

SRI LANKA SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc

NEWS LETTER



EMAIL: secretary@srilankansqld.org WEBPAGE: <http://www.srilankansqld.org>

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No. 1

Sri Lanka Society of Qld celebrate the Sinhala and Tamil New Year 2011

The Sri Lanka Society of Qld celebrated the Sri Lankan Sinhala and Tamil New Year on 30th April, 2011 for the 33rd time at the Marymac Reception Centre Annerley with the participation of a large number of Sri Lankans. The chief guest was Mr Michael Choi, Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources, Water & Energy and Trade. Mr Anton Swan, Honorary Consul read the New Year message sent by Ms Sashikala Premawardhane, Acting High Commissioner for Sri Lanka.

The celebrations started with the traditional practices of lighting of the oil lamp to the beat of Magul Bera, boiling of milk, drumming of rabana and serving of rasakevili (kavun, kokis, bibikkan). Mrs Prabha Harvey was invited to boil the pot of milk, a tradition observed for thousands of years in Sri Lanka. These were followed by a colourful cultural concert which included both Low Country and Up Country dances, Bharatha dance and modern dances performed by children of various ages. A group of children presented a traditional drumming performance where they displayed their talents of playing Gatebera, Thammattam, Dhawula, Cymbal, Flute and Conch shell.

Ms Shilani Piyasena was the compere for the night and has to be congratulated for a job well done.

Our thanks go to Dr Sagarika Attuduwege, Mrs Amara ratnayake, Mrs Jayanthi Tennakoon for choreographing and co-ordinating the dances and Lumani & Vinuri Edirisinghe for presenting the Bharatha Natyam

Dr Palitha Wickremasinghe did a fantastic job with the floral arrangements and has to be commended.

There were many volunteers who helped extensively to make this function a great success and the committee wish to extend their sincere thanks to all of them.

The cultural concert was proceeded by a sumptuous dinner which received high praise. The dinner was followed by dancing both young and old to the music of Shiran & Silver Strings and songs & baila by Dulip Jayakody.

Photo clips of the New Year cultural concert





Excerpt from Acting High Commissioner's Message:

"It gives me great pleasure to send this message on the occasion of the celebration of the Sinhala and Tamil New Year by the Sri Lanka Society of Queensland. I am certain the event will strengthen the bonds between the two communities and provide an opportunity to rejoice in our shared traditions.

It is up to all of us to reach out to each other, build bridges and confidence in the friendship that we have shared and continue to share so that reconciliation can be achieved in the country

I congratulate the organizers of this event for the efforts that they have taken for many years to celebrate the culture and traditions of Sri Lanka and bring all Sri Lankans together through events such as this to renew our ties to each other and the wider Australian community" – Hon Sashikala Premewardhena / Acting High Commissioner

What they said.....

We have been attending Sri Lanka New Year Celebrations for some years and this year's celebration will remain in our memory as one of the most exceptional functions we have attended. The dancing and the drumming showed that the performers had put in a tremendous amount of work to please the audience. Their efforts were greatly enhanced by the quality of the costumes that were worn. The costume makers are to be congratulated. It is very pleasing to note that the younger children in the community were able to display a continuity of culture which augurs well for the recognition of the Sri Lankan community in the wider Queensland community.

Those who prepared the dinner are to be commended for producing such a variety of tasty food.

It was plain to see that those who came for the celebrations fully enjoyed themselves and in the end were reluctant to tear themselves away from dancing to the music provided.

The organisers are to be congratulated for all the hard work they had put in to present the celebrations on this scale.

Thank you Wendy and Stan Sparkes for your comments

Sri Lanka Society of Queensland – Management Committee -2011/12

The 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lanka Society of Qld Inc was held at the Carindale Library Hall on Sunday 27th February 2011. At the meeting a new management committee was appointed for the year 2011.

Mr Kanaji Wijesekera was elected the President of the Society for the 2011

The outgoing President Mrs Pushpa Jayasekera .extended her sincere gratitude to all Committee members of 2010 and their families and thanked all the members of the Society who have always extended a helping hand.

The Management Committee 2011/12

President:	Mr Kanaji Wijesekera
Vice President	Mrs Hermin Goonetilleke
Secretary	Mrs Kamali Ameratunga
Treasurer	Mr Asoka Kottege
Cultural Secretary	Dr Sagarika Attuduwege
Publication Secretary	Dr Upali Jayasuriya
Social Secretary	Mr Noel De Silva
Committee	Mr Ronnie Anandappa Mr Udham Ashuboda Mr Upul Dissanayaka Mrs Dilani Tennekoon

Web Page Administrator: Dr Tony Sahama

Dear Members and Friends,

Have your say

We welcome your valuable and worthy comments and suggestions and we appreciate your contributions to the news letter. The News Letter will consider for publication suitable articles on topics pertaining to Sri Lankan culture, history, recent news and other relevant information you wish to share with our members, friends and wider community.

