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Roma Street Parklands



When you visit the Roma Street Parklands (photo above) you might meet Bob Dobbs, the Curator. Say hello to another Sri Lankan high achiever, who made the Parklands one of the major attractions of Brisbane. Last month Bob was interviewed by Wimal Kannangara on the Radio programme and he provided valuable advice to our home gardeners. We thought it is fitting that we explore a little further about his background and his ride to fame.

From 'Kangany' to Superintendent

The name 'Dobbs' does not sound Sri Lankan, does it? Bob explains that he is from the Eurasian community, was born and bred in Sri Lanka, and he says he is proud to be a 'true blue' Sri Lankan.

Bob Dobbs was educated at St. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa, in Sri Lanka. From college, rather than going on to further his studies, he joined the tea planting profession. He was a tea planter in Sri Lanka for a little over 21 years, ending up as a Senior Planter and a Visiting Agent ... which meant being a consultant on managing and running tea plantations whilst he was still managing a plantation of his own. He married Melanie Anthonisz, a girl from Dehiwela, and had two children.

Bob immigrated to Australia in 1987

In This Issue

with his wife and two children. It was a difficult break, he says.

What was Bob going to do in Australia? He thought that having worked on tea plantations he did know something about growing and managing plants. He realised,

though, that he would have to re-start his new career right from the bottom. Bob joined a nursery in Brookefield as a 'nursery hand', which in Sri Lankan



Bob Dobbs

terminology means a labourer. He worked there for a year and then was retrenched with ten other workers from that nursery. Now what was he to do? He bought a lawn mower, a brush cutter and some gardening tools, put them in the back of his old Toyota Corona station wagon, and went out 'contract gardening' ... meaning mowing other people's lawns and doing a bit of gardening as well. He worked from 7.00 in the morning till 7.00 at night, often finishing his last job in the glow of nearby street lights. He then saw an advertisement for a gardener at New Farm Park with Brisbane City Council. He was successful in getting that job, which again meant 'labouring' in maintaining the park. He soon realised that to get ahead in life in Australia one needed 'qualifications'. He joined TAFE at Grovely, and juggled being a gardener in New Farm Park and a 'private contractor' mowing lawns and studying three nights a week at Grovely.

This was hard, Bob says, and it went on for a good four years or so.

The New Farm Park gardening job 'kick started' Bob's career in horticulture in Australia. He completed various qualifications and began 'creeping up the ladder', as he puts it. From gardening labourer he became a 'Ganger' ... ('kangany' in Sri Lankan estate terms). He then went on to become a Supervisor (kannakupillai), Foreman (Conductor), 'Gardens Coordinator' (Assistant Superintendent), and then Open Space Coordinator (Superintendent). Bob ended up heading Brisbane City Council's parks and gardens in the Central District. He was in charge of their most prominent parks in Brisbane – City Botanic Gardens, New Farm Park, Newstead Park, Queen Street and the Valley Malls and their City Squares ... King George, Cathedral, Anzac and Post Office Squares, plus 40 other parks in and around the City's inner suburbs. It took Bob 9 years of hard work in Australia to 'get back up there' he says ... back to a position fairly close to where he was at when he left Sri Lanka.

Roma Street Parkland was created by the Queensland State Government 5 years ago. When the position of 'Curator Roma Street Parkland' was advertised Bob applied and was successful. And so here he is ... managing the horticultural aspects of the most prominent park in Queensland.

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'I have not finished', Bob says. 'I want to take Roma Street Parkland forward to become a 'World Class' park. I want to leave a 'legacy' for Brisbane: one that our entire community can enjoy'.

As a matter of interest, Bob has replicated a garden design from Peradeniya Gardens in Roma Street Parkland. He arranged 5 cuttings of each of three colours of coleus from Peradeniya Gardens to be brought to Brisbane through proper quarantine procedures. He then used these cuttings to propagate 3,000 plants of each colour, and created the Peradeniya design in the Parkland. Check it out when you next visit Roma Street Parkland.

