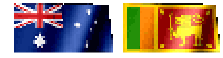




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Annual General Meeting and the Way Forward

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the radio group held on 20th May provided us with the opportunity of revisiting and reflecting on things that were achieved during the year within the broader objectives of the Group and to resolve matters related to the upcoming year.

There was a general consensus on the changes taking place in our operating environment. The Ethnic Broadcasting Brisbane (Radio 4EB) which is the umbrella organization within which we operate with another nearly 54 ethnic groups, has been watchful on program content to avoid any act on our part that may result in legal action against the 4EB. This situation requires all our programmers and panel operators to have a good understanding of the guidelines for program design and delivery and to remain vigilant for any possible lapses.

In general the following were discussed at the AGM.

- *The radio group has to annually raise around \$800 to meet its annual expenses, bulk of which goes for telephone charges connected with interviews done with overseas personalities. The group has introduced controls to economise on phone expenses and during the period under review the group has been able to bring down this expense item by using phone cards donated by sponsors.*
- *The progress of the bi-lingual Sandella which is being broadcast on a trial basis was discussed. It was felt that the program has the potential to attract a segment of Sri Lankan listeners hitherto kept excluded due to language barrier. However it was strongly felt that more and active participation is needed from the targeted audience. Mr Davenal Flanderka (Silver Fawn Club) who has been supporting this segment from its inception indicated that he will do his best to help the radio group achieve this goal.*
- *Continuation of Kasuri's news commentary which is very popular with listeners was discussed. It has now become necessary to adequately compensate Kasuri for his contribution. It was decided to increase the honorarium currently paid to him as a short-term measure.*
- *The recently conducted training workshop has attracted*

several newcomers to the group. They are actively participating in program delivery and other group activities. They need to be supported by senior programmers.

- *Mr Nick Dmyterko, President of the Radio 4EB who was present as the returning officer, indicated that Federal government sponsorship for 4EB is likely to be stopped in the future. The sponsorship is worth \$200,000 annually. This will be a major challenge to our finances. Alternate fund raising methods will have to be developed. He added that digital broadcasting will be introduced in 2008. All groups will be provided adequate training for this change.*
- *The urgent need to introduce some mechanism to capture listener expectations such as a listener survey was felt.*

As in previous years the radio group seeks the support of listeners for the continuation of this valuable service and their active participation in the activities of the group.

Jayasiri Weerawardena
Group Convenor

In This Issue

AGM and the way forward	Page 1
News/Programme Schedule	Page 2
Youth Corner	Page 3/4
Children's Corner	Page 4
Brisbane Events	Page 5

Listen to the Sri Lankan programmes on Sunday at 8.30am and Tuesday at 10pm on FM98.1. Those who miss out, visit www.lankavoice.com or <http://www.thummansala.com/>

Contact us on email
brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au

SMILES - A program brings smiles to Sri-Lankan kids

(By Jayawardena Dharmasiri)

"Smiles" is a child sponsorship program currently very popular in Sri Lanka and is an initiative of the Surangani Voluntary Services (SVS) in Colombo. SVS is a small non-governmental organization active in pre-school education of Sri Lanka and Smiles is one of their projects that help primary school children from disadvantaged backgrounds to meet their needs. The very idea behind this program is not to provide the full cost of maintenance of the child. A small amount of seed money is provided to the child to purchase essential items for schooling. However, the most important aspect is giving the child much needed moral and psychological backup.

The first Smiles child sponsorship from Brisbane was started by Mrs Damayanthi Dharmasiri in February 2006 and later taken up by The Buddhist Vihara of Queensland. The Radio 4EB devoted an entire programme to this cause which doubled the existing sponsorship. Dr S M Punchi Banda from SVS mentioned that children selection is purely based on their financial situation and no social differences are taken into account. Mr Jayantha Wickramatunga, who initiated the Radio 4EB drive, said that one key 4EB Radio Group objective is to provide the community leadership and bring all Sri Lankan communities together for better community outcomes.

"The support from the community is great and this is a great example of how 4EB can bring Sri Lankan community together to help disadvantaged children in Sri Lanka", he said.

The Smiles is co-ordinated by Buddhist Vihara (Temple) of Queensland Inc. at 108, Eric Street, Goodna, QLD 4300. For application forms, please contact Goodna Temple on 3818 8806 or Jayawardena Dharmasiri on 3372 7663. For more information please send an email to: coconuts@icdc.com attention: Ms Shigeko Baba.



