

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA – SRI LANKA (CEYLON) ASSOCIATION INC.



# **NEWSLETTER – JULY 2025**

President – Anthony De Silva Secretary – Tamara Wanigasekera Treasurer – Peter Andrée

Email – <u>admin@wasla.com.au</u>
Website - wasla.com.au
Mailing address - 275 Stirling Street, Perth WA 6000



# 2

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



#### Dear all

It's hard to believe that nearly 12 months have passed since myself and the committee were appointed. Over the past year, our team has worked diligently to deliver meaningful services and support to our community.

Here are some of the key achievements and initiatives from the past year:

- Hosted the Annual Senior's Lunch in November, with over 130 guests in attendance.
- Donated \$1,200 worth of toys to the Starlight Children's Foundation in support of sick children and their families.
- Successfully organised the Autumn Night Dinner Dance which welcomed over 200 guests.
- Made a donation of one million SL Rupees, equal to \$5,370 to "Volunteers to Assist Children with Disabilities" (VACD) supporting their valuable work.
- Celebrated the Sinhala and Tamil New Year with a special lunch, again attracting over 130 guests.
- Developed a new webpage to improve communication and easy access to information.
- Created a comprehensive supplier and service provider database to assist future committees.
- Secured a venue for the upcoming Senior's Lunch in November, where we expect more than 250 guests.

We are proud of the progress we have made and remain committed to building a stronger, more connected community here in Western Australia.

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Sunday 13 July 2025, at the Victoria Park Bowling Club. Further details are included in the newsletter.

We hope to reconnect with past members and invite you to be part of our journey once again. Thank you for your continued support.

Anthony Nilantha De Silva President

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA SRI LANKA (CEYLON) ASSOCIATION INC.



#### 2024 - 2025 COMMITTEE

President	anthonydesilvasl@gmail.com
Anthony De Silva	0417 946 170
Vice Presidents	kevinw@swhart.com.au
Kevin Wright	0403 040 400
Kevin Melder	kpm@iinet.net.au 0418 951 975
Secretary	tammy.sonia@outlook.com
Tamara Wanigasekera	0404 495 548
Treasurer	peter.andree55@gmail.com
Peter Andrée	0409 105 109
Ex-Officio	milindha@hotmail.com
Milindha de Mel	0402 579 927
Editor	sharifa.burah@gmail.com
Sharifa Burah	0424 747 369
Committee	
Shereen Gerreyn	shere eng@hotmail.com 0450 142 900
Roshan Burah	roshan.burah@gmail.com 0410 783 618

#### Dear Members and Friends

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter! This week, **NAIDOC week**, we celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and celebrations will be held across Australia. This year marks a significant milestone, 50 years of honouring, celebrating and elevating Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience!

As we head into a new financial year, we'd like to remind you of our upcoming **Annual General Meeting** which will be held on Sunday, 13 July. Please refer to the newsletter for full details - we look forward to your participation.

In this issue, we are pleased to highlight our recent **Sinhala and Tamil New Year Lunch** held on 27 April, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We also feature the vibrant Vesak Festival, which holds a special place in all our hearts, along with a selection of light and engaging articles for your reading pleasure.

As always, this newsletter is for you. If you have any content you would like to share, we would love to hear from you! Please email your contributions to <a href="mailto:admin@wasla.com.au">admin@wasla.com.au</a>.

Warm regards

Sharifa - Editor

#### TREASURER'S REPORT



	Note	2025 \$
Current Assets		
Cash Assets		
Business Cash Reserve a/c		
Westpac Community Solution One a/c		10,085
		10,085
Other		
Advanced Deposit -Hall Hire		3,670
		3,670
Total Current Assets		13,755
Non-Current Assets		
Other Financial Assets		
Building Reserve Investment Fund		151,724
		151,724
Total Non-Current Assets		151,724
Total Assets		165,479
Net Assets		165,479
Members' Funds		
Accumulated surplus (deficit)		165,479

#### **NAIDOC WEEK 2025: CELEBRATING STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY**

This year, NAIDOC Week marks a powerful milestone: 50 years of honoring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience. The 2025 theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors.

The NAIDOC journey began as a movement for recognition and rights, sparked by Indigenous communities who saw a future built on justice and equality. Over the decades, it has grown into a powerful national celebration, a testament to the enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As we commemorate this 50-year legacy, we also look forward, honouring the next generation who will carry the torch, shaping the future with courage, insight, and deep respect for our roots. Guided by the wisdom of our Elders and the groundwork laid by our forebears, each NAIDOC Week reinforces our vision for an Australia where Indigenous voices are not only heard but lead the way. <a href="https://www.naidoc.org.au/about/naidoc-week">https://www.naidoc.org.au/about/naidoc-week</a>

# **WASLA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY, 13 JULY 2025** 3pm

VICTORIA PARK BOWLING CLUB 18 KENT ST **FAST VICTORIA PARK WA 6101** 

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! Let's shape the future of WASLA together

Light refreshments will be provided Strictly no BYO Bar facilities available



Website: wasla.com.au

Contact us: admin@wasla.com.au



#### WASLA SINHALA AND TAMIL NEW YEAR LUNCH



The Sinhala and Tamil New Year Lunch was a great occasion for members and guests to enjoy a wonderful afternoon of camaraderie and to meet up with friends.

