



Volume 1, Issue 1

1st September 2006

Web Address: www.4eb.org.au-srilankan

Contact: brisbaneradio@yahoo.com.au



Message from the Convenor

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the first issue of the Newsletter of the Sri Lankan group of the Radio 4EB. This idea of an E-newsletter was born at the last Annual General Meeting of the radio group held on 23rd July 2006 where the need for a newsletter was felt. Jayantha Ameratunge and Vasanthe Vithanage deserve a big thank you for bringing it to fruition. I have no doubt that this newsletter will help us in reaching our listeners effectively and build a closer relationship with them.



The Sri Lankan group of the Radio 4EB is a dedicated group Sri Lankan volunteers engaged in producing and broadcasting radio programs for the Sri Lankans living in Queensland. With a humble beginning, the radio group over the last fifteen years has become a powerful institution that binds the community together by updating the community on the events happening in the motherland and sharing events and issues in Brisbane and Australia in general. The group now has two weekly radio programs. The Sunday program has evolved in content over the years reflecting the changing expectations of Sri Lankans living in Brisbane who are now interested in understanding and sharing experiences occurring in Australia in addition to knowing the happenings in Sri Lanka. The Tuesday Sandella program focuses on light entertainment and aimed at promoting youth participation.

The personnel associated with the group are either programmers/presenters and panel operators or playing both roles in bringing programs to listeners. Over the last decade, using the technological advancements the group has embarked on improving the variety, content and quality of programs. The group now has a web site providing information on radio programs and activities conducted by the group. The Tuesday Sandella has a dedicated youth program per month. Interestingly the group has been a victim of its own quality improvements over the last decade in that listener expectations on program quality and variety have increased over the years. The programmers spend a considerable time and effort to meet the listener expectations. This involves at least three visits to the radio station per program in addition to conducting research and spending their own money on overseas telephone calls to line up people for interviews. Unfortunately, the community participation and support to the group over the recent years do not reflect a similar trend. The community can support the group by providing a strong membership base and contributing to producing programs. The community radio in general provides a variety of opportunities to anyone who intends acquiring communication and programming skills and seeking opportunities to demonstrate one's creativity. This is your Radio. Join in and be part of it.

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Jayasiri Weerawardena
(Convenor of the Sri Lankan Group / Radio 4EB)



Sunday Radio	Programmer Panels
3rd Sept 2006	Ajith Ajith
10th Sept	Gihan Sandun
17th Sept	Wimal Wimal
24th Sept	Dushyantha Wimal

Tuesday "Sandella" 10.00 PM	Programmer Panels
5th Sept 2006	Youth Sandun
12th Sept	Kanchanamala Sandun
19th Sept	Jayasiri Prema
26th Sept (English Segment)	Derrick/ Jayantha Ajith

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Message From the Station Manager

A Message from the Editors

This E-Newsletter is the latest initiative by the Sri Lankan Group of the Radio 4EB to provide information to our loyal members and interested non-members and to set up a forum where ideas can be exchanged. As you are aware, there are two weekly radio programmes available to the Sri Lankan audience, 8.30 Sunday morning and 10pm Tuesday night, the latter popularly known as Sandella. They are the result of the untiring efforts of the Committee, the Programmers and Panel Operators who voluntarily spend hours of their valuable time without any complaints. While we wish to thank them for their efforts, appreciation should also extend to their families who provide constant support and encouragement.

The E-Newsletter will reach you electronically first day of every month or you could download from the Radio 4EB website (www.4eb.org.au-srilankan). Depending on the information available and/or time available, the length of the newsletter may vary from a single page to many pages. We do encourage you to provide suggestions for improvement, articles and news items of interest to the local community.

The primary focus of this newsletter is to disseminate information to the members of the Radio 4EB Sri Lanka Group and provide an opportunity for feedback. We will also bring to you news of interest but generally will not provide current news from Sri Lanka, available from many Sri Lankan newspapers on the internet. Editors,



I look forward to the release of the electronic newsletter to be distributed by Sri Lankan

Programming Group of 4EB FM. I believe that it is timely that this initiative be undertaken as today and in the future more and more people utilize e-mail as a major source of communication.

4EB FM facilitates the broadcasting of over 50 different cultural groups each week, and we see continual change and innovation within programmes broadcast on the station. The Sri Lankan group plays an important part in the make up and identity of the organisation and the programmes broadcast have been of a high standard, community involvement has been

excellent and promotion via the website and other community outlets must be commended.

I am also pleased to confirm that people are now able to listen to the 4EB FM programmes via the internet by visiting the 4EB website – www.4eb.org.au

4EB FM welcomes the support of the Sri Lankan community and always provides support for the community as well.

Peter Rohweder
Station Manager
Radio 4EB



For those who miss out on listening to the Sunday Radio Broadcast, now you have a chance of listening to it on the web within a week. Go to the website <http://www.thummansala.com/>

And follow the links to Radio in Brisbane.

Pictorial



AGM of the Sri Lankan Group of Radio 4EB held on 4th June 2006. Secretary is seen reading the minutes.

L to R - Irene Tavutavu (Returning Officer, 4EB), Jayasiri Weerawardena, Derrick Fernando and Thilani Gomes.

Dayan Jayatilleke has enriched our 4EB Radio broadcasts with his valuable contributions as a political commentator over the years. On the occasion of their recent wedding, the Radio Group, on behalf of all our listeners, extends our Best Wishes to Dayan and Sanja Medini for a Happy and Joyful wedded life.



A monetary donation from the Sri Lankan Community was made to the Premier's Cyclone Larry Relief Appeal recently.

L to R - Jayasiri Weerawardena (Sri Lankan Radio Group), Mr. Chris Cummins, (Hon. Minister of Multicultural Affairs), Mr. Anton Swan (Hon. Consul for Sri Lanka in Queensland), Sam Fernando and Wimal Kannangara (Sinhala Association of Qld).



Call for Action

My name is Sugee Kannangara.

I have been a presenter of radio programs for 4



EB's Sri Lankan Group since my arrival in Brisbane a decade ago. Except for a couple of disruptions when I have been away from Brisbane for short periods of time, I have presented programs regularly on Sunday morning.

Presenting the Sunday program is

still one of my favourite community engagement activities. I find it almost a painful experience to decide on a topic around which I can create an interesting special presentation. It is also very exciting to look for materials- information to deepen the listeners' understanding and select songs that you would enjoy. Over the years I have found a tested and proven formula for this. I only present topics that I like and play songs that I enjoy. I think in many ways you are just like me- we are all human, aren't we? We laugh when we are happy, we cry when we are sad, we are moved by injustice and we become movers and shakers. If 4EB programs can make us understand our common humanity, I think we should be

congratulating ourselves.

The idea that I am an invited guest in your house at the press of a button on the radio is something that pleases me very much. Tell me who is luckier- you or I? You who get to listen to different presenters every Sunday morning and Tuesday night or I who get to be the guest in a hundred homes, literally speaking to hundreds of listeners!

The truth is that we are both lucky. Radio programming is a mutually beneficial activity. It is a give and a take that is not merely transactional. I believe a good program is transformational. It is almost a spiritual experience.

If THAT is not a reason good enough for YOU to be a presenter, tell me what is?

I invite you to be a co-presenter with me for a start. This is how I started- unsure and nervous, supported by those who believed in me. Was that a good start or what! I have never looked back.

Presenting programs is not the only way you can be a participant of 4EB Sri Lankan group. You can become a technical support person- an indispensable ingredient for a successful program. To become an operator you will be given FREE training by an accredited trainer affiliated to 4EB. The certificate awarded to you is truly a feather on your cap.

Please contact any committee member whose contact details are given in this newsletter to become a programmer or a technical operator.

New Faces

We extend a warm welcome to the latest members of the Radio 4EB Sri Lankan Group - Inoka and Dominic De Silva from Bethania in Brisbane.

They are regular listeners and when they heard about the Annual General Meeting last month decided to attend the meeting although they didn't



know anyone. They certainly made new friends and assisted Sandun to broadcast Sandella on a Tuesday last month.

Profile

Inoka – Born in Kandana, schooled at All Saints Balikia, Borella. Has two younger sisters, mother and father in Sri Lanka. It is her third year in Australia

Loves gardening, cooking and reading books (mostly Sinhala but English also)

Dominic – Born in Kandana, schooled at St. Mary's College, Dehiwela up to year 10. Migrated to Australia in December 1989 for secondary studies at Sanderson State High School, Runcorn. First came to Darwin and after 4 months came to Brisbane. Has one elder sister, mother and father in Brisbane

Loves gardening, watching sports & football league, playing cricket

You will be able to hear the voices of Inoka and Dominic in the future radio programmes

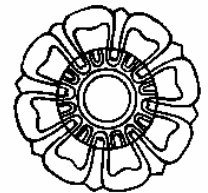
This is Your Radio
Join and be Part of It

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.

