

Western Australia Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association Inc

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WA SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION

MEMBER CONNECT NEWSLETTER





President's Message

It seems not long since our last newsletter. Time moves fast and we are in the last quarter of the WASLA financial year. It is with profound sadness and a feeling of devastation that I write this message to you.

The carnage that took place on Easter Sunday, a day of celebration which should have continued the spirit of the Sinhala and Tamil New year celebrations of the Sunday before, is unprecedented in the history of Sri Lanka. The shock of this tragedy still lingers with me. Words could not define or express the magnitude of the tragedy that engulfed us on that day. Most of us did no doubt identify with someone who was affected by these senseless acts of a few persons. This edition of the Newsletter is dedicated to the victims of this terrible tragedy.

A number of significant events were held in Perth to provide an occasion for Sri Lankans of all persuasions to come together in their shock and grief. On the 22nd Morning, Francis Wilathgamuwa, Ranjit and Myrna Ratnayake and I attended the mass held for the injured and deceased at Holy Family Church Maddington. The service was officiated by Fr. Ajith Perera and organized by Srinath, Chris, Hercial and Basil of the Perth Catholic Community. I wish to offer my thanks to this group for having organised this service at such short notice.

The Kenwick Buddhist Temple held a '*Puny anumodana*' service the same morning organized by the Sri Lanka Consul and Dinu Ekanayake of the Sri Lanka Cultural Association. Indrani and Sunil Samaraweera of WASLA attended the service.

I acknowledge the efforts of the Honorary Consul Rosh Jalagge in raising public awareness of the tragic events in Sri Lanka by advocating with the various councils to have several significant public buildings lit up with the colours of the Sri Lankan flag in the Perth precinct. This included Optus Stadium and Elizabeth Quay. Mr Jalagge also supported the Perth Catholic Community to organise the service at St. Mary's Cathedral on the 27th.

I also acknowledge the Anglican community for the memorial service held at Christ Church Claremont on the 7th May, and value the message of support from Rachel Mathewson and WA Community Liaison Team which I circulated by email.

My thoughts and prayers are with those who are injured or have lost a loved one. At the same time let us also remember to pray for the people of Sri Lanka who face the aftermath- that they engage in solidarity to repair what has been destroyed and support one another irrespective of race or creed.

Moving on, I look back at our past three events since the last Newsletter.

Senior's Lunch

The Seniors' Lunch was a wonderful event with over 110 persons attending. It was endearing to see all our trail blazers turn up to reminisce, enjoy a game of Bingo, the buffet lunch, and the sing- along. My thanks go out to the Committee- especially Vicky, Indrani, Ranjit, Shereen, Godfrey, Chrys, their spouses and family members for their commitment and cooperation. Thanks also to Sharifa, Chris & Anju and Ken for their support. We missed Eroshani and Radha who were away at the time.

Children's Xmas Party

Our Children's X'mas party on the 2nd December was at the AAA Hall in Perth. The children's Nativity, as usual was the focus of this event and was deemed a great success, despite the difficulties of getting suitable actors. I do apologise for the antics of a naughty cherub who decided to perform her own version of the pantomime on stage. I guess she takes after me, her grandmother!

With Radha away we didn't quite succeed in putting together a choir but sang along lustily to electronic backup tracks of the carols.

My thanks to those Committee Members who helped make the event a success: Indrani and Sunil, Shereen and Max, Chris and Marg for help with the food and front table; Ranjit for setting up the music system, Vicky for co-ordinating the kids' games and Santa, Chris and Anju, and Francis & Siggie, Alison & Tony for being there as always for a smooth Nativity pageant which came together with only a couple of rehearsals. This year Santa had a sore wrist! – Thanks Ken for stepping in.

Food Fair

We decided to go ahead with the food fair which was held on the 27th April at the Scout Hall, Dianella in order to raise funds for those affected by the Bombings, and help the relief efforts in Sri Lanka. As always many Committee Members and their spouses rallied around, and with their dedicated support we were successful in generating over \$1350.00. A major part of the profits will be donated to a suitable relief organisation in the near future.

I would like to thank the following in a special way: Francis and Siggie for manning the rice and curry stall, Vicky for coordinating the Stringhopper and Savoury food stalls with Colleen and Dolly; Chris and Marg for taking on the sweet stall from Sherine who was not well; Ranjit and Myrna for the drinks, Indrani and Sunil for helping me with the hoppers.

