



**W.A. SRI LANKA (CEYLON) ASSN.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

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**P.O.BOX 7212  
CLOISTERS SQUARE  
PERTH 6000**

**THE WA SRI LANKA (CEYLON) ASSOC. INC.**  
**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,**

It is with mixed feelings of sadness and pleasure that I present this report on behalf of the general committee.

On the 12th March, 1994, our Founder / President Mr. Charles Oorloff passed away. His contribution, his dedication, for the well-being of our association, and his love for the country of his birth and its people is immeasurable. May he rest in Peace.

It is with a feeling of pride and pleasure that I wish to record my grateful appreciation and thanks to my committee who were so co-operative and worked in harmony with each other through out my year in office. The committee for the year under review were;

Aubrey Raymond.....President  
Francis Wilathgamuwa.....Vice President  
Ranjit Weddikkara.....Vice President  
George Hesse.....Secretary  
Oenone Weinman.....Treasurer  
Dagmar Raymond.....Editor  
Alan Drieberg.....Committee member  
Ranjit Kumar.....Committee member  
Michelle Ranasinghe.....Committee member  
Joel White.....Committee member  
C. Sivarajah.....Committee member  
Raj Ragopalan.....Committee member  
Olga Ramasamy.....Committee member  
Dennis Ingram.....Committee member  
Santini Fialho.....Committee member  
Carlyle Weinman.....Hon. Auditor  
Ranjit Ratnayake.....Immediate Past President.

We regretfully had to accept the resignation of Michael Ratanayake and Alexis Raymond. The committee welcomed Dennis Ingram and Santini Fialho who consented to serve on the committee and were subsequently appointed.

In keeping with our ambitious "Year of Involvement" theme, a range of sub-committees were appointed with a chair-person who co-opted other committee members, ordinary members, friends and well wishers to organise some project or achieve a goal.

1. Finance Sub-Committee.....	Alan Drieberg
2. Property and Premises Sub-Committee.....	Francis Wilathgamuwa Ranjit Weddikkara
3. Social Sub-Committee.....	Joel White
4. Cultural Sub-Committee.....	Olga Ramasamy
5. Seniors Programme/Welfare Sub-Committee....	Raj Ragopalan
6. Youth and Sports Activities Sub-Committee.....	Michelle Ranasingh
7. Charities Sub-Committee.....	Francis Wilathgamuwa Oenone Wieman
8. Membership Sub-Committee.....	George Hesse Ranjit Kumar
9. Inventory Premises 135 Lord St.....	Dennis Ingram
10. Editorial Sub-Committee.....	Dagmar Raymond Ranjit Ratnayake.

It was pleasing to see the interaction between various sub-committees and the positive contribution they made to achieve a successful outcome at every function.

#### **FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE :**

The association was involved in extensive negotiations with the Department of Taxation, who ruled that our association was a social organisation and subsequently claimed we were liable to pay tax. We received a claim for taxation arrears for the three previous years.

The association was very fortunate to have as our chair-person, a tax consultant, who made representations on our behalf with the Commissioner of Taxation, Members of Parliament and the Ombudsman. Although we were unsuccessful in having our association exempted, we did succeed in having our back dated assessment amended substantially.

Our Finance Chair-person has recommended that further representations be made to overturn this decision by the Taxation Department.

### PROPERTY AND PREMISES SUB-COMMITTEE :

The Committee has been very active in investigating every opportunity. It has looked at more than five projects during the year. Unfortunately due to insufficient funds or non-cooperation by Local or Government authorities, we were unable to obtain a satisfactory result.

I am however, happy to say that after lots of perseverance and hard work we have been able to convince the Dianella Guide & Scouts Association to allocate space for an extension to their existing building to house the offices of our Association and the Mauritian Association. The extended building will accommodate our offices, and can be used for small functions of about 50 people. The grounds outside are ideal for children and open air functions. Of course the main Scouts Hall will be available for bigger functions.

The details of the cost of the building and sharing arrangements with the Mauritian Association have still to be worked out. The Dianella Guide & Scouts Association are in favour of the project and the only remaining approval for the project to go ahead has to be given by the City of Stirling. We envisage no problem in this regard.

We have requested the Federal Government grant of \$40,000 to be transferred to this project. Our share of the funds for the project will have to be drawn from the Housing Bond Fund. For this we will require the approval of the General Membership. Once all the details have been completed it will be up to the new committee to call this meeting to explain full details of the project and seek their approval for release of the required funds.

