

SRI LANKA SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc.

NEWSLETTER



Incorporated 1984

EMAIL: secretary@srilankansqld.org

WEBPAGE: <http://www.srilankansqld.org>

Volume 42	No:1	February 2019
------------------	-------------	----------------------

President's Message

The Sri Lanka Society held its Annual General Meeting on the 19th of January at the Toowong Community Centre. A new committee was elected with most positions being filled on the day. All positions have now been filled.

The AGM was held early this year due to a Dance Competition planned for February. Unfortunately, this event had to be postponed as the number of competitors were not enough for a successful event. There were requests from potential competitors for more time to get a routine ready. However, we had timed it for when a judge from Sri Lanka could be present and also for the competition to be held before the school term.

As we try to move forward, we realise that along with the many successful functions there will also be some that are not successful. The committee feels that progress has been made in making the society more relevant and we will keep up our efforts to try new ventures to sustain the society and increase its membership.

The New Year function will be a lunch this year and we plan to make it an interactive event with plenty

of opportunities for socialising. Despite both Easter and Anzac Day holidays falling in April as well as numerous other New Year functions, we hope that there will be a good turnout of members and friends, as we are planning a very enjoyable event.

We also have a book launch coming up on the 23rd of March with a very interesting line up of speakers, singers and competitions for the audience.

A more formal function is being planned for later in the year. Details of this are being finalised.


I would like to take this opportunity to thank the previous committee and it is very pleasing that many of them are staying on for another eventful year ahead. I also welcome the new members who have joined this year's committee.

I hope that you will join us to go forward with a new focus to embrace our objectives as set out in the constitution and to ensure that Sri Lanka Society remains a society that is relevant to today's needs and inclusive of all Sri Lankans.

Gothami Meepe

Election of the Office Bearers for 2018

Position	Name	Proposed by	Seconded by
President	Gothami Meepe	Asoka Kuruppu	Ronnie Anandappa
Vice President	Namal Wijeratne	Sandhya Abeysekera	Anton Swan
Secretary	Ranjika Herat	Namal Wijeratne	Deepal Perera
Treasurer	Sandesh Ariyasinghe	Sandhya Abeysekera	Gothami Meepe (on Feb 3 rd)
Social Secretary	Sandhya Abeysekera	Namal Wijeratne	Chamitha Weerasinghe
Publications Secretary	Neela Matthews	Preethi Jayasooriya	Ranjika Herat
Drumming Coordinator	Chamitha Weerasinghe	Sandya Abeysekera	Namal Wijeratne
Committee Members:	Ronnie Anandappa	Asoka Kuruppu	Anton Swan
	Chamila Ellawela	Hermin Goonetillke	Namal Wijeratne
	Praba Harvie	Neela Matthews	Chamitha Weerasinghe
	Prashanthi De Silva	Gothami Meepe	Sandya Abeysekera
	Deepal Perera	Sandya Abeysekera	Ranjika Herat
Hon. Auditor	David Adams		
Hon. Solicitor	Mathew Jones		



Sri Lanka Society of Queensland
Invites you to
Sri Lankan New Year Celebration
2019

Delicious Sri Lankan Buffet, 'Rasa Kavili'
Sing-Along and play New Year Games!

Sunday 28th April from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
St Bernard's Hall
4 Klump Rd, Upper Mount Gravatt

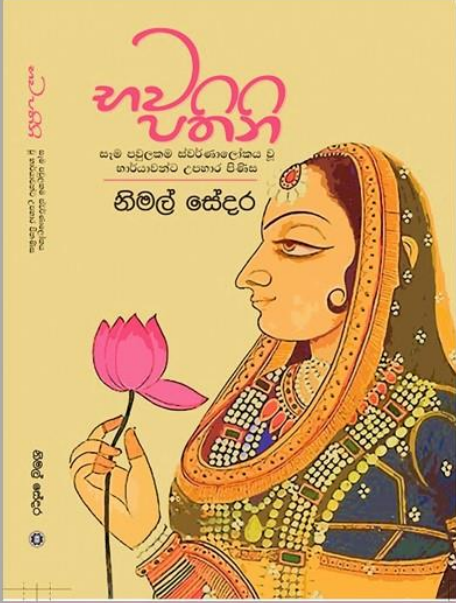
Contact:
Gothami - 3341 0102
Sandhya - 0422 932 366
Namal: - 0433 427 377
or any committee member