A special note of thanks to Daryl Barr Kumarakulasinghe and Sunita Fleming - two new faces who provided buckets of batter and ensured a smooth roll out of hoppers; Chris and Anju who coordinated the curries and offered general help with anything; Roshan and Sharifa for the sumptuous biriyani that sold out in a jiffy; Max and Hilarion for manning the front desk and to the three-man team who undertook general security – Roshan, Sunil and Ken. I do apologise if I have failed to acknowledge anyone else who helped in any way. Rest assured that you made a valuable contribution.

It was in March that we had our committee member Eroshani Nadika Kaleel resign due to the pressure of work commitments. Eroshani was a dedicated and hardworking member who contributed much to the Association. We wish her well and hope she can return in the future.

At the same time we also hope that more members will put their hands up to serve on the Committee.

Let us spare a moment for all those members of WASLA who have lost a loved one, or who have health issues themselves. My special thoughts and prayers go out to you and your families.

We intend sending out our newsletters by email. So please contact our Committee Member Shereen Gerreyn on Shere_eng@hotmail.com to update your details.

Please also note our change in postal address. We have leased office space at AAA Lotteries Complex , 275, Stirling Street, Perth WA 6000. Our P.O.Box is no longer in use.

I take this opportunity to wish you unity, peace and prosperity in the coming days.

Anne Jansen

April 2019

Editor's Note



Dear Members,

We thought fit to dedicate this issue to all the victims of the Easter Sunday massacres and its aftermath. In the light of everything that has happened, we decided this would be one little gesture we could make as members of the Sri Lankan diaspora in Western Australia.

We carry a special message from the Honorary Consul Roshan (Rosh) Jalagge, who has been extremely active in the service of the Sri Lankan Community in the aftermath of the Bombings.

I have given the contact details of four organisations which are engaged in relief activities and encourage you to make a contribution if you can.

This Edition carries a Short Story by one of our members who wishes to remain all but anonymous, modestly signing off as OP. Thanks, OP for your contribution.

I have also included a couple of articles in lighter vein, encouraging you to take a look at your life, smile, and make wise decisions!

This is the second edition for this financial year since I agreed to take on the Editor's mantle. As always, I encourage you to be actively involved in the contents and welcome fresh ideas for layout, articles, format etc. Everyone has something interesting to say and we are happy to share it! I do hope more of you will be encouraged to contribute snippets of information, articles of interest, anecdotes, jokes, poems, recipes, cartoons, and drawings etc. for future editions.

As before Max and Ranjit have sent in some contributions. Many thanks to them and to Rosie for her feedback on the Seniors' Lunch.

A big 'Thank You' also to Sharifa again for working with me with such patience and grace to finalise the formatting.

I welcome advertisements for future publications and for our website. The advertising costs are minimal and the money will be used to fund the Newsletter and 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
Leaflet distribution with Newsletter	\$ 100.00

Please join me in creating a newsletter that really connects us and is truly representative of our multi-faceted, multi-talented, multicultural WA Sri Lankan community. Please send your contributions to: Editor, WASLA Newsletter, c/o Australian Asian Association, 275, Stirling Street, Perth, WA 6000 or wa.srilanka.association@gmail.com.

I hope you enjoy this edition and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards

WESTERN AUSTRALIA- SRI LANKA (CEYLON) ASSOCIATION

GENERAL COMMITTEE - 2018/2019

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Message from Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Western Australia

Transcript:

Dear Friends,

My deepest condolences go out to my people of Sri Lanka, fellow Australians and foreign citizens who were affected by the devastation on Easter Sunday. This was not something we ever contemplated or dreamt of ever occurring after enjoying the luxury and comfort of peace and freedom for a decade. The Sri Lankan community which consists of Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Muslims co-exist successfully in religious harmony in an exemplary manner. We support each community voluntarily, whenever someone is in need. Words fail to express how deeply saddened and utterly distraught I feel at this time, to learn that the soul of my beautiful country has been shattered by the inhumane conduct of a misled handful.

Terrorism knows no bounds. It has no race, religion, or colour. Among those that died were Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and Muslims. At this crucial time, we must unite together as a community to support the victims and maintain harmony within our peaceful community. This is not a time for division. Extremism of any form should not be encouraged by our community by any means.

I urge the Sri Lankan community of Western Australia to come together and support each other at this time of need.

