



Burgher Association Australia

**Autumn**

**March 2022**

**Community Newsletter**



Postal Address: PO Box 75 Clarinda VIC 3169  
ABN - 28 890 322 651 ~ INC. REG. NO: A 0007821F  
Web Site: <http://www.burgherassocn.org.au>



**COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT  
2021/2022**

**President**

Mr Hermann Loos - 03 9827 4455  
hermann\_r\_loos@yahoo.com.au

**Vice President**

Mrs Fallon De Zilwa -0414 096 774  
fallonmigaen86@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Mr Harvey Foenander - 03 8790 1610  
bfoenander1@bigpond.com

**Assistant Secretary**

Mrs Rita Van Geysel - 03 9503 4841  
rvangeysel@optusnet.com.au

**Treasurer**

Hans DeZilwa - 0419 292 939  
hansdezilwa@gmail.com

**Assistant Treasurer**

Mrs Carol Loos - 9827 4455  
gracecloos@yahoo.com.au

**Editor**

Mel Farrell - 0400880336  
bugbear6@bigpond.com

**Public Relations Manager**

Mrs Elaine Jansz - 03 9798 6315  
bd8cerjansz@optusnet.com.au

**Customer Services Manager**

Mrs Breedda Foenander - 03 8790 1610  
bfoenander1@bigpond.com

**COMMITTEE**

Mr Terry Backhouse - 0429 987 300  
Mrs Helen Backhouse - 9774 7300,  
Denis Lobo - 0433 915 802



**The 2020/21  
Burgher Association Australia  
Donations Pledge**

The Burgher Association Australia Incorporated (BAA) is passionate about supporting the community and is proud to be helping make a difference in the area of health and wellbeing. It is our goal to empower wellbeing and healthy lifestyles across Australia and Sri Lanka. The BAA is pleased to have considered charitable contributions, donations and sponsorships to children's education in Sri Lanka and other charitable donations/sponsorship based in Australia

However taking that fund raising events were almost non existence in the past year due to the corona virus pandemic, the BAA has taken the view that all sponsorships/donations excluding the sponsorships of children in their education via the DBU in Sri Lanka will not take place until we get back to normal as before the corona virus pandemic and we can have and raise funds via the fund raising events. As such the BAA has just announced following the January 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) that for the current year donations and sponsorships will be granted only to the following.

**Sponsorship of education to children via the Dutch Burgher Union of Sri Lanka for up to 25 Children doing year 11 and 12**

We will review again annually the position to set up a budget for new/continued sponsorship to be adopted in the following year.

## Burgher Association (Australia)

358 Houghton Road, Clayton VIC 3168

HALL



HIRE



The Burgher Association of Australia Centre is available for private hire (**Dances, Birthday parties, Anniversaries etc**). The BAA Centre is located within a short walk from Clayton railway station. The hall is licensed to hold 150 people. Tables and chairs for this number of attendees are provided. There is usually plenty of parking across the road and a few spaces on the property. Disabled access via ramps is available to both the front and rear doors and a disabled parking space is available. There is also a 'horseshoe' driveway permitting the dropping off of attendees under cover.

Commercial kitchen facilities are available including stainless steel splash walls, a commercial glass washer, dishwasher, stove, oven, hot water boiler, large freezer, refrigerator and a bain-marie. There also is an alfresco area at the back that can be used for making the famous Sri Lankan Hoppers, BBQs or other activity that requires a shielded outdoor space. There are multiple reverse-cycle heating and cooling units servicing the main hall and kitchen. There are separate male, female and disabled toilets. More pictures are available on our website <http://burgherassocn.org.au/baa-centre/>

How to make a booking: Call Breeda Foenander on 0423 844 101 to enquire whether the date, you wish to hire the hall for is available. If you are a member of the BAA, the price of hiring the Centre costs \$350 per day; Non-members \$400 per day. Minimum booking is 5 hours \$300. Hours of operation Friday/Saturday 11AM to 12 Midnight, other days 10AM to 10PM. All bookings require a bond of \$250 that is refunded if the centre is handed back to management clean and undamaged. (**\$1000 for age 21+ and under**). A payment of \$100.00 will be deducted from the Security Fee deposit for cleaning of the premises, for the next day's Events. **Hiring Agreement**. *NB: To book the hall, payment has to be made via the BAA Bank Account – details available on request. Depending on whether you are a member or non-member the full fee plus the deposit of \$250 must be paid to secure the date booked.*



## VICTOR MELDER SRI LANKA LIBRARY

7, Benambra Street, Broadmeadows, Vic 3047, Australia.

Telephone + 61 3 9309 4040

E-mail: [melder.rjvm1935@bigpond.com](mailto:melder.rjvm1935@bigpond.com)

Website: [www.vmsl-library.com](http://www.vmsl-library.com)

Those wishing to donate books and other publications to the library, may contact Victor Melder at any of the addresses provided above.

### *Let us all be proud that we are 'Sri Lankan'*

*The following was an excerpt published in the Leader Newspaper in the Shire of Sutherland NSW. We migrated to this lucky country when the situation back home, mainly our living conditions were at their lowest. So, the saying goes, 'We left the sinking ship'. Most of us still have connections with our mother country and we cannot forget the good times we had. I left Sri Lanka in 1972, mainly due to the lack of facilities in Hospitals for the proper care of patients. I was working as a General Surgeon in Badulla Provincial Hospital in the early seventies. Believe me, there was a dearth of antibiotics, including saline given intravenously to emergency required cases. At that time there was a shortage of food items, and the distribution of cloth material and most food items were distributed by the Co-corps and our wives had to wait in long queues to purchase our weekly needs. The 1971 Revolt was an armed insurrection conducted by the communist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) against the Government of Ceylon under Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike. The revolt began on 5 April 1971 and lasted till June 1971. One Sunday morning gunshot injured casualties were brought from Passara district to Badulla General Hospital, whilst I was on duty. I spent the whole day treating the gun-shot injuries of those innocent village folk. That was the straw that broke the camel's back and we decided to leave the country. We are all ambassadors now for our country, and we must bring credibility by working for our community and others and be united as a Sri Lankan community overseas. Our pride for our motherland should not come after our country becomes great. Our motherland becomes great because of our pride in it.*

It is with disappointment and regret that The BAA were forced to cancel our planned **Australia Day Celebrations** due once again to having COVID restrictions placed upon us. It is our hope that life will return to a 'new' normal and that we can once again enjoy the fellowship and fun of our friends at the BAA.