Radio Group News

The Annual General Meeting of the 4EB Sri Lankan Group was held on 4th June 2006 and a summary of the major decisions taken is given below:

-  One Sandella Program per month to be conducted in English on an experimental basis, subject to 4EB language rules. The first program will be broadcast on 25 September 2006.
-  An electronic newsletter to be circulated to members and non-members as a means of communication.
-  The Committee to explore alternate methods of fund-raising because the traditional methods are increasingly used by other groups.
-  One of the major expense items for the Group is the telephone bill because of weekly contacts with Sri Lanka and other telephone interviews. The Committee to explore possibilities of cutting down the costs as well as using telephone cards.
-  The Committee will also look into more active participation of young people in programming activities. Experienced programmers/panel operators to volunteer to help them in the production of the 4eb youth programs.

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

-  The Committee will re-visit the Business Plan drafted by Samson Fernando
-  The Committee will also make a significant effort over the next year to increase the membership subscription.

New Management Committee

Convenor	<i>Jayasiri Weerawardena</i>
Vice Convenor	<i>Jayantha Wickrematunga</i>
Secretary	<i>Derrick Fernando</i>
Treasurer	<i>Wimal Kannangara</i>

Committee Members:

*Seetha Gamage, Thilani Gomes,
Ajith Kossinna, Sudesh Liyanage
Aravinda Rubasinghe, Ananda Samaratunga,
Vasanthe Vithanage, Jayantha Weerasena,
Nishanthi Welivita, Bhashitha Wickremasuriya.*

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

Dates to Remember

Next Radio Group Meeting
Friday 8th Sept. and
22nd Sept. at 7.00 PM

AGM - EBAQ, Sunday
24th Sept at 9.30 AM

Movie - 8th October
"Bherunda Pakshiya"

Radiothon -
Sunday 15th October

4EB FM Getaway Raffle

1st Prize:

2 Economy Class Airfares from Brisbane to choice of one of Singapore Airlines online UK/Europe destinations. (conditions apply)

2nd Prize:

A \$1000.00 Travel Voucher - Courtesy of Cannon & Cripps Funeral Directors, Kelvin Grove.

3rd Prize

Luggage valued \$500.

Tickets \$ 2.50 each

Drawn on 18th September at Radio 4EB FM.

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CHILDREN'S CORNER

Sri Lankan Connections



Children are our future and more effort is needed to educate our children and show them the correct path to the future. It is no easy task in the current environment where global changes do occur at a rapid rate. Sri Lanka has recognized the importance of attending to our children's future and has declared the Year 2006, the National Year of Children.

As part of the of the overall programme mapped out, the ICT Agency of Sri Lanka, an agency, under the Presidential Secretariat has launched a programme for providing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) access to all citizens through a programme know as the Nenasala, Knowledge Centre Network. There is at present 260+ Nenasalas in all parts of the country and these

centres have the necessary infrastructure, including connectivity for providing access to knowledge and services in rural areas. More details of this programme and the Nenasalas themselves can be found at www.nenasala.lk

A special web site for children

One of the Nenasalas in the Matara District (Paranakade Nenasala, Weligama) has taken the initiative to launch a special site for Sri Lankan kids. The idea behind this is to have lots of little children from Sri Lanka logging on and exchanging information and developing an extensive children's network. It was felt that this would provide for greater interaction between children of various social and ethnic backgrounds while providing a means of popularizing the Nenasala concept and the use of ICTs.

An input from our kids residing overseas will greatly strengthen the network and give them access to a far wider knowledge base.

Visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/srilankakids>

Group e-mail address:

srilankakids@yahoogroups.com

Contact e-mail addresses of site moderator:

bibulawela@yahoo.com.sg

srilankakids@yahoogroups.com

Postal Address:

No.243 A, Nanasala, Main Street, Weligama. Sri Lanka.

Please give this information to your kids and let them develop contacts with Sri Lanka and strengthen the future of Sri Lankan kids.

Radio 4EB interviewed the Programme Manager ICT on Sandella in December 2005.



