



Volume 6 Issue 10

Dæhæna - Monthly E-News Letter

1 October 2011

Radio 4EB Sri Lankan Group

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Dewali (Deepavali)– the festival of lights



Dewali –the festival of lights is widely celebrated by Hindus around the world. In other words it is the biggest festival for Hindus and widely celebrated in India and Sri Lanka in the month of October every year and they perform rituals according to the Hindu traditions in their homes together with their families. The name Dewali comes from the Sanskrit word Deepavali which translates to row of lamps. We Sri Lankans are more familiar with the festival known as Deepavali and it is an official holiday in Sri Lanka. Of all the festivals celebrated by Hindus Diwali is by far the most glamorous and important.

On the auspicious day the Hindu homes and Kovils light traditional oil lamps in rows to signify the conquest of good over evil. They offer the Lakshmi Puja in the evening and seek divine blessings of Goddess of Wealth. On the festival day our Hindu friends, clad in new clothes, have a meal in keeping to the Hindu traditions, share sweets and snacks , and kiribath with the family and friends. The festival is never complete without offering gifts to the family members and friends. Giving gifts on the auspicious day acknowledges love and affection to

loved ones. After the Dewali Puja it is customary to exchange these gifts before they sit together for the traditional meal.

According to the Hindu religion, Dewali commemorates the return of Lord Rama along with Seetha and Lakshmana after his fourteen years of exile battling with King Ravana.

We understand that the Hindu devotees living in Brisbane are planning to celebrate the Dewali festival with traditional dances and lighting of oil lamps to evoke blessings to the community.

The Sri Lankan Radio group wishes all our Hindu listeners a Happy Dewali.

Jayantha Weerasekera

This is a free newsletter distributed by email every month. If you wish to be included in the mailing list please send us an email:

brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au



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4EB FM 98.1
– SRI LANKAN PROGRAMME

ARUNELLA - Sunday
8.30am - 9.30am

SANDELLA—Tuesday
10.00pm—11.00pm

Listen to Radio 4EB - FM 98.1 Sri Lankan Programme Sunday 8.30am - Arunella Tuesday 10pm - Sandella

Opportunities for Research in Construction Management at USQ

Construction management is a relatively young area of research, focussing on managerial issues connected with the design, construction, and delivery of construction projects from commercial, residential, and industrial projects to infra-structure projects including projects connected with natural disasters.

You don't need an engineering degree to undertake post-graduate studies in construction management. If you have a degree in quantity surveying/construction economics, architecture, or business management with commensurate experience in construction you could be eligible for post-graduate studies in this field. Opportunities exist at masters (by research) and doctoral levels which can be undertaken either on a full time or a part-time basis.

Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents may be allocated a place funded by the Research Training Scheme which means that successful applicants will be exempted from tuition fees for the tenure of the award.

Research Scholarships

The Faculty of Engineering and Surveying at the University of Southern Queensland provides postgraduate scholarships for doctoral studies in construction management for either local or international applicants with exceptional research potential. These scholarships carry a yearly (tax free) stipend of Australian \$ 30,000. Australian and New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents who receive a scholarship may be allocated a place funded by

the Research Training Scheme which means that successful applicants will not have to pay tuition fees for the tenure of the award. However, international students will be liable for tuition fees. For more details, please see: www.usq.edu.au/scholarships/postgrad/foesprs. These scholarships close on 31st October 2011. For other available scholarships, please see: www.usq.edu.au/scholarships/postgrad

University of Southern Queensland has campuses in Toowoomba and Springfield (28 kms from Brisbane) and also in Fraser Coast. Recently, the University launched a number of undergraduate programs in, construction management, and civil construction, offered on-campus (Toowoomba and Springfield) and via distance education.

Those interested in construction management research may wish to contact Dr Vasantha Abeysekera at the Springfield Campus of the University of Southern Queensland on 1800 455 889 or email study@usq.edu.au.



