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Memories of the Ranaviruwo Musical Show

Wasana Bandara

I was at the Cavendish State School, Brisbane on 15th September when the 11 member disabled servicemen's band; "Ranaviruwo", from the Ranaviru Sevena in Ragama, Sri Lanka mesmerized an audience of over 400 spectators by performing the "Ranaviruwo" concert. This event, organized by the Queensland Chapter of the Society for Peace Unity and Human Rights in Sri Lanka (SPUR- Qld), was the third concert held as part of the band's one month tour of Australia and New Zealand. Their performance was amazing, with a wide variety of entertaining music. The musical night started with the band singing songs of tribute to the motherland and Ranaviru Sevena (their rehabilitation centre), leading to powerful patriotic tunes that sent subtle chills and vibes of patriotism amongst the spectators. As the evening progressed, they entertained the audience with authentic Sri Lankan beats ranging from old classics to modern releases, from slow tunes to fast beats, from duets to solos, and many more. The band's extraordinary conduct, pleasing and engaging interaction, and their willingness to cater to the many audience requests, helped them slowly entrap the spectators within an ambience that was absolutely entertaining. This was evidenced from the continuous vibrating applauses, the many whistles, and the stamping feet of those who simply could no longer sit in their seats. They rose to dance along in enjoyment, surrendering themselves to the music that these talented musicians created.



The band left the audience in awe and disbelief, when it was revealed that none of the band members had any music background, until their lives were hit with tragedy. When, in a split second the brutal war seized their ability to be at the forefront of the battlefield to protect us Sri Lankans, these noble men saw a different avenue to reach the nation's citizens. They learnt music in the course of rehabilitation, and used its power to enter the hearts of Mother Lanka's children. With music, they still serve our nation, planting seeds of patriotism and reaching out to Sri Lankans living within and away from their motherland. Their mission is simple - to remind us all of the reality of a ferocious war that has infested the sacred lands of a great country, and to make a humble appeal to help ourselves make the country a true democratic land, which is what they sacrifice their lives, limbs and blood for.

Contact us on email
brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au



The Ranaviruwo band left a noble message amongst the Brisbane Sri Lankan Community - a message to never forget; "It's long overdue, but never too late. Sri Lanka owes our Military Veterans an eternal debt of Gratitude. Let us not make these soldiers who have sacrificed their dreams and lives, Victims of neglect, but cherish and support them as our Heroes of War and Peace".

Wasana recently completed her PhD and is currently employed as a lecturer at QUT. She has been a supporter of Radio 4EB and other Sri Lankan Associations in Brisbane. She has used her bilingual skills effectively and has compered several musical and stage shows in Brisbane.



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Ranaviruvo - A tribute to our "Fighting Heroes"

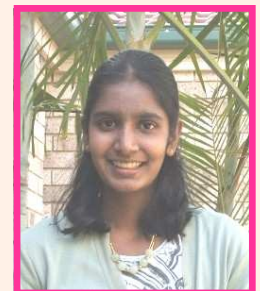
On the 15 September, 2007, the Sri Lankan community of Brisbane came together to honour the 11 member disabled service-men's band from Ranaviru Sevana in Ragama. It was a fun-filled night as the Sri Lankan war veterans entertained us with music that is second to none. They have bravely faced the war in the effort to protect all communities in Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, they have become victims of the harsh war as a result. Being disabled has not stopped them from keeping their spirits high. Most people would expect heroes to represent their country in an honourable way, whether it is in sport, music or any other profession. These heroes lie above all of them because they are "fighting heroes" who are still fighting for peace and harmony for all Sri Lankans.

Many times, the soldiers are faced with a situation that leaves uncertainty of the outcome and there is apprehension about what lies ahead. But, they are men and women of courage as they maintain the quest for freedom. Their efforts will fill our history books as those Sri Lankan soldiers, men and women alike, who answered with bravery, enthusiasm, honour, vigilance and devotion, who fought not only for Sri Lankans but for all nations. They have voluntarily decided to leave their homes, families and safety and comfort to place themselves in harm's way on the battlefields in order to free the whole society. They have marched into new territory and stumbled into overwhelming circumstances; invaded corners of the world where the light of knowledge and truth did not exist and saw the tragedies resulting from hate and fear. These soldiers have gone through a lot in their lives – and now it is our duty to help them in return.

This event was put forward to raise funds to help and rehabilitate the injured soldiers who have fought or are still fighting the war. This was a special night of musical talent that turned out to be very successful. The entertaining night was full of popular songs that included many patriotic hits. It was amazing to see these disabled men play as if they were like the professional musicians of today. It really goes to show how talented our war veterans are. It even sparked up a few dancers and a standing ovation from the crowd every now and again!

I think that it takes more than courage and bravery to risk your life for the protection of your country. It is an undeniably noble deed to dedicate your skills and talents not for private gain but for the betterment of the community as a whole. We felt so proud to watch our heroes step out on the stage and show their musical talents. It was a remarkable experience that I will never forget. Each and every day they sacrifice, preserve, protect and defend our country. We thank them for all their service and dedication and we will forever keep them in our thoughts and within our hearts. Hail to our heroes! May peace and harmony prevail in Sri Lanka!

Melanie Wijesuriya
Year 10
Brisbane State High School



Radio Programme Schedule

Tuesday-Sandella 10.00 PM	Producer/ Panel Operator	Sunday Radio 8.30 AM	Producer/ Panel Operator
2 October 2007	Youth/Sandun	7 October 2007	Dushyantha/Anura
9 October 2007	Piya Bandara/Kosinna	14 October 2007	Nuwan/Jayasiri
16 October 2007	Udaya Madugalle/Aravinda	21 October 2007	Kosinna/Kosinna
23 October 2007	Indrani Doloswela/Aravinda	28 October 2007	Jayantha Wicks/Aruna
6 November 2007	(bi-lingual) Wimal/Wimal	4 November 2007	Aravinda/Aravinda

The current issue of this newsletter was edited by Jayantha Weerasekera.
 If you are interested in being a guest editor, please contact brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au

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

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

The Environmental Crisis



Humanity is facing the world's biggest problem ever- the Global Warming. The Global Warming can be simply described as the increase of average temperature of the Earth. Atmosphere, which is the most vulnerable part of earth's ecological system, is very thin. Therefore greenhouse gas emissions (which include CO₂) can change the composition of it. When there is more CO₂ in the atmosphere, temperature gets warmer. Consequently, earth's temperature rises. Since the commencement of measuring of CO₂ in 1958, there has been an inexorable increase of CO₂ in the earth's atmosphere. The estimated CO₂ concentration in future is way above the natural change. All these changes are as a result of human intervention. We are witnessing a collision between our civilization and the earth. Scientific and technological revolution has improved our quality of life, but we didn't think about conserving our environment. This new technology has created a great adverse impact on our environment. To meet people's needs and wants we are adding too much pressure on the earth. This is how the Mother Nature responds to them. We are now beginning to see the harmful impacts.

The ten hottest years ever recorded have all happened in the last 14 years. And the hottest of all was in 2005. In 2003 Europe had a massive heat wave killing 35000 people. Glaciers are getting melted. Sea levels continue to rise. If the situation aggravates some highly populated cities such as Florida, Calcutta, Beijing, and Shanghai will be submerged. When sea temperature increases that causes strong storms. Hurricanes will cause billions of dollars worth of damage and will kill thousands of people. Global Warming causes more precipitation. As a result flooding occurs. Global warming paradoxically cause not only precipitation but also causes drought. Even now the world's largest lakes, water has dried up to a great extent. Lake Chad for example is no more. Arctic is one of the two regions of the world experiencing faster impacts from global warming. Today, scientists who go to Arctic can see melting of ice shelves. Scientists have predicted that there would be no ice left in 50 years time.. That will not help creatures who depend on ice. Seasonal changes, species loss and destruction of coral reefs have created an immense threat to biodiversity. Ecosystems and natural habitats of Australia are world renowned, yet potentially one of the most fragile of the systems that will be exposed to climate change.

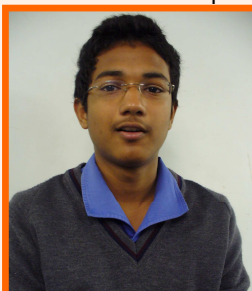
Australia is responsible for 326,757,000 tons of CO₂ emissions. Australia is one of the biggest emitters on a per capita basis. Australian government has declined to ratify the Kyoto Treaty. However, the government has taken steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We have the knowledge and technology to solve this problem. Many in Australia do not believe that a crisis is on. We as citizens of the earth have a responsibility to protect this world. Efficient use of electricity, use of energy efficient vehicles and appliances, use of renewable technology, recycling and planting trees are some of the things we can do. Together, we have the capability of changing these emissions. If not, our children would think why our parents didn't wake up when they had a chance. The unborn children of tomorrow will bear the heavy burden of our indifference. It is deeply unethical to leave an unfavourable world for them to live in.