Radio Programme Schedule

Sunday Radio 8.30 AM	Producer Panel Operator	Tuesday "Sandella" 10.00 PM	Producer Panel Operator
1st Oct. 2006	Jayasiri Jayasiri	3rd Oct. 2006	Youth Sandun
8th Oct.	Ananda Ananda	10th Oct.	Ajith/Lakshmee Ajith
15th Oct. Radiothon	All Aravinda	17th Oct.	Nayana Jayasiri
22nd Oct.	Ajith Ajith	24th Oct.	Seetha Ananda
29th Oct.	Aravinda Aravinda	31st Oct. (English Segment)	Nishanthi Aravinda

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Just some of the usual suspects from the recent Lankan Youth Dinner Dance held on the 22nd September at the McGregor Primary School.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

22/09/06 Trip to Sri Lanka

Last June we went to Sri Lanka. We flew by Malaysian Airlines. We stayed two nights at the Hotel Regency in Malaysia. At Malaysia, we went shopping and bought lots of things.

Two days after, we went to Nuwara Eliya. We went there by train. I really enjoyed that trip. Then we went to Katharagama. On the way, we went to many religious temples. I enjoyed that trip too. Also, we went to "Dalada Medura" in Kandy. We went there in a

hired bus. All our relatives joined us.



Nipuni Gomes. – 7 years old (Grade 2)

Also, we went to Kurunegala and Uda Walawe. We were in Sri Lanka for four weeks.

I really enjoyed our Sri Lanka trip. I like Sri Lanka very much. I hope to go there again soon.

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

Brisbane Events

October

A Message from the Editors

We are pleased to send you the second issue of the Radio 4EB Sinhala e-newsletter. We were also pleased that the overall response to the newsletter has been positive. We thank everyone who took the time to send us a congratulatory message as well as suggestions. The best message, in our opinion, was from an ex-Brisbanite, Dr Senake Perera, who wrote from Melbourne " **Brisbane is well in front of Melbourne!!!!**

Well done Brisbane. Proud to say I was a Brisbanite sometime back."

We do encourage you to send us contributions to be included in the future newsletters. Our special invitation extends to younger people including children, and we hope parents who receive this issue will pass it on to their children and encourage them to participate.

We also await your suggestions on naming the newsletter. Please send your suggestions to our email address, brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au

Jayantha & Vasanthe

Two events that feature in the annual Sri Lankan events calendar in Brisbane will take place in the month of October.



The Sri Lanka Society of Queensland is preparing for the eagerly awaited annual ball to be held on Saturday, **14th October** at Mercure Hotel in Brisbane. This annual event has been held for 27 years and is one of the major events in the Brisbane Sri Lankan events calendar.

Proceeds from the event will go to charities identified by the Committee. The highlight of this year's event will be the entertainment to be provided by Sri Lankan born Malcolm De Kauwe backed by his band, "Midnight Sun". They hail from Perth and are a regular feature at the Hyde Park Hotel in Perth. Apart from the entertainment, the participants could look forward to a fabulous meal and winning lucky door prizes which include air tickets to Sri Lanka.

Contact: Nimal - 0418205852

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2006
Annual Sri Lankan Cultural Concert

Sinhala Association of Queensland has been preparing for the last three months to stage their annual cultural variety show "Saralanga 2006". It will be a 15 year unbroken run when staged

on Saturday, **28th October** at the Coorparoo Secondary College. As in previous years, the show will include a wide range of cultural items including Sinhala songs, cultural dances and stage plays. One of the major objectives of Saralanga is bringing the community together and it is pleasing to hear that its major participants include the Sinhala School and the *Wedihiti Ekamuthuwa* (Senior Citizens), with Sri Lanka Society of Queensland making a guest appearance. Participants include young and the old and you will be surprised by the depth of talent in the Brisbane Sri Lankan community. It is a show not to be missed especially if you have young children.

Contact: Lalantha - 0430507545

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

You can also reach the site via <http://www.thummansala.com/>.

New Faces

We extend a warm welcome to Thilky and Champika Wijayatunga from Carina Heights in Brisbane.

Profile

Thilky -

Thilky's hometown in Sri Lanka is Nugegoda. She did her schooling there, at Anula Vidyalaya. Her professional background is in Computer Science and has worked in Sri Lanka, Thailand and Australia in the IT industry as well as in Academic & Research environments. Currently she is pursuing her PhD at QUT, Brisbane.

She is an avid reader and loves anything written well- in Sinhala or English. She is fascinated by her "most recently discovered literary gems", R. K. Narayan's "Memories of Malgudi" and the Sinhala translations of the compelling story of "Apu" (a trilogy directly translated from Bengali to Sinhala by Chintha Lakshmi Sinharachchi, originally written by Vibhuthi Bhushana Bandopadya and since been made into a film trilogy by the renowned Indian filmmaker Satyajith Ray).

Apart from her fascination with creative writing, she (thinks) that she has a green thumb, writes sporadically, listens to music, and loves all creatures great and small.

Champika -

Champika is an old boy of the Royal College, Colombo. He graduated in Electronic Engineering and did his Post Graduate studies in Computer Engineering. He started his career with IBM Sri Lanka and, since then, has worked in a number of countries in the IT industry, Academic & Research environments. Currently he is attached to the Regional Internet Registry for the Asia Pacific and is involved in training the region's IT professionals on Internet Technologies, Policies and Internet Resource Management.

Besides his professional work, he is also a talented Artist and loves Painting, Sketching and Cartooning. His creative work has been published in a number of local and international magazines and he has won a number of awards in this field as well. In 2005, he held an oil painting exhibition in the Gold Coast with some fellow artists, at which, his paintings were very much admired by the visiting public.

Champika is a cricket fan, a former player for his university. He is also passionate about animal welfare and is 'pleased as punch' about his newest role as a foster parent to a small baby elephant ("Sapumalee") in Uda Walawe, Sri Lanka.

You have already heard their voices through the airwaves when they came as guests on Prema's "Sandella" programme on 19th September.

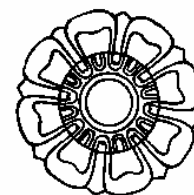
This is Your Radio
Join and be Part of It

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.

Campika and Thilky
at an Art Exhibition
held at the Gold
Coast in 2005. They
are in front of some
of Champika's own
artistic creations.



Youth Corner

Multicultural Australia - How do you fit in ?



Guyan Weerasinghe

A writer/journo's worst fear – to be given a clean slate to produce an article. No rules, no direction. What was I to write about? Should I play to my strengths and write about comics and why they aren't just for kids? Or put a shout out to some upcoming films that deserve attention instead of the usual trite that seems to dominate our cinemas? No, I have to play to my audience and this is a newsletter for Sri Lankans living in Brisbane. So that is what I shall do – Write an article about being a Sri Lankan young adult living in Brisbane, LIKE IT SHOULD BE TOLD!!! Ahem.

Multicultural Australia – How do you fit in?

What do you identify yourself as? A Sri Lankan living in Australia? An Australian of Sri Lankan heritage? Or an Aust Lankan? Cultural and social identity may seem like a far fetched, and long winded topic for the "youth" section of this newsletter, but I believe it is an area that isn't often examined. Please be warned that I will be talking in generalisations and not everyone will subscribe to what I may be talking about. Consider it more as food for thought and discussion amongst your household.

When people ask you of your origin, how do you answer?

If you came over from Sri Lanka anytime after your teen years, there is a good chance you will identify yourself as a Sri Lankan. You may like your Baila, be partial to wearing a sarong or may even have one of those wedding group photos where no one smiles. When

people ask where you are from, or what your nationality is, chances are you'd reply with a level of patriotism that'd make an American blush, "Sri Lankan"... Not that there's anything wrong with that. While Australia may be your place of residence, you will always call Sri Lanka home. You find comfort in communicating and interacting with other fellow Sri Lankans. Entire communities have been established in order to facilitate the need to provide a sense of "home".

However, if you came here while at a very young age or were born here in Australia, chances are you may see yourself as an Australian. You may not wear an Akubra hat or may not even like lamb, but regardless of your skin tone, you identify yourself as an Australian. And why shouldn't you. You represent Multicultural Australia at its very core; while your heritage may originate from another country, you've embraced your new country of adoption (or birth). And yet, this "embracing" may come at a cost.