Dr Vasantha Abeysekera

Director (Construction Management Studies) at USQ
BSc Hons Civil Eng. (First Class), MSc (L'boro, UK), PhD (L'boro, UK),
CEng, MIE (SI), MNZIQS

ARIONA –Experience the Vibrancy of Sri Lanka'

Following the success of the on line magazine ARIONA, the young entrepreneurs Dimuthu Dias-Mendis & Avanthi Kottegoda have embarked on yet another challenging project. An event also named ARIONA has been put together to introduce the Sri Lankan way of life to the wider community in Australia.

The event, 'ARIONA –Experience the Vibrancy of Sri Lanka', accommodates the greater Brisbane community in understanding the Sri Lankan identity through a glimpse of the Sri Lankan heritage and culture. The event was conceptualised to help the wider community to appreciate the true Sri Lankan spirit and consolidate the efforts of reconciliation within the different ethnicities of Sri Lanka as one harmonious community, following the end of a civil war that ravaged the country for decades. ARIONA aims to promote values of harmony and peace through the Event. As a result of understanding the Sri Lankan culture and heritage we hope to introduce people of non Sri Lankan backgrounds to the Sri Lankan story, cuisines, fashion and music.

The event will be held on the 6th of November at King George Square from 1.00pm – 5.00pm. Further details can be accessed on www.ariona.com.au closer to the event.

Saralanga 2011 - This annual event, organised by the Sinhala Association of Queensland, was successfully held on 24 September at Ormiston College Hall. We will bring you a summary and photos in our next issue.— Editors

Pooja - The organisers of POOJA musical show wish to acknowledge with thanks, each and every individual who contributed towards the successful staging of 'POOJA'. We raised \$ 12, 177.00 and the total expenditure was \$900 (for sound equipment) and \$117.00 (for canteen items). The net proceeds therefore were \$11,160.00. All proceeds have now been transferred to the Mediequipment Pty Ltd, who is the supplier to the Maharagama Cancer Hospital as agreed with the Dr Kanishka Karunaratne, Director of the Hospital. Queensland Fair Trading has accepted our CPA audited financial statement and more details will be provided in the 4eb newsletter December 2011 edition.

Engineers in the Sri Lankan community

As we all know, engineers make a fair portion of the Sri Lankan community living in Australia. Many engineers still arrive every year as engineering is one of the preferred professions for Australian migration. Although there is a high shortage of engineering professionals in the country, it is sad to note that there is also a high percentage of overseas qualified engineers without jobs. As a result, many of the newly arrived engineers are without jobs, even for up to two years with quite a few from Sri Lanka.

It is not easy for a recently migrated engineer to get a job immediately as the employers look for local job experience. This is a vicious cycle as no local experience can be gained without getting a job first.

Engineers Australia, the umbrella body representing most engineering disciplines, is concerned and has taken some actions to address the situation. The Queensland Division of IEAust recently established a committee (Overseas Qualified Engineers Group, OQEG) to help newly migrated engineers.

With the assistance from the Brisbane North Institute of TAFE, this group is currently taking actions to provide placements for engineers without local experience. Those employers who provide local experience have nothing to lose – they don't need to pay them; can retrench any time. Insurance and other expenses are being taken care of under the scheme. Many employers who have participated in this initiative have recruited these engineers on completion of the training period saving them money and effort in finding suitable candidates – a win:win situation for both parties.

OQEG is looking for more employers to provide traineeships as currently there is a backlog of traineeships. There are many from the Sri Lankan community waiting to find placements.

We know that there are many engineers in our community who are in senior positions in their organisations and/or are influential enough to persuade the management to provide placements. This request is to such senior engineers to help our fellow community members. If any person is capable of organising traineeships to newly migrated engineers, please contact Sam Fernando (phone 0422 406 619, email: samfernando87@yahoo.com). We are especially looking for placements in the areas of civil (particularly in the water area), structural, electrical and electronics.