Kalana Wickremaratne

15 years old

Grade 10

Brisbane State High School



Radio 4EB 2007 Christmas Toy Appeal

In two months time we will be celebrating Christmas. Christmas is a time we take a break and share our joy and happiness with our families and loved ones. While we organise parties, it is also a time we need to think of the less fortunate in our society, the lonely people, the sick and the hungry. It's a time when we show goodwill and loving kindness towards everyone irrespective of their colour or creed. It's a time for sharing and for giving.

To reflect upon this theme, this year too, the Sri Lankan 4EB group will be embarking on the Christmas toy collection event for the Royal children's hospital in Brisbane. It was a huge success a few years back and our simple expressions of kindness were greatly appreciated by a generous hospital staff.

The Royal Children's hospital is a place close to my heart. It's a place where I have visited several times during and after our baby was born under difficult circumstances.

Hospital is a place of healing where patients receive love, hope, peace and compassion. The toys that we collect will be given to the sick children and to the newly born babies and to their mums in the hospital. Giving a toy is a practical way that we can show that we care and that we are willing to help people who are suffering. Our gifts will warm a sick child's heart and bring joy to the weary heart of a mother. There is nothing like hugging a teddy bear especially in times of illness and distress. Our gifts can warm the hearts of both the giver and the receiver'. It is a unique opportunity to show to the world that we as a Sri Lankan group are a part of the Australian community and that we are willing to interact across cultural boundaries to truly work together to bring joy and happiness to the lives of many and to contribute to a worthwhile venture.

Hence, on behalf of the Sri Lankan group of Radio 4eb, I invite you to take part in this year's event and to give to this worthy cause generously and freely to make a difference to the lives of these little children.

You can help us by volunteering to collect toys, joining us to distribute the toys in the hospital or helping to organise the event and to encourage family and friends to give generously to the 2007 Christmas toy appeal.

The event is scheduled for early December, probably Monday 10th and the most likely hospital will be the Royal Children's Hospital. More details will be brought to you through the Sunday radio program and Sandella.

If you are able to help us with the 2007 Christmas toy appeal or would like further information, such as types of toys or how to get involved, please contact Derrick Fernando, Prema Weerawardena (37155415) or Jayantha Weerasekera (38460232).

Derrick Fernando (38348225 Office, 32615085 Home),
Secretary, Sri Lankan Group of Radio 4EB

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Upcoming Events

SRI LANKAN ASSOCIATION OF QLD

Saturday 6th October
29th Annual Sri Lankan Ball

The Chifley at Lennons, Grand Ballroom
66-76, Queen Street on the Mall. Brisbane

Tickets:
Members \$55.00 Non-members \$ 65.00

For bookings contact:
Hiran 3843 5950 Swarna 3343 1558
Dhavina 3376 0351 Ronnie 3818 3903
Niroshan 3300 9911

SRI LANKAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF QLD

Sunday 4 November
Sri Lankan Cricket Team Dinner Dance

*with Sri Lankan Artists, Corrine Almeida and
Sohan Weerasinghe of the XPERIMENTS*

RNA Showground (Sir Walter Burnett Building)

For tickets/information
Jayantha Pathikirikorale 3808 2299
Andy Weerasinghe 044 888 0608
Davenal Flanderka 041 902 4506

20th October
Sri Lankan Curry Night

Fig Tree Pocket Primary School Hall
Cnr Thiesfield & Cubberla Sts (UBD 178 F16)

Western and Baila music by Shiran
Dinner (BYO Drinks)

Contact: Thilani 3376 9709 or 0402 913000

28th October 5pm
Musical Show with Dayan Vitharana

Nudgee Junior College Auditorium
Indooroopilly (UBD 178 G8)

Contact:
Saranga 0421 691816 Ajith 0403 203033
Lal 0411 728493 Lalantha 0430 507545

CRICKET IN BRISBANE

Nov 2-4 Sri Lanka vs Qld (Allan Border Field)
Nov 8-12 Sri Lanka vs Australia 1st Test - Gabba
Feb 5 - Sri Lanka vs India ODI - Gabba
Mar 4 - Second ODI Final - Gabba

**If you need details of the full itinerary please
visit the web site:**

www.cricinfo.com

BUDDHIST VIHARA OF QLD GOODNA

**The Annual Katina Puja of Buddhist Vihara of
Queensland, Goodna is scheduled for 27th &
28th October 2007.**
**We respectfully invite you to participate in this
meritorious act.**
**Kindly make all donations & offerings available
by 20th October 2007.**
**Cheques in favour of " Buddhist Vihara
(Temple) of Queensland".**
Please contact Priyantha Mendis on 3349 4113

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