Please contact: Kanaji Wijesekera – President on 07 3206 1660 / 041762 0758

kanaji6@msn.com

Hermin Goonetilleke – Vice President 07 3396 9061

shaneq@bigpond.net.au

Kamali Ameratunga – Secretary 07 38704163 / 0412672958

kamal_ameratunga@hotmail.com

Upali Jayasuriya - Publication Secretary 07 3879 2262/0411322980

ujayasuriya@bigpond.com

Death – Acknowledgement

The family of the late CALISTUS SARATHCHANDRA (SARATH) wish to thank Rev Fr Dan Ryan (Parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes, Sunnybank), Rev Fr.Francis Nguyen (Parish priest of St Bernadine' s church,Regents Park) for the excellent service provided at his funeral.

Our sincere thanks to the Queensland Ambulance Service, its Paramedic team, Dr Terrie Mau and his surgical team, and Dr.Wayne Stafford, his cardiologist for 23 years.

We would also like to thank our family doctor, Dr. Kalidasa Adikari who took special care of him for so many years, as well as Dr. Stephen Hughes of Ashgrove who detected his heart condition first in 1987.

We are thankful to our relatives, our dear friends, neighbours, specially the Sri Lankan community in Brisbane and his colleagues of Logan City Council, who attended the funeral, visited us , sent floral tributes and messages of condolence helped and assisted us in numerous ways. We regret our inability to thank each and everyone individually

May God Bless You.

Imelda, Anuradha and Tania.
8 Bellview Place
Parkinson Q 4115.
Australia

Message of Sympathy

The Management Committee of the Sri Lanka Society of Queensland wish to convey deepest sympathies to Udham Ashubodha, Committee Member of SLSQ on the recent loss of his father Kalasuri Arisen Ahubudu.

He will be missed very much by all of us who knew him. He was a writer, orator, scholar, playwright, teacher, Sinhala lyricist and poet.

Ahubudu also known as Ashuboda was famous as an astrologer and he gave names to many individuals and businesses. He served 42 years as a teacher including at St Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia.

He has received three state awards for literary works, the title of Kalasuri from the Government of Sri Lanka and the Sarasavi Film Award for best composer.

May he attain Nibbana

Pat Abey – Charity Fund

The management committee of SLSQ collectively agreed to make a monetary contribution to the above fund.

Pat Abey passed away early this year and he was the first president of the society and has held the position several times. His dedication and services to the SLSQ and the Sri Lankan community has been exceptional. He was one of the leading lights of the society. He will be greatly missed by his friends and the Sri Lankan community in general.
May his soul rest in peace.

Upcoming events

The Committee of the Society will soon announce the dates for the annual curry night and social get together and the dinner dance. Mr Noel De Silva, the Social Secretary proposed at the last committee meeting that the curry night / get together to be held in August and the dinner function in November. We encourage all members, friends and well wishers to attend these functions and meet up with the community members for a friendly chat and enjoyable evening.

Community events

Feast of Our Lady of Madhu

Annual pilgrimage to Canungra, Gold Coast will be held on 2nd July.. Holy Mass commence at 11.00 am. Address: Marian Valley, Beachmont Rd, Canungra. (Gold Coast UBD Map 45 J 11)

Vas Aradhana – Rains Retreat

The Vas Aradhana (rains retreat) religious functions will be held at the Sri Lanka Buddhist Monastery, Forest Lake and Buddhist Vihara of Qld, Goodna on the 9th of July. Please contact the temples on 3879 3244 (SLBM-Forest Lake) and 3818 8806 (Goodna).

Musical evening

“Sonduru Atheethaya” musical evening featuring well popular Sri Lankan singer T.M Jayaratne on 30th July at Clairvaux Mackillop College, 24 Clump Rd, Mt Gravatt at 6.30 pm.

For details contact Anoma & Prem 3278 7809 / 0402 395 942
Sandy 3849 2856.

Events of other communities

The Indonesian Cultural Night sponsored by the Multicultural Affairs Queensland on Saturday 16 July from 7.00 to 9.30 pm. Venue: Parklands Room, Urban Hotel, 345 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane. Enjoy Indonesian food, music and traditional dances.

Contact Linda Reeves 0402 604 450 or Malia 0414 874 448.

South Sudan Independent Night on 9th July from 6.00 pm – 12 pm, at Bundamba State School, Bundamba. Event organised by Sudanese Support Foundation. For information please contact 04212 49 366 or 04312 77536

Kiribati Australia Association celebrate 32nd Independence of Kiribati on 9th July at the Marymac Centre Annerley commencing at 6.00pm. Experience Kiribati and other Pacific Island dances and a buffet dinner. Contact Wanita on 0401 742 649 or Kamrang 0421 352 558.