Overseas Qualified Engineers Group organises many activities to engineers looking for jobs. They include providing opportunities for prospective employers to meet with job seekers, organising information sessions to prepare job applications, find out how to get their overseas experience assessed. Information on these activities can be found by visiting the following Engineers Australia Queensland Division Webpage:

http://www.engineersaustralia.org.au/divisions/queensland-division/events/events_home.cfm

Sam Fernando

An Information forum and networking event for overseas qualified engineers, organised by IE Aust Qld, will be held on Monday 10 Oct. at 5.30pm for 6pm start to 8pm at the Hawken Auditorium, 447 Upper Edward St, Brisbane.

<https://events.engineersaustralia.org.au/ei/getdemo.ei?id=1048&s=1X80U14S6>

Marcella Andrado's life of witness and service celebrated



On Sept. 19, Holy Family Parish, Indooroopilly celebrated the life of Marcella Andrado, 81. Australians joined Sri Lankans of various ethnic and religious groups to honour her Christian witness and humanitarian service.

Having started life in Brisbane as a staff of Mater Hospital, Marcella also served for decades as organist at the Catholic churches in Kenmore, Darra and Indooroopilly. She was a member of the Catholic Women's League, Indooroopilly. She was among the pioneers who organised the annual Our Lady of Madhu feast at the Marian Valley in Canungra. Marcella had also been a volunteer caregiver at Canossa Services, Oxley. This facility provided her with final palliative care.

Marcella had migrated to Australia in the 1970s along with Everard and their three children. But though she had left Sri Lanka, native Sri Lankanness never really left Her. Her family widened in no time as she began to mother all Sri Lankan migrants who crossed her path. Irrespective of their religious or ethnic backgrounds, she sustained and smothered them with motherly love.

In the spirit of her Christian faith, Marcella personified the Pauline dictum of being "all things to all people" and "everyone's servant." She was available to each and all, whether to baby-sit or take a child to school, to rush the sick to hospital, to help with marketing or to offer a ride to the stranded. "I'll be there," was her ready response. As she hustled around in combined roles of Mary-and-Martha, she never lost her unforgettably infectious smile of welcome. The deep-freezer in her home was always stacked with trays of home-made currypuffs ready to be baked for priests or friends in the neighbourhood. She served Batticaloa-style pittu to those near and dear.

Marcella never forgot the people of her native Batticaloa. Toward the end of every year, she would scour Brisbane's shopping complexes in search of toys and books to be sent as Christmas gifts to needy children there. She also ran a scholarship scheme and a library for them.

After the 2004 Tsunami, Marcella had channelled much assistance in kind and cash to victims in Batticaloa. This gracious contribution was gratefully recalled in a message sent to her by Bishop Kingsley Swampillai of Trincomalee-Batticaloa diocese. The Bishop sent the message of appreciation and blessing to sustain Marcella through her terminal illness.

In her last days, she was surrounded by family and friends from far and near, a rare vindication of her life of service. No doubt, it was only a small token of the greater reward awaiting her.

Marcella, may the Lord of life bless you with the plenitude of bliss as you regain your voice in the heavenly choir!

Not goodbye, but au revoir!

Rita Welgampola

Health and wellbeing a prime focus at Seniors' meetings

Monthly seniors' meetings are becoming more and more popular with a record attendance at meetings. Perhaps the reasons for this increased popularity could be the friendly environment, good food and the usefulness of presentations.

At the July meeting, Ms. Elaine Galvin, a representative from the Queensland Government Public Trustee Services, made a presentation on making a last will, enduring power of attorney and attorney for financial matters. She also explained what an "Advanced Health Directive" was and how to make one with a medical doctor.

Dhammika Jayasooriya (see photo), a nutritionist, was the guest speaker at the August Seniors' meeting. Nearly two hours she talked and answered questions about nutrition and healthy eating. She gave a number of health boosting tips on the nutritional value of several foods including broccoli, brazil nuts, pear juice and fresh salads, focussing on disease prevention and health promotion.

With so many new faces joining monthly, the September meeting was devoted to knowing each other, many sharing interesting stories about their lives.

