, Michael and Quentin, step-father of Belinda and Mark, father-in-law of Fiona, Aung, Neale and Sally, grandfather of Jarrad, Abbey, Angus, Hannah, Georgie, Kenneth, Gideon and Luna. (Adelaide Advertiser, 13.2.2026)

CAMPBELL, Janet Dawn (née BOLTO), (26.1.1938 – 26.1.2026), mother of Helen and David, grandmother of John, sister of John. (Adelaide Advertiser, 13.2.2026)

MARSHALL, Elizabeth (Sally), 24.1.1935 – 5.2.2026, wife of Norman (dec), mother of Carolyn, Peter (dec), Richard and David, mother-in-law of Dee, grandmother of Marnie, Phoebe, Natalie, Maddie, Indie, Lachie, Jessica, Patrick, Samantha and Amanda. (Melbourne Age, 13.2.2026)

ANDERSON, Fay Frances, (20.9.1933 – 9.2.2026), wife of Cecil (dec), mother of Kerry, Vicky, Rodney, Geni and Kevyn, grandmother and great grandmother. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 14.2.2026)

BROWN, Edward John, (18.5.1936 – 6.2.2026), husband of Gladys May (dec), father of Beverley, Colin, Ellen and Veronica. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 14.2.2026)

BROWN, Ronald Victor (9.3.1941 – 10.2.2026), husband of Letitia, father and father-in-law of Michelle & Andrew, Gavin & Charis and Phil & Paula, grandfather of Genevieve, Josh & Julia, Sebastian, Elizabeth, Dominic and Lyra. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 14.2.2026)

STEWART, Margaret "Beth", on February 10, 2026, aged 98 years. (Melbourne Age, 14.2.2026)

FERNANDO, Rosemary Ann (née De Silva), 16.9.1940 – 11.2.2026, wife of Ronnie Fernando (dec), mother of Saliya, Raji, Samantha and Sonali, mother-in-law of Pam, grandmother, in Melbourne. (Tobin Brothers, Sunbury & Contributed)

MALIYASENA, Mali, (13.4.1945 – 8.2.2026), husband of Damayanthie, father of Videshinie and Apsara. (Canberra Times, 14.2.2026)

CAMPBELL, Ilma (née REGAN), 2311.1931 – 8.2.2026. (Sydney Morning Herald, 14.2.2026)

DAVIS, Valda Carolyn, wife of Phil, mother of Jarrod, Rhett and Noel mother-in-law of Leem Kate and Emma, grandmother of Logan, Sophie, William, Izzy, Jess and Fletcher, on February 2, 2026. (Sydney Morning Herald, 14.2.2026)

ROBERTS, Robert Harold Ernst (16.3.1939 - 9.2.2026), husband of Wendy, father of Susie and Michael, grandfather of Leonardo, Lily, Charlotte and Lucy. (Sydney Morning Herald, 14.2.2026)

THOMPSON, Robert Stanley, (2.6.1955 – 4.2.2026). Sydney Morning Herald, 14.2.2026.

ANDREWS, Timothy. (West Australian, 14.2.2026)

COOK, Ken, partner of Leonie, stepdad of Bradley and Rodney, grandfather of 4, on February 13, 2026. (West Australian, 14.2.2026)

LEONARD, Glenda. (West Australian, 14.2.2026)

DHARMAPALA, Luke. (West Australian, 14.2.2026)

HOLMES, Gerard Leo Anthony (Gerry), 5.8.1962 – 8.2.2026. (Adelaide Advertiser, 14.2.2026)

ARNOLDA, Anthony Cedric Darryl (26.1.1948 – 7.2.2026), son of Vernon and Princesse (dec), brother of Jeanne and Barbara, brother-in-law of Braulio (dec). Canberra Times, 14.2.2026)

VITARNA, Dr Tissa, husband of late Kamini, father of Menika, Rammal and Ranil, brother of Nihal and the late Nalin, on February 13, 2026. (Daily News, 14.2.2026)

CABRAAL, Shirin, beloved mother of Priyan Cabraal and Sakura Gamblin and her partner, Justin Schneider, grandmother of Priyana, Isabella and Jordan. Daughter of Helene Cabraal and the late Dr. Shelton Cabraal, sister of Anil, Amal, Shyami, Hiran and late Sureen, sister-in-law of Kathy, Marianne, Priya, Mahen and Shanez, on 6th February 2026 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. (Daily News, 16.2.2026)