These two groups exist side by side, often within the same family unit. Sometimes, these two groups can function, without any issues. But on a number of occasions, I have noticed that when levels of communication and understanding aren't maintained, cultural divides start to crop up. Some children may struggle to identify or understand where their parents are coming from, and vice versa for the parents. Community social groups are sometimes shunned by the younger crowd, who fear not being understood or accepted. Some even fear that the Sri Lankan culture is being washed out, and become rather strict and conservative in order to maintain the identity. As a result, these groups often form separate islands of identity, refusing to acknowledge the presence (or even the existence) of the other.

And yet there exists a third (and growing) identity group, the "Limbo" generation. These individuals can't identify themselves as either Australians or Sri Lankans, and often embrace another culture/identity. The biggest group within the limbo generation are those who

subscribe to the "hip hop" sub culture. What initially started out as an appreciation of the music eventually grew into its very own cultural identity. These individuals shun both the cultural and national identity of Sri Lanka and Australia, and embrace that of the African Americans. These individuals often go as far as calling themselves "black" as a badge of pride. And yet this is said and done without any appreciation of the historical and cultural influences that have placed the African Americans in their current position within America. This group mimics only the superficial qualities of this sub culture. While my understanding of this culture is extremely limited, I have observed that this phenomenon is both the result of peer group pressure as well as an artefact of our time. Please note, I have no problem with the existence of this cultural group, rather feel that with the growing of the limbo generation, not only is our Sri Lankan culture being lost with each generation, but also that which makes us Australian as well.

So what is the solution? That is for you to decide. Getting involved with community projects, much like this radio station, often allows us to bridge whatever divide may exist between the various groups. For Australia to function as a multicultural nation, we must embrace not only the culture of our heritage but also that of our adopted/birth home.

*Guyan Weerasinghe is a procrastinator of an extreme magnitude, but is still a nice Guy. Deadlines are the bane of his existence, despite his quest to be a Pulitzer Prize winning writer. He believes the world would be a better place if everyone read comic books. Try reading Brian K. Vaughn's graphic novel, *Pride of Baghdad* (available at Borders). For further enquiries with regards to this article or any other rants, please contact him on 0402421540. Proposals for marriage should be forwarded to his mother.*

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

Radio Group News

4EB FM 98.1 - "Sharing the World With You"


Dates to Remember

"SHARING 4EB FM WITH THE WORLD" RADIOTHON**Major Prizes**

 **A RETURN FLIGHT FOR ONE PERSON TO A DESTINATION IN EUROPE.**

 **MAKYBE DIVA PAINTING BY CHARLES BILlich (OIL PAINTING ON CANVAS)**

 **ONE YEAR'S VALUE OF STYLECUTS AND / OR HAIRCUTS FOR TWO PEOPLE**

 **ONE NIGHT'S ACCOMMODATION AND DINNER FOR TWO PEOPLE**

At the Polish Place, Mt Tamborine

PLUS

MORE PRIZES TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY

4EB FM SILVER SOUNDS RADIOTHON
6TH OCTOBER TO 15TH OCTOBER
2006.

PLEDGE A DONATION TO SUPPORT
YOUR CULTURAL PROGRAMMES. MAJOR
PRIZE DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE ON MON-
DAY 18 DECEMBER 2005.

Note- All people who pledge \$25 or more will be in the Major Prize Draw. People also have the opportunity to make a tax deductible donation if they do not wish to enter the Prize Draw. More prizes will be available for donations of less than \$25.

Support 4EB FM and its broadcasters as they support you and "Share 4EB with the World". Listen by visiting www.4eb.org.au or tune in to 4EB FM 98.1 during Radiothon 2006.

Call 4EB FM during Radiothon on 3240-8688



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

Movie - 8th October

"Bherunda Pashiya" (see page 7)

Sri Lanka Society Dinner Dance -
Saturday, 14th October (see page 3)

Radiothon -
Sunday 15th October (see page 6)

Saralanga 2006 -
Saturday 28th October (see page 3)

Brisbane Multicultural festival.
Sunday 15th October.

At Roma Street Parklands.