'Jeshta Puravesi Hamuwa' promotes religious harmony and conducts events related to different religions. An annual alms giving is one such event organised in memory of Sri Lankan community members who have passed away. This time it will be held as the event for the month of October. More information on this can be found from Padma Gunasekera. Her contact number is 3271 3172.

Monthly seniors' meetings are held on the last Saturday of each month from 9.30 AM to 2.00 PM at the Community Room of the Garden City Shopping Complex. There is no age group for attendees. More and more "not so seniors" attend nowadays to make the day enjoyable for "real seniors"!

Sam Fernando, Sandra Joseph



Passing Away of Wijeratne Ranatunga, K Jayatilleke and Joe Abeywickrema



Renowned 'Tabla' artist Wijeratne Ranatunga passed away on 17 November at the age of 68 years. He was a senior lecturer of the University of the Visual & Performing Arts and the husband of Nirmala Ranatunga (Singer) and the father of two children. His contribution to the development of music in the country is well known. Some of his hits include 'Galana Gangaki Jeewithe', 'Mitin mudahara Baluwemi' and 'Hina mal godak', sung by Nirmala.



K. Jayatilleke, a renowned writer, critic and philosopher passed away last month at a private hospital. He was 85 years old at the time of his death. Graduating from the London University he started his writing career in 1943 with his first literary work 'Viyodasuna'. He was the husband of radio announcer Sumana Jayatillake.



Lanka's award winning veteran Actor Joe Abeywickrema passed away at the age of 78 after a brief illness. He started in films in 1957 with "Devasundari" (Godly Beauty) but his film "Saradam" was screened first. His acting roles in Siribo Aiya, Bambaru Awith, Saarawita, Thun Mang Handiya, Beddegama, Daasa Nisa and Aswesuma are unforgettable. He won several national awards including Best Actor Sarasaviya Awards for the films Saravita and Welikathara. In the 1999 Singapore International Film Festival, Joe won the Silver Screen Award for Best Asian Actor for his portrayal of a grieving father in the film Pura Handa Kaluwara (Death on a Full Moon Day).

Obituary

ANDRADO, Marcella Agnes (Marla) Late of Sinnamon Park. Passed away peacefully on the 14th September, 2011. Beloved Wife of Everard and cherished Mother of Maryse, Serena and Adrian. A Funeral Mass was held at Holy Family Catholic Church, Indooroopilly on 19th September, attended by many friends and relatives, followed by the Burial Service at Pinnaroo Cemetery, Bridgeman Downs.

**She has won a global award, saved countless lives,
has an unquenchable passion...
Meet Dr Nadeeka Dissanayaka**

Last month when I was browsing through the Style magazine I saw this news and thought it is worthy to publish in the community newspaper. This is the story of a remarkable achievement of a young talented Sri Lankan. It is best for me to quote the magazine.



“Last year she won the RBWH postdoctoral fellowship and won the first place in the International Conference on Mental Dysfunction and other Non Motor features for her research in Parkinson’s disease making her one of the youngest recipients to date. The passionate young Brissy doctor has already earned the respect of medical big shots. And to top it off she’s one of the most down-to-earth, modest and pleasant women you’ll ever meet”.

When we asked her how it felt to win the most recent international award, she said “there were lots of big shots there and about 1000 presentations. It was great to have our work recognised on an international scale.”

The work is her research on anxiety and depression in Parkinson’s Disease patients, something she is fiercely passionate about and has worked on since completing her PhD in 2008. “Most of the time people don’t talk about mental problems that they might have and end up developing into a much bigger problem. I wanted to work with people to try to understand the disease and develop a strategy for dealing with it,” says Dr Dissanayaka.

She tells us that working with this vulnerable group of people is her biggest inspiration.”