Our attempt, however, to make better use of our current premises by advertising for volunteers to start up tuition classes for Year 11/12 Maths & English, also Sinhala language was disappointing. Only one enquiry was received.

### MEMBERSHIP :

The total membership was 364. We gained 106 new members, but lost about an equivalent number. This is cause for concern because their support is vital in serving our community.

## SOCIAL / CULTURAL / SENIORS WELFARE / CHARITIES :

Our ambitious programme of varied events were planned to try and meet the wishes of the wider membership. We commenced our programme with...

1. The Bingo and Quiz night was very well attended. It was heartening to see the general membership offer their services to run the Quiz and Bingo games.
2. The Seniors lunch, "Bringing Generations Together", in July was patronised beyond expectations. A grateful thank you to the wives of committee members, and the general membership for their voluntary help and contributions of food. Also the younger generation who provided the entertainment.
3. The month of August heralded our Winter Dance. Though we achieved the numbers we had catered for, it was noticeable that our traditional support base of members had declined.
4. The conveners of the Food Fair organised a very successful event. with the assistance of every committee member, their wives, a multitude of members and friends of the association.
5. The Foundation Day Picnic saw a change from the usual "Picnic Day" in the park. A bus trip to historic Toodyay was organised, however, the anticipated support of the members did not reach expectations.
6. The associations Charity Night, "Project Sri-Lanka", once again demonstrated the generosity of the community. A perusal of the Treasurer's Report will show that part of the funds have been allocated.
7. The **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** belonged to the children and the "child" in us all. The Nativity pantomime was well presented. It was also our first co-operative effort with the Cultural Society who entertained us all with a number of Sinhala Christmas Carols.
8. The New Years Eve Dance is the high light of the Associations calendar. The band was good, the cabaret great and the Western cuisine was not relished by everybody.

9. For Independence Day the convener of the Cultural Committee assumed responsibility for organising the celebrations. With the assistance of committee members, a super show was presented with an array of Sri Lankan talent in concert.

#### **YOUTH SPORT :**

1. A youth camp for teenagers was organised at Woodmans Point. For those who attended it proved an enjoyable experience. The youth organised their own disco and the many hours spent swimming, abseiling and surfcasting. The seniors who attended, I am assured, also had a good time.

2. Subsequent to a request from some junior members, the committee unanimously agreed to support their initiative. On the 14th February the "Vibes" disco for 12 to 21 year olds was held at the Mandela Hall Bateman and supervised by volunteer committee members.

#### **OTHER EVENTS :**

1. The Association was pleased to hear that one of its loyal supporters and ex-president, Mr. Russell Raymond, had been honoured by the Commonwealth with the Order of Australia Medal for services to migrants and media. On the 12th March the association organised a function at which Russell was congratulated. His achievements were recognised with a presentation from the association.

2. Our Association and its members supported the Cultural Society's reception for the Kandyan Dance Troupe who had arrived in WA to perform at the Festival of Perth.

3. The Association was very fortunate to score the talent of Desmond De Silva, Sri Lanka's top entertainer, through the kind offices of his mother, who he was visiting in Perth. The Dinner Dance, which was a fabulous event and was an excellent end to our social calendar.

#### **REVIEW AND COMMENT (1993/94) :**

During my tenure as your President a lot has been achieved. If any criticism has to be levelled it is that the programmes we undertook were too many and too ambitious. However it is this that has made me realise how vulnerable we are.

On an analysis of those members who attended our functions, it was apparent that our traditional base is declining. Father time is taking his toll. It is really left to the new, younger migrants to take an interest and change the directions to meet their culture and values.

We are a relatively small community in Perth, who need all the support we can muster to remain viable. If we work at serving each others interest in a co-operative manner, we will discover that our final goals are the same, "TO SERVE".

Ladies and Gentlemen, I can only but quote our founder president, Mr Charles Oorlof, who at the AGM in 1973, concluded his report with the following words;

*"I do not need to emphasise the distinct advantages which belong to corporate status and collective representation and I appeal to each and every one of you, to ensure that the Association grows from strength to strength and becomes an active and powerful body.*

*This can be achieved not by standing aloof and letting a few carry the burden, not by languor and apathy. It can only come from the joint efforts of a membership not lacking in talent."*

In conclusion, I wish to personally acknowledge the assistance and co-operation I received from a wonderful committee. Thank you for the privilege of serving you all as your president.

**M. RAYMOND**  
**PRESIDENT 1993/94.**