This is the 3rd year of this Festival. 4EB FM will be there with the OB van. There will also be a stall in a sheltered area close to one of the main entertainment stages. Please contact Silvia in the office if you are able to offer some time so that a roster can be made to allow everyone to have time to see the events on the day.

4EB FM B'day celebrations

Make sure you are ready to celebrate 4EB FM's 27th B'day celebration on the **2nd of December** at ANFE Hall at Newstead.

The night will include food and entertainment. It will also be a celebration of five years of broadcasting in FM. Tickets available now for \$20.00. Book now as tickets are limited.

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Jayantha Ameratunga & Vasanthe Vithanage

Bherunda Phakshiya

Kingdom After Sunset

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A Sinhala Movie

**Sri Lankan Group
of Radio 4EB**

Presents

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Sunday, 8th October 2006

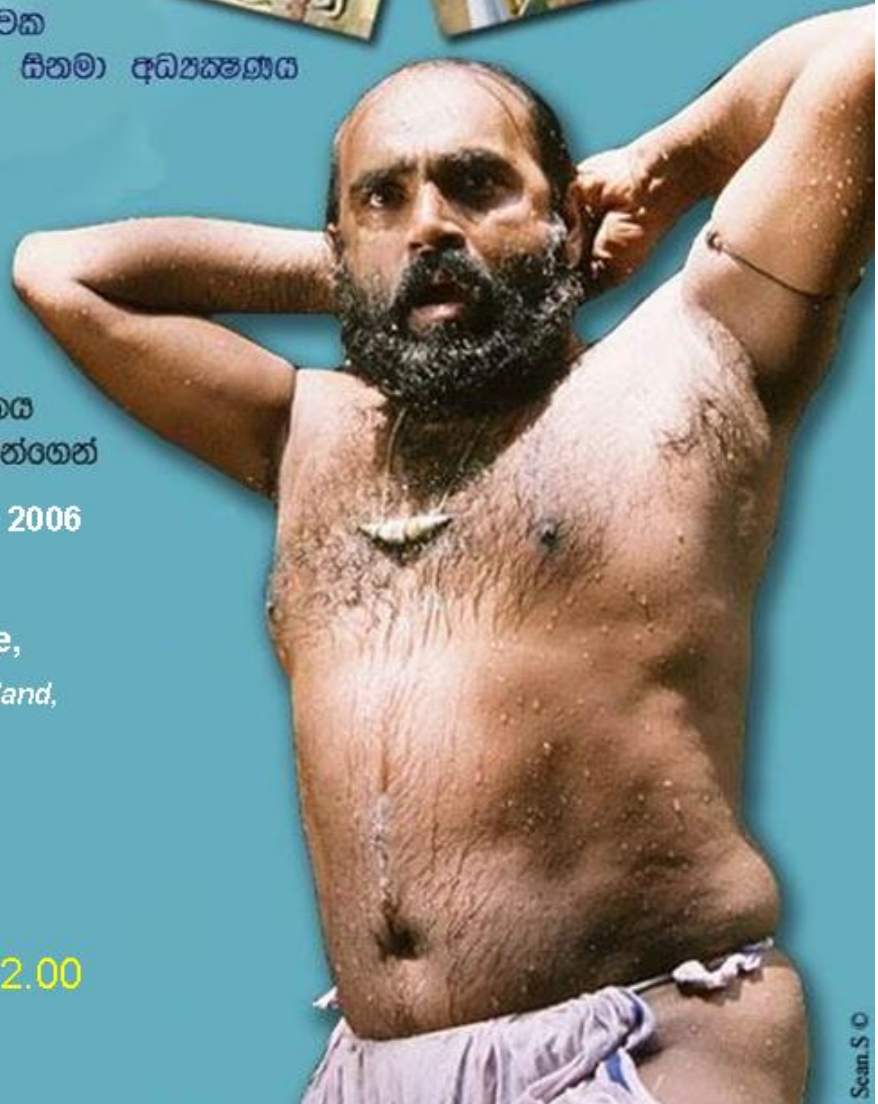
6.00 PM

**Schonell Theatre,
University of Queensland,
St. Lucia**

Tickets:

Adults - \$15.00

Concessions: \$ 12.00



Sean.S.O