**DON'T FORGET TO GET VACCINATED AND TO HAVE YOUR BOOSTER!**

***From the Editor's Desk:** In the previous newsletter, I introduced myself as your new editor also mentioning my husband Geoff who, although a member for some time also joined the committee. It is with much sadness; I am advising that my husband passed away very suddenly a couple of days before Christmas. I am truly humbled by all the care and concern I have received from the president and committee at this difficult time.*

*I also requested snippets of news, articles, bragging rights, births, marriages, pregnancies, birthdays, wedding anniversaries anything you would like to share with us. I was extremely disappointed that nothing popped into my email box.*

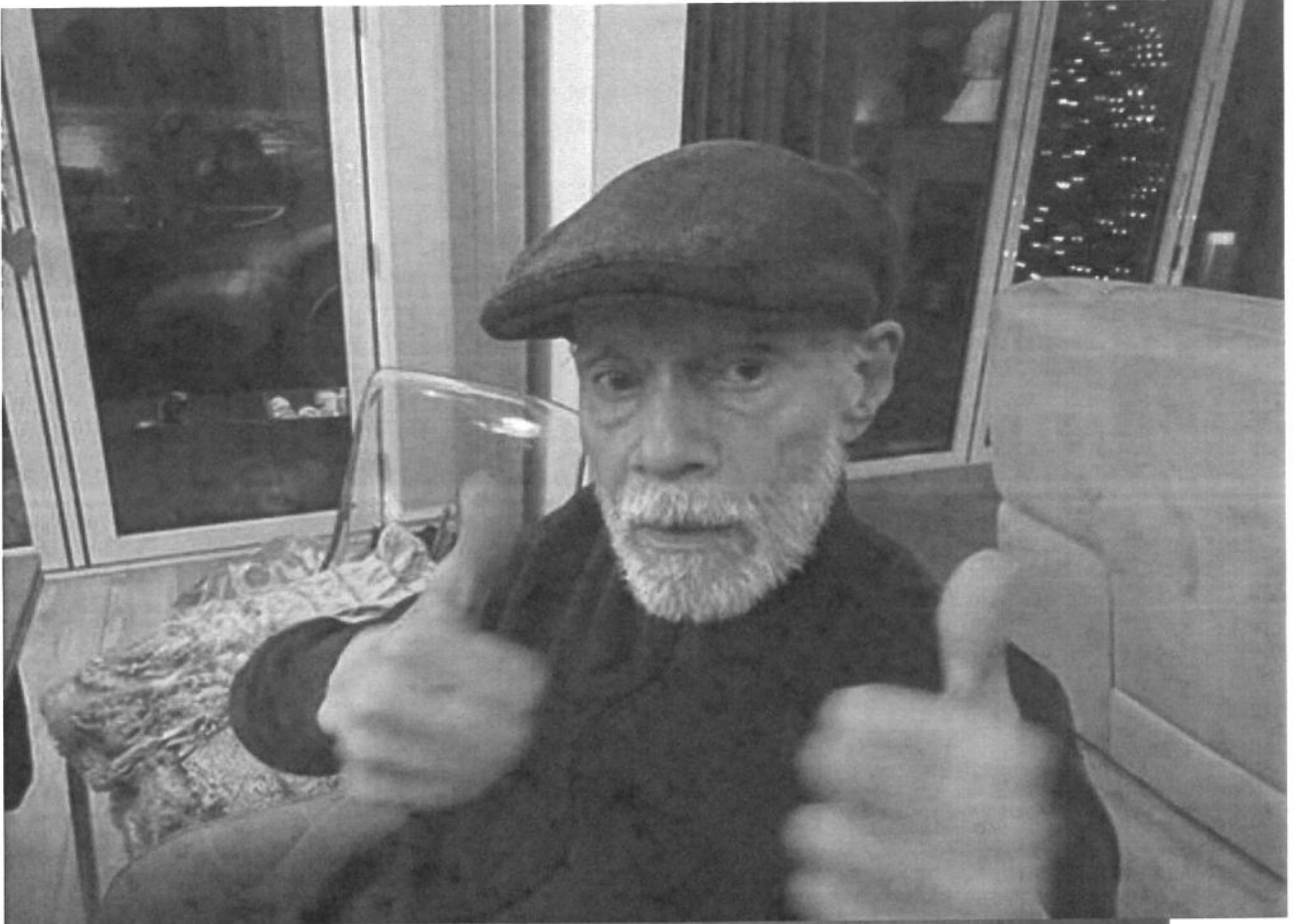
***This is your newsletter – please share your stories.***

## THE LEGEND THAT WAS BILL FORBES (KAL KAHN) – 1938 - 2022



Bill Forbes was born in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), educated at St. Peter's College in the suburb of Bambalapitiya. At 17, he went to Britain to pursue his dreams of becoming a famous singer. He auditioned for the new and popular *Oh Boy!* show and was accepted, making his debut singing an upbeat spiritual song "God's Little Acre", picked for him by the producer Jack Good. Shortly afterward, he was signed by Columbia. His most successful recording was a cover of "Too Young" which reached no. 29 in UK's NME Chart during December 1959. In Ceylon, "Too Young / It's Not The End Of The World" was a double-sided no. 1 hit in early 1960, beaming proudly on the overseas English Services of the venerable Radio Ceylon, celebrating her famous son. Meanwhile, Bill was inspired by the successful comical song "Goodness Gracious Me" sang by Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren. He decided to record his own "baila" styled (*Ladies of*) *Calcutta*\* and *Aa-Chaa England* ("Oh to be in England", composed by Bill Forbes) under the name of *Kal Kahn* in 1964. Both songs are considered classics. Bill Forbes gave up show business in 1975 and settled in Huddersfield, UK. He is regarded as the first Sri Lankan solo artist ever to secure a recording contract and a hit record outside his native country.

