

NEWSLETTER

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

EDITORIAL

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483 4640 (W)

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410 2233 (W)

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.....

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Kevin Wright 367 1828 (H)
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It will soon be Christmas again - and here in Perth city lights have already been switched on. You look around and the card shops and card counters in supermarkets boast of queues.. It is the time when we all start remembering our friends & relatives both far & near.

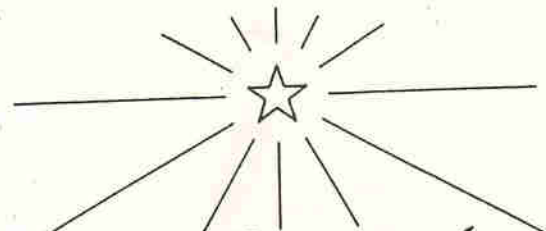
More significantly it is the time when Christians celebrate the coming of Christ. This is the time when Christ came to be with us - the key to our happiness. It should also be the time when we are profoundly thoughtful of those who are really lonely and depressed - those with no one to care. Unfortunately we live in a "Consumer Society" which has hammered a wedge between our conscience and the values of sharing & giving. We are caught up in a deluge of "giving" - but do we give because we **want to give or because we have to?** This is the test of Conscience.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

X'Mas Pantomime - Parents who wish their children to take part in the Pantomime please contact Rosemary A/H on 271 9313

TALENT CONCERT MARCH 1993

This event is cancelled due to lack of time for organisation.



*May the Peace and Joy of
Christmas be with you
through all the Year*

Note

The Editor will be away on holiday - back in February. The next edition is in the capable hands of a former Editor Osmund Perera & Asst. Editor Shan Ramasamy. Shan's contact number is already on the Committee list and Osmund can be contacted on 458 8480 (A/H). Any material for publication can be sent to the Association address for the attention of the Editor.

President's Report

DEAR FRIENDS

This being the last Newsletter for 1992 there is many a "THANK YOU" I have to offer to the Sub-Committees that put together two excellent functions since the Anniversary Ball.

Aubrey, Alex, Joel, Oenone, Mel and others from WASLA and Olga, Milroy and the band of very eager volunteers from AAA who gave us a very enjoyable TELETHON DANCE. A special 'thank you' to the prize donors as well. It was a very encouraging 'first' for us, though our Association could have done with a little more exposure in the publicity.

As for THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY FAMILY FUN DAY credit goes to Raj, Alex, Rosemarie, Oenone and all others of our Committee, the captains of the netball teams, the Bingo callers, the singers and everyone who came to make the day so enjoyable. Though we did not join all the sports, there was one we all enjoyed; which was the excellent lunch dished out by Guanmini Mendis.

The YOUTH CAMP COMMITTEE (Chris/Shan/Michael) who are working their hearts out, to give our youth and us a FIRST, which I am sure will be a resounding success, though the year end examinations have kept some of our youngsters away.

We have kept the price for participation in events low this year of our FOUNDATION. So do not miss the coming events - the Christmas Party, the Joint December Thirty-first FAMILY GET-TOGETHER and THE NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE. Come enjoy each others company and hospitality.

As for our Club Premises, we have been asked to request for a greater Commonwealth Grant. This we have done and have started lobbying through three Federal MPs. Rohan will elaborate on this further.

A special THANK YOU to Shereen Gerreyn who handled the arduous task of the SECRETARY very well. The Committee accepted her resignation due to ill health with regret. I wish her speedy recovery.

On a more personal note let me thank every one of you for the immense concern and support you gave Myrna and myself during the anxious days of Ravi's hospitalisation.

Finally, now in view of the festive season and the new year, let me wish you and your families who celebrate Christmas, "A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS", and to every one of all denominations "A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 1993".

I believe there are many MEMBERS of the Association who will be holidaying abroad during this Christmas Season. The Committee and I wish them all 'Bon voyage, enjoy your holiday'.

Compliments of the Season

Ranjit Ratnayake

PRESIDENT



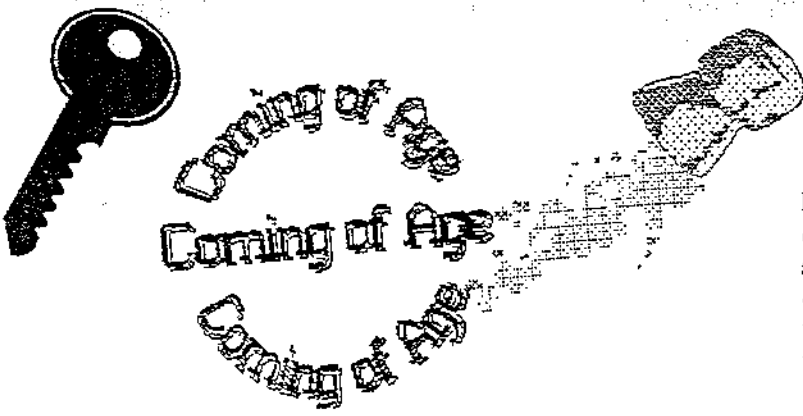
We are quietly settling down at 133 Lord Street - although it will take a long time to really make it look as good as next door. The House Committee is making plans for painting & refurbishing. What we still desperately need is a gas stove - so if you did not see our appeal in the last newsletter - here it is again. Please help. We had the last Committee meeting with dinner just to try out the facilities & Chelly even made Dosai on a make shift stove.

Unfortunately Sherine has left us - we will miss her cheery smile. She has just come home after surgery and we wish her all the very best.

The Committee is planning to celebrate Independence Day again on Feb. 4, so look out for the details in the next newsletter; also we plan to have a river cruise early next year - details to follow.

Never a Christmas morning, never the old year ends
but someone thinks of someone, old days, old times, old friends.

The Committee sends you warm wishes for everything it takes to make your Christmas & New Year perfect.



Part 4 - Continued from Sept/Oct. issue

The next five year period is when the Association reached its peak. A Youth Group was formed and their enthusiasm & commitment was infectious!! Closely following on the cultural awareness created with the Indian Ocean Arts Festival we formed our own little Dance troupe. They performed at country venues such as New Norcia & Bunbury and at several large gatherings & festivals both North & South of the River. The performances at The Cathedral, St. George's Terrace were beamed live throughout Australia, and they even performed at the Rhine Donau Club! They also took part in cultural events organised by schools and went live on Channel 7 for Telethon with the Harvest Dance. Ofcourse our enthusiasm to participate in the Shell Folkloric Festival gave us the challenge - We wanted our name in lights at the Concert Hall - and we did.

When Raj was President in 82/83 we produced the first SRI LANKAN TALENT IN CONCERT. It was a fabulous show - and the collage on the next page will bring back memories. Unfortunately it is out of my own archival collection and therefore not comprehensive. The Youth group gave the backing with the sound/light/stage management and it certainly was a milestone in the history of the Association.

You will see here the pictures of our "Hodi Helei Heleia" team - do you know where we had our practices - in Fleur Perera's bedroom or backyard!!!

I will never forget the first time the Association celebrated Independence

Day - it was a nightmare. We had catered for 300 and in true Sri Lankan style we had to feed nearly 500. You can imagine the chaos - **not forgetting the brickbats.** But we survived to tell the tale.

A memorable Sinhala/Tamil New Year we celebrated at the Murdoch University Hall was a great success. We went from the humble Raban Pada to the exotic Bharatyam - and a parade of costumes from Sri Lanka from the Magul Kapuwa to the beautiful Kandyan bride!! - Oh what a feast of culture & colour.

We formed our own Sri Lankan Net ball Team - which, would you believe it - won the Southern Division Title.

Our very own literary pundit has captured some of the above in verse...

We're come of age, we're twenty one
We've had our days of toil and fun;
And I shall call back mem'ry's screen
Of scenes from what our life has been;
The days there were when we spent hours
Rehearsing hard in sun and showers;
Choreographing fishing scenes -
In folklore dance for KLeys-Arenes!
Architects, Doctors, Accountants, all
Pulled in nets in the Concert Hall
While demure maids with smiling lips
Bore "Vatti's broad and wiggled hips;
The pooja girls, all fresh and young
From the junior generation sprung
Delighted all with charm and grace
And set some hearts to thrill apace.
With peace, to soothe the savage beast
At Christmas came, with ringing zest,
Melodies Hawaiian sweet -
Tropical dreams, a tuneful treat,
As dancing girls in grass skirts spare
Revolved around men with torsos bare;
The green and blue of sea spun waves
Brought forth "oohs" and "ahs" in raves;
And then to "Indian love call" strains
Lissom maids twirled flowery chains.
Food-Fairs, fashion, fancy dress
We've done it all - sometimes a mess!
But that's the way it has to be
When we are one big family!

Fleur Perera.

I can't really forget when Kevin Melder hired the committee instead of outside labour and worked us like slaves to swell the coffers of the Association - only to be cross examined by the Auditor about "earning income and having to pay tax". So is it a great wonder that after all the blood, sweat & tears the money in the KITTY is as precious as gold !!



MOIRA FERNANDO
putting the finishing touches
to welcome the Prime Minister
of Sri Lanka



BREMINI GANESON
in a Bharatanatyam pose



ELDERS & PARTNER
in Pink Panther.



THE RAMASAMY SISTERS
in "Hello Dolly"



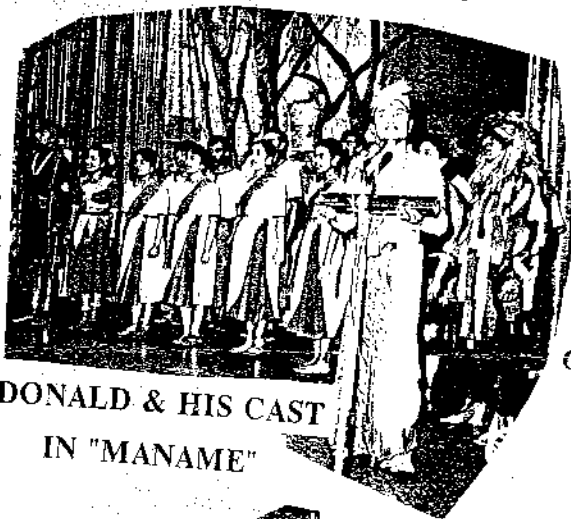
THE SRI LANKAN CULTURAL DANCE TROUPE
putting the finishing touches



The Troupe in action.



THE LITTLIES
in their act



DONALD & HIS CAST
IN "MANAME"



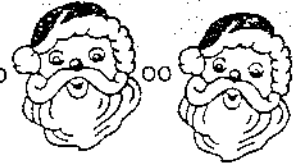
Osmund, Ranjit, Lakshmi & Vino
trying to sell the wares



HAZEL ELDERS
putting in the winning shot



THE HODI HELEI TEAM
the beauties in front & the thugs behind!!



A Christmas Miscellany

- * Many readers will have fond memories of Carols by Candlelight at Police Park in Havelock Town. But did you know that this popular event - for long almost an essential part of the Christmas scene in Sri Lanka - was introduced by the well known, former Deputy Inspector General of Police, C.C. (Jungle) Dissanayake ? A.E.N. (Teddy) Stephenson, retired Superintendent of Police, Colombo, recalls that 'Jungle' started the Carols soon after his return to the island from a visit to Australia. So, it may well be that he did get his inspiration from Down Under.
- * Feasting and festivals seem to go together, and it would be almost impossible for us to think of Christmas without the traditional Christmas meal and the seasonal fare. The people in Puritan Britain were not so fortunate. In 1644 Parliament had decreed that Christmas Day was to be a fast day and not a feast. Anybody caught enjoying Christmas was prosecuted, there were no Church services on Christmas Day and shops had to be kept open. Thankfully, such austere measures did not last long. With the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Christmas feasting and gaiety were allowed to return.
- * In some parts of Russia the main Christmas meal includes twelve meatless dishes. Tradition has it that they are in honour of the twelve apostles, and are eaten in memory of the dead.
- * The twelve apostles also feature in the Christmas celebrations of the Poles. In Poland desserts served at the Christmas meal usually include a fruit compote - sometimes made with twelve fruits in their memory. In Poland an old superstition holds that it is unlucky to have an odd number seated to the Christmas meal as that would indicate the death of one of those present in the year that follows. An extra place is also laid at table in case Mary and Jesus come knocking at the door seeking shelter and food for the night.
- * The French celebration of Christmas centres, to a large extent, around midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. This Mass is followed by the traditional meal, the *reveillon*. The fare varies from area to area - in some parts of the country, roast goose is usually the main course; in others oysters are very popular.
- * And, as we prepare for our own Christmas meal let us spare a thought for those early Australian settlers. They had neither turkey nor sliced ham but found equally acceptable roast mutton or stuffed lamb.

OP



From: Rohan Bandarage
Convenor - Property & Premises Sub-Committee

The Bassendean Premises Project faced a major setback in the last month. The Council having deliberated on the issue, resolved we should seek a greater degree of funding from the Federal Government, thereby reducing the Shire's financial commitment to the Project. The essence of the Council's position is reflected in the following extract of their letter to the Association.

"The proposal was well received by Council and although not adopted resolved that you be advised that further consideration of the matter will be made by council should your Association be successful in obtaining further funding from the Federal Government."

(Copies of the letter are available to members on request)

We feel the main reason for the change of heart by the Council may have been the Shelving of a proposed Senior's Day Care Facility, which was intended to be housed in our new Premises. With no full time day use of the Centre by the Shire, the Council was seemingly not prepared to support the venture at the proposed level. There was also speculation that concerns expressed by the local residents for this development may too have had an adverse effect.

The Sub-Committee has now made amendments to its Commonwealth grant application. The proposed \$ 65,000 self supporting loan from the Council has now been sought as a Federal grant. We expect to receive support for the grant application from three parliamentarians whom we have approached.

The committee will look into other options should the grant not be forthcoming.

THE PENGUIN NEW WRITING IN SRI LANKAedited by D.C.R.A. Goonetilleke

..... is an anthology of the finest verse and prose of contemporary Sri Lanka. It is divided into three sections - English, Sinhalese & Tamil - each of the pieces in this collection pitches the reader into aspects of daily life in Sri Lanka. For instance, in Godfrey Gunatillake's "The Garden", Prema and Tissa are confounded when the proverbial serpent enters a seemingly contented marriage; in Punyakante Wijenaik's "The Third Woman" we are overwhelmed by the tragic melancholia of the elderly, arrack-swigging villager Diyonis Baas and in James Goonewardene's "The Doughty Men of Purantota" Andoris Rala despairs when the villagers turn ruthless in their battle against outsiders. **Other stories portray the clashes between cultures, languages and castes.**

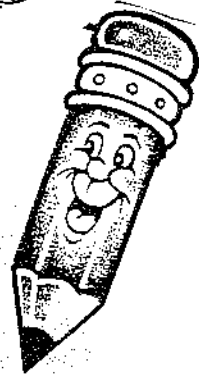
The stories and poems in New Writing in Sri Lanka give the reader a representative and enjoyable selection of the island's extraordinary creative talent.

Professor Goonetilleke has also edited *Modern Sri Lankan Poetry: An Anthology; Modern Sri Lankan Stories: An Anthology & Navasilu*

He has been recently elected President of the Association for the Study of Commonwealth Literature and Language. The next conference of this organisation will be held in 1993 in Sri Lanka.

Please order the books from: - Eisha Jayewardena - Department of English
University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya SRI LANKA.

Cost Rs. 75.00



CHILDREN'S X'MAS PARTY

ON

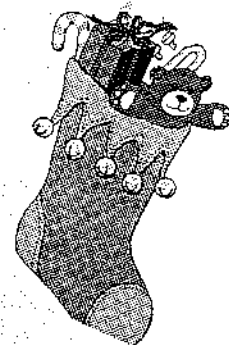
SUNDAY - DECEMBER 13TH

AT

NOLLAMARA TENNIS CLUB

KINDRA WAY - NOLLAMARA

FROM 5 P.M.



A CHILDREN'S PANTOMIME OF THE NATIVITY WILL BE ENACTED BY THE CHILDREN OF THE COMMUNITY AND PRESENTED BY MICHELLE RANASINGHE

followed by



CAROL SINGING AND OLD TIMERS' SONGS

PLEASE BRING A PLATE
(soft drinks on the house-bar facilities available)

A token charge of \$2.00 per member
\$3.00 per non-member
\$1.00 per member child) to cover cost of chicken
\$1.50 per non-member child) & chips dinner.

(CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A CHICKEN DINNER)

PARENTS PLEASE NOTE THE GIFT YOU BUY FOR SANTA TO GIVE YOUR CHILD SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$15.00 IN VALUE.

ALL BOOKINGS TO BE DONE WITH OENONE (474 1235) OR ROSEMARY (271 9313) AFTER 6 PM. BEFORE 7TH DECEMBER 1992.

(WE URGE MEMBERS TO OBSERVE THE CLOSING DATE FOR BOOKINGS TO ENABLE THE COMMITTEE TO FACILITATE ARRANGEMENTS AND PROVIDE YOU WITH THE ENTERTAINMENT YOU DESERVE.)



The WA - SRI LANKA (CEYLON) ASSOCIATION INC. :

Invites you to join the traditional Fun, Enjoyment and revelry of the annual

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

AT THE ORIANA ROOM
CLAREMONT SHOWGROUNDS
GRAYLANDS ROAD ENTRANCE

* **MUSIC :**



"CATCH US IF YOU CAN" with Hanna and Lynton
(the popular Burswood Duo)

* **DINNER:** EUROPEAN & SRI LANKAN CUISINE.

* **DRINKS :** STRICTLY BAR FACILITIES

* **TICKETS:** Members \$25, Non-members \$30.

* **IMPORTANT :**

Tickets are strictly limited to 200 for your comfort. Don't miss this popular and happy event which is a steal at the price.

Book and buy tickets early to avoid disappointment.

* **COMPETITIONS, PRIZES SURPRISES** and our usual Jumbo Raffle .





Nostalgia

(During Christmas, I believe, you can get the fumes of arrack in every habitat - be it the humble hut or the Colombo 7 mansion)

Ofcourse - you know what we miss here down under. The sound of the crackers - the competition to be the loudest in the neighbourhood. At midnight on the 24th everyone goes beserk with the noise. The fainthearted and sensitive plus their demoralised pet cats, dogs and even cattle must surely dread this Yuletide bedlam!!!

Christmas always brings with it memories -- In Sri Lanka, although we have a climate as tropical as we can find - the Christmas Season does not lack in spirit. We know it is a predominantly Buddhist country but somehow, the excitement and goodwill is shared by the great majority.

Who cares if there is no snow.....

And if the children want the effect of snow for their little pantomines, or if you want it for your decor - there is plenty of kapok cotton around!!!

A Christmas in Sri Lanka is not complete without the most essential ingredient - music. From the beginning of December the audio cassette shops come alive with Christmas carols - both the English & Sinhala versions - and ofcourse the more frenzied bailas thrown in-between. They do play even White Christmas and leave it to our imagination!

Drink ofcourse makes a Christmas all the warmer. Being in the "best of spirits" means also that "the best of spirits" is in you !!! Little old ladies revel in Milk wine - (oh how I miss it) - the more affluent go for the scotch - but if you check the liquor shops for sales figures the good old arrack tops them all.

It is now Christmas morning - the time for opening presents. Even the domestics in the household do not miss out on the Christmas cheer.

Then on to the Lunch - the whole family gathers - often with non-Christian friends being invited. The lunch is a visual gastronomic extravaganza. Twin mountains of rice - one the traditional white and the other tinted yellow and tempered sprinkled with sultanas, cadjunuts and the flimsiest of fried onions.

Curried chicken, pork pol kiri badun (this means cooked in coconut milk) - chunks of fresh fried fish - cadju curry - curried fish- vegetables and the inevitable dhal (lentils) and ofcourse every hostess's delight the hot-sweet seeni sambol.

Do I hear you gasping - Have I sharpened your palates or started premature activation of the salivary glands?

At the end of such a meal one can hardly stretch out for the sweet - but the hostess insists you must have the traditional wattalapan.

Oh what a feast - and what a memoryallI need now is my bed.

Have your Say

Please Note:

The Editor takes no responsibility for opinions expressed in this column or anywhere else in this newsletter.

with Bouquets & Brickbats

The Editor
W.A. Sri Lanka (Ceylon Ass. Inc.)
P.O. Box 7212
Perth 6850

Dear Madam

The news that a submission has been made to the Town of Bassendean regarding the proposed building for the Association, will no doubt be welcome by members. This will mean that in the near future we will have a permanent meeting place, instead of having to rent premises - thereby saving a considerable amount on hall hire.

I wish to congratulate the President and members of the sub-committee for their hard work, without which this matter would not have come to fruition.

Hats off to all of them

Yours faithfully,

Sgd/ Len Fretz J.P.

HERE'S A BOUQUET TO THE MODERN GRANDMA

The old rocking chair is empty
For Grandma no longer is in it
She's off in her car to visit or shop
And buzzes around every minute

No-one can shove Grandma back on the shelf
She is versatile, forceful, dynamic
That's not a pie in the oven, my dear
Her baking today is ceramic.

You won't see her trundle off early to bed
From her place in a warm chimney nook
Her typewriter clickety-clacks through the night
For Grandma is writing a book.

Grandma never takes a hesitant step
To slow down her steady advancing
She won't tend the babies for you any more
For Grandma has gone - dancing.

She's not content with the crumbs of old thoughts
With meagre second-hand knowledge
So don't bring your mending to Grandma to do
For Grandma has gone back to college

(Ack. Perth Legacy Bulletin Nov. 1989)

(Thank you Oenone for the contribution)

Handing out a Bouquet

From Aubrey....

A big bouquet to Cecil Bartholomeusz.
Cess very kindly got his compressor and spray gun out to spray paint all the trees used in the decor at the Telethon Dance.

Scrubbing the paint off the brick paving after - was a lot lot harder. We hope he was allowed back in the house!!!

An extra big bouquet to our committee member Alex Raymond " Mr. Fix it" who unstintingly obliged whenever there was a job to be done. like sorting out the electrical wiring to the fairy lights and coming to the assistance of the Caterers whose 15 amp plug to the Bain Marie did not match the standard socket!!!!

Ed. It is wonderful to find that someone actually puts pen to paper to write something nice about others... Good on you both - you are a special.

Brickbats come to me through the grapevine - It is a pity they do not have the courage to come out and say it aloud for the world to hear.

Remember brickbats are as important as bouquets for how will we mend ourselves if we do not know that we are wrong?

NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY GET-TOGETHER &
SING-SONG

(in conjunction with the Sri Lankan Cultural Society of W.A. -
the committee is also seeking the support of the
Burgher Welfare League & the Sri Lankan Tamil Association to celebrate this event)
at
FORSTER PARK HALL
BELMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE
Abernethy Road, Belmont

on 31st December 1992 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

PLEASE BRING A PLATE
(Finger-Food/Short Eats - and B.Y.O.)
Kiributh will be served at Midnight.

A token charge of \$ 3.00 per member
\$ 5.00 per non-member
Children Free

For bookings please phone
Ranjit - 478 2725 A/H
Rosemary - 271 9313 A/H
Alex - 387 4357 (A/H)
before 23rd December.

(Numbers are limited so early bookings would save disappointment and help your committee make this occasion a success and give you the entertainment you deserve).

Screening of Adults Only Award-
Winning Film with English Sub-titles

REFLECTIONS IN A MIRROR
Ketepathake Chaya

Will take place at 3.30 p.m.
on 14th November 1992

Venue: The Film and Television Inst.
92 Adelaide Street
Fremantle.

For tickets: Please contact

Francis Wilathgamuwa - 276 2639 (H)
Ananda Thilakasiri - 457 0704 (H)

Tickets: \$ 5.00

Shorteats available at reasonable rates
TEA & COFFEE provided free.

IN LOVING REMBRANCE OF
SHEILA MACKthe woman behind the
Mack of School of Dancing.

The little ballet school at 143 Vajira Road has stood for many years - the sisters Pat, Coleen, Sheila & Molly were all part & parcel of the Mack School of Dancing - From ballet to tap to ballroom they taught it all.

Sheila fascinated everyone with her way of talking and certainly knew how to capture the imagination of the children she taught. She had a flair for the dramatics, and used it to full effect in her teaching.

The International Theatre Group will remember her many contributions to the world of theatre. Her many concerts at the Lionel Wendt will be remembered with affection.

Sheila migrated to Australia and then went on to England.

We record sadly her passing away in England. All of us who have had any contact with her - as pupils or as parents of pupils - lovingly remember her and the contribution she made to the world of dancing.

May she rest in peace.....

Deepest Sympathy to:

Colin & Aileen Rowley
on the loss of Aileen's father

Coleen & Trevor Chapman
on the loss Sheila Mack

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Wickremaratne
on the loss of Stanley's brother.

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Thinking Real Estate?

Considering Investing in Property?
Then look at the following

BUSY ROAD FRONTAGE
3 BRM + Utility Room
Double Brick/Tile
339 Wanneroo Rd, Tuart Hill

Immaculate Home on good size block
ASKING \$ 130,000 Good renting at
\$130 - \$ 140 / week
ASKING ONLY \$ 130,000

ASKING ONLY \$ 99,000
Only 2 1/2 yrs! Already rented
\$ 100/wk. Tenants will stay !!
Very neat well presented 3 Brm
DB/T with semi ensuite!
Do the landscaping and you will
have a greater INVESTMENT 1
Located at 4 YAWL COURT,
BALLAJURA.

BALGA ON THE MOVE!

Well maintained & Presented
3 BRM DB/T & BV/T homes up to
\$ 69,000 in Kilmurray Way and
St. Kilda Road! Located very
conveniently to Trans. & all
amenities. Easy renting between
\$ 100 - 130/wk.

\$ 77,000 ONLY - ASKING PRICE
3 Brms Plus U/G Swimming Pool

SMALL COMPLEX

1/164 North Beach Drive, Tuart Hill
A WELL LOCATED HOME VILLA
A SKIP 7 A JUMP to Osborne Park
Industrial Area/Freeway - Very
Rentable at \$ 100 - \$ 110/wk.

INTERESTED?
CALL TREVINE CASPERSZ - ALL HRS. TEL 018 910815
L. J. Hooker Osborne park Te. 344 8422
A BETTER SERVICE TO YOU FROM A FELLOW SRI LANKAN

NEW YEAR'S EVE FAMILY GET-TOGETHER &
SING-SONG

(in conjunction with the Sri Lankan Cultural Society of W.A.-
the committee is also seeking the support of the
Burgher Welfare League & the Sri Lankan Tamil Association to celebrate this event)

at
FORSTER PARK HALL
BELMONT COMMUNITY CENTRE
Abernethy Road, Belmont

on 31st December 1992 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

PLEASE BRING A PLATE
(Finger-Food/Short Eats - and B.Y.O)
Kiributh will be served at Midnight.

A token charge of \$ 3.00 per member
\$ 5.00 per non-member
Children Free

For bookings please phone
Ranjit - 478 2725 A/H
Rosemary - 271 9313 A/H
Alex - 387 4357 (A/H)
before 23rd December.

*(Numbers are limited so early bookings would save disappointment and help your committee
make this occasion a success and give you the entertainment you deserve)*

Screening of Adults Only Award-
Winning Film with English Sub-titles

REFLECTIONS IN A MIRROR
Ketepathake Chaya

motor cars. They could not afford the
taxi service - meaning the taxi cabs. So a
far thinking investor - Like Richard
Pieris (who are the sole agents for the
Bajaj) struck when the iron was hot.
And they have certainly struck gold.

Propelled by a wave of entrepreneurship
that resulted from a series of
government economic reforms in 1977,
the Bajaj soon became a new Lankan
cultural shoppiece - convenient and
affordable transport for the masses -
and income for several thousand
families.

Watching these nifty three-wheelers
blend so easily with the Colombo traffic
(often coming dangerously close to the
big guys!) - one wonders how Sri
Lankans got around before the days of
Bajajs!!!

Do you want statistics? In spite of
feeling like you are really going under
when travelling in one, police records
show that only 7 -12 bjajs were involved
in road accidents in 1989 & 1990 -

How's that for safety standards?

IN LOVING REMBRANCE OF
SHEILA MACKthe woman behind the
Mack of School of Dancing.

The little ballet school at 143 Vajira
Road has stood for many years - the
sisters Pat, Coleen, Sheila & Molly were
all part & parcel of the Mack School of
Dancing. The sophistication and complexity of it all deepens the
mystery of why the area was a thinly populated,
malaria-infested wilderness when Europeans arrived in
Sri Lanka in the 16th century.

Sigiriya is today most famous for the wall frescoes
painted on the rock face below the summit where the
largest palace buildings stood. This open-air art
gallery, with its over endowed cloud maidens, has
preserved the oldest secular paintings in South Asia

The palace complex has long been a source of pride for
Sri Lankans and is now visited by about 500,000
people a year.

Just as the Angkor War temple complex has become a
focus of cultural pride for Cambodians, so Sigiriya is
seen in Sri Lanka as a proud symbol of the country's
cultural past.

Get Well Wishes

To: Ravi Ratnayake
Joyce White
Ken Loos
Dr. Vevil de Kauwe
Shereen Gerryn

AN APPEAL FOR DONATIONS

A letter from Dr K Mahendrarajah one of the Post Graduate Trainees from Sri Lanka, presently undergoing training at the University Department of Surgery, QE II Medical Centre, Nedlands, sets out the difficulties faced by them in maintaining the new Intensive Care Unit at the Anuradhapura General Hospital, due to the lack of instruments.

Dr Mahendrarajah has already identified the equipment that would be useful to administer quality service and care to the patients.

He has made an appeal to the members of the WA - Sri Lanka Association to come to their assistance by whatever donations possible, and has cited a figure of approximately \$2000/- as the cost of this equipment.

I take this opportunity to bring this appeal to your attention anticipating ratification by my General Committee. Donors will be acknowledged through the medium of this Newsletter.

Please contact me on 478 2725 (H) or 483 4640 (W) to send in your donations.

Donations will be accepted after General Committee ratification.

Ranjit Ratnayake

RAJIT RATNAYAKE

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Hindus in Karratha celebrate the Festival of Lights

Deepavali was celebrated in fine form with a night of entertainment at the Masonic Hall, in Karratha. This was a first -for Karratha.

The event began with Arti - a traditional prayer ceremony and the lighting of lamps to mark the start of the Hindu New Year.

The function included a traditional dinner, Indian dancing and a spectacular fashion parade of sarees - depicting the different styles.

Ed. This is news from one of our members living in Karratha - Prakash Muthukrishna who is building up an active community group - You will recall Prakash & Kevin - our Kandyan drummers who performed at the Concert Hall. So his love of the arts & music and involvement with the rich cultural heritage of Sri Lanka goes a long, long way back.....

Good luck to you - and we hope we hear from you again.



TRADITIONAL dancing provided entertainment throughout the night.

TELETHON CHARITY RAFFLE

An Appeal

As you probably have heard some of the Raffle money was stolen from the Australian Asian Association. The CIB have arrested the thieves but we lost the cash & \$388 in cheques because they burnt them.

If you paid for the Raffle Tickets by cheque and your cheque has not been presented could you please favour us with a fresh cheque

After all the money is for TELETHON.
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT.

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Ranjit Ratnayake

RATNAYAKE

Hindus in Karratha celebrate the Festival of Lights

Navratri was celebrated in fine form with a night of entertainment at the Masonic Hall, in Karratha. This was a first -for Karratha.

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THE W.A. SRI LANKA (CEYLON) ASSOCIATION (INC)

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