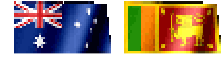




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It is that time of the year when everyone gears up for the annual break and the Christmas festivities. Christians all over the world celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, Son of God. Most non-Christians join the festivities to be with their friends and relatives and share the joy and happiness. In Sri Lanka too even the poorest of the poor look forward to receive the message of peace originally brought to the world by Jesus Christ. In fact if you were in a Colombo suburb you will not miss the fire crackers on 1st December. While we should certainly enjoy the festivities we should also share the Christmas spirit and reflect on the message of peace as relevant to Sri Lanka.


**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Radio 4EB Sri Lankan Group
**4EB Sinhala/English Programme
by Derrick Fernando**


During the early years of the Sri Lankan Programme, English content was significant but it reduced over the years to satisfy the needs of the sudden increase of Sinhala migrants and the strict application of English content rules by Radio 4EB.

At the last Annual General Meeting of the Sri Lankan Group, a resolution was passed by the members to increase the English content in order to reach a wider audience especially the youngsters and Sri Lankans with limited Sinhala proficiency. It was also decided to conduct one Tuesday Sandella programme (4th

Tuesday of each month) in English but within rules of the Radio 4EB.

Hopefully this will attract some of the early migrants and the newly emerging younger generation of Sri Lankan decedents who use English as their main language of communication. The revival of the Sinhala/English programme is a step taken in that direction and with that vision in mind.

The programme will have discussions, interviews, news and narratives conducted in English subject to the 4EB language rules.

The first bilingual (Sinhala/English) programme in recent years went to air on Tuesday 26 September 2006 on the Sandella programme. The programme was presented by Jayantha Wickramatunge and Derrick Fernando with Don Dias-Jayasinha as a special guest.

Continued in page 2

Continued from page 1

Don's appearance was most appropriate given that he was the first convenor of the Sri Lankan 4EB group. In Don's words "a little piece of history was created in Brisbane on the Sri Lanka's independence day in February 1979 when the inaugural Sri Lankan broadcast was made over the radio by the Sri Lankan community based in Brisbane". In the Sandella programme Don recalled the initial days and the difficulties they went through to produce a programme.

It is hoped that our listeners will support this programme and come forward with suggestions on how the programme can be developed to be a creative, useful and a rewarding experience for all Sri Lankan listeners.

The next English programme will be broadcast on 26 December from 10pm to 11pm.



We welcome contributions from children of any age. Send us your letters, stories, poems, drawings etc. We will make every effort to publish them in future issues.

Radio Programme Schedule

Sunday Radio 8.30 AM	Producer Panel Operator	Tuesday "Sandella" 10.00 PM	Producer Panel Operator
3rd Dec. 2006	Ajith Ajith	5th Dec. 2006	Youth Sandun
10th Dec.	Jayantha Aruna	12th Dec.	Sudesh Aravinda
17th Dec.	Gihan Sandun	19th Dec.	Dominic/Inoka Gihan
24th Dec.	Derrick Aravinda	26th Dec.	Nishanthi Aravinda
31st Dec.	Dushyantha Aravinda		

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Pavani Wickramasinghe
Grade 4

Dear Journal,

We had another exciting day at Sinhala School. Today instead of studying, we practiced our Sinhala school items for the Saralanga concert.

We practised a dance and Sinhala children's song and most of all, I liked the drama which was based on a story long ago, in a small village, in Sri Lanka.

I am very proud that I can read and write in Sinhalese and also get a chance to learn many traditional songs, poems and stories in Sinhala School. I even get to meet my Sri Lankan friends on every second Friday.

I really enjoy my time at Sinhala school and most of all I honour my teachers for spending their precious time teaching us as volunteers.

*It was a great day
Write to you soon*



Contact us on email brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au

New Faces



In this issue the Radio 4EB Brisbane Sri Lankan Group wishes to introduce two new members Amila Nanayakkara and Chammi Herath. They arrived in Australia last April and now live in Coopers Plains, Brisbane. They helped Nayana Samaratunga to present the Sandella programme on 17th October.

Amila hails from Kegalle and attended Kegalle Girl's High School. She worked as an Accounts Executive at Evergreen Shipping Lines in Sri Lanka before moving to Brisbane. She is currently doing a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Griffith Uni. She is interested in watching documentaries related to nature, wild life and world history. Amila is also an avid reader of translations of Russian and French novels.

Chammi is also from Kegalle and studied at Kegalu Maha Vidyala and went to South Korea as a Trainee Technician. He is talented in music and has formed a musical group with a few friends. Chammi is also interested in sports, especially cricket, soccer, basketball and athletics.

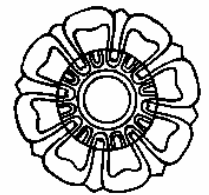


Radio 4EB Sri Lankan Group actively encourages the youth to participate in programming, panel operating and other activities. Free training is provided for those who wish to get involved in panel operation. Listen to the programme every Tuesday 10pm to 11pm and send in your song requests and birthday/anniversary greetings to be broadcast. Contact the youth coordinator - Sandun
Sandella.youth@hotmail.com

This is Your Radio
Join and be Part of It
4EB FM 98.1
*"Sharing the World
With You"*



The Radio Station at
Kangaroo Point, Brisbane,
Queensland Australia
broadcasting 24/7 'Sharing
the World with you'



We welcome any
constructive
criticisms on the
content, layout and
any other related
matters.

**We wish to give a
specific name to the
E-newsletter. Please
send us your
suggestions.**

Your letters, stories,
poems or anything of
community interest
would also be
appreciated.

Send us an email
brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au
 so that we can include
your address in our
mailing list.