The event was held in the Olga Ramasamy Memorial Hall, and it was a fitting tribute to this great lady that her son in law, Prakash Muthu-Krishna lit the traditional Oil Lamp followed by other senior and much-loved members of our community.



























WASLA July 2025

























WASLA July 2025









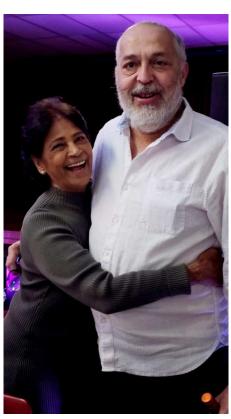


































WASLA July 2025



#### WHO IS VRAÎE CALLY BALTHAZAR - COLOMBO'S NEW MAYOR?

Vraìe Cally Balthazaar has been elected Mayor of Colombo, bringing a background in media, academia, and activism to the leadership of Sri Lanka's capital.

Born in 1985, Balthazaar completed her primary and secondary education at Methodist College, Colombo. She holds a degree in fashion design, a Postgraduate Diploma in Gender and Women's Studies, and a Master's in the same field.

#### **Media and Activism Career**

Before entering politics, face on Sri Lankan television, experience as a presenter. as Good Morning Sri Lanka, media personality.

Beyond the screen, she was research, particularly after NGOs focused on the rights researcher in urban how city planning impacted Colombo.



Balthazaar was a familiar with nearly a decade of She hosted programs such gaining recognition as a

active in civil society and 2018. Her work with various of women and children. As a development, she examined low-income communities in

Her activism extended into gender equality and labour rights, aligning with her academic focus. This combination of media presence and grassroots work helped shape her public identity as a feminist and community advocate.

#### **Entry into Politics**

Balthazaar entered politics through the National People's Power (NPP) movement, aligned with the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP). She formally joined the JVP-affiliated Socialist Youth Union in 2021.

Initially slated to contest the 2023 local government elections as the NPP's Colombo district lead candidate, Balthazaar remained active in the party despite the postponement. She became a prominent figure for the NPP in Colombo.

#### **Election Campaigns and Performance**

In the 2024 parliamentary elections, she ran under the NPP banner in the Colombo District and secured approximately 44,633 preferential votes—placing 18th among NPP candidates, just outside the threshold for a parliamentary seat.

In the delayed local government elections held on May 6, 2025, Balthazaar contested for the Colombo Municipal Council from the Thimbirigasyaya ward. She was elected with 2,094 votes. The NPP won 48 out of 119 CMC seats, the largest share, and nominated her for the mayoralty.

#### Colombo's Second Female Mayor

On June 16, 2025, Balthazaar was elected Mayor of Colombo by a council vote, winning 61 votes to defeat the main opposition candidate from the Samagi Jana Balawegaya, who received 54.

She is the second woman to serve as Mayor of Colombo, after Rosy Senanayake, who held the office in 2018. Balthazaar's election also marks a political shift—Colombo, long a stronghold of the center-right United National Party, is now led by a center-left alliance for the first time since 1944. (**Newswire**) *June 16, 2025 at 1:04 PM* 

#### **HEALTH & WELLBEING**



#### "Don't Let the Bite Get You: Chikungunya Returns to Sri Lanka"



Dr Eranda Gunasekera MBBS, MD, DRCP (Ireland), MRACRM Consultant in Reproductive Medicine

Senior Lecture, Faculty Of Medicine, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University Sri Lanka

**Sessional Lecturer,** University of Notre Dame, Fremantle, Western Australia Email: eranda.g@kingshospital.lk

As Sri Lanka experiences a rising wave of Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) cases this monsoon season, it's crucial for locals and travellers alike to stay informed, vigilant, and protected.

#### What Is Chikungunya & Does It Spread?

Chikungunya is caused by CHIKV, a virus from the Togaviridae family, spread by Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus mosquitoes—both aggressive day-biters.

- Not the same as dengue but spread by the same mosquitoes.
- Not contagious between people—only mosquito bites transmit the virus.
- The virus is most likely to spread from an infected person to a mosquito within the first week of illness.