\**Calcutta* was originally a German instrumental titled *Tivoli Melody* composed by Heino Gaze. It was retitled *Take Me Dreaming*, then *Nicolette*, and Werner Muller Orchestra recorded it as *KalkuttaLiegt am Ganges*. Lawrence Welk Orchestra recorded it as *Calcutta* which became no. 1 on Billboard (USA) in 1961. The Four Preps also charted it in the same year with lyrics from Paul J. Vance and Lee Pockriss.



Bill Forbes at the *Oh Boy*



Artist In Exile: Aubrey Collette -Remember the cartoons of the mid to late 50's and early 60's. The issues more relevant than ever now.

*Aubrey Collette, a renowned Ceylonese political cartoonist and artist, was forced to leave Ceylon in 1961 due to increasing hostility towards his political cartoons, Collette lived the rest of his life in Australia, where he died in 1992.*

*Despite an impressive career, the exile from Sri Lanka left Collette "heartbroken". The talent, learned artistry and political voice of his cartoons captured a pivotal moment in the country's early history — and nobody knows how much more he would have added to his legacy, if he didn't have to leave when he did.*

## **KEEPING YOUR KIDNEYS HEALTHY**

Your kidneys perform many important functions to keep you healthy. Your kidneys remove wastes and extra fluid from your body, they remove acid that is produced by the cells of your body and maintain a healthy balance of water, salt, and minerals—such as sodium, calcium, phosphorus, and potassium in your blood. They also produce hormones that regulate blood pressure and control the production of red cells. They make two main hormones, vitamin D and erythropoietin. Vitamin D is essential for several different functions in the body. Most of the vitamin D that is in the blood is inactive and it is modified by the kidney and other tissues to activate it. The other hormones the kidneys secrete are renin-angiotensin system or the RAS system, in addition to erythropoietin and dihydroxy vitamin D3. It also produces enzymes, such as kallikreins, which produce hormones in other, distant sites. Your kidneys also activate a form of vitamin D that helps to absorb calcium for building strong bones and regulate muscle functions. Certain medications can damage your kidney when taken regularly for a long time. They are NSAIDs or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen and naproxen. You need to watch out for your kidneys when you take analgesics for pain, such as aspirin, Panadol or acetaminophen and caffeine. Be careful when you take herbal medicine. Some of them can damage your kidneys. Always, check with your doctor before taking any herbal supplement. Examples are John's Wort, echinacea, ginkgo, garlic, ginseng, ginger, and blue cohosh.

Drink Plenty of Water

Reduce Salt in your diet

Control your blood pressure

Exercise

## PUBLIC NOTICE

# CHURCH OF CEYLON CEMETERIES BOARD UNPAID GRAVE RATES

To all Registered Owners/ Assignees of Graves at Anglican Cemeteries in Kanatta - Borella, Jawatta and Madampitiya.

Some of the Owners/Assignees, despite our reminders posted to the given known addresses of the Owners/Assignees have been in default of paying annual rates for many years.

Please communicate with the **Manager, Mr. Brian Wijesinghe** at the cemetery office on Tel. 011-2687715 or 078-5679407 during office hours 9.00am to 3.00pm on or before **31st January 2022**. E-mail: cemeteriesboardanglican8@yahoo.com

Misplaced/ lost Grant copies could be obtained from the board office, under conditions applicable with payment.

This is in order to update our records by paying the outstanding dues to the board.

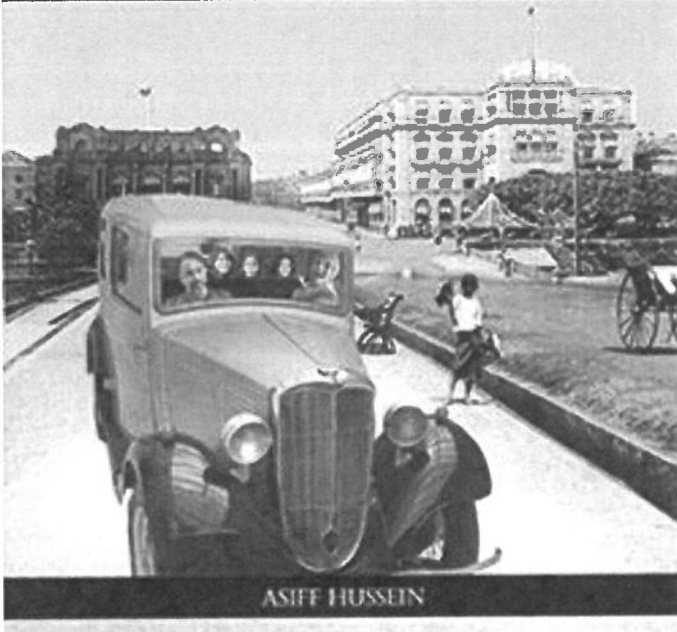
In the event there is no response from either the Owners/Assignees or Relatives such Grave Grants will be duly cancelled and transferred back to the Bishop of Colombo.

Please note that Graves in future will not be permitted to be sealed in accordance with a Board Decision.

**Board of Management**  
**Church of Ceylon Cemeteries Board - Anglican Section**  
Colombo 8

# The Great Days of COLOMBO

A Journey of Colombo Through Time as Never Seen Before



## **“THE GREAT DAYS OF COLOMBO” by Assif Hussein**

Is a new publication, released recently, this profusely illustrated and compelling work tells the story of how Colombo grew from very small beginnings as a simple Moorish port to become what it is today, a bustling city full of life and colour.

The evolution of the city is traced in much detail and its rich history vividly described with stories of war, horror and pillage that followed European colonialism and then the rapid growth of the city under Western

domination. The story of Colombo is in short, the story of a modern nation in the making. Among other things, it traces the origins of place names and street names and covers the main landmarks of each area as well as businesses and prominent residences therein. The work is illustrated with over 800 rare, vintage monochrome and colour photographs including works by Clarence Morang, Stephen Owens and Dominic Sansoni.