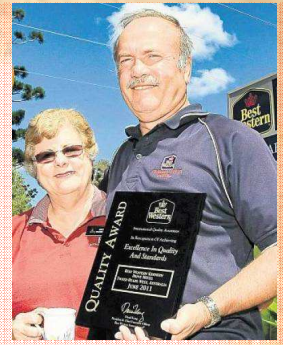
The above explains it all. Dr Dissanayaka, born in Sri Lanka, who had her early childhood education in Colombo, is a humble young girl who migrated to Australia in 1998 with her parents. She has made remarkable inroads into medical science and all Sri Lankans should feel proud to have such young individuals in our community.

May Nadeeka have the blessings of the triple gem to achieve her aspirations to serve humanity!!!

Sujeeva Wanigatunga

Swans win Excellence Award

Anton and Bronwen Swan who operate the Best Western Motel on Kennedy Drive, Tweed Heads have won an award for excellence in quality and standards from Best Western. According to Bronwen the motel was also receiving rave reviews on travel website TripAdvisor that ranked the Kennedy Drive Motel as number one of 15 hotels and bed and breakfasts in Tweed Heads.



Extracted from an article by Rebecca Masters - web site:

<http://www.kennedydrivemotel.com.au/bwassuranceaward.htm>

(Mr Anton Swan is the Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Queensland.)

Restaurant and Catering Awards 2011

The Ceylon Inn restaurant in Graceville won the award for the Best Indian/Sub-Continent Restaurant (over 100 seats) at the Brisbane/Darling Downs Restaurant & Catering Awards for Excellence 2011 conducted last month. It won the award against stiff competition from the other nominees, A Night in India Toowong, Bombay Bliss Milton, Sitar Indian Restaurant, Albion, Sitar Indian Restaurant, Coorparoo, Sitar Indian Restaurant, New Farm and Sitar Indian Restaurant, South Brisbane.

Last year, Ceylon Inn Bulimba won the Savour Australia Restaurant & Catering Awards for Excellence 2010 (less than 100 seats).



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Editors : Jayantha Ameratunga & Priyanga Algama **Advisory Committee :** Vasanthe Vithanage, Jayantha Weerasekera and Wimal Kannangara



Sri Lanka Society of Queensland

Charity Night

IN SUPPORT OF Kathleen Keegel Children's Fund Ltd

Caring for orphans & under-privileged children of Sri Lanka

AND Brave Hearts Foundation of Sri Lanka



Enjoy an evening of fine music and food

Music by "Mystery" Melbourne

Vocals Dulip, Roger & Nalin

Australian Hellenic Sports Centre

'Goodwin Park', 50, Cansdale Street - Yeronga (UBD Map 179 K 9)

On 22nd October 2011 6.30 pm

We encourage everyone to get behind this wonderful fundraiser

and make a difference in the lives of these needy ones

Members & Nonmembers: \$55 Seniors/Students \$ 50 - Dress: Smart Casual

For tickets contact: Kanaji: 32061660 / 0417620758 Hermin: 33969061

Noel: 38794980 / 0434061922 Kamali: 38704163 Upali: 38792262

Asoka: 3701 5391 Damian 0433 124 818 / 3106 0521

'MY SRI LANKA' by Peter Kuruvita

is scheduled to start
on SBS on **Thursday**
3rd November at
7.30pm.

This is a 10 part
series that takes
acclaimed **Sydney**
chef, Peter Kuruvita
away from his harbour
-side restaurant and
back to his homeland of Sri Lanka to
reconnect with family, retrace his
childhood footprints and cook with
the locals (ending in early January
2012).

SBS will start advertising it about 6
weeks before. Await for SBS an-
nouncements as dates may change.