#### Geographical Hotspots & Diming

- Peak during the monsoon, when stagnant water creates mosquito breeding sites.
- Affected areas: Colombo district (Kadawatha, Gothatuwa, Battaramulla), Gampaha and
- Kandy district.

#### **Rising Case Numbers**

As of February 2025, Sri Lankan health officials report a sharp spike in suspected cases—most affecting children and elderly residents.

#### **Symptoms & Complications**

Symptoms begin 2–7 days after a bite:

- High fever, debilitating joint pain, headache, rash, muscle aches, and nausea.
- Chronic joint pain can last for months.
- Rare complications: neurological, eye, heart, and gastrointestinal issues.

#### **Diagnosis & Treatment**

- Diagnosis is primarily clinical but confirmed through PCR or antibody tests.
- No antiviral medication exists.
- Treatment focuses on symptom relief:
  - Paracetamol for pain and fever.
  - NSAIDs only if dengue is ruled out.
  - o Rest, fluids, calamine, or hydrocortisone for rash and itching.
  - Avoid aspirin or blood thinners unless prescribed.

#### **Prevention: Your First Line of Defence**

- ✓ Personal Protection
  - Use repellents with 20–50% DEET or 20% Picaridin.
  - Wear light-coloured, long-sleeved clothing.



- Sleep in screened/AC rooms, use bed nets.
- Apply hydrocortisone or emollients to reduce itching.

#### ✓ Environmental Control

- Eliminate stagnant water in containers, tires, birdbaths.
- Community fogging using malathion is underway.

#### ✓ Avoid Travel to High-Risk Zones

- Pregnant women close to term.
- Infants, the elderly, and those with chronic illness.
- Sri Lanka's Ministry of Health is coordinating fogging, surveillance, and awareness
- drives.
- UK Foreign Office and global travel advisories urge travellers to use DEET, avoid
- outbreak zones and consult travel clinics before visiting.

#### ✓ Before Travel

- Consult a GP/ travel clinic 4–8 weeks ahead for screening in case of immune
- compromised
- Pack repellent, protective clothing, medications (pain killers).
- Arrange comprehensive travel insurance.

#### ✓ During Travel

- Apply repellent regularly, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Stay in mosquito-protected lodging.
- Avoid high-risk areas after 4 pm.

#### ✓ Pregnancy Safety

- CHIKV is not transmitted to foetuses or via breast milk.
- However, transmission at birth is possible—avoid travel near due dates.

#### **If Symptoms Appear**

- Visit Healthcare facilities (private/Government)
- Test to rule out dengue.
- Treat symptoms with paracetamol, hydration, and rest.

#### Are Vaccines Available?

- No approved chikungunya vaccine exists in Australia or Sri Lanka.
- The U.S. has two vaccines: o IXCHIQ: Live-attenuated o VIMKUNYA: Virus-like particle vaccine
- Availability outside the U.S. is limited.

#### **Key Takeaways for Travelers**

- Widespread risk across Sri Lanka—especially during monsoon.
- No cure—only supportive care.
- Prevention is critical: mosquito repellents, clothing, and eliminating breeding grounds.
- Government control efforts are active, but personal vigilance is essential.

#### "Preventive care is your best protection for chikungunya — travel responsibly"



#### **Vesak Celebrations**

Vesak is the most sacred day to millions of Bhuddists around the world, and falls on the full moon day in the month of May. It commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Bodhi), and death (Nirvana) of Gautama Buddha. It is a time to celebrate but also reflect on Buddha's teachings of peace and gratitude.

#### **Celebrations in Perth**

















WASLA July 2025



### **VESAK CELEBRATIONS IN COLOMBO**



WASLA July 2025



#### **Vesak Lanterns at the Ceylon-German Technical Training Institute**

A vibrant Vesak celebration was held at the Ceylon-German Technical Training Institute (CGTTI) by the Renewable Energy students from both Moratuwa and Kilinochchi campuses. The festival, organized within the institute premises, brought students together to honor this sacred occasion with beautifully crafted lanterns, colorful decorations, and meaningful religious activities. The event showcased the unity and creativity of the Renewable Energy group, celebrating culture and peace in a spirit of togetherness and mutual respect. Pix bγ Kithsiri de Mel https://www.dailymirror.lk/caption-story/Beautifully-craftedlanterns/110-309031











# **DOWN MEMORY LANE:**Bulto, Hoonu Beti And Other Sweets From Bygone Days

A few decades from now, people recalling the magical tastes of childhood would probably talk about Ferrero Rocher, Oreos or the Ambrosial chocolate-covered crepe suzette from that posh cafe in Colombo 07. But way back then, when black and white televisions still existed and bell-bottoms were the in-thing, taste buds were much less demanding, and people reveled in simple, uncomplicated confections to get their sugar fixes.