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*AND ON A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT NOTE WE ARE VERY  
EXCITED TO WELCOME OUR YOUNGEST MEMBER TO THE  
BAA – AT 18, YOU MAY BE THE YOUNGEST EVER!  
WELCOME ROCHELLE FLEMING*

## RECEIPES TO TRY

### 3-Ingredient flourless chocolate cake

Serves -6-8

#### Ingredients

- 8 large eggs, cold
- 1 lb. dark, semisweet or bittersweet chocolate, coarsely chopped
- 16 Tbsp. (2 sticks) unsalted butter, cut into 16 pieces

Adjust an oven rack to the lower-middle position and heat the oven to 350°. Line the bottom of an 8-inch springform pan with parchment paper or waxed paper and grease the sides of the pan. (Be sure to grease the sides really well!) Wrap the outside of the pan with 2 sheets of heavy-duty aluminium foil and set it in a large roasting pan, or any pan that's larger than the springform. Bring a kettle or pot of water to boil.

In a stand mixer using the whisk attachment beat the eggs at high speed until the volume doubles. This usually takes about 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt the chocolate and butter together. You can either do this in a double boiler on the stove (by placing the chocolate and butter in a large heatproof bowl, set over a pan of almost-simmering water, and stirring until melted and smooth). Or you can do this in the microwave (by heating the chocolate and butter in a microwave-safe bowl in 30-second intervals, stirring in between, until the chocolate and butter are melted and smooth). Then fold about a third of the beaten eggs into the chocolate mixture using a large rubber spatula until only a few streaks of egg are visible. Fold in half of the remaining egg foam, and then the last half of the foam, until the mixture is totally homogenous.

Scrape the batter into the prepared springform pan and smooth the surface with a rubber spatula. Place the roasting pan on the oven rack and VERY carefully pour in enough boiling water to come about halfway up the sides of the springform pan. Bake until the cake has risen slightly, the edges are

just beginning to set, a thin-glazed crust (like a brownie) has formed on the surface, and an instant-read thermometer inserted halfway into the centre reads 60° C, 22-25 minutes. Remove the springform pan from the water bath and set on a wire rack; cool to room temperature, cover and refrigerate until cool.

About 30 minutes prior to serving, carefully remove the sides of the springform pan, invert the cake onto a sheet of waxed paper, peel off the parchment paper, and reinvert the cake onto a serving platter.

If desired, lightly dust the cake with powdered sugar and top with berries. To slice, use a sharp, thin-bladed knife, dipping the knife into a pitcher of hot water and wiping the blade before each cut.

*NOTE: Cake can be refrigerated for up to 4 days*

### ***SLOW COOKER SUNDAY – APRICOT CHICKEN – Serves 6***

- 1-1.5 kgs chicken – that can be drumsticks or diced chicken breast or thighs
  - 1 large tin of apricots in natural juices
  - 1 packet French onion soup
  - 1 chopped onion
  - 1 chicken stock cube
  - 1 cup water
  - Light sour cream
1. Place the whole tin of apricot and juice, add French onion soup packet and chopped onion in the slow cooker. Stir together.
  2. Next, add the stock cube to the water and pour it into the slow cooker.
  3. Place chicken in the slow cooker and stir gently so that all the chicken is covered in the mixture.
  4. Cook on high for 3 – 4 hours
  5. Serve on a bed of rice. We like to add a little dollop of light sour cream on top to add to the richness of the apricots.

# The Cocos Islands Mutiny

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On the night of 8 May, 1942, 30 out of 56 personnel of the Ceylon Garrison Artillery on Horsburgh Island in the Cocos Islands mutinied, intending to hand the islands over to the Japanese. The plan was to arrest Captain Gardiner, the British Battery Commanding Officer and his deputy, Lieutenant Stephens, disarm the troops loyal to the British Empire, turn the 6-inch guns on the CLI troops on Direction Island, and to signal the Japanese on Christmas Island, which the Japanese had occupied on 3 March 1942.

However, the soldiers all proved to be poor shots with small arms: one soldier, Gunner Samaris Jayasekera was killed, and Lieutenant Stephens wounded by them, and the rebels' sole Bren gun jammed at a crucial moment as Gratien Fernando, the leader of the mutiny, had it aimed at Gardiner. The rebels then attempted to turn the 6-inch guns on Direction Island, but were overpowered.<sup>[3]</sup>

Messages sent by Fernando were received in Ceylon, indicating that there was co-operation between him and both the CLI troops and the Australian signalers on Direction Island, however, none of them took part in the mutiny. The CLI helped to put down the mutineers. He declared he had surrendered on condition that he would be tried in Colombo; it may be that he intended to give a speech from the dock to inspire his compatriots. However, the 15 mutineers were court-martialed on the Cocos Islands by Gardiner. Seven of the men who were found guilty were sentenced to death, with four of these sentences commuted to terms of imprisonment.<sup>[1]</sup> Gunner Samaris Jayasekera was buried with full military honours on Horsburgh Island on the evening of 10 May and later reburied in Singapore's Kranji War Memorial.

The condemned mutineers were shipped back to Ceylon, imprisoned at the military jail in Flagstaff Street and then at military detention barracks at Hulftsdorp. The families of the condemned appealed to Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, then Civil Defence Commissioner and a member of the War Council to save them, H. W. Amarasuriya and Susantha de Fonseka, members of the State Council, also made representations to the On the night of 8 May, 30 out of 56 personnel of the Ceylon Garrison Artillery on Horsburgh Island in the Cocos Islands mutinied, intending to hand the islands over to the Japanese. The plan was to arrest Captain Gardiner, the British Battery Commanding Officer and his deputy, Lieutenant Stephens, disarm the troops loyal to the British Empire, turn the 6-inch guns on the CLI troops on Direction Island, and to signal the Japanese on Christmas Island, which the Japanese had occupied on 3 March 1942.<sup>[2]</sup>

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Fernando was defiant to the end, confidently believing that he would be remembered as a patriot, and refused a commutation of punishment. He was executed on 5 August 1942 at Welikada Prison, and two other mutineers shortly thereafter. Fernando's last words were "Loyalty to a country under the heel of a white man is disloyalty".