L to R: Dharmasiri, Ven Wilagama Anandasiri Thero, Jayantha

Please help to make a needy child happy for a long time to come!

Sri Lanka Society Contributes to AMAQ Foundation

At an informal gathering on Friday the 15th June, Sri Lanka Society of Queensland presented AMAQ Foundation with a cheque as a contribution towards AMAQ project in training Sri Lankan health professionals.

For the past two years, Australian Medical Association of Queensland (AMQA) has trained two groups of Sri Lankan public health professionals. AMAQ funds their total cost of airfares, passport fees, visa fees, accommodation in Brisbane, transport, cost of training and provides the trainees with a daily allowance. Another group of 2 Doctors and 3 Public Health Inspectors are due to arrive in August this year for training.

While AMAQ met all costs in the past, requested some financial assistance for the 2008 course.



Kerry Gallagher, CEO of AMAQ receiving the cheque from Dhavina Mendis, Treasurer, SLSQ. In the background are (L-R) Derrick Fernando (4EB SL) Hiran Cooray (President SLSQ), Sama Adikari (Committee Member, SLSQ) and Dr. Kali Adikari.

Radio Programme Schedule

Sunday Radio 8.30 AM	Producer/ Panel Operator
1 July 2007	Nishanthi/Aruna
8 July 2007	Aravinda/Aravinda
15 July 2007	Dushyantha/Aruna
22 July 2007	Ananda/Ananda
29 July 2007	Nuwan/Jayasiri
5 August 2007	Jay Wicks/sandun

Tuesday-Sandella 10.00 PM	Producer/ Panel Operator
3 July 2007	Youth/Sandun
10 July 2007	Indrani- Champa/ Aravinda
17 July 2007	Samanmal Gunaratne/Ananda
24 July 2007	Prema/Jayasiri
31 July 2007	(bi-lingual) Sam Fernando
7 August 2007	Youth/Sandun

Note - Please contact the Group Convenor for any changes to the schedule after issue of this newsletter.

Youth Corner

THE ETERNAL TUG OF WAR...

By Anjula Piyasena

Day after day we experience the great allure of old age relentlessly choking us with its grasp, and day after day we depend on the numerous cosmetic superficialities that, we hope, will shield us from its uncompromising grasp. But is this an overly optimistic deception? The use of vanity disguises us, hides our true identity from the world. Thus the unfortunate mankind has gone too far into this unnatural blessing and is still pursuing it in an attempt to shield them from the inexorable process of aging.

This subject has been explored in tremendous detail by numerous persons throughout history, but never – in my opinion – has it been examined in such simplicity and completeness as the following poem by Sylvia Plath:



*I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
Whatever I see, I swallow immediately.
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike
I am not cruel, only truthful –
The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
I think it is a part of my heart. But it flickers.
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.*

*Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me.
Searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.
I see her back, and reflect it faithfully
She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.
I am important to her. She comes and goes.
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old
woman
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.*

This poem, written from the unbiased point of view of a mirror, explores the ever prevalent averseness for aging. This personification of the mirror allows us to achieve a truly unbiased representation of the sub-

ject. Through the 'eyes' of the mirror we see a woman, apprehensive about her aging "searching (The mirror's) reaches for what she really is", then she "rewards (The mirror) with tears and an agitation of hands". Thus Sylvia Plath craftily conveys humanity's unwillingness to accept aging as a fact of life.

The poem gives us a momentary glimpse of the inevitability of aging and it raises questions about our preoccupation with appearances rather than substance. Let's face it - are we not all addicted to some degree of vanity? Don't we constantly worry about the way we look and how we appear to others? In essence, we utilize vanity to disguise our 'true' selves, particularly as we get older. This fear of aging is carefully represented in this poem – and to achieve an unbiased opinion of this age-old debate, the poet uses a very peculiar observer: a mirror!

*"I am silver and exact and have no preconceptions...
unmisted by love or disguise"*

This representation also raises a more sublime issue: the mirror only "sees" a one dimensional reflection of who we are from the outside. However, we have all heard that "true beauty comes from the inside". Then why does humanity obsess over this crude and one-dimensional representation of itself? This question has – and will remain to be - an eternal question directly attributed to our hedonistic outlook on life.

Sometimes the reflection we are presented with when we peek into a mirror may not be what we want to see. However, we must remember that the mirror is "not cruel, only truthful". So we hide ourselves from other people's eyes by the use of cosmetics.

*"A woman bends over me
searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, The candles or the
moon."*

Why is the poet accusing the candles and the moon of being liars? The reason could most likely be that while the woman is aging – losing her vibrancy, the candle manages to stay vibrant with an undying vitality. However we must not forget that the wax will eventually run out. Nonetheless the candle is not aware of this fate, and shines with an "undying" vibrancy, only to be disappointed at the last moment when the wax finally runs out. This accentuates the importance of accepting aging as a fact of life. Plath

Cont. from Page 3

concludes her unprejudiced portrayal of the eventual grief encompassed with the obsession in such a quality as vanity.

*"In me she has drowned a young girl
and in me an old woman rises toward
her day after day, like a terrible fish".*

The obsessive denial of time and its eroding qualities could only bring forth grief, as eventually the young girl "drowns", perhaps in a sea of vanity, as old age emerges from within.

Hence day after day the inevitability of old age attracts us into its power and day after day we are losing the tug of war between us and its lure. There is no way to prevent it but the only we can tolerate it is to accept it as a fact of life. In any case, the lure of aging will eventually win!



Anjula Piyasena migrated with his family to Australia in 1992 at the age of 11. He graduated with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from the University of Queensland in 2002. Currently, Anjula works at BEC Engineering as a Electrical Engineer. He has taken part in numerous cultural events including Saralanga, Prathiba, and the Sinhala and Tamil New Year Cultural Show. Anjula has a passion for cricket, music and art. Displayed above is a painting he did using Sylvia Plath's poem as its subject matter.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

My Granddad

To tell him that you love him
To tell him that you care
When you see his eyes just water up
You'll know he's always there

We used to live together
But now you're far away
I think about you every minute
And miss you everyday

I know you're very different
Unique in many ways
I wish you were immortal
So then you'd always stay

A granddad should be special
And really hard to find
You fit that image perfectly
Seeya your one of a kind

By Hirushi Weerasena
13 years old
Brisbane Adventist
College, Mansfield



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 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

Upcoming Events

Sri Lanka Society

CURRY NIGHT
July 28 at 7pm
Carina Bowls Club
 Thorn Street Carina



Music by Gerard & Aruni

\$25 adults, Children 16 & Pensioners \$15

Contact: Hiran Cooray 0411 480337
 Pushpa Jayasekera 3300 9911
 Dhavina Mendis 3376 0351
 Swarna Wijesekera 3343 1558



GALA DINNER, DANCE
 with
CORRINE ALMEIDA
 The most popular female pop singer in Sri Lanka



July 7, 2007 at 6:00 pm.
 Belmont Services Bowls Club,
 Carina Cnr. Narracott St. &
 Thorne St, UBD: 181 L3

Tickets: Adults: \$40.00, Pensioners & students:
 \$30.00
 Children: (9-12) \$15.00, Children: (4-8) \$10.00

Contact: Anoma Weerasekara: 07 3278 7809
 Supun Amarasena: 07 3863 4400

Organised by the Sri Lanka Arts Circle.

Sinhala Sangamaya



Date: 22nd July (Sunday)
 Time: 5.30pm
 Venue: Cannon Hill Anglican College
 Cnr Junction & Krupp Roads
 Cannon Hill (UBD—161E7)

Tickets:
 Aravinda 3342 5778
 Gihan 0423 019 697
 Sujeeva 33490548



Sri Lankan Day at Marian Valley

The Sri Lankan community will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Madhu on Saturday, 7 July at the Marian Valley church in Canungra - Gold Coast Map ref: 45J11.
 Holy Rosary 10am; Holy Mass 11am
 After mass procession to the Madhu Shrine.

Bring your own picnic lunch. Hot food will also be available.

Enquiries: Marie Kronenberg at 32162347(H) or 04 03085738(M). Marcella 32791930(H) or Sunil 33766498 (H) or 04 22221323(M).

Future events—Silver Fawn Club

*Aug 18: Fancy Dress Night & Dance Completion
 Aug26—Inter Club Cricket Tournament.
 Details will be announced in the next issue.*

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Editor - Jayantha Ameratunga

Advisory Committee: Vasanthe Vithanage, Jayasiri Weerawardena and Wimal Kannangara

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