Some of these confections have done a dodo and now only live in the dusty attics of memory, but others are timeless and still remain, though being considerably less popular than they used to be in their heyday. So in the spirit of reliving those days of auld lang syne, we took a walk down the memory lane with a few people to find out what the world of sweets looked like back then before the days of Cornettos and cream-cheese croissants.

#### **Bulto**

If there was ever a Hollywood walk of fame for Sri Lankan confections, Bulto would definitely be the first to have its name engraved in a star. All wrapped up in oil paper rather like the thala guli (sesame rolls) we still enjoy, Gunasiri Bulto is sort of like an elongated Sri Lankan version of an Everlasting Gobstopper. Most people we spoke to described it in almost the same way—delicious, large, hard, and extremely sticky.



The best part was that it was cheap, even by long ago standards. Wijeysooriya remembers five toffees costing just a cent, while most other people we spoke to—mostly the '80s kids—remember it being around 50 cents a toffee.

#### Mee Beti

The person who came up with these names clearly had questionable ideas about marketing—naming an eatable after animal excreta classifies as a pretty bad PR move, all things considered—but strangely, the unconventional name does not seem to have hurt the reputation of this sweet treat at all.

Hoonu beti or mee beti are Sinhalese terms which can be directly translated as 'gecko droppings'



or 'rat droppings' in English. These were the little coloured sugar-coated cumin seeds (though some people also recall another version with candied fennel seeds), which always stood tantalizingly in prominent places on shop counters to attract the attention of passing kids. They were generally measured out in 'capfuls'—the cover of whatever jar they were in—or little spoons, or sometimes even by hand (people clearly were not big on hygiene back then).



#### **Bombai Mutai**

You know that typical Western portrayal of tootling ice cream trucks being chased down the streets by swarms of children? Replace the truck with a sarong-wearing, tin bucket toting friendly man and the tootling with the tinkling of a bell and you get a picture of what was—and still is—probably the most looked forward to sweet treat in Sri Lanka.

Bombai muttai is basically a local version of candy floss, long sticky strands of spun sugar which often smell of coconut oil and come in off-white or pink colours. You never found it in a shop—instead, you kept an ear out for the magical tinkling bell (which was often just a number of flattened bottle caps strung together) of the bombai muttai man and



then chased him down when you finally heard it. In fact, what made—and still makes—this sugary treat even more enticing was the fact that you can never have it when you most want it—the bombai muttai man would just turn up unexpectedly like the piper of Hamelin, and all the children (and even adults) would literally run out of the house to get hold of him.

#### Saharavita

Sri Lankans have this inherent affinity for coconut—we cook them, eat them, extract their milk, and even drink from them, and about three quarters of our local recipes involve coconut in some



form or the other. Evidently, someone one day decided to capitalize on this craze and took it into their head to sweeten grated desiccated coconut, add some areca nut and bright colouring to it, wrap it up in betel leaves and go hawking. This rather strange item of food is called saravita or saharavita, and most people who spoke of it associated it with watching the perahera.

It was such a hit back then that there is even an old Sinhalese song named after it. Saravita, however, is still very much alive and kicking; in fact, there is good chance that you have tried it out, or at least seen it being sold on the promenade at Galle Face Green.

There are dozens and dozens of other confections which people fondly remember from back in the heyday— Narang bic (little flavoured toffees shaped like orange pips and dusted with glucose), Elephant House ice palam (a popsicle in a triangular shaped box), bulls eyes or goni losindara (those black and white striped minty candies), thal pinatu (a sweet made from the dried pulp of the palmyrah fruit), inguru angili (ginger fingers), Star toffees, Dot toffees and Bernie Butterscotch (old brands of toffees which are practically extinct)...the list goes on. So what sweet treats did you enjoy enjoy as a kid?

- Reference: Radhia Rameez(edited)



#### INTERNATIONAL DOG DAY



International Dog Day is a special celebration of all dogs around the world and the companionship and loyalty that they show to us. International Dog Day will be celebrated on **Tuesday, 26 August 2025.** 



Happy International Dog Day! As we celebrate our furry friends, it's the perfect time to dive into the numerous health benefits of having a dog. Beyond their wagging tails and loyal companionship, dogs can offer oodles of physical, mental and emotional health benefits that are sure to make you smile. Let's explore how having a dog can boost your well-being and enrich your life!