*Sincerely
Roshana C.N. Jalagge
Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka for Western Australia*



Roshana Jalagge
Consul General of the Democratic Socialist
Republic of Sri Lanka
Jurisdiction Throughout Western Australia

1st May 2019

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Sincerely,



ROSHANA C.N. JALAGGE
Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka
Jurisdiction throughout Western Australia

April 20196

Appeals for donations to support victims of Easter Sunday Massacres

Many individuals and organisations have begun relief work in the aftermath of the horrendous and tragic events of Easter Sunday. Given below are details of how you could contribute to four organisations known to be doing yeoman service. One has been forwarded to WASLA by Radha de Mel on behalf of the Child Rehabilitation Centre of Sri Lanka, one by the Sri Lanka Cultural Society of Western Australia, the third is under the direct auspices of the Archbishop of Colombo, and the fourth has been forwarded by Anne Jansen.

1. Child Rehabilitation Centre of Sri Lanka (CRCSL)

Emergency Relief Project: Restoring Victims and Rebuilding Brotherhood (RVRB). Provision of immediate food assistance, medicine and medical equipment, clothes and psycho-social support to victims and survivors

Contact person: Ms. Jennifer Benedict, Country Director
Contact Number: +94778119799
E-mail: crcampara@yahoo.com
Website: www.crcsrilanka.org

Bank Account Name: Child Rehabilitation Centre
Bank Account Number: 101000579457
Bank Name: National Development Bank (NDB) PLC
Bank Swift Code: NDBSLKLX
Address: No:40, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo-02, Sri Lanka.

2. The Hospital Services Council

Supporting victims by providing wheelchairs, crutches and medications for treatment at main hospitals.

Methods of Donation:

In Sri Lanka: Account Name : Hospital Services Council Sri Lanka
Bank Name : Bank of Ceylon
Bank Account No : 0001781368
Branch : Regent Street

In Australia:
HOSCA (Hospital Services Council Australia)
Account Name : Hospital Services Council Australia Incorporated
BSB : 063-385
Account No : 1071 7720

Direct donations:

Via the Hospital Services Council website – www.nirodhaya.org

3. Archbishop's Relief fund for the Rehabilitation of 2019 Easter Sunday Victims and Reconstruction of the Churches

Account Name: Archbishop of Colombo
Bank: Commercial Bank of Ceylon PLC, Borella Branch
Account No: 1190038741
Swift Code: CCEYLK LX
Bank: Hatton national Bank,
Head Office Branch Account No: 003010484963
Swift Code: HBLILK LX

*All donations for the relief work are to be kindly deposited in one of the above accounts and will be acknowledged with an official receipt.

* no other person, organization, institution or Churches have been authorized to collect funds on behalf of the Catholic Church for the Disaster Relief Fund.

Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith
Archbishop of Colombo

4. Catholic Mission Perth/Sri Lanka

Collecting funds to provide immediate relief to children and families affected by the bombing and to provide long-term trauma counselling and spiritual care for victims and their families. Contact in Sri Lanka: Father Basil Lucas, Director of the Sri Lanka Branch. All donations made through the website: <https://www.catholicmission.org.au/our-work/see-our-work-in-action/srilanka>



Help reach out to the people of Sri Lanka | Catholic Mission

www.catholicmission.org.au

Support Sri Lanka through their darkest hours

Something to Think About Amongst the Doom and Gloom: An Awesome Outlook on Life



The following is an edited version of the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip .

You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just ponder on them.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five winners of the West Australian of the Year award.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss Australia pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last 5 Academy Award winners for Best Actor and Best Actress.
6. Name the last 5 winners of the World Series of rugby or cricket.



How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday.

These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields.

But the applause dies Awards tarnish ... Achievements are forgotten.

Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school ...
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time ...
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile ...
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special ...
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with ...



Easier?

The lesson:

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money ... or the most awards.

They simply are the ones who care the most.



"Be Yourself. Everyone Else Is Taken!"



If you are born in 40s, 50s and even in the 60s, you are not old

Maybe slightly shop soiled, but so Blest!

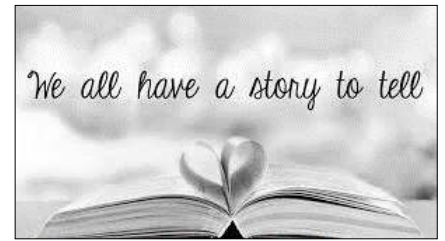
- While riding bicycles, we never bothered to lock them or wear helmets
- After school time we played happily with our friends until dusk as we didn't have television
- We didn't take multiple health supplements or spend hours in the Gym, Pilates or yoga to keep ourselves healthy
- Our parents were not rich, but we had everything we needed
- We shared our emotions through talking –not by emoticons on mobile phones
- We didn't have mobile phones, DVDs, Play Stations, X Boxes, video games, personal computers, internet - chat but we had many real friends with whom we played amazing games.
- We visited our friends' homes and enjoyed food with them. We never had to call them and ask their permission to visit their homes (Very few had phones anyway!!)
- Relatives lived near to us, so we felt safe, secure, and happy
- We were a unique and the most blessed generation
- We are not only special, but we are the...