For those who miss out on listening to the Sunday Radio Broadcast, now you have a chance of listening to it during the week by visiting the website, www.lankavoice.tripod.com

Youth Corner

Sinhala diasporas and the changing face of the Sinhala identity

Recently there were some objections raised over the decision to have a half English Sandella¹ program. The objections that were raised ran somewhere along the lines of this is supposed to be a *Sinhala* program, for the promotion of the Sinhala language in Brisbane. And having the program in half English is incompatible with that objective. This debate got me thinking about a wider question: to what extent is knowing the Sinhala language important to being Sinhalese.



Now, as a five year veteran of the Sinhala School my Sinhala knowledge is somewhat² reasonable. Knowing Sinhala can give you a richer understanding of 'Sinhala culture'. In particular, it can open

you up to an appreciation of Sinhala literature, music and television³. It can help you communicate with fellow Sinhalese.

But to what extent is Sinhala language important to *being* Sinhala? Does a lack of language skill preclude the classification of being Sinhalese? Clearly, this is not the case, as many of us hip, happening and beautiful people⁴ have no or a very limited Sinhala language skill. Many of us keep calling ourselves Sinhalese regardless of our language ability. I think in those instances the Sinhala identity is found on a sense of belonging or affinity (no matter how tenuous that link may be) to a wider Sinhala community.

The important consequence of all this is that a new hybrid Sinhala identity has been

created. And few of the old rules as to what constitutes to being a Sinhala Sri Lankan applies. *Generally* speaking, we all tend to speak English as our first language⁵, we've been brought up overseas, have a western education or upbringing and we subscribe to a western material culture⁶. We tend to have parents or relatives that were born in Sri Lanka that identify themselves as Sinhalese, and have introduced us in varying degrees to the Sinhala language, and that nebulous world of Sinhala culture. And most of us when confronted with the question of what is your ethnic identity tend to include being Sinhala and Sri Lankan somewhere in that answer.

This kind of hybrid identity is actually not that new. If we look around us we find many third fourth generation Italians, Indians and French who don't actually speak Italian, Hindi or French.

I think it's important not to dismiss this new ethnic identity for its lack of 'authenticity'. Moreover, it is important that we are not limited to the margins of the Sinhala communities. If we want the Sinhala identity to survive, then people, who subscribe to this new identity needs to be included, promoted and valued. That's why we need columns like this and of course a half English Sandella program.

1 For those of you who don't know, this is the Tuesday night Sinhala program on Radio 4EB.

2 This is a moot point.

3 Luckily the good films come with subtitles these days.

4 Meaning the 'youngsters'. In particular second and third generation Sinhala kids from the overseas diaspora communities.

5 Or another language that is not Sinhala, I think here of my cousins who were born and bred in continental Europe.

6 I use the term western here broadly as the Sri Lankan Sinhala diaspora is largely located in western countries.

Aruni is studying at UQ doing a double degree in Arts/Law. She has been an ardent supporter of Radio 4EB and has consistently encouraged youth participation.

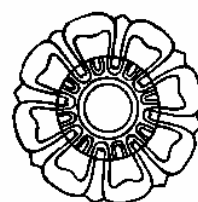
Your comments would be welcome on this article as well as on the newsletter in general. Selected responses will be published in future issues - Editor

Pictorial



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2006
SARALANGA
Annual Sri Lankan Cultural Concert

Saralanga 2006, organized by the Sinhala Association of Queensland was held on **28th October** at the Coorparoo Secondary College. The show included wide range of cultural items including Sinhala songs, cultural dances and stage plays. Several items were performed by young students from the Sinhala School. One of the highlights was the magnificent backdrop depicting a temple entrance in Polonnaruwa, which was admired by all. There were many wonderful performances but the Kandyan Dance probably stole the show.



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Editor - Jayantha Ameratunga

Brisbane Events

SILVERFAWN CLUB

Saturday 2 December 6-11pm

Xmas Party



Ithaca Bowls Club
22 Fulcher Road
Red Hill.

Music by Stardust.
Members \$25
Non-members \$35
Eric Ferdinands 3205 2850
Norman de-la Harpe 38572724

Sunday 17 December 6pm

Xmas Carols and Annual Raffle



Ithaca Bowls Club
Entry by \$2 gold coin
donation
Contact Claude on
3265 4791

Plate of savouries for
\$6.50 if order placed
before 10 December.
Rena Henderling 32733994.

Saturday 31 December 7pm-1am

New Year's Eve Dance



Music by Cool Daddies
DJ Silver Fox

Smorgasbord Meal

Adults \$40
Guests \$50

Concessions for Children and Families.

Gerard Fernando 3285 2793
Eric Ferdinands 3205 2850

December

SINHALA ASSOCIATION

Asiri 2007

Saturday 31 December 6.30pm

Balmoral Bowling Club, Jean Howie Drive,
Morningside



Live entertainment plus Sri
Lankan Dinner

Non-members - \$25
Members - \$20
Concessions for Children and
Families

Bhashitha Wickramasuriya 0438 100 521 or
Sam Fernando on 0422 406 619

No tickets will be available at the gate.
Proceedings to the SAQ Benevolent Fund
(established to assist needy Sri Lankans).

SINHALA MOVIE

Hiripoda Wassa

Sunday 17 December 530pm

By Udayakantha Warnasuriya

At Schonell Theatre, Uni.of Queensland
Adults \$15

Concessions for Children, Pensioners and
Families

(In aid Sri Lanka Buddhist Monastery, Ellen Grove)

SRI LANKA SOCIETY

OF QUEENSLAND

Saturday 16th December

Christmas Party

Santa Claus with goodies for kids

Bring the whole family and enjoy dinner with
your friends.

Details to be announced this week.

Contact Nimal 0418 205852
Devina 33760351