- 1. Exercise buddy extraordinaire: One of the most apparent health benefits of owning a dog is the increase in physical activity. Dogs need exercise, and that means you do too! Regular walks, runs or playtime in the park help keep both you and your dog in shape. Studies have shown that dog owners are more likely to meet their daily exercise goals. Plus, having a playful pooch at your side makes working out more fun and less of a chore.
- 2. Stress buster: Feeling stressed? Spending time with your dog can help. Petting a dog has been scientifically proven to reduce stress levels. The simple act of patting your pup can lower your cortisol levels (the stress hormone) and increase the production of feel-good hormones like oxytocin. This calming effect can be especially beneficial after a long day at work or during stressful times.
- 3. Cardiovascular health boost: Dog ownership has been linked to improved cardiovascular health. Research shows that dog owners tend to have lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels compared to non-dog owners. The increased physical activity from dog walking, combined with the stress-reducing effects of petting your dog, contributes to a healthier heart.
- 4. Social effect: Pets, particularly dogs, can enhance your social life by creating ample opportunities for interaction and connection. Engaging with fellow pet owners at dog parks, training classes or pet-friendly events can help you meet new people and expand your social network. For those who struggle with social anxiety or fear of social situations, having a pet can serve as a comforting presence, making social encounters more approachable and less intimidating. This not only facilitates smoother interactions with others but also helps alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation.
- 5. Support and companionship: Dogs are celebrated for their loyalty, love and support which offers comfort to those grappling with anxiety, depression or loneliness. Beyond their general companionship, some dogs undergo specialised training to become assistance



dogs. This can provide critical support for people with various chronic conditions, including epilepsy, diabetes, physical disabilities, hearing loss, mental illnesses and vision loss. For example, guide dogs are trained specifically to aid individuals who are blind or have low vision, enhancing their independence and facilitating safer navigation within their communities. The profound bond between humans and dogs, especially those trained as assistance animals, delivers invaluable emotional and practical support. This support helps individuals manage life's challenges more effectively.



- 6. Improved mental health: Owning a dog can significantly benefit mental health by fostering increased feelings of happiness and fulfillment. The routine involved in caring for a dog—such as feeding, toileting, grooming and exercising—can provide a sense of purpose and motivation, making it easier to establish healthy daily routines. Engaging with your pet not only enhances overall mood but also supports self-care and boosts self-esteem.
- 7. Learning and responsibility: For families, especially those with children, owning a dog teaches responsibility and empathy. Children who help care for a dog learn about commitment, compassion and the importance of routine. This sense of responsibility can foster a greater understanding of care and nurture, contributing to the development of emotional intelligence.
- 8. Enhanced immune system: Believe it or not having a dog can boost your immune system. Exposure to pet dander and the germs your dog might bring in from outside can help build a more robust immune response. This early exposure can potentially reduce the likelihood of developing allergies and asthma in children, as well as strengthen your overall immune system.

#### A happy, healthy life with your dog

From keeping you active and socially engaged to providing emotional support and enhancing your cardiovascular health, the benefits of dog ownership are truly remarkable. This International Dog Day, take a moment to appreciate how much your furry friend contributes to your well-being. Whether you're out on a walk, sharing a cuddle on the couch or enjoying playtime in the yard, remember that your dog is not just a pet—they're a partner in health and happiness. So, here's to celebrating our dogs and all the joy and health they bring into our lives. **Happy International Dog Day!** 

\* Before getting a dog, carefully consider your ability to provide consistent care and support for your new pet, ensuring you're ready for the commitment involved.

Reference: Queensland Country Health Fund - <a href="https://www.queenslandcountry.health/members/news/2024/pawsitively-healthy-the-incredible-benefits-of-dogownership/">https://www.queenslandcountry.health/members/news/2024/pawsitively-healthy-the-incredible-benefits-of-dogownership/</a>

# 2

#### **UNCHARTED HORIZONS: A JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE**

A Sri Lankan Migrant's Story in Early 1990

In this powerful memoir, I recount my early life in Sri Lanka and the turbulent backdrop of the 1989–1990 JVP insurrection. Drawing from my personal experience, I provide an impartial and heartfelt account of the unrest that ultimately led me to flee my homeland—leaving behind my young family—in pursuit of safety and hope in a new land.

The narrative then follows my journey of rebuilding life in Australia. It explores the values, principles, and hard-earned wisdom—such as freedom with responsibility, gratitude, integrity, and resilience—that guided me through multiple careers in **Medicine**, **Education**, **Law**, **Business**, **Leadership**, and **Entrepreneurship**.

One chapter is specially dedicated to the life lessons and rules that helped shape my identity and success, offering readers a practical and philosophical blueprint for overcoming adversity and creating a meaningful life.