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Short Story

The Guest Room



It was a mid-sized plantation, nestling amidst rolling hills in the heart of Sri Lanka's tea country.

In the mid-60s I spent a night there in the Manager's bungalow. It was a typical Estate Manager's bungalow, spacious and well appointed. The Manager - let's call him George – welcomed me warmly and showed me to the room which I was to occupy.

George was a good host, and, as I was to discover during pre-dinner drinks, an accomplished raconteur. He had a great fund of stories and he told a tale well.

After dinner we got back to the drawing room for coffee. We talked about many things, eventually coming round to the subject of haunted plantation bungalows. I mentioned some I had heard of.

Then he said to me, "You know, this bungalow is also said to be haunted". I felt distinctly uncomfortable but trying to be cheerful, I asked, "And who's the friendly ghost who comes calling around these parts?" "Mrs Forbes", he said. Her husband had been the Manger of the plantation several years before. The common view had been that she was a tad mentally disturbed and was always saying how the river kept calling to her. The river ran alongside the property, only a short distance away from the bungalow. Mrs Forbes loved her daily walks. But one evening she became long overdue and by dusk they started a search for her, dreading the worst. She could not be found that night but early the next morning they found her body in the river about a mile downstream.

Soon after that stories began to spread of the ghost of Mrs Forbes appearing at the bungalow from time to time. George himself had never encountered her ghost, but described a weird experience when his mother in law was visiting them. Noticing at breakfast that she was looking quite pale and even a little distressed, George had wondered whether she was feeling ill. He remarked on this to Erica, his German wife. Erica's mother spoke very little English so Erica had to translate for her what her husband had said. Her mother assured them she was not feeling ill but, of late, had not been sleeping too well; often she would hear heavy breathing from the spare bed in her room and that kept her awake. George had then moved her to a different room and she had slept soundly thereafter

The room she had first been in was the room that Mrs Forbes had herself occupied. "And which room was that?", I asked. "Oh, it's the Guest Room," George replied, adding after a moment's hesitation, "where you are sleeping in tonight".

OP

I wonder what OP's experience was that night! Ed.

*WASLA Children's Christmas Party
December 2018*





From your Treasurer

A friendly reminder that your WASLA membership fees for the period July 2018 to June 2019 are due.

Please call Shereen on 0428 333 923 or email Shere_eng@hotmail.com for confirmation of your membership status for this year

Payment options are as follows:

By Electronic funds transfer:

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

By Cheque:

Drawn in Favour of "WASLA"

Mailed to:
The Western Australia Sri Lanka Association
C/O AAA, 275 Stirling Street, Perth 6000

Our Subscription rates remain the same for the year 2018 - 2019

Single Membership:	\$15.00
Family Membership:	\$25.00
Single pensioner Membership	\$ 5.00
Pensioner Family membership	\$10.00

Student Membership	\$10.00
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For those paying for multiple years in advance please note the change for year 2019 – 20 and onward on subscription rates as follows:

Pensioner Singles - \$10.00

Pensioner couples - \$15.00

We look forward to receiving your subscription which will ensure you are a paid-up member of WASLA for 2019.

Thank you for supporting WASLA, its events and objectives.

Chris Raymond

WASLA Seniors' Lunch *18th November*

Our famous WASLA Seniors' Lunch was held at the East Vic Park Bowling Club on 18th November 2018 from 10.30 -3pm and attended by members and their friends. It seemed like everyone was rather glad there was plenty of time to move around, mingle and chat to people one had not seen for a while!

I was delighted to see Babs Lawson! In her heyday she had charmed her boss (my dad) with her beautiful singing voice and joined his band Ivan & The Five Sharps in the 50's. It was at a Senior's Lunch in 2014 when Bab sang that I recognised her voice. On chatting with her later I found out she had come to our home every Tuesday for the band practices and she'd also sing to us (kids then).

These functions are much enjoyed by us seniors and those super-seniors reaching their nineties. They give us all time to reminisce and find out about past events or people we did not know. This function was so enjoyable without too many interruptions. The recognition of great supporters Olga Ramasamy and Babs Lawson was commendable, and it was lovely to see Aubrey and Russell Raymond able to attend the lunch.

