



# SRI LANKA SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc

## NEWSLETTER

Established 1978  
Incorporated 1984

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### Book Launch by Nimal Sedera

#### Book Launch

The Sri Lanka Society of Queensland is proud to present the launch of three new books written by Dr. Nimal Sedera.

Dr. Nimal Sedera, who moved to Brisbane three years ago for his retirement, published his first collection of short stories in 1963. He has since added 67 books to his credit. The uniqueness in Nimal is that his books are on a variety of fields, from Marketing, Travellers notes, Novels, Short stories, Poetry, Religion and Research.

**Where:** Carindale Library  
Westfield Shopping Centre, 1151 Creek Road Carindale

**When:** 8th of October

**Time:** 4:30pm—6:30pm

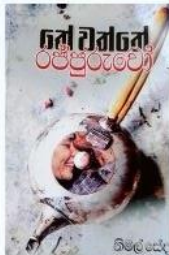
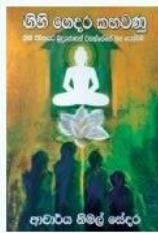

Entrance will be free & food will be available for purchase.

For reservations, please contact

Gothami — 33410102

Sandhya — 0422932366

Nimal — 0424771664



Dr Nimal Sedera migrated to Brisbane three years ago for his retirement. He published his first collection of short stories with the title “Hithaka Venasa” in 1963. Since then on his way to celebrate the 74th birthday this year he has added 67 books to his credit. The uniqueness in Nimal is that his books are on a variety of fields, from marketing, travellers notes, novels, short stories, poetry, religion and Research. His contributions to the media, youth work, marketing and sales training has been acknowledged.

He has made substantial contributions to culture, media and journalism in Sri Lanka. He has served as an Editor on newspapers, produced and presented programmes for television and radio. He is known to be an engaging presenter, trainer and a sales consultant and had conducted several hundred key events in Sri Lanka. As the former Deputy Director of the National Youth Services Council, his leadership led to the revival of culture, establishment of sports and

leadership amongst the youth in Sri Lanka. He is an expert in public relations and in the field of sales and marketing. More than everything else, what is to be admired is his punctuality, organising skills and his dedication to his parents and his family.

*“There is no other son that I know of, other than Nimal, in the history of Sri Lanka or elsewhere who has written the biographies of parents while they were still alive.”- Kalakeerthi Dr Edwin Ariyadasa*

## ***Introducing the books***

### **1. UHULANA DERANA AMMA**



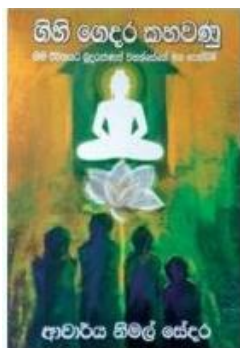
*This is an inspiring life story of the author's 91 year old mother, who raised 10 children and enjoys 23 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. The lessons of the motherhood portrayed here on family, social and religious are exemplary to any woman..*

### **2. THEWATTE RAJJURUVO**

*A fiction novel based on the historical setting of a plantation in Sri Lanka at an era of estate take-over by the government. The story revolves around the challenging life of a planter who ultimately migrated to America.*



### **3. GIHIGEDARA KAHAVANU**



*Based primarily on the Sigalovada Sutta, this is a religious book that can be the guiding manual of any house. It exclusively discussing some of the dharma the Lord Buddha preached for lay people.*

*Please join us on 8<sup>th</sup> October at 4:30 pm  
Carindale Library,  
Westfield Shopping Centre, 1151 Creek Road, Carindale*

*Free Entrance. Food available for purchase*

# A Postcard from Anuradhapura

## From the Travel Diaries of Cresside Collette

*Before entering the remains of Sri Lanka's first city dating from 377 BC that is spread over 16 square miles, I took everyone to a little known, sublime spot, a forest monastery site, Kaludiya Pokuna, where for centuries monks sought secluded enlightenment. I was first taken to it at dusk in November 1979 by my friend Druki's late husband, and as we entered through a natural gateway of balanced rocks the atmosphere was palpable. I have since returned three times, and each time I am struck by its calm beauty, the remains of ancient dwellings built into natural formations and the dark shimmer of the 'black' water protected by the hill. Once, some young monks arrived, stripped off their saffron robes and dived in for a swim.*



*We picked up the most wonderful guide outside the Jetavana museum, Charitha Jithendra Jith, a National tourist guide lecturer who had grown up in Anuradhapura playing amongst the ruins and had gone on to study both Buddhism and the city's history in great depth. The knowledge he was able to impart and his enthusiasm for his subject made our visit very special. We started at the museum, a grand colonial building originally used by British administration*



