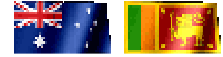




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*We wish you a happy and a prosperous new year*

**මම සාමට සුව නව වසරක් වේවා !**

*Radio 4EB Sri Lankan Group*

### *New Year Message*

#### *Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka Queensland*

It gives me great pleasure to give a message to the readers of the Sri Lankan Radio 4EB Newsletter.

Year 2006 has been a very difficult time for our Motherland with the escalation of violence by the LTTE. Unfortunately innocent lives have been lost and the country is suffering from these actions.

The Government and the Opposition recently signed an agreement to work together towards a peaceful solution to the never ending war of over Twenty five years.

We expatriates around the world should canvass our Governments to exert pressure on the LTTE and the



Anton and Bronwen Swan

Government of the day to resolve a peaceful solution. We are well aware that the President His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksa is making every effort to achieve this.

We hope and pray that the New Year will bring Peace, Happiness and Prosperity to our Beautiful Country.

Also Congratulations to the Editor and his team for a job well done, keep up the good work.

A.P.SWAN (J.P.QUAL.)

HONORARY CONSUL FOR SRI LANKA IN  
QUEENSLAND

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**CHILDREN'S CORNER**

*Message from the Editor*

The year 2006 was indeed an eventful year for Sri Lanka. President Mahinda Rajapakse continued his efforts to bring back the LTTE to the negotiating table while engaging in limited targeted attacks to keep the LTTE away from the forward defence lines. The number of casualties for both sides is increasing with innocent civilians suffering in the crossfire. We do hope the New Year will bring peace and happiness to the nation.

It is also the time to reflect on the Tsunami that hit Sri Lanka two years ago. While aid and shelter for those who lost their houses and belongings continue there is still a significant amount of work to be carried out. Assistance from the locals, international organisations and expat Sri Lankans greatly helped the recovery process. Several Brisbane Organisations initiated projects to provide assistance. Some of these projects have been successfully completed. The unity displayed by different organisations and ethnicities at the hour of need certainly brings hope for a peaceful ending to the conflict in our mother country.

Happy New Year

*The Cricket*

On 17 January 2006, my family and I went to the cricket to see Sri Lanka play against South Africa at the GABBA.

At 9:15 a.m., we left for the Port of Brisbane Storage yard, where we caught the bus to the GABBA. For the next two hours, the bus drove around the Brisbane metropolitan area collecting all the Sri Lankans who were going to the game.



After finally collecting all the Sri Lankans, the bus started heading for the GABBA. Half an hour later we arrived at the GABBA, then we got our reserved tickets and hurried in.

Our tickets were in Section 71. The seats were on the front row of the top level, right above the corporate box.

The game began with Sri Lanka winning the toss and deciding to bat. Sri Lanka batted very strongly posting a score of 5-281 off their fifty overs.

Sri Lanka went on to win that game. And from that day on, I decided to go to every cricket game Sri Lanka plays at the GABBA.

**Ranga Sendanayake 12 years**

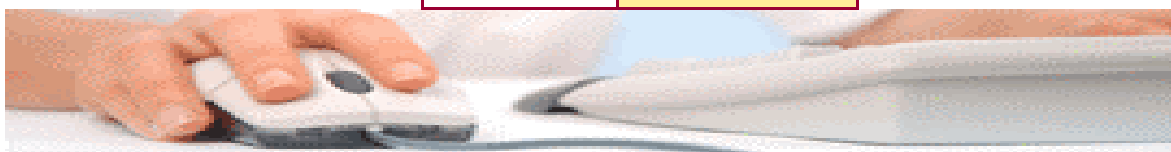
*Radio Programme Schedule*



*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.*

Contact us on email [brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au](mailto:brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au)

Tuesday "Sandella" 10.00 PM	Producer Panel Operator	Sunday Radio 8.30 AM	Producer Panel Operator
2 Jan 2007	Youth Sandun	7 Jan 2007	Aravinda Aravinda
9 Jan 2007	Nayana Jayasiri	14 Jan 2007	Ananda Ananda
16 Jan 2007	Seetha Ananda	21 Jan 2007	Ajith Kosinna Ajith Kosinna
23 Jan 2007	Prema Jayasiri	28 Jan 2007	Dushyantha Aruna
30 Jan 2007	Jayantha-Derrick (bi-lingual) / Ajith		





## Youth Corner

**When culture is lost...**

I remember when I was younger having my parents tell me how important it was to remember do certain things that were very Sri Lankan. From attending Sinhala classes to performing at the cultural shows, it wasn't always with pleasure or with total agreement that I performed these! As most of us here in Brisbane do follow the Sri Lankan traditions and values to some degree and as we have a strong Sri Lankan community that ensures we are constantly immersed in the Sri Lankan experience, we remain blissfully unaware of what could happen if we are to lose our values and our culture.



Recently as part of my studies I had the opportunity to work in the emergency department at Alice Springs Hospital. While I expected it to be different to anything I had ever experienced I wasn't quite ready for what was ahead of me. The population of Alice Springs is approximately 30000 with about 5000 being of Indigenous background. Despite representing approximately 17 percent of the population the Indigenous population represents about 90 percent of the hospital patients!

The majority of the Aboriginal people live in Town Camps which are purpose built camps with housing for Aboriginal people. The conditions under which they live in the Town Camps are worse than that I've seen in some of the poor villages in Sri Lanka. This is despite having been given new housing by the local Aboriginal Council. The houses are vandalized, light posts destroyed and the people often live outside under the trees. On a night shift with the ambulance service we went into a camp in total darkness to find our patient lying on the ground, surrounded by rubbish, severely intoxicated with an equally intoxicated friend trying to tell us what happened! While I was shocked at the condition we found the patient in, the ambulance officers assured me that this was the norm. In the emergency department the number of assaults and domestic violence seen was hard to imagine. The level of alcohol intoxication is even more distressing. Each night we were regularly treating patients with blood alcohol levels over 0.15. The highest I saw was 0.28!

This is not Aboriginal culture and this is not the way of life led by their ancestors. As a group, the Aboriginal people are very spiritual however the present generation has lost the importance of continuing the belief in old traditions. As a population it is clear to see that they are lost in the Western society. Without their values to provide direction the Aboriginal people are leading a destructive life. Furthermore the community in Alice Springs lacks leaders to help guide their people back into the Aboriginal way of life. The situation in Alice did not occur over night, but occurred through time, through the gradual loss of identity and values of the Aboriginal people. It is important to acknowledge that this reason alone does not explain the living conditions of the Aboriginal people, the problem is multi-factorial.

The lesson that I took away from Alice Springs is the importance of culture and the importance of maintaining our values. I know that at times I do take them for granted. It wasn't until I saw first hand the results lost values and traditions that I realized just how vital they are in shaping who I am and whom I've become. We in Brisbane are lucky to have organisations like the 4EB and the other various community groups which allow us to maintain some "Sri Lankaness" within us, whether this is by influencing our values, beliefs, actions or how we are shaped as individuals. Therefore it's important that we continue to take part and participate in cultural activities in the community. This ensures that we as individuals maintain and are reminded of what it means to be a Sri Lankan and by doing so we pave the way for future generations to also learn and hopefully adopt aspects of values that are unique to Sri Lankans, to their lives in Australia. It is important to stress at this point that cultural aspects need to be modified to suite the Australian society in which we live, hopefully combining the best of both worlds. By Understanding where we have come from we are better able to choose the path to where we are going.

**Enoka Gonsalkorala**

Enoka completed a Physiotherapy degree at University of Queensland before embarking on a post-graduate course in Medicine at the same University and will be a doctor by 2007. She has been actively involved with Sri Lankan cultural events, radio and Sinhala school since she arrived in Australia.

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

## Brisbane Events

### SILVERFAWN CLUB

**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*

### SINHALA ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

**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.*

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Editor - Jayantha Ameratunga

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](http://www.lankavoice.tripod.com)