The food was excellent as usual and the camaraderie noteworthy. Many folk only manage to get to this annual event which is timed really well as it's held on a Sunday when families are usually free to help their parents who no longer drive.

Well done WASLA! Another enjoyable event which wound up with a hearty sing along with good participation from those who stayed back.

- Rosie Zuiderduyn



Stop Press

WASLA would like to offer its sincere condolences to all members who have lost a loved one in the last few months. Given below are a few notices that I received from members:

On the sad passing away of JOE Oorloff former WASLA Member and Committee Member

Joe Oorloff, son of Charles and Primrose passed away in Queensland a few days ago. My association with Joe Oorloff, showed me how close he was to the Perth community in general, and to the then WA Ceylon Association (WACA), and how ardently and enthusiastically he worked as a Committee Member all the activities of the association.

His father Charles OAM (Founding Member of WASLA, First President, Life Member) together with expatriate stalwarts gave rise to the then WA Ceylon Association Inc. in 1971 he also gave it some status, bringing the Association to prominence in WA with his standing in WA's Crown Law Department as a Crown Law Solicitor.

Young Joe too promoted our nation among his young Labor political friends and circles. Like his father Charlie and mother Primrose before him, Joe was a very hardworking Committee member.

We honour and respect them and ask God to give strength and courage to all those grieving Joe's untimely death: his nuclear family, his siblings and their families, extended families, relatives and all his friends including Members of WASLA. (Ranjit Ratnayake)

PASSING OF JOE OORLOFF –

Joe Oorloff, the eldest son of WASLA's Founding Member and First President, Charles Oorloff, O.A.M. and his wife Primrose, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, 16th April 2019, at Robina Hospital Palliative Care in Queensland, after a short illness. He was blessed to have some of his family from Queensland, Darwin and Perth with him in his last days, and at the time of his passing. Joe leaves behind his brother, Gerry (Darwin), sister, Desiree (Perth), children Nathan (New York), Rachael and her husband Shay, and David and his wife Tracey (Queensland), where he had made his home for many decades after leaving Perth in the early 1980's. "Requiescat in Pace". (Wendy Meynert)

'AUNTY' NORAH MacKenzie – much loved member of our Sri Lankan Community and former member of WA Sri Lanka Association (WASLA)

It was with very sad hearts that we in Perth received the news of a very dear lady affectionately known to us all in Perth as 'Aunty' Norah, who passed away just six weeks short, of her one hundred and first year of a pious and devout Catholic life (26 March 1918 – 08 February 2019).

Norah was the trail blazer being the first child of seven in the illustrious 'White' family of Henry and Amy White. She was followed by six brothers, and four cousins - all boys. She was looked up to and loved by them – and affectionately called 'sister' by them all. Among the boys were the distinguished 'White' brothers and cousins. Of note was her brother, the late Major Wilton White of the Ceylon Army (a WASLA Founding Member, Past President & Life Member). Her cousins the late Duncan White, winner of Olympic & Commonwealth Medals and Freddy White who Captained the Ceylon Hockey team.

Who could have missed the new addition to the Ceylon Forestry Department's Okanda National Park family with Jimmy the game Warden and his newly married wife and partner in life joining him at his adobe in the jungle after their marriage in May 1940. It was no surprise Norah settled down to transform Jimmy's jungle shack into a 'Home sweet Home'. They soon jelled into the Forestry's family and were accepted into their hearts so much that Norah with her genteel, kind, considerate, empathetic qualities, cheerful personality and beauty was soon christened their "Jungle Princess".

After the war, spending a delightful jungle life Jimmy and Norah moved out to civilization, Jimmy having accepted a new position and new career path on a Tea Plantation as a Junior Manager; (in Tea circles known as 'Sinna Dorai', and later on as a 'Periya Dorai – Senior Manager). It was then that they started their family, first with the arrival of June, followed three years later by Carrol and another three years later their son Alastair.