#### **Early Praise for the Book:**

"Intriguing insight into a man born in Sri Lanka, migrates to Australia and does not stop expanding his horizons academically, in business and in life overall. Highly recommended." — John Hammond, Hammond Legal, Perth

"A distinctive creation of narration, philosophy, and wisdom in a crucible of unmistakable splendour." — Dr B. J. C. Perera, Consultant Paediatrician, Sri Lanka

"A book about values Australia needs today—faith, freedom, entrepreneurship, and imagination." — Emeritus Professor Gabriël A. Moens AM, The University of Queensland

"A powerful and inspiring autobiography... a testament to the strength of the human spirit."
— Mel Fialho, President, Australasian Association of WA

"An all-weather friend... a reference for managing choices, conflict and adversity." — Kith de Silva CPA, Perth

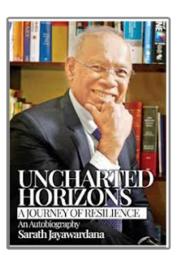
"A story that many immigrants can resonate with. Thank you for sharing." — Sara Reddy, Perth "Fascinating, captivating, and inspiring." — Prof Prasad Kumarasinghe, Perth

- "A gripping, emotional read for all generations."
- Deepti Shukla, Perth
- "A must-read... honesty and courage illuminate every page."
- Dr Rosh Jalagge

#### How to Order:

Readers may order a signed copy with FREE postage within Australia by visiting:

https://sarathjayawardana.com/the-book/
The book is also available in Amazon.com.au
https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/1763877906





#### SUNDAY TIMES

#### THE FACE THAT CAPTURED HEARTS ON THE SILVER SCREEN

By Chandani Kirinde - Sunday, May 25, 2025

In her last appearance a couple of weeks ago, Malini Fonseka, arguably the queen of Sinhala cinema echoed the words of one of her most famous films 'awa soya adare'. "I have come looking for love," she said. She spoke a few words, faltering at times, but they were emotionally charged that it moved many in the audience to tears. When she passed away early Saturday at the age of 78, Malini Fonseka did so, having won the love and adulation of millions of her fans which helped her remain the most beloved actress in the country, in a career spanning nearly six decades.

# Malini Fonseka

Full Name: Wanni Arachchige Malini Senehelatha Fonseka

Birthday: 1947.04.30 Number of siblings: eleven

Age: 78 years
Father: Gilbert Fonseka
Mother: Seelwathie Fonseka

Alma mater: St. Johns College Nugegoda, Gurukula Maha Vidyalaya Kelaniya Stage debut: "Noratha Ratha"-1963 Film debut: "Punchi Baba" -1968 Acted number of plays: 14 Acted movies: 140+

Political life: April 2010, she was appointed to the Sri Lanka Parliament as a national list MP

of United People's Freedom Alliance

Born on April 30, 1947, Malini Senehelatha Fonseka's beginnings were humble but earlier on there were indications that she was born for great things. A few days after her birth, her parents had visited an astrologer to have her horoscope cast only to have him predict that she was destined to be a queen one day, according to her official website. It might have sounded whimsical for her parents at the time, but an early talent for acting put her on her way to stardom.

Her first attempt at acting was in a stage play titled 'Noratha Ratha' while still schooling at Gurukula Maha Vidyalaya, Kelaniya. Recognition came her way in late 1965 with her award winning performance in 'Akal Wessa', a stage play directed by Dharmadasa Jayaweera. It was one of the four plays selected for the State Drama Festival that year. Malini Fonseka impressed the judges with her acting prowess that she took home the award for Best Actress. But that was just the start of a long and rewarding career in acting.

"Punchi Baba'. Among those in the audience at the Lumbini Theatre where 'Akal wessa' was staged was Tissa Liyanasuriya, by then a two-time film director. He and Joe Abeywickrama were on the lookout for a new face to take on the lead role in his next film. The film was 'Punchi Baba' which became the launch pad for her film career.

Malini Fonseka's big break came in Dharmasena Pathiraja's 'Eya Den Loku Lamayek' for which she won an award at the Moscow Film Festival in 1975.

This was followed by films such as Lester James Peries' 'Nidhanaya', Tissa Abeysekera's 'Pitagamkarayo' and Amaranath Jayathilake's 'Siripala saha Ranmenika' to name a few. In her lengthy film career, Maini has acted in over 150 films, directed and produced some as well as acted in television dramas thus proving her versatility and adaptability.

She also co-starred with all the leading actors of the past four to five decades starting with Vijaya Kumaratunga in 41 films as well as Gamini Fonseka, Tony Ranasinghe, Ravindra Randeniya and Sanath Gunatillake.



From the well known film Nidhanava with Gamini Fonseka

She has also won numerous awards both

locally and internationally. She won awards for Best Actress more than 13 times as well as gained recognition internationally for her work. She was conferred with the national honour of Wishva Prasadhini by President Chandrika Kumaratunga in 1996 and was awarded a doctorate from the University of Visual and Performing Arts in 2010.

Malini Fonseka also had a brief stint in Parliament where she served as a National List MP from 2010 to 2015 being nominated as a MP from the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA). She used her stint in parliament to draw attention to the woes faced by those in the cinema industry as well as artists in general and sought more state patronage for the arts.