Stage drama from the
Pabha teledrama actors

Sarath Chandrasiri, Kumara Thirimadura,
Amila Abeysekera, Ananda Wickramage,
Piumi Boteju, Sampath Tennekoon

Date - Saturday 1st October

Venue -Nudgee Jnr College, Indooroopilly

Shiran 0402913000 or Thilani 33769709



Arunella - Sunday 8.30am

Date	Producer/Panel Operator
2 Oct	Thisara & Sandun/Thisara
9 Oct	Nishanthi Weliwita & Guests/Jay Wick-
16 Oct	Aravinda & SL Committee -Radiothon/Aravinda
23 Oct	Nawroos Naeem/Ananda Pathirana
30 Oct	Dushyantha Munasinghe/Aravinda
6 Nov	Samanmal Gunaratna

Programme Schedule

Sandella - Tuesday 10.00pm

Date	Producer/Panel Operator
4 Oct	Youth-Kumara, Mithila & others/Mithila
11 Oct	Ajith Kossinna/Ajith
18 Oct	Janaka Weerasinghe & Guest/Thisara & Janaka
25 Oct	Piya & Chinthi Bandara/Piya Bandara
1 Nov	Kumarasinghe Dissanayake, Mithila & Heshna/

Sri Lankan Events Calendar - Brisbane**October 2011**

1	Stitching of Katina Cheevara	Goodna Temple
1	Haye Kalliya-Sinhala stage drama	Shiran 0402 913000
2	Old Royal-Thomian Cricket Match	See flyer below
8	Have-A-Chat Party "High Tea"	Silver Fawn
16	Bodhi Ropana Anniversary	Forest Lake Temple
16	Qld Multicultural Festival	Qld Govt
22	Charity Night	Sri Lanka Society
29	Alms Giving-Forest lake Temple	Snr Citizen Group
29	Deepavali - Ceylon Tamil Assoc.	Nava 0400820013
29-30	Katina ceremony-Pirith chanting & Dana	Goodna Temple

November 2011

5	"Yasodhara" Dhamma/Sinhala School Prize Giving	Forest Lake Temple
5	Bollywood Night	Silver Fawn
5 & 6	Katina Festival/Yellow Robe offering Ceremony	Forest Lake Temple
6	Sri Lankan Cultural Fiesta	Ariona
6	Sinhala Film Mahindagamanaya	Goodna Temple
12	Thesatta Gnana Puja	Goodna Temple
19	5th Anniversary of placing of Samadhi Buddha Statue	Forest Lake Temple
20	Carrom/Billiards Tournament	Silver Fawn

December 2011

3	Golden Years Xmas party	Silver Fawn
10	Sangamitta Day	Forest Lake Temple
11	Golf Day	Silver Fawn
17	Xmas Carols	Silver Fawn
31	Grand NYE'S Dance	Silver Fawn

TAMIL ASSOCIATION (QLD) INC.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT 2011
DINNER NITE AND CULTURAL PROGRAM
Coffey Club Auditorium-Brisbane RNA Show Grounds
Saturday 29 October 5pm

Tickets (meals included): Adult \$30 pp (non TAQ member), \$25 pp (TAQ member), Child \$5 (strictly under 14)
 Table booking is available (10/Table) - Free Parking

"Indian Vegetarian & Non Vegetarian Meals
 by Bombay Bliss"

Win 2 return air tickets to India by Singapore Airlines
 (Including one door prize) plus Raffle Prizes

Nava 0400 820013/3711 5363; Anand 0413 435016;
 Ron 0434 817799; Palani 0421 656000; Muthu 0401800 435;
 Nandini 0438 674721; Mark 0430 799002
 Email: nahila99@optusnet.com.au web: www.tamilqld.org

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 MAHINDAGAMANAYA

Sunday the 6th of November
 5.00 pm

Eldorado Cinema 8 Complex
 141 Coonan Street Indooroopilly

All proceeds of the film will be donated to the building fund of Queensland Buddhist Viharaya - Goodna

QUEENSLAND ROYALISTS AND THOMIANS INVITE YOU TO THE INAUGURAL

Battle of the Blues

SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER
 AT FIELD 2, (RON HALL OVAL),
 WHITES HILL RESERVE GROUNDS, WHITES HILL
 FIRST BALL AT 1015AM

BYO LUNCH AND DRINKS
 ORGANISING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ROYALISTS
 SANATH
 ROHAN
 SHIROMI

THOMIANS
 HIRAN
 DAVID
 KINGSLEY
 ROHITH