After following Jimmy and his work round the 'up country' tea plantations, and daughters June and Carol leaving the nest and Jimmy retiring in 1971, and with the mother and son's strong prompting, they migrated to Australia in 1973. Norah who never worked in Sri Lanka (she did not have to) started working for R&I Bank, until Jimmy fell ill in 1978. Leaving her job she cared and attended and devoted her time to look after her loving husband, for sixteen years until he passed away in 1994. Sensing the deep sadness of his God mother, Joel White her



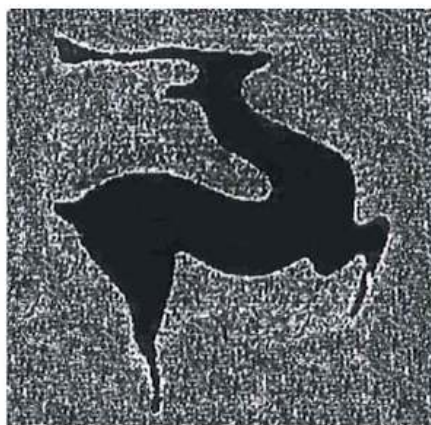
God son brought her 'Trixie' the little poodle. When Trixie passed away, as son Alastair mentions 'mum, was never the same'.

Who wouldn't remember Aunty Norah sitting with her little poodle 'Trixie' on her lap or sitting beside her and Aunty with that pleasantest of smiles and that most welcoming greeting, with the most gentle and kindest words for our family, kids and all. Her extraordinary genuineness and human qualities will never be erased from our minds.

Her unwavering faith in God and love for Our Lady led her to join God's workers in the vineyard. In her late 80's and early 90's she joined, Our Lady's Legion (of Mary), and with her fellow Legionnaires started regular visits to the 'old people', as she termed it, taking to them her pleasant and serene gift of friendliness and devotion and prayer. She had opened the path to heaven to the many of her elderly friends, through her constant recital of her favorite prayer the 'Memorare' with them.

Norah passed on to her heavenly goal peacefully at 4.36 PM on Friday the 8th February 2019. However sad she has left her family the relatives the friends and every one of us who loved this exceptional lady, we can rejoice she is already in the place we all aspire to be, one day.

(My thank you to Aunty's son Alastair for helping me put these thoughts together.....Ranjit Ratnayake).



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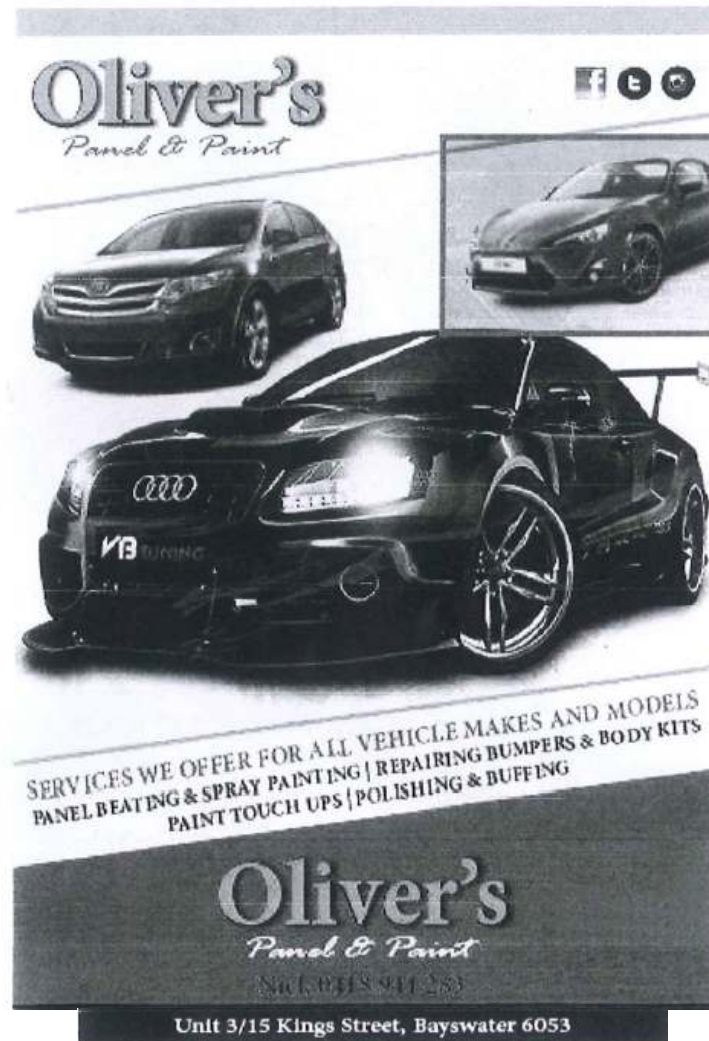
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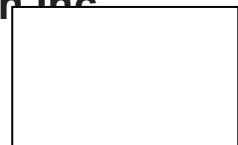
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The Western Australia – Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association Inc
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Newsletter



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