Brisbane Connections

20/08/06 **How I Spent My Sunday**

On Sunday I had 2 special things on. I had an ice skating birthday Party from 11:00 to 12:45 and Saralanga practice from 1:30 to 5:30. First I woke up and brushed my teeth and then I watched a bit of TV. After that I got dressed to go to the birthday party. At the birthday party it was hard at first to ice skate but then I got the hang of it. I had a really fun time! Next, my family picked me up and we all went to Saralanga practice.

At Saralanga practice I was involved in 4 items, 2 dances, 1 song and 1 drama. Finally, we all went home. Then I played a bit of handball. At last, I brushed my teeth and went to bed.



By **Achira Samaratunga**, 9 years old

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

Educational Tour of Public Health Professionals

Once again, the educational tour of public health professionals from Sri Lanka organised and fully funded by the AMAQ Foundation was a resounding success.



Picture: L to R; Upul Wijesuriya - (PHI Pitipana, Homagama), Dr Athula Serasinghe - (MOH, Ampara), Lalith Dassanayaka – (PHI Hingurana), Saliya De Silva – (PHI Tutor, National Institute of Health Sciences, Kalutara)

The group from Sri Lanka included a Medical Officer of Health from Ampara, and three Public Health Inspectors from Hingurana, Pitipana and Kalutara. They were given training in public health planning, emergency preparedness,

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

communication, and clinical skills. They visited a meat-processing factory, a milk processing factory and garbage collection facilities. The culmination of training was a small ceremony awarding them the certificates, which was attended by the Patron of the foundation Tim Fairfax, the president of AMAQ (Australian Medical Association Queensland) Dr Rob Sinclair, and Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka, Mr. Anton Swan.

According to the trainees, apart from the formal training, the exposure to the Australian society, way of living and the general orderliness of the society was an eye opener and an impetus for a new approach when they get back. We hope that the lessons learnt will be applied in Sri Lanka for betterment of the people.

Total cost of the trip was funded by the AMAQ Foundation, which was made possible by a large donation from the Fairfax Trust.

At the closing ceremony, a challenge was extended to the Sri Lankan community to raise funds to make the next tour a reality.

Radio 4EB Sri Lankan group and the Sinhala Association of Queensland, made this tour a memorable one for the visitors. Various individuals and families hosted them to meals and visits to local attractions. The interview with the health professionals on Radio gave a lot of insight to the work done by these people on the ground and the difficulties they faced. Thanks to all those who gave their time and energy.

Let us look forward to another tour by Sri Lankan Health Professionals next year.



September

Sri Lankan Youth Dinner Dance/Get Together

The purpose of this event is for fellow young Sri Lankans from all parts of Brisbane to come together and get to know each other.

When:
Friday, 22nd Sept 2006

Where:
McGregor Primary School.

Contact:
Rowan Weerasinghe
3841 5757 or
0415322485
Lash Wickramasuriya
3420 4769 or
0422344249

October

Sri Lanka Society Dinner
Dance

When: Saturday 14th,

Where: Mercure Hotel

Contact:
Nimal - 0418205852

Sinhala Association of
Qld.

Saralanga 2006

When: Saturday 28th,

Where: Coorparoo
Secondary College

Contact:
Lalantha - 0430507545

Music

The last few months were busy months for the Brisbane Sri Lankans with several events filling up the calendar.



In July, a group of well known singers, Dayaratne and Amara Ranatunga along with Narada Dissasekera presented a musical show in Brisbane. Narada Dissasekera took everyone, a few decades back to the nostalgic memories of the film, 'Ran Muthu Duwa'. Music was provided by The BrizLankans.

Early August we were entertained by Indrani Perera of the Three Sisters fame and Ranil Mallawaarachchi, son of the late Milton Mallawaarachchi. The audience was treated to many old and new songs with music provided by Shiran Gomes and the Silver Rings.

Sports

The second weekend of August saw the traditional annual cricket tournament held at the South Side Cricket Club in Fairfield. Eight teams participated including the Silver Fawn Club, Sinhala Association, Sri Lankan Society and several teams from other nationalities. The championship trophy was awarded to the Australia-India Association although the Sinhala Society was equal on points. This year's tournament was organised by the Bangla Desh Association. Next year it will be the Sinhala Association's turn.

Appeal

A fund-raising appeal is being conducted by the Brisbane Sri Lankan community to help the Anuradhapura Hospital. Those who wish to help can direct debit the following CBA account;

Sinhala Association of Qld Inc. - Welfare Fund
BSB: 06 4000 Acc. 1047 7366
or contact the Secretary of the SAQ,
Sam Fernando (3423 2846) for further details.