

SRI LANKA SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

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News Letter

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Spring is in the Air', 2014

'Spring is in the Air', the Sri Lanka Society of Queensland's annual members and friends get-together was held at the Mansfield Tavern Conference and Function Centre on Saturday 13th September.

Entertaining everyone were talented artists Malith Perera (runner-up Sirasa Super Star Season 1); and Thisara and Indrachapa. Accompanying music was provided by Shiran and the Silver Rings. The night was filled with good food, good company and great entertainment.

The annual function was held as a special thank you to our members and guests, wrapping up the societies' activities for the year. Throughout the evening, many old friends were able to catch up and new friendships were formed. It was especially good to see young adults from the student community attend and it was evident from their singing and dancing that they had a great time. The lively, toe-tapping baila session was a great hit amongst the young as well as young at heart. The winners of the Baila competition were Uttara Givendrasinghe and Asanka Muthukumara and the runners-up were Alo-ma de Silva and Ranjan Wijeratne.

The dinner was a delicious traditional Sri Lankan buffet catered by Thilani and many people commented on the great selection of food. Word from those who attended not only from Brisbane but Ipswich, Toowoomba and the Sunshine coast was that it was an enjoyable night for all.

As 2014 draws to a close, we now look forward to the many exciting endeavours and successes the New Year will bring for the Sri Lankan community of Brisbane. On behalf of the Sri Lanka Society I would like to thank our members and guests for their continued support in 2014 and I hope to see you all next year.



See More photos page over -







STANLEY JAMES SPARKES 16TH MAY, 1922 -- 26TH JUNE, 2014

STANLEY JAMES SPARKES

16th May 1922 - 26th June 2014

STANLEY JAMES SPARKES was born on the 16th May, 1922, in Kandy, Sri Lanka. He was the 2nd of 3 sons to Reginald James and Minna Sparkes.

Stan was educated at Trinity College, Kandy, where he excelled as a student. His education continued at the University of Colombo, from which he graduated. Stan passed the Institute of Banking examinations, attended the University of Cambridge and obtained his Bachelor of Science, and also a degree in Economics.

Stan's first job was as the Manager of an Ice Company in Kandy, where he took over the reins after the passing of his father, who held this position previously.

From then he went to the Bank of Ceylon and worked at the Bank for over 20 years in the Colombo and London office, where he held 3 senior positions at the one time. Such was the man's intellectual prowess and capacity for work.

Stan migrated to Australia in the 60's, but was lured back to Sri Lanka, as the Managing Director of the Commercial Bank, which position he held till 1974.

He was an avid Reader and a storehouse of knowledge. Long before the advent of the internet you "Googled" - Stanley Sparkes. In 1959 he was invited as a contestant on a Quiz Show sponsored by Ovaltine. He was the first Contestant and Cleaned out the Bank, Fridge, Typewriter, Cash and Ovaltine. He had a very special way of sharing and imparting knowledge without making one feel ignorant.

Stan migrated to Australia again in 1975.

He originally met Wendy during his Banking days, and they settled in Canberra, with Stan's Mum. He first worked with the Bureau of Statistics, where he started at the bottom of his level, and within 6 months he was promoted to Officer Level. After sometime in Canberra his Mum kept complaining about the cold, so Stan requested to transfer to Townsville, where he worked with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and remained in that Department till his retirement. While in Townsville, Wendy started complaining about the heat and so Stan requested a transfer to Brisbane.



Stan worked in the Public Service and Wendy at the University of Queensland, but the irony was Stan's Mum went back to Canberra to look after her other son.

Stan and Wendy settled in Brisbane. Even after Stan retired he was very active and never stopped being busy. He wrote a book on the arrival of Sri Lankan migrants to Queensland. I recall taking him to visit some of the graves in Bundaberg and Gin Gin to do research for his book.

He was a great help to the Sri Lankan Community and also was the Newsletter Editor for the Sri Lanka Society of Queensland. He was acknowledged in 1989 by Lighting of the Oil Lamp at the Sri Lanka New Year Celebrations, in recognition for his contribution to Community.