### **Aftermath**

he three mutineers were the only British Commonwealth troops to be executed for mutiny during the Second World War. The CDF detachment in Cocos Islands returned just before Christmas 1942, these veterans had their promotions suspended and denied the campaign medals for active war service. No Ceylonese combat regiment was deployed by the British in a combat situation after the Cocos Islands Mutiny. However, support units were deployed, most notably in North Africa. The defences of Ceylon were increased to three British army divisions because the island was strategically important, holding almost all the British Empire's resources of rubber that remained after the fall of Malaya. Rationing was instituted so

that the Ceylonese were comparatively better fed than their Indian neighbours, in order to prevent disaffection among the natives.

The LSSP's anti-colonial agitation now included references to the Cocos Islands Mutiny as public opposition at British colonial rule continued to grow. Sir Oliver Ernest Goonetilleke, the Civil Defence Commissioner claimed that the British commander of Ceylon, Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton called him a 'black bastard'.

The men who were convicted by court martial of mutiny were:

- Bombardier Gratien Fernando (executed 5 August 1942)
- Gunner Carlo Augustus Gauder (executed 7 August 1942)
- Gunner G. Benny de Silva (executed 8 August 1942)
- Gunner R. S. Hamilton — death sentence commuted to penal servitude for three years
- Lance Bombardier Kingsley W. J. Diasz — death sentence commuted to penal servitude for four years
- Gunner A. Joseph L. Peries — death sentence commuted to penal servitude for four years
- Gunner Gerry D. Anandappa — death sentence commuted to penal servitude for three years
- Gunner A. B. Edema — imprisonment for one year without hard labour
- Gunner M. A. Hopman — penal servitude for three years
- Gunner F. J. Daniels — penal servitude for seven years
- Gunner Kenneth R. Porritt — imprisonment for one year with hard labour





## The Story Behind the Burghers of Sri Lanka

The proud descendants of the Dutch and Portuguese colonies of the 16th and 17th centuries, the Burghers have been a part of Sri Lanka for hundreds of years.

A Eurasian ethnic group, descended not only from the Portuguese and Dutch, but also from the British and other Europeans who settled in the island, most Burghers still hold on to their predominantly western customs, traditions, and even their language and religion. They are themselves a glorious mix of the west and east, and have contributed to Sri Lankan society and culture in numerous ways.

People often expect Burghers to have a fair or moderately fair complexion and eyes and hair that are light in colour, in comparison to the people of the other races present within the country. But some Burgher people are indistinguishable from their fellow Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim citizens, and may possess an olive or even dark skin tone, and dark hair and eyes as a result of their mixed ancestry, thanks to intermarriage between the races.

The word 'Burgher' was adopted into the English language after being derived from the Dutch word 'Burger' which refers to a citizen of a 'berg', a borough or town. It is much similar to the French and English word 'bourgeois', meaning middle class. Originally, the word had no connection whatsoever to race or ethnicity; it was merely a mark of civil status. This category of town-dwelling inhabitants grew in size and number, however, and became more varied in the last few years of the Dutch rule in Sri Lanka.

With the establishment of British Crown control in Sri Lanka, the term 'Burgher' proved useful as a label for their subjects who were not indigenous, but descendants of the Portuguese and Dutch immigrants. Within this group there were two definite and identifiable communities: the Portuguese Burghers and the Dutch Burghers, and they remained separate communities on the basis of ethnicity, religion, language spoken, and physical attributes.

But later on, to those external to the communities, it became much easier to classify these two groups as one, despite the divisions of class, race, religion, and colour, which remained as barriers within the two groups.

Even the British did not acknowledge them as two separate and identifiable racial groups but broadly classified them as Burghers, for administrative reasons. The term was actually not accepted by the Dutch descendants or the Sinhalese either.

Only in 1833 did the official definition become necessary, with the Supreme Court (specifically, Chief Justice of Ceylon, Sir Richard Ottley) stating that "The name Burgher belongs to all the

descendants of the Portuguese, the Dutch and all other Europeans born in Sri Lanka.”

Later on, it was a racial tag given to all Eurasians (of Portuguese, Dutch, British, and sometimes even German, French or Russian origin) and children of unions between the British and the Sinhalese, whose parents were often not married.

As of now, though there are a few distinct Portuguese Burgher communities in the East, particularly in Batticaloa. Within Colombo and it's surrounding suburbs, the Portuguese and Dutch Burgher communities are more integrated. This is mainly because English and Sinhalese have replaced Dutch and Portuguese Creole as the primary languages among these people.

### The Portuguese Burghers

The current Portuguese Burghers are mostly the descendants of the Sri Lankan 'Mestiços', people of mixed Portuguese and Sinhalese or Tamil descent, who first appeared in the 16th Century after the Portuguese landed in the coastal areas of the island in 1505.

These Portuguese settlers initially journeyed to Sri Lanka for trade purposes but eventually decided to form colonies, even marrying Sinhalese and Tamil women. Inter-marriage with the Sinhala and Tamil races was encouraged by the Portuguese, but not by their Dutch successors.

A significant impact of the Portuguese colonisation was, of course, the creation of these 'Mestiços', the early ancestors of the current

Burghers, who were known as 'Tupase' by the Sinhalese and 'Tuppai' by the Tamils.

They were, sadly, despised by the Sinhalese, the Dutch, and later on, even the British. With the advent of the Dutch rule, the community was faced with a downward economic spiral, and was also somewhat mistreated by the Dutch – staunch protestants who had previously suffered at the hands of Spanish Catholics, the religious and political allies of the Portuguese.

In spite of their social and economic disadvantages, they continued to maintain their Portuguese language and customs, and upheld their Catholic beliefs even with the pressure of both their Dutch and British rulers.

They took on the skills left over by their Portuguese ancestors, which included shoemaking, tailoring, carpentry, printing, and blacksmithing. They later came to be known as the 'micro Burghers' or the 'mechanic Burghers' because they were occupied with mechanical work such as repairing machinery.

These new skills, however, did not fit well in a society which considered such skills inferior to agriculture- and service-related occupations. Not much has changed for the Portuguese Burghers today, since they are still somewhat considered to be of a lower caste, in a class-centric society.