"I shall always act as long as I can because I am first and foremost an actress. The day I cease to act will be that day when I forget to breathe," Malini Fonseka said in a piece she wrote to the Sunday Times in June, 2010 after being honoured

with a doctorate from the University of Visual and Performing Arts.

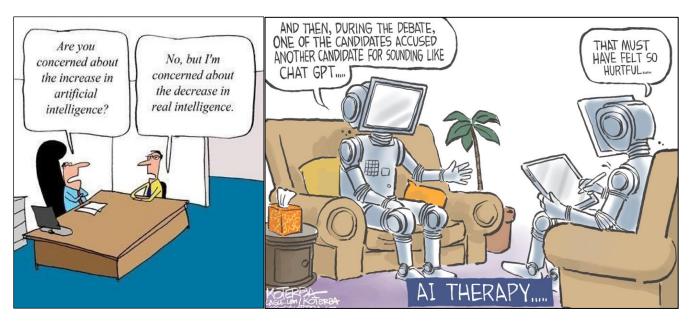
She stayed true to her words and practiced her crafts to the best of her ability till the end leaving behind an unmatched legacy, one that will not be equaled for a long time to come.





# JUST FOR LAUGHS – Artificial Intelligence







**Proudly supporting** 

The Western Australia Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Association





# Grow Your WELLIII WITHUS!

Providing innovative finance solutions with exceptional customer service and dedication.

## **About Us**

Chandika Wanigasekera is the Founder & Principal of Wizdom Finance & Advisory. He has over 33 years of experience in the Banking and Finance industry and brings a wealth of expertise to his clients. Known for his client-first approach, Chandika is deeply committed to helping clients achieve their financial goals.



# Why Choose Us

- Access to multiple Lenders with choice of competitive products.
- Dedicated personalised service for exceptional customer satisfaction.
  - Tailored financial solutions to suit individual circumstances and needs.



Home Loans & Investment Loans



Business Loans / Working Capital Solutions



**Medico Finance** 



SMSF Loans



Property Finance
(Investment / Construction)



Car Loans / Equipment Finance



0401998038



chandika@wizdomfinance.com.au

Credit Representative Number 562398 authorised under Australian Credit Licence 389328





# **ELMSTOCK**

# Premium Quality Tea

#### Elmstock Tea Company Pty Ltd

Unit 14, 8 Booth Place Balcatta WA 6021

FREE: 1800 624 233

P: +61 8 9240 4233

F: +61 8 9240 4232

www.elmstocktea.com.au

Here is your chance to surprise your loved ones with something special from Elmstock Tea Company! Nigel and Hillary White will be happy to help you in selecting from the wide range of wonderful ELMSTOCK Sri Lankan tea elegantly packaged. Please give them a call on the above number or go visit them and see for yourself!

# **ELMSTOCK**

Premium Quality Tea

#### Elmstock Tea Company Pty Ltd

Unit 14, 8 Booth Place Balcatta WA 6021

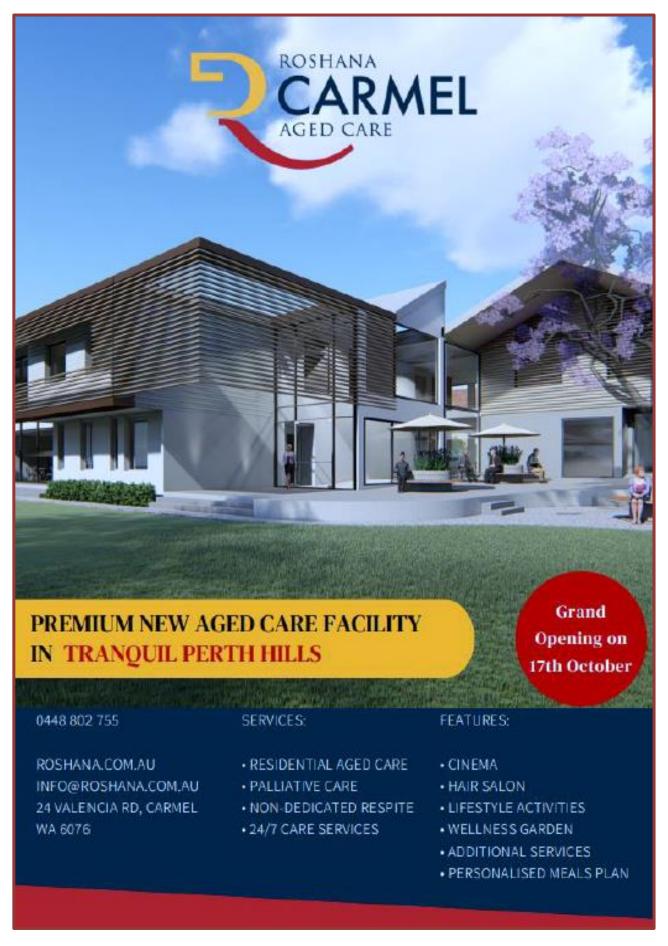
FREE: 1800 624 233

P: +61 8 9240 4233 F: +61 8 9240 4232

www.elmstocktea.com.au

Here is your chance to surprise your loved ones with something special from Elmstock Tea Company! Nigel and Hillary White will be happy to help you in selecting from the wide range of wonderful ELMSTOCK Sri Lankan tea elegantly packaged. Please give them a call on the above number or go visit them and see for yourself!