DAVIS, Joan (Joanie), wife of the late Captain Hugh, mother of Corinne (Ravi), Douglas, Dennis, Julian (Marlene) and Jackie (Dennis), grandmother of Rehan and Shehan, Paul and Carolyn, Gwendy, Sandy, Hiru and Dennis Jr, late Renate, Anyka, and Josh, Talia and Shane, great-grandmother of Saxon, Harper and Roman, Odin and Kenzie and Andrew. Predeceased by brothers Cyril (Sonna) and Sigrid and sister Erin. Step sister of 9 siblings. (Daily News, 19.2.2026)

MORRIS, Rose (née WOOLSTON), 22.6.1931 – 8.2.2026, wife of Bill (dec), mother of Geroge Shelley and Wayne (dec), mother-in-law of Jacqueline, grandmother of Clarissa, Alison and Brian, great grandmother of Maeve, Callie, Ada, Harrison, Poppy and Hazel. (West Australian, 16.2.2026)

HARVEY, Catherine Agnes, 14.6.1933 – 10.2.2026. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 16.2.2026)

COOK, David. (West Australian 18.2.2026)

MORGAN, David Gordon, O. A. M., (18.10.1932 – 1.2.2026), husband of Anne, father of Steve, Luke, Trish, Jo, Pete, Annette and John, father-in-law of Liz, Rob, Dave, Sandra, Gary and Alexis, grandfather of Matthew (dec) & Morgan, Anna, Kim & Melissa, Jess, Lizzie & Gab, Tash & Monique, Alex, Callum & Jacqueline, great grandfather of Jack & Amber, Hattie, Ede & Finn, Tily, Sammy & Zoe, Phoebe & Ollie and Imogen. Son of Will and Isa Morgan, brother of Patricia, John, Nance (all dec) and Sarah. (Melbourne Age, 18.2.2026)

CLARK, Lois, wife of Ray, mother and mother-in-law of Shane, Sherly, Jason (dec), Linda, Damon and Julee, grandmother of Olivia, Ethan, Nicholas, Chelsea and Jemma. (West Australian, 18.2.2026)

AVERY, Ralph Telfer (11.3.1937 – 12.2.2026), husband of Virginia, father and father-in-law of Elizabeth & Nathan and Heather & Andrew, grandfather of Ben, Jasper, Oscar and Will. Brother of Margaret and Ted (dec). Sydney Morning Herald, 18.2.2026)

SPROULE, Ronald, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, on February 9, 2026, aged 93 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 18.2.2026)

HOLMES, Gerard (Gerry) Leo, (5.8.1962- 9.2.2026). son of Mary & Ralph (dec), brother of Rick, Katrina, Simon, Jacinta and Therese. (Adelaide Advertiser, 18.2.2026)

ROGERS, Deidre. (West Australian, 20.2.2026)

ARMSTRONG, Jane Rosslyn, (11.1.1962 – 10.2.2026), wife of Kevin, mother of Hannah & Josh, Tess & Jason and Henry & Rachel, grandmother of Imogen, Audrey, Annelise, Lyla, Liliana, Austin, Luca and Evelyn. Daughter of Rodney & Margaret (both dec). Adelaide Advertiser, 20.2.2026)

MARTIN, Colin John, (14.6.1948 – 11.2.2026), husband of Maureen, father of Sarah, father-in-law of Ross, grandfather of William. Son of Gladys (dec) and Ross (dec), brother of Bobby (dec), Ian (dec), Judy & Syd (dec), Kathy & John (dec), Rex & June, David & Dianne, Jenny and Terry & Janet. (Adelaide Advertiser, 20.2.2026)

MATTHEW, Helen, (3.10.1943 – 15.2.2026), wife of Bruce, mother and mother-in-law of Andrea & Martin, Tia, Stephen and Rebecca & Paul, grandmother of Jordan, Ashlee and Sam & Toby. Sister of Liz. (Adelaide Advertiser, 20.2.2026)

WILLIAMS, Jill Alexandra (16.10.1940 – 16.2.2026), wife of Peter, mother of David and Lisa, mother-in-law of Chantana, grandmother of James and Annika. (Melbourne Age, 20.2.2026)

CAMPBELL, William Joseph "Bill", (10.4.1952 – 14.2.2026), husband of Phyllis, Father of Stuart and Emma, grandfather of Jackson & Abby, William, Robert, Anthony and Daniel. Brother of Michele & Barry (dec), Dorothy & Ken Margaret (dec) & Peter and Moira & Donald. (Adelaide Advertiser, 20.2.2026)

CAMPBELL, Wilma Claire (10.5.1936 – 14.2.2026), wife of Ross, mother of Tonia, Gregg and Richard, mother-in-law Michael, Nicole and Kelsey, grandmother of Phoebe and Mia. (Melbourne Age, 21.2.2026)

HOPE Thomas Clifford Forgan (26.1.1939 – 10.2.2026). Brisbane Courier Mail, 21.2.2026)

ADAMS, Marie Therese "Terry", wife of Reg (dec), mother of Anne and Mark, grandmother and great grandmother, on February 14, 2026, aged 100 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 21.2.2026)

FREEMAN, Desmond George, (18.5.1938 – 12.2.2026). Sydney Morning Herald, 21.2.2026)

LEONARD, Janette Hunter (11.1.1942 – 5.2.2026), wife of Bob, mother of Leanne and Mark, mother-in-law of Steve and Natalie, grandmother of Darren, Sean, Kurt, Billy, Kristie and Ash, great grandmother of Harrsion, Connor, Riyani and Selina. Sister of Maureen. (Sydney Morning Herald, 21.2.2026)

MURRAY, Jonathon Raymond, aged 72 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 21.2.2026)

NELSON, Christine (31.5.1957 – 13.2.2026), mother of Karl, grandmother of James and Elizabeth. (Sydney Morning Herald, 21.2.2026)

COOK, Margaret Anne (29.10.1954 – 9.2.2026). Sister of Rosemary and Robert, Sister-in-law of Mark. (Melbourne Age, 21.2.2026)

MARSHALL, Elizabeth (Sally). (Melbourne Age, 21.2.2026)

HOPE, Jennifer. (West Australian, 21.2.2026)

SENEVIRATNE, Rosemary. (West Australian, 21.2.2026)

ROBERTS, William Colin, brother of Brian and Desmond. (Adelaide Advertiser, 21.2.2026)

MACKIE, Carol, (5.12.1951 – 9.2.2026), mother of Michelle and Anna, grandmother of Isabelle, Mia and Jack. Sister of Fiona and Lachlan. West Australian, 21.2.2026)

MARTIN, John, (14.6.1948 – 11.2.2026), husband of Maureen, father of Sara, grandfather of William. (West Australian, 21.2.2026)

RICHARDSON, Irene Ruth (8.11.1940 – 12.2.2026), wife of Norm, mother of Vicki, Debrah, Mandy and Jodi, step-mother of Janet, Rhonda, Narelle and Graham, grandmother and great grandmother. (West Australian, 21.2.2026)

ABRAHAM, Fr Stephen, OSB, son of the late Ernest & Myra Abraham, brother of Annesley (Aust), Vernon, Aloysius (dec), Paulette Nugara (Aust) and Chrys (Aust), brother-in-law of Maxie Perera (dec), Carmel, Marie, Dagmar, Patrick Nugara (dec) and Anoma, in Kandy, Sri Lanka, on February 21, 2026. (Contributed)

JANSZA, Mathew, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

RATNAYAKE, Emie Ratnaweera, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

SANDHURST, Lucille Marlene (née De Silva), mother of Nigel Blake (Angela) and Adrian Blake (Christi), grandmother of Jade, Vanessa and Myra, great grandmother of Salem.. Sister of Elsworth "Joe" De Silva, in Canada on January 30, 2026, aged 87 years. (Contributed).

ADAMS, Glenice "Glen" Mary (née McALONEY, formerly BARBARA), 2.3.1939 – 19.2.2026, mother of Madeleine and John, friend of Nick. Daughter of William & Dora (both dec), sister of Bill (dec), Rae, John (dec), Paul (dec) Anne and Judith. (Melbourne Age, 23.2.2026)

WILLIAMS, Rodney John (3.4.1952 – 19.2.2026), father of Ryan and Courtne, father-in-law of Rachel and Matthew, grandfather of Grace, Rafael, Lucy and Zara. Brother of Marilyn, Julie and Coralie, brother-in-law of Chris, David and Paul. (Adelaide Advertiser, 23.2.2026)

PALMER, Gregory Scott. (West Australian, 24.2./2026)

WEBSTER, Donald Geoffrey, (18.1.1951 – 18.2.2026), husband of Margaret, father of Katrina and Nicola, father-in-law of Patric. Son of Grace and Geoff, brother of Sue. (Melbourne 24.2.2026)

LUCAS, Suzanne Jane, (30.3.1944 – 22.2.2026), partner of Peter, mother of Amanda, David and Michael, mother-in-law of Jodie and Leanne, grandmother of Mokele, Javier, Addis and Sienna. (Melbourne Age, 24.2.2026)

MARTIN, Warren, husband of Julie (dec), Father of Kylie and Brett, father-in-law of Jeff and Amanda, grandfather of Holly, Sam and Archie, on February 21, 2026, aged 89 years. (West Australian, 24.2.2026)

ANDREWS, Jean Elaine, on February 21, 2026, aged 90 years. (West Australian, 25.2.2026)

ROGERS, Eileen Mary, (18.1.1943 – 21.2.2026). Melbourne Age, 25.2.2026.