Tickets:
Members - \$25
Non Members - \$30
Children (under 12) - \$15

A Literary Evening with Dr Nimal Sedera

Sri Lanka Society of Queensland Welcomes you to

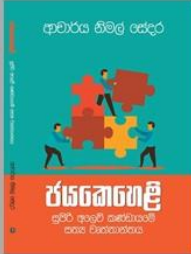
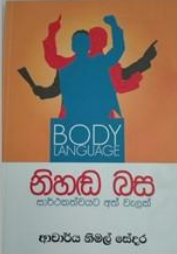
A Literary Evening with Dr. Nimal Sedera



නිමල් සේදරා

*The story of a treasured wife and mother
written by her loving husband.
Dedicated to all wives.*

Date: Sunday, 24th March
Time: 4:30pm - 6:30pm
Place: Garden City Library
Cnr, Logan Rd & Kessels Rd, Upper Mt Gravatt



Contact:
Gothami - 3341 0102
Sandhya - 0422 932 336
Nimal - 0424 771 664

An evening of stimulating talks,
songs and games while enjoying tea
and cake..!

Light refreshments available for purchase

Sri Lanka Society held a book launch by Dr Nimal Sedera in October 2017. That time we were amazed that he had 3 books to launch at once. Now he is ready to introduce another 3 new books to the Brisbane audience. His main book Bhava Pathini is a biography of his beloved wife of 50 years. The second book 'Nihanda Basa' explains Body Language and is the first on the subject to be written in Sinhala. 'Jayakeheli' is about making a success of marketing. The evening will be filled with interesting speeches, songs and competitions for the audience. We hope you join us for a very interesting and stimulating evening.

English Conversation Club

English Conversation Club classes will resume on **Thursday February 07, 2019.**

Please come and join the thriving club that meets at MCC every **Thursday from 10.00am to 12.00pm**. Our club members are mostly new migrants who cherish the opportunity to learn and practice conversing in English. Please come along and join us at 23 Foster Street, Newmarket.

These fun-filled classes are led by our dedicated team of volunteers - Evelyn Wong, Evelyn Kuan, Lisa Ho, Kim Bott, Debra Chen and Daniel Murphy and coordinated by Sylvia Yap and Janis Maino. More volunteers and club members are welcomed.

For further information, please contact MCC at 07 32571868.

National Tree of Sri Lanka - Na (Iron wood) or (*Mesua ferrea*)

On 26 February, 1986, the Cabinet adopted the Na Tree as the national tree of Sri Lanka because of the



country's close association with the tree for centuries both socially and culturally. The Na tree has its origins in Sri Lanka itself.

This rain forest tree grows to about 30 m high and indigenous to the lower wet Zone of Sri Lanka. A remarkable feature of Na is its beautiful bright red leaves which finally mature in to a deep green. The timber has hardness and durability and was used to make bridges in the early times. It's believed that the first visit of Buddha was to a grove of Na Trees at Mahiyanganaya and also the next Buddha (Maithriya) will attain enlightenment under a Na tree. The flower of Na is also used in herbal medicines and preparations of

perfumes, cosmetics and soaps.

White fragrant flowers are borne solitary on short stalks, about 5 cm wide, large petals fall off easily. Fruit is about 2-3 cm, globose in shape with a conical point. Found in forests in moist areas of wet and intermediate forests - up to 1100 m. It is grown as an ornamental tree in temples and home gardens.



The wood of this tree is very heavy and strong. Due to this hardness it was named 'ferrea' which is Latin for 'belonging to iron', and also named 'Ceylon Ironwood'. A Na trunk is usually sawed with a two-man saw, while pouring cool water on the blade to prevent over-heating of the blade. The Sinhala phrase "Na Kapana Wessa" originated from the practice of cutting Na wood during heavy rain which softened the wood. The pillars of the 14th century Embekke Devale near Kandy are made of Na wood.