Currently, there are around 2,000 Portuguese Burghers in Batticaloa, and they live as a separate community with a blend of Portuguese and Dutch names.

Strongly Catholic, they are otherwise indistinguishable from the neighbouring Sinhalese, Tamils, and Moors, in terms of skin colour and even language, as many of them are fluent in Sinhalese and Tamil. Many of them also live on the outskirts of Colombo, and a few more occupy Trincomalee, Akkaraipattu, Mannar, and the southern suburbs of Colombo.

There is a Portuguese Burgher union present in Batticaloa, called the Catholic Burgher Union, which takes its duty in preserving the heritage and culture of its people very seriously. Though it has been some 350 odd years since the Portuguese left the country, the Union still conducts its meetings in the Portuguese Patois, which is a language derived from Portuguese Creole but spoken in English with a few additional Sinhala words thrown in.

### The Dutch Burghers

These Burghers largely descended from the Dutch colonisers, but are a mix of the Portuguese Burghers, and Sinhalese and Tamils as well. In 1602, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) took over the maritime regions of the country, and during this time period, the Dutch intermarried with the Portuguese descendants.

In the 18th century, this Eurasian community, referred to as 'Lansi' by the Sinhalese and Tamils, grew and increased in number, mostly speaking Portuguese Creole and Dutch.

When the British sailed over to the island and took control in 1796, most of the Dutch settlers, who still had connections with their homeland of the Netherlands, left the island. Some of the employees of the VOC chose to migrate to Batavia, which was the headquarters

of the company. However, many of the Dutch Burghers remained, on the condition they sign a 'Treaty of Capitulation' to the British. At that time there were about 900 Dutch Burgher families living in Colombo, Jaffna, Galle, and Matara.

The Dutch Burghers were traditionally Protestants and members of the Dutch Reformed Church, but with the dominance of the British in the island, most of them took up the Anglican faith and even adopted the English language as their own.

In the 19th Century, the Dutch Burghers people played a noteworthy role in the Ceylonese society and economy of the time, despite being somewhat deprived of their livelihoods at the hands of the British.

They instead turned towards education and employment in the public sector. They were also the people who performed the professional and bureaucratic services in the early British times. They were more or less the link that bridged the gap between the Sinhalese and their new rulers.

The British brought their modern technology and techniques from the West, but it was the Burghers, particularly the Dutch Burghers, who succeeded in practically introducing this to the society, mostly because it was easier for them to cooperate and communicate with the Sinhalese people than it was for the British. The Dutch Burghers were pioneers in land surveying, construction, health and medical services, and maintaining the road and railway networks.

They were also the pioneers of education and staunch upholders of the law, thereby maintaining order and delivering the government's services in a just manner, so that all the diverse races and

communities could co-exist harmoniously, with better living standards.

Many Dutch families also display a strong interest in their family histories, and therefore keep detailed ‘Stamboeken’, or Dutch Clan books with recorded dates of births, marriages, deaths, And other important events in their family’s history.

The Dutch Burgher Union also contains and preserves many of these journals that have been created and maintained throughout the years, revealing that each family line is not only of Dutch origin; these families have German, Swedish, Hungarian, Italian, French, British, Portuguese and Sinhalese ancestor as well.



*Wolvendaal Church in Colombo – the oldest Dutch Reformed Church in Sri Lanka*

## **OBITUARIES**

**REZEL, Ruth Miriam**, (02.10.1925 – 09.10.2021), wife of Mervyn (dec), Mother and mother-in-law of Ralph, Felicity and Lal, Junior (dec), Tyronne, Annabelle & Tyrone and Keith. Grandmother of Wayne, Maryse, Natalie, Shantelle and Tracey, great grandmother of Cloe and Maverick. (SilverScene, Qld, Nov/Dec 20232 issue)

**DE ZILVA, Doris (nee VANDERWERT)**, wife of Edward de Zilva, mother of late Gary and Jude, mother-in-law of Sandy. Grandmother of Reece and Jarred. . Daughter of late Edward & Mona Vanderwert. Sister and sister-in-law of late Huxley and late Walter (Doreen), Ronnie (Estelle), Maureen (Ronnie Steinwall), Aubrey (Brenda), Churchill (Heather), late Rosemarie ( Meredith Van Ryke) and Jennifer (Ron Tusker, Canada), in Newcastle, NSW on 27 October 2021. (Contributed by Anston Francke)

**De SILVA, Cyril Clement Milroy Passé**, (20 February.1938 – 28.October 2021) in Melbourne. (Contributed)

**PEREIRA, Tyronne Dominic** (4 August 1941 - 26 October 2021); husband of June (née Ferdinands); father of Darren & Natasha; father-in-law of Shehan & Matthew Stephens; grandfather of Alleisha, Jada, Jaxon & Charlize. (Contributed)

**DE FONSEKA, Chrisantha (Chris)**, (2 June 1940 – 27 October 2021), **husband** of Ratna (de Silva), Son of the late Mr & Mrs M. E. Fonseka, brother of Rohan Fonseka and Lakshman De Fonseka (Can), Ranjini Anthony and Kanthi Thilakeratne (SL), brother-in-law of Arlene, Kanthi, late Dalton de Silva, Lakshman, Daya, Michael and Merrill, in Ontario, Canada. (The Anchorman, Canada)

**PLUNKETT, Don**, in Adelaide on 26 October 2021. (The Adelaide Advertiser, 2.11.2021)

**MELDER, Dorothy Fay (nee SOLOMONS)**, wife of the late Edward Melder, mother of Michele, Natalie, Keith and Lindsay, mother-in-law of Pastor Roshan Mahesan, Sunil Liyanage and Helen Melder. Grandmother of Stephanie, Caroline, Joanna, Joash, Sheyon, Melissa, Jonathan, Leanne and Jordan. Daughter of late Sydney and Rita Solomons, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 9.11.2021)