ROBINSON, David Gordon, husband of Margaret (dec), father of Ann, Robert, Andrew and Graham, grandfather of Catherine, Lauren, Madeleine, Alexander, Lachlan, Matthew and Myles, on February 21, 2026. (West Australian, 26.2.2026)

THOMAS, Marjorie Fay. (Adelaide Advertiser, 26.2.2026)

JACKSON, Daryl Sanders (7.2.1937 – 21.2.2026), brother of Sue Borrows, brother-in-law of Geoff. (Melbourne Age, 26.2.2026)

WILLIAMS, Rodney Roguet, husband of Penny, father of Darren, Trina and Grant, father-in-law of Jeremy, grandfather of Kane, Ali, Jorja, Shae and Fynn. (West Australian, 27.2.2026)

ANDERSON, Roma Winifred (née COOK), 5/7/1930 – 14.2.2026), wife of Ian (dec), mother of David (dec), Ross, Warwick and Richard, mother-in-law of Maxine, Kristina and Jane, grandmother of Evie and Ida. (Melbourne Age, 27.2.2026)

RICHARDS, Graham Alfred, (21.2./1944 – 19.2.2026), husband of Helen (dec), father of Stephen, father-in-law of Sherre, Lisa, Michael, Matt and Todd, grandfather of Blake, Casey, Hayden, Charli, Lyric and Indigo. Son of Alf & Enid (dec), brother of Susan. (Sydney Morning Herald, 27.2.226)

EATON, Glenda, on February 20, 2026. (West Australian, 28.2.2026)

WILLIAMS, Amber, (11.9.1977 – 21.2.2026), partner of Leigh, mother of Mike and Tom. Daughter of Helen (dec) and Ross, sister of Karali, Marani and Blythe. (West Australian, 28.2.2026)

AUSTIN, Ian, on February 23, 2026. (Adelaide Advertiser, 28.2.2026)

NEWMAN, Barbara (Nancy), 13.1.1936 – 12.2.2026), wife of Peter (dec), mother of Julie, Michael (dec) and Craig, mother-in-law of Robyn and Peter, grandmother of Mathew and Zoe, great grandmother of Lauren, Alex and Blake (dec). Melbourne Age, 28.2.2026)

ROBINSON, Stuart Trevor, on February 19, 2026, aged 69 years. (Melbourne Age, 28.2.2026)

ARMSTRONG, Norman, husband of Glenyce (dec), father of Jill, Tim and Michael on February 20, 2026, aged 89 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 28.2.2026)

EDWARDS, Keith Allen, (9.4.1937 – 26.2.2026). Sydney Morning Herald, 28.2.2026)

HARVEY, Stephen Allan, (20.5.1956 – 17.2.1956), husband of Donna, father of Judd. (Sydney Morning Herald, 28.2.2026)

YOUNG, Hazel Marian, (13.3.1930 – 25.1.2026), wife of Eric (dec), mother and mother-in-law of Jen & Perry, Bruce & Jane and Gretel & Roy, grandmother and great grandmother. (Sydney Morning Herald, 28.2.2026)

CAMPBELL, Valerie Ruth, (18.3.1938 – 24.2.2026), wife of John, mother of Sharon, David, Mark, Robert and Kay, grandmother, great grandmother. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 28.2.2026)

TAYLOR, Roxanne Gaye, 29.8.1957 – 21.2.2956). Brisbane Courier Mail, 28.2.2026)

BENEDICT, Jude Shylendra, (28.9.1959 – 24.2.2026), son of the late Basil W. Benedict and Rita N. Benedict, brother of Rajive, Puspa, Nilanthie late Wijendra and late Jeremy, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed).

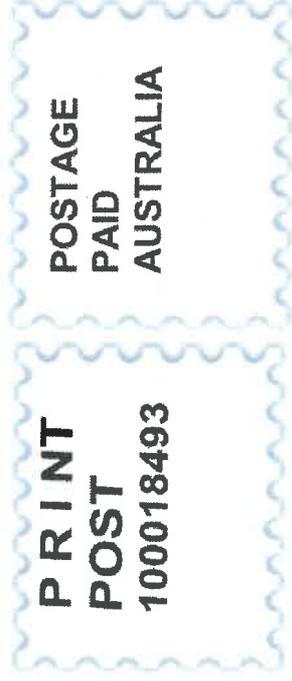
Note: Spelling of names as taken from original notices and contributors.

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