

Established 1978

SRI LANKA SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc.

NEWSLETTER



Incorporated 1978

EMAIL: secretary@srilankansqld.org

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The AGM of the SLSQ was held on the 5th of February and the Management Committee for 2017 was elected. I am honoured to have been part of this committee for many years now and I would like to thank the previous committee and specially the long serving President Hermin Goonetilleke for the commitment and hard work that has gone in to making the society strong and stable.

I would also like to welcome the new committee and hope that together we can make SLSQ stronger and engage even more with the Sri Lankan community as well as the wider Australian community.

I also wish to thank all the members and specially those who take the time to come out to our AGM and attend all our functions and support the society in many ways. Without your support, our task would be very difficult.

I wish you and your families a very happy 2017 and hope to see you at our Sri Lankan New Year celebrations.

*Gothami Meepe
President*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017

This year the Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 5th February. Honorary Consul Anton Swan chaired the meeting and the new committee was appointed.

We thank our former president Hermin Goonetillake as she needed to have some quiet time after many years of service. She was President for 4 years and has also served in different capacities in the committee, including 10 years as cultural secretary. All her time and commitment is greatly appreciated by the Sri Lanka Society. During her term as president, she has built up the society's administration practices and accountability to its members to a very high standard. Hermin in turn thanked the society and she said she would not have been able to do things without the help of her husband Shanthie. Needless to mention Shanthie's generous contribution of his talent, expertise and time dedicated to the Society.

We welcome our new president Gothami Meepe who was elected as president for 2017. She has been working closely with Hermin and we have every confidence that Gothami will make a good president. She too has many years of experience. She has a vision and new ideas to enhance the interest of the younger generation. She did a great job of the "Clean Water Appeal" in 2015, which was an outstanding effort. She has already organised drumming classes for the young and the old. We are sure with her capabilities, enthusiasm and energy she will definitely have plenty of good ideas to contribute to the Society.

We welcome our new vice president, Chandra Godakanda Arachchi, who has been a member of the society for many years as well as a former publication secretary. We also welcome our new social secretary Sandhya Abeysekera who brings her vast experience in event organisation. We also warmly welcome back most of last year's committee with their experience in society matters. It is pleasing to have such a dedicated team.

This year the Society donated \$1,720 to worthy causes. We donated \$1,220 to FSOQ to freight beds and other equipment from health institutions in Queensland to Rural Hospitals in Sri Lanka, and \$250 each to FSOQ and 4EB Sri Lanka Group for the Sri Lanka Floods.

Persis Ranasinghe
Secretary

Sri Lanka Society is celebrating 70 years of diplomatic relations between Australia & Sri Lanka

Remarks by the Prime Minister at a Reception to Commemorate the 70th Anniversary of Australia-Sri Lanka Diplomatic Relations –

In the early months of 1947, Colombo — a bustling port city, gateway to an island nation on the cusp of a new era of independence — became the new home of a Tasmanian farmer and former Member of Parliament, Charles Frost.

As Commissioner and then High Commissioner to what was then Ceylon, Frost was sent to oversee a new chapter in the relationship between our two nations.

A year later, Ceylon reciprocated and, after Washington, London and New Delhi, Canberra became, Mr Prime Minister, your nation's fourth overseas mission.

The diplomatic partnership, and the friendship, is the continuation of a bond that, in reality, goes back much further.

In the late nineteenth century, the first of many waves of Sri Lankan immigrants ventured

southwards to try their luck in the goldfields of New South Wales and Victoria, to dive for pearls off the West Australian coast, and work the cane fields of northern Queensland.

In the opposite direction, Ceylon was a regular port of call for sailing ships, then steam ships and later ocean liners travelling between Australia and Europe. Australian cricket teams travelling to England to play in the Ashes also stopped off in Colombo.

In the 1950s, Colombo was also a port of call for early flights operated by Qantas on the famous 'Kangaroo Route' between Sydney and London. For many Australians, Colombo was one of their first encounters with their world beyond their shores.