THE SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

WE ARE A NOT FOR PROFIT APPROVED PROVIDER OF AGED CARE AND DISABILITY SERVICES.

WE SPECIALISE IN PROVIDING SERVICES TO THE MIGRANT/CALD COMMUNITIES (CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE).

WE PROVIDE SERVICES TO CLIENTS IN THEIR HOME TO ASSIST THEM TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY FOR AS LONG AS THEY WISH TO REMAIN IN THEIR HOME.

## COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM (CHSP)



UNDER CHSP (COMMONWEALTH HOME SUPPORT PROGRAM) WE CAN PROVIDE SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENT

- PERSONAL CARE/ASSISTANCE WITH SHOWERING ETC.
- HOME HELP/DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE
- SOCIAL SUPPORT/SHOPPING/MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS
- SOCIAL SUPPORT TO ATTEND GROUP ACTIVITIES

## **HOME CARE PACKAGES (HCP)**



UNDER THE HOME CARE PACKAGES (HCP) PROGRAM LEVEL 1, 2 3 OR 4 WE CAN PROVIDE

- PERSONAL CARE/ASSISTANCE WITH SHOWERING ETC.
- HOME HELP/DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE/MEAL PREP
- SOCIAL SUPPORT/SHOPPING/MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS
- GARDENING
- NURSING
- ALLIED HEALTH/O.T. /PHYSIOTHERAPY

## DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (NDIS)



UNDER DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES/NDIS WE CAN PROVIDE

- DAILY LIVING ASSISTANCE DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE/ PERSONAL CARE/MEAL PREP ETC
- ACCESS TO THE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE WITH SHOPPING/DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS/VISITING FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND OTHER COMMUNITY BASED ACTIVITIES

For further information please contact:

Dushyanthi Fernando on 08 9328 7688 or email to coordinator.services@aaawa.org.au Brian D'Monte on 08 9328 3435 or email to hcp.coordinator@aaawa.org.au



#### **Our Contact**

Book your package or consult your yearly holiday plans now!



+63 415728385



www.tropicalgatewaytours.com.au



3/4 Leville Street, Connington



## SRI-LANKA A HEAVEN ON EARTH

#### Enjoy Your Next Holiday in Paradise!

Escape to exotic destination that promise unforgettable experiences, where every moment is crafted to inspire, delight, and rejuvenate your soul.





#### Our Travel Packages

#### **Artistic Escape**

13 Days 12 Nights Package

Draw inspiration. Breathe beauty. Capture the soul of a timeless island.

trimeless fatand.

Embark on a creative journey across Sri Lanka — a land of breathtaking landscapes, vibrant, culture, and untouched natural beauty. From misty mountains to golden shores, every corner offers something to sketch, paint, or photograph.

Let your fingertips translate the island's magic into art. This is more than a tour — KS a sensory experience with a touch of class, designed for artists, dreamers, and lovers of the estraordinary.



Start from 1495 /pax



#### 12 Days 11 Nights Package

Explore Sri Lanka like never before — where every mile talls a

Discover all UNISCO World Heritage Sites, encounter morediste whilelife, and reviews proceed in the intends such files and faults. The intends beautiful to authentic cultural experiences, this journey offers the best of this way, in one understands whether are.



#### Wellness Journey

#### 14 Days 13 Nights Package

Tradulge in a specially control vertices parallel to exist you body, colm your mind, and split your past fravel through Negomb body, colm your mind, and split your past. Travel through Negomb States are your fravel frame.

From several of low and common.

From several speakers to ancient hashing traditions, this journey blands 
methods and would feetinge — where you can universely Apureads 
the traditional several sessions, and the several several several 
methods of the Larks, like the majoritic Signifus Rock Formers and the 
temphality of constitutions are 
the several several several 
temphality of constitutions are 
the 
temphality of 
the 
temphality of

(\$) Start from 3500 /pax

#### **Special Promo**

Discount up to AUD 50 Get 1 Kid below 6

Free Hotel Upgrade

Family Package

Take a Private Tour

#### Why Choose Us?

Years of Experience



**Trusted Service** 



Flexible Holiday Packages



Many attractive promotions

Don't Miss This Opportunity, Book Now and Get your Discount