Stan and Wendy have been together for almost 40 years and it has been a happy life travelling and working. They did not have any children, but the two of them had many children that belonged to their friends and enjoyed time with them.

Stan leaves, family and friends with fond memories. Thanks for the privilege of having known and loved him.

GOOD BYE STAN --- REST IN PEACE

IVAN WIJETUNGE 8 October 1924 – 4 September 2014

Ivan Samuel De Cabral was born 8th October 1924, the youngest of 3 boys. He attended Wesley College Colombo. Ivan did reasonably well at school and was a keen sportsman. He competed in the annual college sports meets in long jump and the 100 yard sprint. Ivan's first job was in the auxiliary fire service from 1943 to 1945.

By 1951 Ivan was well known as a bodybuilder and while in the Railway Security Service he entered the Mr Ceylon Contest and placed 2nd in 1949 and 1950. At a New Years Dance in 1950 at the famous GOH, he met Lois (later to be his wife) and was besotted. He was unrelenting in pursuing her, and she is on record as saying "I didn't even like him", but he never gave up and she finally relented and then they started dating.

Ivan also excelled in other sports. He was placed 1st in the Ceylon amateur wrestling championships in the lightweight class in 1946 and went up a class in 1947 to the welters and placed 2nd. Newspaper articles at the time attested to his prowess. He was also an exponent of kudo khan judo, achieving two belts. He went into sports administration and organized the inter service boxing, wrestling and swim meets.

In 1951 Ivan joined the Royal Ceylon Navy as a non commissioned officer and in the same year married Lois. And in 1953 their first child Randolph was born and then Romaine and Debbie followed. By this time he had reached the rank of lieutenant. His administrative talents were also recognized outside the Navy and he was seconded to the Ceylon Wrestling's organizing committee where he excelled.

In May 1969 the family migrated to Australia. Ivan's first job in Australia was at the PGH brick factory, and he purchased the family home in Newmarket, achieving the quintessential aussie dream. He was never too proud to work any job to look after his family. Soon after he joined the ABC as a pay clerk, stayed there until the famous trumpeting elephant was born. Ivan became a small businessman importing and retailing Sri Lankan food stuffs as Elephant Brand products. He was the first to offer a home shopping service to the Sri Lankan community. He worked hard and the business was extremely successful. He also dabbled in real estate as a side line, buying and selling properties and making a profit along the way. In 1989 Ivan and Lois built a new home in Boondall and in 1990, he finally retired.



Ivan was involved with the Sri Lankan community in a significant manner. In 1986 he was one of the founding members of the Queensland Association for Sri Lankan Unity (QASLU). In 1987 he led the contingent carrying the Sri Lankan flag in the Warana Parade dressed in National Dress (photo shown). He was also involved with the Silver Fawn Club, Radio 4EB Sri Lankan Group and the Sri Lanka Society of Queensland (SLSQ). He was the President of SLSQ in 1997.

Ivan was ever the optimist, always reading one of his favorites books *Think Yourself Well*. In 2012, he was admitted to the Carinity Hilltop Nursing home at Kelvin Grove. His wife Lois cared for him and was his constant comfort and strength and was by his side right to the very end.

Ivan leaves family and friends with fond memories. Thanks for the privilege of having known and loved him.

GOOD BYE IVAN -- REST IN PEACE

Cricket World Cup fever is on again



We Sri Lankans adore the game. We eat, breathe and live cricket. Cricket is a part of Sri Lankan culture, and if there is one thing we learnt from our past, even though our invaders passed it on to us, that was cricket. We love Cricket. Aera... okata... aera... lanuwa... udin... aera...

We played tennis ball cricket everywhere, those days, I was not even a teenager yet. There were teams in every suburb; some suburbs even had two or three teams around where we lived (Mount Lavinia). We played cricket everywhere and all the time, we argued with each other, we fought with some, and in the end we shook hands and hugged each other. What fond memories we had; cricket was mixed in our blood and ran through our veins. There are no other words I can use to describe the fun we had. Then came the big time, leather ball cricket; we did that well to some degree as well. School cricket was another story, and the very best ones went on to play international cricket.

In 1996 we won the biggest cricketing award, if there was ever one; Ranathunga's boys did us proud! Jayasuriya and Kauluwitharana were re-writing the cricket history by scoring heavily in the first 15 overs, that was before coming into the finals. I know after that, players like Gilchrist followed suit and carried on scoring heavily in the first few overs.

By the way, we need to wish the Sri Lanka cricketers every success, and urge Mathews and his boys to bring the cup home. To thank Mahela and Sangakkara for the services they rendered for the country, we really have to make winning the 2015 Cricket World Cup a reality. We need to go and see as many games as possible with our kawadi bands and so on, to support our Sri Lankan cricket stars and keep the Sri Lankan cricketing spirit alive.

Noel De Silva

Sri Lanka V New Zealand

Match 1, Pool A, Hagley Oval, Christchurch.

Saturday 14 February 2015

Day match

Sri Lanka V Afghanistan

Match 12, Pool A, University Oval, Dunedin.

Sunday 22 February 2015

Day match

Sri Lanka V Bangladesh

Match 18, Pool A, Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne.

England V Sri Lanka

Match 22, Pool A, Wellington Regional Stadium, Wellington.

Sunday 1 March 2015

Day match

Australia V Sri Lanka

Match 32, Pool A, Sydney Cricket Ground, Sydney.

Sunday 8 March 2015

Day/Night match

Sri Lanka V Scotland

Match 35, Pool A, Bellerive Oval, Hobart.

Assistance to Sri Lankan villagers affected by the Badulla District Landslide

At a Committee Meeting of the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations in Queensland Inc. (FSOQ) of which the Society is a member held on 30 November 2014; it was agreed to raise funds for assistance to families who were affected by the landslide. According to the Sri Lankan news still 192 people are unaccounted for.

Jayantha Pathi was requested to inquire from Kushil Gunasekera of Foundation of Goodness for his willingness to act as the liaison point in Sri Lanka for the aid collected. This is to ensure the money is spent for the needy families in the best way possible.

If you wish to donate please deposit to FSOQ bank account BSB: 484 799 A/C No: 506548040 and reference **Landslide** and email Treasurer FSOQ Senarath Weerakoon to issue an official receipt; weerakoon@hotmail.com

The Society Management Committee will discuss about making a donation too.



THE PROJECT

Moorooka and Borella Lions Clubs are working to identify a village with about 2000 residents in a critical CKDu area.

The water purification system will be installed in Anuradhapura District or Polonnaruwa District in North Central Province, Sri Lanka.



We aim to provide 5000 litres of clean drinking water every day, enough for the whole village.

School children will be the first to have access to the water. Other villagers will access the water outside school hours. Students will be encouraged to take water home with them.



The cost is AUD\$20,000 per village.

Borella Lions Club will work with the Sri Lankan National Water Supply and Drainage Board to ensure that correct installation, use and maintenance.



DONATE NOW

In Australia

In Australia, the appeal is being managed by Brisbane Moorooka Lions Club, a member club of the International Association of Lions Clubs.

Donations can be made:

By Cheque to:

Moorooka Lions Club Sri Lanka Appeal
P.O. Box 14
Moorooka Qld 4105

By Direct Deposit (Bank Transfer) to

Bank of Queensland
BSB: 124001
Account No: 22231259
Account Name:
Brisbane Moorooka Lions Club
Sri Lanka Appeal
Reference: Your Name Please
Receipts will be issued upon request.

100% of every dollar will go towards providing clean drinking water to a community in North Central Province, Sri Lanka.