These beginnings laid the foundation for a firm and enduring friendship.

Today, we are working together to ensure the prosperity and security of our region, on issues from trade to law enforcement, from science to combatting the scourge of people smuggling.

Sri Lanka Society of Queensland Office Bearers for 2017

President	Gothami Meepe	
Vice-President	Chandra Godakanda Arachchi	
Secretary	Persis Ranasinghe	
Treasurer	Jayamani Soysa	
Social Secretary	Sandhya Abeysekera	
Publications Secretary	Neela Matthews	
Committee Members:		
Ronnie Anandappa	Namal Wijeratne	Chamitha Weerasinghe
Auditor – David Adams	Solicitor – Matthew Jones	

Sri Lanka Society of Queensland presents Sri Lankan New Year Cultural Concert

Celebrating 70 years of Australia Sri Lanka diplomatic relations



**Saturday 22nd April 2017
5.30PM - 11.30PM**

***Mansfield Tavern Function Centre
181, Wecker Road, Mansfield***

***No BYO
Bar Facilities
available***

Entry to carpark via Luprena Street UBD 181 k19

***Dress – Traditional /
Smart Casual***



**Dance to "DJ
Rush" from
Melbourne**

Contact:

**Gothami 3341 0102
Namal 0433 427 377
Hermin 3396 9061
Persis 3398 8352
Chamitha 0430 047 664**

***Sri Lankan buffet &
Rasa Kavili***

Tickets :

<i>Members & Pensioners</i>	<i>\$45</i>
<i>Non Members</i>	<i>\$55</i>
<i>Students</i>	<i>\$35</i>
<i>Children 6-12 yrs</i>	<i>\$20</i>
<i>Children under 6 yrs</i>	<i>\$10</i>

**Supported by the Lord Mayor's
Suburban Initiative Fund**



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News & Events

Drumming Lessons

New students welcome from May as the current class is full. However, we are keen to hear from anyone interested in joining.

All ages including seniors are welcome. The cost is \$5.00 / lesson.

For further information, please contact -

Gothami – 3341 0102

Namal – 0433 427 377

Upcoming Cricket Fixtures:

February 17: First T20, MCG, Melbourne - Won by Sri Lanka

February 19: Second T20, Kardinia Park, Geelong – Won by Sri Lanka

February 22: Third T20, Adelaide Oval, Adelaide

All three matches are double headers with the women's T20 internationals between Australia and New Zealand

Sri Lanka squad: Upul Tharanga (c), Niroshan Dickwella, Asela Gunaratna, Dilshan Munaweera, Kusal Mendis, Milinda Siriwardena, Sachith Pathirana, Chamara Kapugedara, Seekuge Prassanna, Nuwan Kulaskera, Isuru Udana, Dasun Shanaka, Lakshan Sandakan, Lasith Malinga, Vikum Sanjaya

Australia squad: Aaron Finch (c), Ben Dunk, Patrick Cummins, James Faulkner, Travis Head, Moises Henriques, Michael Klinger, Tim Paine, Jhye Richardson, Billy Stanlake, Ashton Turner, Andrew Tye, Adam Zampa

From the editor

Most members pay their annual subscription at the AGM. If you were unable to attend the AGM your subscription is now due. The annual subscription rates for each category and the Society Bank account details to EFT are on the last page of the Newsletter. If you pay the subscription in this manner, can you please let us know by email to secretary@srilankansqld.org. Thank you.

Points to ponder

Secret of being Happy

A happy man is happy not because everything is right in his life.

He is happy because he does all things in his life right.....

Time has wings

Do not waste any of life's precious time

There is something to be gathered out of each moment.

We are here for a little while. We are only passing by. Time has wings and the golden moments quickly fly.

Enjoy life's every moment.....

(Source: Serendib News - August 2009)

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.

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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