Dr Tony Sahama, Web Page Administrator has confirmed that the Society's web page will be officially functional and active from 30th June 2011.

The web page could be accessed via www.srilankansqld.org

For further information contact Dr Tony Sahama : e-mail: t.sahama@qut.edu.au

News from Sri Lanka

Commonwealth Games venue evaluation team in Lanka

The evaluation commission of the Commonwealth Games is currently in Sri Lanka to assess the venue in Hambantota for the 2018 games. The commission is headed by Scotland's Louise Martin. A technical report will then be written on both bids, to be released by October 11. The report is then passed on to the member nations who vote on which of the two cities will gain hosting rights. The other city bidding for Commonwealth Games is Gold Coast.

India honours doyen of modern Sinhala music

The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka organised an evening with musician and Magsaysay award winner Pandit Amaradeva, at India House recently, to celebrate his six decades of excellence in music, and to underline the deep cultural and civilisational links the two countries share.

Pandit Amaradeva (earlier known as Albert Perera), who was awarded the Padma Shri in 2002 and composed the melody for the Maldivian national anthem, along with Ananda Samarakoon (author of the Sri Lankan national anthem), and composer-musician Sunil Santha, are regarded as the founding fathers of the modern Sinhala music. All the three had much in common – were celebrated artists but utterly poor, had deep links with India, and were greatly influenced by Rabindranath Tagore and Rabindra Sangeet. (*The Hindu*)

Over 9,600 dengue cases, 73 deaths

Health Ministry Epidemiology Unit statistics reveal that 9,660 dengue cases

and 73 deaths had been reported from all parts of the country by Tuesday, sources said.

According to the sources the number of dengue cases reported until June 28 was 2,863. "The number of deaths reported during the same period was 10. There were 1,956 dengue cases and 19 deaths in May. The highest number of dengue case, 1371 was reported from the Colombo district.

Gampaha district recorded 425 cases and Kalutara recorded 154 cases," the sources said. Around 615 Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF) cases had been reported from the Colombo Municipal Council area during this month. Another 756 DHF cases had been reported during the same period from all the other parts of the Colombo district, the sources said. (*Daily News*)

Only 5,000 Lankans accepted the offer

Only 5,000 Sri Lankans out of an estimated 14,000, currently staying in Kuwait illegally, have accepted the general amnesty offered by the Kuwaiti government to leave the country without facing any legal action. The general amnesty offered by the Kuwaiti government for foreign nationals, including Sri Lankans, who are staying in the country without renewing visas, ends on 30th June. In addition to the above 5,000 another 900 Sri Lankans have used the amnesty period to legalize their stay by renewing their documents, an official of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) said.

The Kuwaiti government has said that they would strictly enforce the law at the end of the amnesty period on foreign nationals who stay within their shores illegally. (*Daily News*)



Deliver to:

Sri Lanka Society of Queensland Inc
P.O. Box 15099
City East QLD, 4002

Vol 34 , No. 1 – June/July 2011

Objects and Rules of the Society

The **Objects** are:

- 1) To promote harmonious co-operation and friendship amongst immigrants from Sri Lanka and Australians irrespective of racial, religious, political and other differences;
- 2) to preserve, promote and project the culture of Sri Lanka;
- 3) to render assistance to students and immigrants from Sri Lanka;
- 4) to encourage and foster recreational, sporting and social activities;
- 5) to publish and circulate news of Sri Lanka and local events;
- 6) to render assistance to the people of Sri Lanka in times of need, at the discretion of the Management Committee.

The **Rules** of the Society are those of a non-profit society. If you need to see the Constitution of the Society please contact the Secretary.

Contacting the Society

See above for postal address, masthead for email and Webpage.

Brief History

Established in 1975 and incorporated a few years later. First Society in Queensland dedicated to serving all Queenslanders of Sri Lankan origin irrespective of ethnic identity, religion or language spoken.

Membership of the Society

Open to anyone subscribing to the objects of the Society (see above). Annual fees are \$25 for family, \$15 single (Pensioners and Students: \$15 family, \$10single). Application Form is given below, please return with the relevant fee.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Name(with preferred title):

Postal **Address**:

Telephone: **Email** :

Category (please tick): Family (\$25), Single (\$15), Concession Family (\$15), and Concession Single (\$10)

Name of Partner (Family category only):

I wish to be involved in or to involve my children in Society cultural activities (dancing etc.)
[Please tick]

I apply for membership of the Sri Lanka Society of Queensland Inc. I agree with the objects and the rules of the Society. I enclose the relevant fee.

SIGNATURE: DATE: