

Western Australia Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association Inc

Mailing Address

275, Stirling Street, Perth, WA 6000

ABN: 41 031 087 846

PRESIDENT (Actg) : MILINDHA DE MEL

PHONE: 0402 579 927

SECRETARY: SHEREEN GERREYN

PHONE: 0428 333 923

TREASURER (Actg): TAMARA WANIGASEKERA

PHONE: 0404 495 548



WA SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION

MEMBER CONNECT NEWSLETTER



President's Message



Dear Members,

It's been a few months since my last update but boy, has your Committee been busy! Since we last connected, we've had a couple of awesome functions as well as set plans in motion to reset our Winter Dance. The Dance was postponed from 3rd July, due to lockdown restrictions prevalent at the time, but have no fear, all arrangements are being finalised to hold it on the 2nd October and we look forward to seeing you there in all your finery!

A quick update on the functions we have already had.

Mother's Day High Tea

As a first for WASLA, we organised a unique Mother's Day High Tea on 9th May. This was an afternoon filled with wonderful food and drink including short eats, desserts, and champagne! All of this with a beautiful jazz band in the background.

Jazz Evening at Steve's

What an evening this was as WASLA took over Steve's restaurant in Nedlands. The evening was a huge success- as evidenced by the feedback we've had so far. There's more information on this event in this Newsletter so I won't elaborate!

As with the Fashion Show held earlier on, it is worth noting that both these events were SOLD OUT, and we hope to make them regulars on our annual calendar of activities.

A reminder of our upcoming events:

1. Annual General Meeting – We will have the 50th AGM for WASLA on 29th August at 4.00 pm. We're hoping to have a short meeting and have more time for fun and fellowship while you enjoy a beautiful afternoon tea, courtesy the Committee. It would be wonderful to see as many of you as possible present on the day.
2. Winter Dance – This will now be held in Spring- on 2nd October. Only the date has changed. Please confirm your attendance as soon as possible to ensure you get your tickets. We have a reputation for sell-out events, and many non-Members have said they'd like to attend, so I wouldn't waste too much time!
3. Senior's Lunch – This will be held around the first week of November to coincide with Senior's Week celebrations in WA.
4. WASLA Children's Party – This will be held in the first week of December.

It is going to be a busy few months for us but nothing gives the Committee greater satisfaction than seeing our members enjoying the functions we organise.

Our membership numbers continue to increase as we pass 150 in paid subscriptions and I thank you all for this. There's always room for more! May I request that you introduce WASLA to your friends and family? Rest assured, the Committee will cater to members of all ages.

This will be my final note to you as Acting President. My name has been proposed for the position of President for the next year. If elected, it will be my absolute honour to lead the team into our next phase.

Take care and God bless,

Milindha de Mel

Editor's Note



Dear Members

A Very Happy Father's Day to all fathers and father-figures! I hope you enjoy the Day and the Father's Day feature in this Newsletter.

As you know we have a busy calendar this year, and we have had some amazing feedback from two recently-concluded, sold-out events- The Mother's Day High Tea and the Jazz Evening. You will find some evidence of their success with some accompanying photos in the following pages.

As reiterated, this certainly augurs well for the other special events being planned in the coming months- The 'Winter Dance', Senior's Lunch and Children's Party. Please check the Calendar for details.

As part of the series, '*Down Memory Lane*', this edition features Vivian and Charmain Blazé, and Merle Conderlag - famous members of the WA Sri Lankan community and WASLA family. Please do send in your articles for inclusion in this section.

This Newsletter also features a tribute to my sister-in-law, the late Dr Leela de Mel excerpted from a eulogy by Ramdas Sankaran, CEO of Multicultural Services Centre of WA. The tribute highlights Leela's invaluable contribution to the multicultural sector over many decades.

With the AGM coming up in a couple of days, I have included the Nomination Form for a position on the Committee, in addition to the WASLA Membership Form.

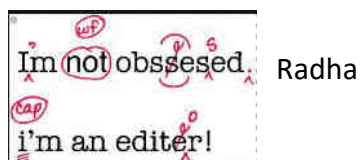
I welcome advertisements for future publications to fund the Newsletter and WASLA administration costs.

Black & White full page	\$ 80.00 per publication
Black and White half page	\$ 50.00
Black and White quarter page	\$ 30.00
Black and White 'Business Card'	\$ 20.00

We love hearing from you so please do send me anything you feel may be of interest to the Sri Lankan community in WA. Please send your contributions to: Editor, WASLA Newsletter, c/o Australian Asian Association, 275 Stirling Street, Perth WA 6000 or direct to me at Radha.DeMel@communities.wa.gov.au.

A very big 'Thank You' to Anju for helping me finalise the Newsletter. I hope you enjoy this edition and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Stay Safe! Kind regards



WA SRI LANKA (CEYLON) ASSOCIATION INC. (WASLA)

Committee Members

Please note interim configuration of the Committee – To be ratified at the AGM

Acting President	Milindha de Mel Milindha@hotmail.com Mobile 0402 579 927	
Vice President	Anju Sivarajah anjunchris@gmail.com Mobile 0433 180 300	
Vice President (Acting)	Kevin Wright kevinw@swhart.com.au Mobile 0403 040 400	
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	Ranjit Ratnayake rratnay@iinet.net.au Mobile 0433 040 430	Chris Raymond chris_raymond@iinet.net.au Mobile 0430 300 523
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	Prakash Muthu-Krishna prakash@muthu-krishna.com Mobile 0407 088 235	

Treasurer's Report

This last year for WASLA, has been one of rebuilding. Our membership numbers were dwindling, and we didn't have adequate working capital. This also necessitated the withdrawal of funds from our Term Deposit at the last AGM.

I'm extremely proud to report that it has been a very solid year for WASLA, from the perspective of both memberships and cashflow. Member numbers have increased significantly to more than 150, and I thank you all of your part in this and it is my hope that this trend continues into the new term.

The events organised during the year by your committee were a great success bringing in a **net contribution of \$4,066.81**. A special thanks to Committee members Anju, Prakash & Kevin and their wonderful partners Chris, Dhulani & Jackie for the untiring effort put in to ensure that these events were not only enjoyable but memorable as well.

It was unfortunate that the Winter Dance had to be postponed due to the sudden lockdown imposed by the Government. However, we look forward to seeing you all on the 2nd of October, which promises to be another great night.

I take great pride in noting that from a net deficit of **\$3,155.00** in the year 2020 we have closed at a **net surplus of \$5,020.00** this year. The WASLA transaction account balance which was at **\$298.27** at the start of the financial year closed at **\$13,808.00** on 30th June 2021.

Please note that the \$10,000 that was approved by a Special Resolution to be withdrawn from the Building Reserve to meet running expenses remains untouched to date.

The balances of the WASLA Bank Accounts as at 30th June are as follows:

Transaction Account:	\$13,808.00
Cash Reserve:	\$10,077.00
Term Deposit:	\$129,964.00

Membership Matters:

A friendly reminder to check that your WASLA membership fees are up to date. Fully paid members are eligible for Member's Discounted Prices on most events, and of course voting rights at the upcoming AGM. Please call Shereen on 0428 333 923 or email Shere_eng@hotmail.com for confirmation of your membership status.

Payment options are as follows:

By Electronic funds transfer:

Westpac Account BSB 036 062
Account No. 518950
Account Name: WASLA
Reference - "Your Surname, Initials," Subscription

By Cheque:

Drawn in Favour of "WASLA"
Mailed to: The Western Australia Sri Lanka Association
C/- AAA, 275 Stirling Street, Perth 6000

Our Subscription rates for 2020/21

Single Membership:	\$15.00
Family Membership:	\$25.00
Single Pensioner Membership	\$10.00
Pensioner Family membership	\$15.00
Student Membership	\$10.00

Thank you for supporting WASLA, its events and objectives.

Tamara Wanigasekera



THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA — SRI LANKA (CEYLON) ASSOCIATION INC.

Membership Form

<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership		<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of Membership	
Introduced By:		Proposed by Committee Member:	
Membership Subscription Types:	<input type="checkbox"/> Family \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner—Family \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Pensioner—Single \$10
	<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Student—Single \$10	

A

Member Details	
Title : Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Other:
First Name:	
Last Name:	
Address:	Post Code:
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	

Family Membership Details:	
Spouse/Partner:	Children:

Student Membership Details:	
School or University:	

By signing below I confirm that I wish to become a member of the West Australian—Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association, Inc. and agree to abide by its constitution and by laws.	
Signature:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Committee Use:</u></p> <p>Secretary: Proposed Date: __/__/__</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ratified Date: __/__/__</p> <p>Treasurer: Money Received <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Initial: _____</p>
Date:	
Payments for Subscription: <i>Cash or EFT accepted</i>	
Payee Details: BSB - 036062 Account Number - 518950	
Payment Reference: SUBS Surname Initials	

Western Australia Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association Inc

275, Stirling Street,

ABN: 41 031 087 846

Perth, WA 6000

A/President: Milindha DeMel Tel: 0402 579 927

Secretary: Shereen Gerreyn Tel: 0428 333 923



NOMINATION FOR POSITION ON THE COMMITTEE

I _____ (Please Print) being
a financial member of the Western Australian Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association Inc.
Nominate: _____ (Please Print) for the position of:

_____ on the committee for the year 2021/2022

Signature of Nominator

Signature of Secunder

Name of Nominator (Please Print)

Name of Secunder (Please Print)

I _____ (Please print) being
a financial member of the Western Australian Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association Inc. accept the
position of:
_____ and shall serve on the committee for the
Year 2021/2022 if elected.

Signature of Nominee

Notes:

1. The nominator, seconder and nominee must be financial members of the Western Australia Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association Inc.
2. If more than one nomination is received for any position, election will be held by show of hands, or by secret ballot, if so requested by a majority of financial members present.
3. The position of President will have to be filled by a person who has previously served on the committee for at least one year.
4. Nomination forms by candidates to be returned to the Secretary 07 days prior to the AGM.

WASLA Committee Break-Up Party

Apart from having `done time` for many years myself as an active Committee Member on WASLA's Board, I have also had the good fortune to be able to attend its legendary annual year-ending parties as a guest for even longer than I served as Committee Member! Yup....I have been a real goody `free-loader` and I have enjoyed every one of those `break-ups`. The majority of them have been largely hosted by the resident President himself or generally held in gracious comfort at his/her residences. This year's event was conducted at the super comfy, spacious home of Milindha and Rosanna, and it was true to tradition – second to none! In tune with our hallowed Sri Lankan social customs and hospitality the twenty plus bodies present mingled freely in warm brotherhood – and sisterhood. There could never be a happy party without the life-saving, much fairer sex, Man, You betcha..! I'll never leave the ladies out...we'll be simply LOST!

The pre-party Committee Meeting was concluded in a very accommodating short time and then it was all happy chatter- with delicious mouth-watering finger-food – lubricated by generous glasses of the spirits that cheer - well it does for the males for sure - and then it was heads down – all hands on plates – and we sated ourselves with a sumptuous mixed fare of food...

The night was cold – but a heart-warming wood-fire kept us all as comfy as bugs in rugs throughout the night. The warmth, camaraderie and shared jollity was further bolstered by the lusty singing of old favourites, and brave attempts at some new tunes to the ever-green virtuoso guitar accompaniment provided by Ranjit - `Ole Man River`. Goodness...However can there be a singsong without his presence? Ask anyone who has been present at break-ups as long as I have.!



Congrats..WASLA Committee and Acting President Milindha- may The Force be ever with you.. and Blessings for all your planned agenda of events. It's for sure you will be having the community's support and help throughout the year ahead.

One of the best break-up parties I have attended in my long time with the Association. Francis

On our return journey home after the WASLA get-together and since then, all Myrna & I spoke about was the meticulous effort that Milindha, Rosanna, and the Bramananda family had put in to make us all feel comfortable and cozy...The attention to detail deserved a gold trophy. Ranjit

Max Gerreyn

Current Committee

Back and Middle Rows: Kevin, Shereen, Prakash, Radha, Francis, Sigi, Chris, Milindha
Front Row: Rosanna, Ranjit, Vicki, Anju, Tamara



SRI LANKAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

of Western Australia

"Empowering women to build a stronger community"

Health Forum for Women

(7th August, 9.00 am – 1.00 pm @ Canning Town Hall)

Aligning with its objectives, this free forum was another successful community program conducted by the Sri Lankan Women's Foundation of Western Australia. It provided an opportunity for women to increase their awareness on maintaining a healthy life, and offered a forum for them to discuss individual- and family health issues with a panel of 11 medical experts.



The medical experts who facilitated the forum were: Assistant Professor Kushwin Rajamani: Cardiologist & Cardiac Electro Physiologist, Professor Prasad Kumarasinghe: Consultant Dermatologist, Assistant Professor Ruad Perera: WA TB Control Program, Dr. Arosha Vidyabhushana: Family Physician, Dr. Damayanthi Rathnayaka: Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, Dr. Niroschan Muwanwella: Interventional Gastroenterologist, Dr. Maliththa Muwanwella: Perinatal Psychiatrist, Dr. Mihitha Ariyapperuma: Consultant Oncologist, Professor Priyanthi Kumarasinghe: Consultant Pathologist, Dr. Sujatha Kawyshanker: Consultant Geriatrician, Dr. Kalani Kahapola Arachchige: Consultant Endocrinologist.

It was great to see a large number of attendees of various age groups attending the forum. A delicious and healthy brunch was provided with a focus on environmental sustainability. The forum had 5 sessions in total and the first 4 sessions covered the following topics:

- Family health, health screening, and reproductive health
- Your heart health: Do's and Don'ts
- Women's health for the young and not so young
- An overview of mental illness across life stages and where to access help

At the end of each session, the participants had the opportunity to engage with the presenter and ask questions. The 5th session was the panel discussion where the entire Doctors' panel was involved in discussing and answering questions in either English, Sinhalese, or Tamil.

The session was moderated by Professor Prasad Kumarasinghe, and it was very engaging as the participants had a great opportunity to discuss their health issues with the relevant Specialist Doctors.



We express our sincere gratitude to all the doctors who kindly shared their expertise at the forum, and to all the members and the President of the Sri Lankan Medical Association of WA; Dr. Arosha Vidyabhushana for facilitating and sponsoring the forum. We also acknowledge and extend our sincere thanks to both our honorary Advisors; Professor Priyanthi Kumarasinghe and Mrs. Radha de Mel for their continuous advice, guidance, and support to achieve the objectives of the foundation. Last but not least, our heartfelt thanks to all the beautiful women who attended the forum and to the volunteers who supported us in various ways. The feedback collected at the end proves that the forum was very productive and fully benefitted the participants.

If you missed this opportunity, we warmly welcome you to join us at our next event!

Stay safe, healthy and happy!

SLWFWA Team

.....
This was a truly elegant event staged with great attention to the smallest detail. The décor, handouts, brunch and networking alone were impressive, but the contribution of the panel of doctors was invaluable. Guests and participants were lavish in their praise, and agreed unequivocally that it was a great success. They urged the SLWFWA to hold further events of this nature. I heartily endorse the following comments from a leading member of the Community, lone Cooray:

‘Excellent organising planned to perfection! You ladies did a wonderful job! The speakers were highly accomplished but humble and approachable. The food was great- healthy, tasty, and a good spread with minimum wastage and served with great regard for the environment.’ ED.



SRI LANKAN WOMEN'S FOUNDATION
of Western Australia
"Empowering women to build a stronger community"

Expression of Interest in Receiving Services & Communications

Please complete this form and email it to secretary.slwfw@gmail.com

Your Full Name:	
Residential Address:	
Contact Details:	Phone: Email:
County of Origin:	
I here by agree to receive SLWFWA's services and all forms of communications from today onwards and give my consent to use my images and/or works on SLWFWA's social media platforms and in promotional campaigns.	
Signature:	
Date:	

For Office Use Only

Date Received:

SR No:

21/

Name:

Signature & Date:



Indrani Gunarathna | President

Sri Lankan Women's Foundation of Western Australia
78 Northerly Drive Harrisdale 6112 WA

+61 4 1004 3842 | president.slwfw@gmail.com

VIVIAN AND CHARMAINE BLAZÉ

My parents, Vivian and Charmaine Blazé, were a vibrant, glamorous and gracious couple who enjoyed a charmed life in post-colonial Sri Lanka, but this ended in 1972, when, as a result of dramatic political changes, and despite the fact that my father was at the peak of a very successful planting career, they made the decision to migrate to Australia. Dad and Mum arrived in Perth, together with my three siblings, Hans, Graeme and Paula, in mid 1972.



Vivian and Charmaine, photograph taken in Badulla just prior to leaving Sri Lanka

Dad and Mum had visited Australia previously. Dad had visited Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney as a member of the Ceylon team bound for the 1950 British Empire Games in Auckland, New Zealand. The team travelled by ship, arriving in Fremantle early in January. Dad was met by his uncle Carl Arndt and family, who had all migrated to Perth in 1939. The *West Australian* newspaper of 7 January published an article entitled “ATHLETIC COUSINS RUN INTO EACH OTHER”. The article was about the young Vivian being met at Fremantle by his cousin, Daphne Arndt, and states “he’s on his way to the Empire Games and she’s an athlete herself, and last year won the West Australia entrant for the Miss Australia contest”.

Dad visited Australia again in 1959. This time he was on “furlough” and was accompanied by Mum. They spent the majority of their three month holiday in Melbourne, staying with Dad’s uncle, Benjamin Blazé, who had migrated to Melbourne in the early 1950s with his family and was the founder of the first “Ceylon Association” in Australia. My parents’ previous experience of travel to Australia had been the exciting adventures of two young people on the crest of a wave, and so they faced the prospect of starting a new life here many years later with great optimism and hope, and with no trepidation of what might lie ahead.

I know that their early days in Perth were difficult but they still managed to maintain an active social life, the heart of which was WASLA. There my parents met up with childhood friends, formed new friendships with people from “the old country”, welcomed new migrants from Sri Lanka and introduced their Australian friends to Sri Lankan culture and hospitality. There were afternoon teas, sing-alongs, lunches, food fairs, cricket matches, card nights, Christmas parties and trips “down south”. Not least of all, there was wonderful food, with all the ladies discretely trying to outdo each other with their delicious curries – although Dad always insisted Francis Wilathgamuwa’s Beef Curry was “the best”.

There were wonderful dances with renowned crooner Malcolm de Kauwe and his band providing the music, and Malcolm always singing Dad's request, "My Way", at the end of the evening. In the early days of WASLA, before such things were considered "inappropriate", there were also belly dancers and "beauty parades" to keep the revellers entertained when the band took a break. Despite the apparent light-heartedness of these occasions, a great deal of hard work and effort was expended by the WASLA stalwarts, with much of the catering and cleaning up often being done by the members themselves and, in the early days of WASLA, it was not unusual to see dinner jacket, evening gown and brocade sari clad committee members, disposing of the rubbish at the end of a dance.

Dad and Mum had always been very actively involved in club life during their planting days in Sri Lanka, with Dad serving as President of the Uva Club just prior to migrating. I often joked that they tried to replicate those halcyon times with their involvement in WASLA. Certainly, their involvement in and commitment to WASLA was central to their lives here. Dad took great pride in serving as President of WASLA and representing the association in the wider community, and Mum involved herself in the organisation of WASLA events with enthusiasm and energy. My parents' "WASLA friends" are too numerous to name but there is no doubt in my mind that Dad and Mum were regarded with respect and affection within the WASLA community. Their modest home in Perth was their castle and to them, there was no greater pleasure than to welcome and entertain friends with their trademark hospitality, generosity and warm heartedness.

My parents died within ten months of each other in 2006. They were active supporters of WASLA right to the end of their lives. The support shown to our family by the Sri Lankan community during that sad time bore testament to my parents' world beyond themselves. Though the passing of these two "larger than life" characters was the end of an era for our family, I am, today, honoured to write of their contribution to the Sri Lankan community in Perth which began almost fifty years ago.



Vivian and Charmaine with their children, Christmas 1991.

(L to R: Hans, Charmaine, Graeme, Paula, Vicki, Vivian)

Vicki Vanden Driesen

MERLE CONDERLAG 2.9.1914 ~ 26.5.2008

Merle was known for her creative and skilled millinery, exquisite bridal headdresses, artistic bouquets, handmade flowers and love of all people.

In the early fifties, she accompanied her intrepid husband **Eustace Conderlag** to the Eastern Province hydro projects at Gal Oya and Minneriya. There, with the American ladies' encouragement she finished a Louise Miller School of Millinery USA Correspondence Diploma. When they returned to Colombo, Merle yearned to learn more and they went on a year's "working holiday" to the UK in 1956.

She further polished her skills in Millinery at Barratt Technical College, designed and made hats at a wholesale factory and helped design a West End milliner's Spring Collection. She gained an Eva Richter School of Millinery Diploma in London and attended weekend workshops in Paris.

Merle's Hat Shows and Fashion Shows in Colombo were well attended, usually held at GFH where she cajoled nieces and many young girls to be her models. These functions were in aid of charity and held on her wedding anniversary or birthday.



Merle on her 80th birthday



Family & friends at Merle's Bridal and Fashion Show Galle Face Hotel 3.2.64

When they migrated to Perth in 1967, she had a Millinery Shop on Stirling Highway near Bay View Terrace. After a year or so, she closed it and made her "work room" on the third floor of a modest building in William Street and eventually at her home in Claremont.

Eustace would patiently support all she did, chauffeuring, carrying, fetching and quietly helping her to achieve her philanthropic dreams to help the YWCA, Red Cross, DBU's St Nikolaas' Home and others.



Merle & Rosie 1.3.69.



Alongside these pursuits, she was a fabulous aunt, a dedicated church goer, an inaugural WACA (now WASLA) member, and a keen committee member who with her dear friend Olga Ramasamy organised many well attended social events. When the BWL began in 1989, Merle enthusiastically took part in their fundraising efforts. Until aged 90 years she attended daytime functions in a maxi taxi with her sister Verna Andree and her walker!!

Rosie Zuiderduyn

Obituary

Dear Members of WASLA, Members of the Sri Lankan Community in Perth and friends and colleagues:

It is with great sadness that the news of the death of a former member **WALTER (WALLY) MAY** has been advised to us by his son David May.

Wally passed away after a brief illness on 16th August 2021 at the age of 92. Anne, his dear late wife of 62 years, passed away on August 15th 2018.

Wally attended school in Sri Lanka- notably Richmond College (Galle) and St. Thomas's College (Colombo), and pursued his studies at the University of Ceylon. He also enjoyed success in cricket and athletics. He later taught at Richmond College.

Wally met Anne in Diyathalawa whilst in the Royal Ceylon Air Force. They were married in Badulla in 1956 and migrated to Australia (Perth) in 1962 with their young family.

Wally's loyalty and dedication to the Australian Labor Party was widely known and equally recognised and decorated by the Party.

Wally leaves behind a son and a daughter after a long and loving family relationship. Please pray that God gives the grieving family strength and courage to bear their loss.

Ranjit Ratnayake



Vale Leela de Mel



Our sector has been blessed with many giants and warriors but none as endearing as Leela de Mel- a woman whose personality, belief in human rights and perseverance in achieving it for vulnerable sections of our community touched our hearts and our lives in so many ways.

We all justifiably praise the visionary Dr Geoff Gallop for his admirable multiculturalism scaffolding (comprising the Multiculturalism Charter, the Anti-Racism Strategy, the Substantive Equality and the Language Service policies). Many notable people contributed to it, but it was left to Leela to implement it within a public sector, and the fact that these mechanisms still remain in place is testament to the success she had.

In Dr Gallop's own words, "When it came to the range of policies related to multiculturalism and anti-racism, I was fortunate to have Leela de Mel as Executive Director of the Office of Multicultural Interests. She fully understood what it was the government intended, was resolute in her support for the policies when the inevitable challenges emerged and through all of this acted in a dignified and respectful way." So, Leela was very much an unsung hero and by far the quietest achiever I have ever known.

ECCWA honoured her by presenting her the Multiculturalism Award, an honour that has been extended to just four other people since 1980. She was the first public servant to receive this honour. Saluting Leela for her for tireless work and commitment to promoting multiculturalism in a socially equitable and inclusive society, Father of Multiculturalism Professor Laki Jayasuriya reiterated: "Leela was a fearless public servant willing to confront all stakeholders including her political masters in defending the values and principles of multicultural citizenship.It has been a great pleasure and privilege for me to have been associated with Leela in promoting the development of Australia as a multicultural society."

Leela's substantial contribution to the multicultural sector, her love of family, her loyal and deep friendships, and her unconditional faith made her truly unique. If the impact of her passing on people at Office of Multicultural Interests, Ethnic Communities Council, Multicultural Services Centre, and past and present Ministers and senior bureaucrats is anything to go by, I can only imagine what Michael, Janek and other family members must be experiencing. Theirs is an irretrievable loss. We thank them immensely for sharing Leela with us for our lives are so much richer because of it.

Leela left us a legacy that has not been adequately acknowledged let alone celebrated by our sector. However, as Anne Aly so eloquently put it, "Among the public sector in WA and within multicultural communities her bravery, her vision and her tenacity will be fondly remembered."

Leela embodies the message in the song, *Light a Candle* by Daniel O'Donnell: "We can unite the world from one tiny spark; and it is better to light a candle than curse in the dark".

Vale Dr. Leela De Mel.

(Edited from the eulogy by Ramdas Sankaran, CEO, Multicultural Services Centre WA)

Mother's Day High Tea



What do you get when you combine a beautiful rustic garden filled with the syncopated rhythms of a live jazz trio whilst enjoying a glass of fine champagne and a smorgasbord of beautifully presented Sri Lankan short eats?



Held on Mother's Day at the picturesque gardens of Stomp Coffee Café in North Perth, WASLA presented our first ever Mother's Day High Tea to pay homage to our mums, grandmothers, aunts and wives.



Blessed with perfect weather and being sold out 2 weeks prior, the afternoon proved to be a great success with guests enjoying the ambience and convivial atmosphere.

The afternoon had special significance as it brought together ladies from different ethnicities but with a common love of family, togetherness and friendship.

WASLA is proud to have facilitated this Mother's Day High Tea and given the positive feedback from our members and guests, will host this event annually.



As always, with events such as this, a lot of "behind the scenes" activity takes place with weeks of planning to ensure a good outcome. So, to my organising committee a heartfelt Thank you... or as we would say in my mother tongue *Bohoma Istuti* and *Nandri*.



WASLA acknowledges the staff and owners of Stomp Coffee for giving us access to their beautiful venue and for being so accommodating and obliging on the day. To our Members and Guests who attended this event, thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at our next social function.



A special thank you also, to our generous donors (listed below) without whom, an event such as this would be impossible to present.

- *Elmstock Tea*
- *Tam from the Creative Corporate*
- *Mario 'Gummi' Mendis*
- *Jennifer Jansze*
- *Lynette Lourensze*
- *Prakash & Dhulani Muthu Krishna*
- *Chris from CK Black Catering*
- *Anne Jansen*
- *Shanali Alles*



Anju Sivarajah

Jazz n' Soul at Steve's



The event billed as a “must attend” did not fail to deliver and was sold out days in advance.

On a magnificent August evening, as guests walked into the candlelit interior of the iconic *Steve's* they were greeted to the fabulous sounds of Shahira and her jazz quartet.

The tempo and mood inside was cool and sophisticated as members and their guests mingled in the convivial atmosphere created by the elegant and chic setting brought to life by the warm glow of over two hundred candles.

Cocktails and Champagne were the order of the day to accompany the delightful antipasti on the grazing table whilst the hot food stations were predictably popular.

When the cool Jazz sounds ended, our music maestro Prakash Muthu-Krishna treated guests to some of great music sessions, filling the dance floor to capacity.

The overwhelming comment from members and guests alike was, *“This is awesome. We don't want to leave!”*

As the evening drew to a close, guests were treated to a variety of gourmet pizzas, very generously provided by Michael Anghie and so reminiscent of the traditional after-party snacks one would enjoy after a night out in Colombo.



The organising committee send their heartfelt thanks to:

- *Glenn and the team at Steve's for their wonderful service and attention to detail*
- *Shahira and her Jazz Quartet for their smooth blend of Jazz and Soul*
- *Michael Anghie for his amazing generosity*
- *The spouses of the organising committee for their awesome contribution*



The Sumptuous Antipasti Grazing Table



Ken & Sigrid Thomas



(L-R) Lorraine Kelly, Preetie Boler, Suzanne & Stanley de Zoysa



Rick Arden & Rudy Mortier



Dammica & Ruklani Wickremaratne

“What a magnificent night it was! Surely, Sri Lankans know how to party in a classy manner! A very well organised event beginning with the choice of venue and excellent arrangements made it a memorable experience. The whole atmosphere was of a festive nature with guests freely moving between outdoors and indoors.

The jazz performance was so incredibly soothing and combined with some magnificent nibbles and Spanish Paella and Steve’s wonderful collection of wines, it set the mood and stage for some really enjoyable dancing in the last phase of the night. We could have gone on and on....Thank you to the SL Association. We look forward to another one soon”

Varun Khanna



Dr Sunil Kauchek & Dr Sharad Shetty

“What an evening! full of fun frolic and laughter. The sombre state of the world and all the lows of the past 18 months seemed to vanish into thin air with the WASLA organized jazz evening at Steve’s. ...People attended in large numbers but then that added to the cosy atmosphere. For those of us who are food lovers, the paella and curry station tantalised the taste buds ...and then the arrival of more food in the form of the pizzas. {When the Jazz was over} ...the dance floor was full of feet- tapping and hip and shoulder jerks with the coming-on of the fabulous recorded music. There were no moves or shakes barred.

Extremely grateful to the organisers of the event, who lifted our spirits and brought the rhythm and beat back to our lives”

Vibha Chawla



At the Paella Station: Rona and Sunita



(L-R) Teresa, Rachel & Emilia

Photos on Page 19: Shahirah and her Jazz Quartet
Steve’s Head Chef Naomi Bulner with her famous Paella

Kevin Wright

What a great time we had! We look forward to many more events of this nature and thank everyone who made this possible and also graced the occasion. Special thanks to Kevin, Prakash, Jackie and Dhulani for having taken the lead in bringing this to fruition. My neighbours said it was one of the best evenings they’d had, and amazing value for money! ED.

- *How does a jazz musician end up with 1 million dollars? By starting with 2 million dollars.*
- *What’s the difference between a jazz musician and an extra large pizza? The pizza can feed a family of four.*



Fathers' Day Tribute



There in every memory
See his love and care
Strength and hands to count on
Freely he does share
Provider, toil so faithfully
To make our dreams come true
Give strong and tender discipline
Though it is hard to do
A Father is God's chosen one
To lead the family
And point it to His will for life
Of love and harmony...

Sue Skeen



God will provide!

A young woman brings home her fiancé to meet her parents. After dinner, the father invites the fiancé to his study for a drink and tête-à-tête.

"So what do you do?" the father asks the young man. "I am a scholar of the Good Book," he replies.

"Hmmm," the father says. "Admirable, but what are your plans for the future? What will you do to provide for my daughter to live in the style and comfort she's accustomed to?"

"I will study," the young man replies, "and God will provide for us."

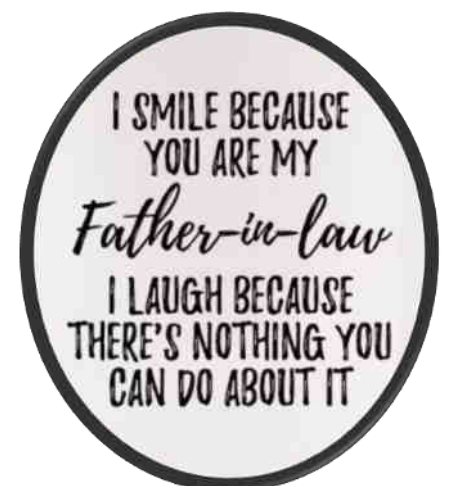
"And children?" asks the father. "How will you support children?"

"Don't worry, sir, God will provide," replies the fiancé.

The conversation proceeds like this, and each time the father questions, the young idealist insists that God will provide.

Later, the mother asks, "How did it go, Honey?"

The father answers, "He has no job and no plans, **but the good news is he thinks I'm God.**"



Countless Joys?

Four expectant fathers were in a Minneapolis hospital waiting room, while their wives were in labour. The nurse tells the first man, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins!"

"What a coincidence! I work for the Minnesota Twins baseball team!"

The nurse returns and tells the second man, "You are the father of triplets!"

"Wow, what a coincidence! I work for 3M Corporation!"

The nurse then tells the third man that his wife has given birth to quadruplets.

"Another coincidence! I work at the Four Seasons Hotel!"

At this point, the fourth guy faints. When he comes to, the others ask what's wrong. ***"What's wrong?! I work for Seven-Up!"***



It's a wise child.....?



Whenever she was asked her name, a little girl told people, I'm Mr. Anderson's daughter. Her mother told her this was wrong. Instead, she must say, "I'm Sarah Anderson."

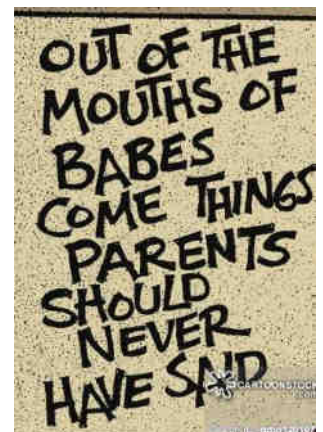
At the grocery store she was approached by a friend of her fathers. He asked, "Aren't you Mr. Anderson's daughter?"

Sarah replied, "I thought I was, but my mother says I'm not."

**A Sunday School teacher of pre-schoolers told her students that she wanted each of them to have learned one fact about Jesus by the next Sunday. The following week she asked each child in turn what he or she had learned.*

Susie said, "He was born in a manger." Bobby said, "He threw the money changers out of the temple." Little Johnny said, "He has a red pickup truck but he doesn't know how to drive it."

Curious, the teacher asked, "And where did you learn that, Johnny?" "From my Daddy," said Johnny. "Yesterday we were driving down the highway, and this red pickup truck pulled out in front of us and Daddy yelled at him, 'Jesus Christ! Why don't you learn how to drive?'"



Strength of a Mountain



God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,

The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,

The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,

Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad





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presents

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Featuring decibel

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BYO Drinks.*

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Contact: Rosanna:0412 180 824 Prakash:0407 088 235

Shereen:0428 333 923 Vicki:0478 896 042

Sigrid:0411 722 039



Our new members and those who renewed lapsed memberships



Dwight & Patti Van Gramberg	Arijana Jumar
Rajiv Wickremaratne	Rajiv Jayawardena
Johann Barr Kumarakulasinghe	Devinda Jayasainghe
Denham Barr Kumarakulasinghe	Rajiv Jayawardena & Rowena Wijesooriya
Vince & Anne Marie Tranchita	Paul & Juliana Doss
Manjula Muthu-Krishna & Stephen Broadbent	Chaminda & Minoli Dias
Mano Suppiah & Ruby Nathan	Roland & Wilma Martine
Hantley & Sandra Byrde	Harry & Hilda Tansley
Charles & Connie Tranchita	Cheryl & Rudy Mortier
Jaedeesh Bejawn	Sampath & Kinkini de Zoysa
Suresh & Katie Gwynne Sivacolundhu	Ramesh & Renata Sivacolundhu
Mercia & Keith Ramm	Rani de Alwis & Floyd Valberg
Dulcie & Solomon Jacob	Jacqui & Gerard O'Meara



<p>24 March</p>		<p>An Evening of Fashion <i>SOLD OUT EVENT</i></p>
<p>9 May</p>	<p>Mother's Day High Tea <i>SOLD OUT EVENT</i></p> 	
<p>21 August</p>	<p>An Evening of Jazz <i>SOLD OUT EVENT</i></p>	
<p>29 August</p>	<p>Annual General Meeting</p>	
<p>2nd October</p>	 <p>Dance (Postponed from July)</p>	
<p>November</p>	<p>Down Memory Lane Senior's Lunch</p> 	
<p>December</p>	 <p>Children's Party</p>	

We look forward to seeing you at our future events! ED



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For further information please contact:

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