Lions Club of Brisbane Moorooka Inc.
P.O. Box 14
Moorooka Qld 4105

e-mail: cleanwaterappeal@gmail.com

facebook.com/Moorookalionscleanwaterappeal



President Ian Towers 07 3846 1584
Lion Warren Loos 07 3277 4458



SRI LANKAN CLEAN WATER APPEAL

Since 1991, 22,000 Sri Lankans with no access to clean water have died from kidney disease



Clean water makes healthy kidneys



Brisbane's Moorooka Lions Club
and
Colombo's Borella Lions Club

are seeking funds
to provide clean drinking water
to 2000 people in Sri Lanka.

Sanga's Bikes for Life Campaign



Few of us are involved with helping the poor people in Sri Lanka who are still struggling from the effects of the 2004 tsunami, and to improve their impoverished lives, we are organising a Sri Lankan Food Festival on Saturday 8 November 2014 to raise money to purchase bikes (Under Sanga's Bikes for Life Campaign). A bike provides countless benefits to a rural community member's life, (eg) allowing them access to employment, transport to markets for sale and purchase of goods, water and food sources etc. Crucially, for thousands of rural children, the ownership of a bike is the key to a life-transforming education. Without transport many children are unable to attend school and they therefore remain trapped in a cruel cycle of poverty. We are expecting large numbers to turn up at our fundraiser and wondered whether you could pass this email to your friends. If you are free on Sat to come and give us a hand to set up and sell the food, please email or call Lalani or myself.

Jayantha Pathikirikorale (0412 438283)

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A FOOD FESTIVAL
TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF
THE FOUNDATION OF GOODNESS**

COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN SRI LANKA

CELEBRATE SRI LANKAN CULTURE AND HELP A GOOD CAUSE

JOIN THE "BIKES FOR LIFE" CAMPAIGN
Just one bicycle can significantly improve the lives of an entire family

A CURRY LOVER'S PARADISE
Enjoy the many flavours of Sri Lankan Street Food
including Hoppers, Stringhoppers, Kothu Roti
Cakes and Pastries
Jams, Chutneys and Confectioneries
Hot and Cold Beverages
Sausage Sizzle (for those not so brave)

Saturday 8 November 2014
10.00am to 2.00pm
St Barnabas' Anglican Church Hall
189 Lister Street
Sunnybank Q 4109

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SEENIGAMA VILLAGE IN THE WAKE OF A TSUNAMI WAVE – THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND

Jayantha Pathikirikorale 0412 438 283
Marcelle Moran 0407 360 046

Bill Deutrom 0408 749 949
Asela Weerasinghe 0448 880 608

www.unconditionalcompassion.org

Membership subscriptions for 2015 will be due on 1 January 2015. You could pay the subscription by using the bank account details on the Membership Form included in the Newsletter or await the reminder to be forwarded in January.

Sri Lanka Society of Queensland Inc

Membership Application Form

Objectives of the Society

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.*

Name (with preferred title)

Postal Address:

Telephone:Email.....

Category (please tick) Family (\$20) Single (\$10) Concession Family (\$10) Concession single (\$5)

I apply for / wish to renew (delete as appropriate) membership of Sri Lanka Society of Queensland Inc under the category marked above. I agree with the objectives and the rules of the society.

The relevant fee is enclosed, herewith.

.....

Signature

Date

Payments can be made by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

Account Name: Sri Lanka Society of Queensland Inc BSB : 06 4000 Acc: Number: 10725278

Bank : Commonwealth Bank, Queen Street, Brisbane.

Please include your name in reference field and email completed membership form.

Sri Lanka Society of Queensland

PO Box 15099, CITY EAST, BRISBANE , QLD 4002 Email: secretary@srilankansqld.org

2014 Committee Members

President Hermin Goonetilleke	Auditors David Adams Solicitor: Matthew Jones
Vice President Ronnie Anandappa	Committee Members Viraj Ubaysiri Chamila Ellawala
Secretary Gothami Meepe	Ruwan Fernando Thilani Gomes
Treasurer Vacant	Web Administrators Mithila Fox & Christopher Brown-Watts
Cultural Secretary Namal Wijeratne Social Secretary Ranjika Herat	
Publication Secretary Jayampathy Tennakoon	