**MACHADO, MARGARET**, Daughter of Pagnani & Annie Roche Victoria (dec), sister of Gerald, Bertie, Matilda, Sr Fortunata & Joe (All deceased). Wife of Rosario (dec.), mother of Axie (dec.), Rienzie, Sally, Veronica, Belinda, Lawrence and Fortuna, mother-in-law of Leonie, Roshini, Annesley Grero, Irwin Vaz, Max Gomez, Roshan, and Victor Benjamin, grandmother of 14 grandchildren & 11 great-grandchildren, in Melbourne (Daily News, 10.11.2021)

**SCHOKMAN, DOREEN (nee VAN TWEST)** - Widow of Derrick Earle, mother of Deidre Parker (UK), Malcolm (Australia) and Tanya Penhale (UK), aged 91, on 6th November 2021 in Lytham, UK. (Sunday Times, 14.11.2021)



**TAYLOR, Sheila**, wife of Jack (dec), mother of Lynette, Gerry, Anne, Rodney, Trevor, Jack and their families. Grandmother of 12, Great grandmother of 11, in Perth, W.A, on November 6, 2021, aged 97 years. (The West Australian, 10.11.2021)

**VIVEKANANTHAN, Dr Chellappah (Vive)**, husband of the late Bavany, father of Vasuhi, Radha and Uma, father-in-law of Varo and Chris. Grandfather of Rahul, Sahana, Maya and Sachin. Son of the late Chellappah&Kanakamuttu, brother Vimala, Indra, Savithri and Vije. Son-in-law of the late Veluppillai&Chellammah, in Melbourne on November 13, 2021, aged 86 years. (Age, 17.11.2021)

**FOENANDER, Dr Clarence Oscar (Larry)**, 27.11.1924 – 12.11.2021, husband of Yvonne (dec), father of John (dec) and Sabrina, father-in-law of Phil and Olga, grandfather of Emily, Katherine and Alexandra, in Melbourne. (Age, 17.11.2021)

**THURGOOD, Harold**, A.K.A. Albert Cobby, father of Louise& Justin and Ty & Tatiana, grandfather of Teya, Lara, Jethro, Scarlett, Luke, Orson ad Remy, in Sydney. (Sydney Morning Herald, 19.11.2021)

**DE COSTA, Colleen (nee BLUNDELL)**, 17.11.1942 – 14.11.2021, wife of John (dec), mother of Julie and Jodie, grandmother of Carly, Joshua, Jessica and Kelsey, great grandmother of Violet, Eli and Ivy, in New South Wales. (Canberra Times, 20.11.2021)

**REBERA, Ranjini Estelle**, (01.09.1938 – 13.11.2021), wife of Basil (dec), mother of Avinash and Dilhani, mother-in-law of Jacqui and Andrew. Grandmother of Jasper, Dominic, Jenna, Amy and Georgia, in Canberra. (Canberra Times, 20.11.2021)

**ADIKARI,SIRINIMAL Son** of the late A.M. Adikari and late L.E. Leelawathi, brother of AnomaKahapola, husband of Lyndell (nee Williams), father of Delan and Dushyami Anne, father-in-law of Jesse Campisi, grandfather of Luca, Andre and Arlo, son-in-law of Catherine, brother-in-law of Ranjith, in Melbourne on 10th November 2021. (Sunday Observer, 21.11.2021)

**ALGAMA, Lasath “Alan”**, (12.10.1952 – 21.11.2021), husband of Savithri, father of Manuk and Lakni. Brother of Kanthi, Preethi, Sarath and Deepthi, in Melbourne. (Melbourne Age, 23.11.2021)

**LUDOWYK, BERTHA (nee MEURLING)**, wife of late Desmond, mother of Sandra, Theodore and Tania, mother-in-law of Darshan, Ravi andDurga, grandmother of Sohan and Nicole, Devin and Maheshika, Damien, Tashmi, Jason, Vivekh, Vihan and Vikash, great grandmother of Zaiden and Kaileb, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 23.11.2021)

**PEREIRA - MYRTLE (GIRLA) ANESTASIA (nee TRANCHELL)**, relict of Ivin Joseph Pereira, mother of Elmo (Australia), Ronald (Canada), Roy, Maureen, Shien, Desmond and Rex (Australia), mother-in-law of late Yolette, Deslin, Desmond De Motte, Anne, Nalie and Suzie, grandmother of 12 grandchildren & 10 great grandchildren, in Sri Lanka. (Sunday Observer, 28.11.2021)

**PERERA, Godfrey**, in Penrith, NSW (Contributed)

**PERUMAL, Concy**, wife of Ronnie, mother of Sandrian and Adrian, mother-in-law and grandmother in Melbourne on December 22, 2021.

**HOLSINGER, Travis**, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

**COOKE, Johaan**, in Osaka, Japan. (Contributed) and Luke Chinniah and Anya Raux. Sister of Marie Silva, Fredrick Wright, and late Audrey, Noel and Francis, in Sri Lanka. -. 80, Waidya Road, Dehiwela, Sri Lanka. (Daily News, **KARUNARATNE, Marina Bernadette (Marie) (nee DAVID)**, daughter of late Claude and Pearl, wife of Lakshman, mother of Rozanne De Silva (Australia), mother-in-law of Asoka De Silva (Australia), grandmother of Stefan (Australia), Warren and Natasha Balthazaar. Sister of Kingsley David, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 1.1.2022)

**ANDRADE, Enid Joyce**, wife of Bill (dec), mother of Helen & Dave, Matthew & Grace, grandmother of Jamie and Meg, great grandmother of Carter, in Melbourne. (Age, Melbourne, 1.1.2022)

**RENGASWAMY, Dr Renga V**, (04.03.1943 – 28.12.2021), husband of Vasantha, father and father-in-law of Asha & Keith, Mohan & Kate, grandfather of Rosie, Eva, Marcus, Gabriel, Rory, Charlotte, Max and Anna. (Sydney Morning Herald, 8.1.2022)

**DIAS, Carlyle Spencer**, husband of late Felicia, father of Sharon & Sean, father-in-law of Sheran Peiris. Brother of late Hamilton, Richard, Malcolm, Tony, Margie, Patrick and Jennifer, brother-in-law of Noel Atapattu, Vernon Davidson and Eileen Jayawardene, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 11.1.2022)

**RAUX, Christine**, wife of late Anton Raux, mother of Debbie Chinniah, Graham and late Freddy, mother-in-law of Delakshan and Kalani Raux, grandmother of Stefan 11.1.2022)

**DE JONG, Margaret**, (31.10.1928 – 07.01.2022), mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Remembered by Andrew, Luke, Raymond, Josette, Kirra, Samuel, Cedar and Maple, in Perth. (The West Australian, 12.1.2022).