In the dry zone areas of Sri Lanka - where Ironwood trees normally do not grow wild, large, old Na trees can be seen around the remains of ancient Buddhist monasteries. On rocky hills around Dambulla such as Na Uyana Aranya, Namal Uyana, Na-golla Aranya, Pidurangala near Sigiriya, Kaludiya Pokuna near Kandalama, and Ritigala. They are probably the descendants of trees planted as ornamentals in the monasteries in ancient times during the Anuradhapura period.

(Sourced from the Internet)

Launch of “MIPS” website

Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland (ECCQ) owns and operates Diversicare who launched an interactive website “Multicultural Interactive Planning Solutions (www.mips.org.au)” on 8th February 2019. Committee members Neela Matthews and Prabha Harvie attended this launch held at Victoria Park golf club in Herston. Please take the time to have a look at this interactive website for a wealth of information on preparing your home for growing older. The photo shows MIPS Project Manager Emma Moore at the website launch.



From the Multicultural Community Centre Newsletter

Training Opportunity – Nurseries, Parks and Gardens

Belong, in partnership with the Salvation Army and TABMA Training have a great training opportunity for those that would like to learn about working in garden centres or parks and gardens **plus** a program of personalised help for training participants to secure the right job.

Training in a wonderful location at the Salvation Army’s ‘Watch them Grow’ Riverview Farm. This location really **brings training to life!**

If you know of people that may be interested please ask them to call **Tim on 0423 069 240** or **Duc on 0435 928 441** to check eligibility and further details.

This Skilling Queenslanders for Work project is offered at no cost to participants, it is proudly funded and supported by the Queensland Government.

Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care

Our first intake for the Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care has commenced. Enrolment is now open for our next intake commencing on **April 24, 2019**. If you are thinking about a career in childcare and love to be around children all the time, then this course is for you! Seats are limited. **Contact us today! No Cost** to eligible participants. Other conditions apply. Contact MCC Project Coordinators on **07 32571868** or email info@mccbrisbane.org to enrol in the next intake.

This Skilling Queenslanders for Work (SQW) project is proudly funded and supported by the Queensland Government.

Damrivi Foundation

Damrivi Foundation is located at Isipathana Mawatha in Colombo and was set up in 2003 by a group of academics and professionals to establish a forum for social action guided by Buddhist insights and philosophy. The centre provides psychological counselling and psychiatric consultations, educational and professional development courses, Dhamma programs including Dhamma discussions and weekly meditation programs and organised tours to places of worship both within the country and outside. The foundation is expanding its outreach to communities with a focus on children and young adults. The Sri Lanka Society of Queensland gave them a donation last year from the proceeds of the raffle conducted at the New Year function in order for the Foundation to continue with their excellent counselling services. The photos above show the Damrivi Foundation building, some staff members and committee member Neela Matthews receiving the receipt for the donation given.



Community Events



Namal Wijeratne and other community members at ECCQ Governance Training



Gothami Meepe and Prabha Harvie at the opening of Arcare Aged Care services at Springwood.



STARTING THE NEW QLD SENIOR CHEMISTRY CURRICULUM IN 2019?

Get ahead with top-quality private coaching from a tutor with expertise in the new curriculum and 20 years of teaching experience.

With a PhD in Chemistry and teaching experience at both school and university levels (QUT, Griffith, UWS), my tuition sets students up for success in Years 10-12 Chemistry.

\$50/hr for 1-on-1 sessions, or \$35/hr per person for groups of 2-4

Central location (7km from CBD) with easy public transport links

Contact me on 0416 113 828 or at brisbanechemtutor@gmail.com

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 the 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

I need a printed copy of the newsletter ☐ (This option is for those members who have no access to email)

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 to **Sri Lanka Society of Queensland, PO Box 15099, CITY EAST, BRISBANE, QLD 4002.** Email: secretary@srilankansqld.org