*of the town that now houses a wealth of excavated artefacts, from figurative sculptures and guard stones to delicate pottery and jewellery. It shows the breadth of the civilisation that flourished in this ancient kingdom for three thousand years.*

*A light rain fell that morning, the first of our trip apart from a brief convectional shower in Colombo, which made our traipse around the ruins cool and pleasurable. We started at the Jetavana dagoba, the world's biggest stupa constructed of ninety million*



*bricks, and, at the time it was built second only in size to the Giza pyramids. Originally 120 m. tall, it is now just 70 m., having lost its top section. Around it a monastery flourished, the remains of which survive from the 9th and 10th centuries.*

*Water was the key to the survival of this ancient community, and successive kings excavated enormous man- made lakes, or tanks, and installed sophisticated methods of irrigation, transporting the water where it was needed for growing food, bathing and sewerage. Anuradhapura is studded with elaborate stone pools and the remains of royal pleasure gardens that used water for cooling and frolic.*



*We were shown through an extensive network of buildings at Abhayagiri, the remains of a monastery that educated, fed and housed over five thousand monks. The layout of these buildings is clearly visible, although laced with vegetation, and our guide brought to life the processes of daily ritual to enliven our experience of them. The refectory area is particularly fascinating, with enormous stone 'baths' into which the food was placed, early versions of the 'bain marie'.*

*At the entrances to significant shrines elaborately carved granite moonstones provide a thought provoking threshold, designed to concentrate the mind upon entry. Carved in concentric semi circles they represent the endless cycle of birth and death, the spiritual journey of samsara as represented by animals, birds and vines with the lotus pattern at their heart symbolising the Buddha and nirvana, the eventual freedom from re-incarnation.*

### ***Performance by the National Dance Troupe of Sri Lanka in Brisbane!***

*Date – Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017*

*Please join us for this memorable performance.*

*Further information to follow.*

## **News (Sourced from the internet)**

### **Australian Dengue Fever program launched in Sri Lanka**

The Foreign Minister Julie Bishop has launched a partnership between Monash University's Eliminate Dengue Program and the Sri Lankan health ministry. Sri Lanka has been hard hit by dengue with about 90,000 cases reported and more than 240 deaths. The Australian Government is also contributing to the WHO's dengue programs.

### **SLC selection committee led by Jayasuriya resigns**

The Chairman of the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) selection committee Sanath Jayasuriya and the other members of the committee have tendered their resignations to the Sports Minister Dayasiri Jayasekara.

The selection committee is chaired by former captain Sanath Jayasuriya and comprises of members Asanka Gurusinha, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Eric Upashantha and Ranjith Madurasinghe.

A collective letter signed by all of them notifying of their decision was handed over to the minister this afternoon.

According to the letter, they will resign with effect from September 07, 2017.

Sri Lanka's cricket team, the administration as well as the selection committee has come under heavy criticism in the wake of the national team's poor run of form in all formats as of recently.

Sri Lanka suffered a home test series whitewash at the hands of India and have already conceded the five match ODI series

by losing the first three games rather tamely which has caused massive unrest among the home fans.

Irate fans, angered by the Sri Lankan team's continued poor performances, even threw water bottles into the ground as India reached within eight runs of winning the third ODI in Pallekele on Sunday.

### **Sri Lanka's 'Withered Leaf' goes to South Asian International Film Festival**

'Withered Leaf' a short film by Duminda Sanjeewa is nominated to the annual Singapore South Asian International Film Festival to commence on Sept 1.

In the 1.5 hr drama yet to screen in Lanka, a country woman who turns to be a widow and a single mother is forced to choose between life and death by poverty, gender inequality and ignorance of the society.

The 10-day event, has scheduled 35 feature films, shorts and documentaries from Sri Lanka, India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Twenty-six films will be competing for Best Feature Film, Best Documentary Film and Best Short Film. The jury deciding the winners of these awards comprise four film-makers: Mostofa Sarwar Farooki from Bangladesh, Siddiq Barmak from Afghanistan, K. Rajagopal from Singapore and Prasanna Vithanage from Sri Lanka.

### **Drumming Classes**

Would you like to join the Sri Lanka Society  
Drumming Troupe?

Classes held on Sunday mornings at Mt  
Gravatt

For further information call

## 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](mailto:secretary@srilankansqld.org)