**RASIAH, Paripooranan**, in Perth, West Australia. (The West Australian, 12.1.2022)

**FERNANDO, Ellsworth Kingsley Elmo** husband of Deolene (nee Walles), brother of Romany, Yvonne and Ramsford (deceased), father of Graham, Helene, Aubon and Rinette, father-in-law of Leonie, Russell, Majella and Roger, grandfather of Daniella, Jarron, Kaelen, Lauren and Leanne, in Sri Lanka on 11th of January 2022. (Daily News, 14.1.2022)

**JANSEN, Eustace Charles**, husband of late Mrs Rosemary Merl Jansen, father of Nigel Royle Jansen and Suzette Pricilla Jansen, father-in-law of Steve Meerwald and Sarojini. Brother of Merton, Dennis, Emil, Jerard, Morris, Dulcy, Eroma, Heather, Yvonne and

Worina, grandfather of Cheryl Meerwald, Aaron Meerwald and Asvini, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 15.1.2022)

**RAYMOND, Gloria Therese**, wife of John (dec), mother of Marguerite, Christine, John, Bernadette, Patricia and Catherine. Grandmother, great grandmother, on January 5, 2022, aged 93 years, in Sydney. (Sydney Morning Herald, 15.1.2022)

**CASPERSZ, Pamela Louise**, (14.11.1940 – 13.1.2022), wife of Hilary, mother of Jacqueline, Elise, Vanessa, Michelle (dec), Jerome and Amy, mother-in-law of Peter, Michael, Gavin, Terry, Kim and Craig, grandmother of 16, great grandmother of 13, in Perth. (The West Australian, 17.1.2022)

**SAVUNDRANAYAGAM – Kumar**, beloved husband of Carmen (nee De Zylva) Father of Andrew, James & Christopher. Passed away in Perth on 23.12.2021

**ANDREWS, - Estelle Gertrude (nee DEWASUNDERA)**, wife of late Clement, mother of late Francis, Cheryll, late Roger, Tony, Noeline, Melanie and Cleonie, mother-in-law of Oscar, late Rupika, Shereena, Milroy, Adrian and late Sylvester, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 17.1.2022)

**HERFT - Leslie Anthony**, of Therese (nee Berenger), father of Geraldine, Damon & Edward, father-in-law of Laurelle, grandfather of Richie, Nathan, Lauren & Ryan. Brother of Dolly, Doug, Vivian, Terrence, Marcia and late Steve & Edward, brother-in-law of Barbara De Kuwe, Anton Warkuss, Nanda, Fay & Travis Baptis, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 19.1.2022)

**KEYT, Denise**, daughter of Anne & David, sister of David. Mother of Myles, in Perth, WA, (The West Australian, 19.1.2022).

**RAYMOND, Myra Maria**, daughter of Anna & Arnold (dec), in Sydney on January 10, 22, aged 85 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 22.1.2022)

**RAYMOND, Aubrey**, (11.07.1933 – 19.01.2022), husband of Dagmar (dec), father, grandfather and great grandfather in Perth, WA. (The West Australian, 24.1.2022)

**FERNANDO, Elizabeth (nee FORREST)**, wife of the late Francis. Sister of Mary Pethiyagoda, Daisy Forrest and the late Violet Wickremasinghe, Margaret Karunaratne and Frederic Forrest, in Sri Lanka on 25 January, 2022. (Daily News, 26.1.2022)

**THURGOOD, Ken**, son-in-law of Betty and Bill (dec), brother-in-law of Wilma & Stuart, in Adelaide. (The Advertiser, 26.1.2022)

**CROZIER, Warwick Kenneth**, husband of Jennifer, father and father-in-law of Michael & Rebecca and Andrew & Natalie. Special Father of Alan Byrne. Grandfather of Emily, Thomas, Zara and Abbie, in Canberra on January 20, 2022, aged 81 years. (Canberra times, 26.1.2022)

**GAUDER, Joan Gilda** – Wife of Ralph, mother of Hilary, Ralston && Anne-Marie. Sister of Verna & Errol (deceased) passed away 16/11/2021 Aged 92

**RYAN-ORCHARD -Yvonne** – passed away November 2021

**DEVOTA- Sherwin**– Husband of Ingrid, passed away 04/11/2021

**COUTTS – Jean Marie** passed away in Melbourne 01/11/2021

**MOORTHY -Krishna** Devoted husband to Maria, passed away 28/10/2021

**HOFFMAN - Hugh**4/12/1941 -15th February 2022 in London.

Loved husband of Helen and loved father of Christopher and Jennifer and adored grandfather -RIP

**FARRELL - Geoffrey Philip** – much loved husband of Melanie Farrell, passed away suddenly on 20/12/2021

**It is with deep sadness that we had to say good bye to our dear friend and committee member Geoffrey Farrell who passed away suddenly on 20th December 2021.**

**Geoffrey joined our committee and was looking forward to contributing his input into the BAA to improve our association. Sadly, this was not to be.**

**On behalf of the President and Committee we express our deepest condolences to Melanie his wife our Editor.**

**He will be sorely missed by all. May you rest in peace Geoffrey.**

## **ORDER OF AUSTRALIA MEDALS FOR 2022**

**MEDAL (OAM) OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA IN THE GENERAL DIVISION.** The following were awarded the OAM in the Australia Day Honours on January 26, 2022.

**MR SUNIL ARACHCHI, of Waterways, Vic, For service to the Sri Lankan Community of Victoria.**

**DR HAROLD GUNATILLAKE Sutherland, NSW, For service to Medicine and to the Sri Lankan Community of New South Wales. Congratulations to both.**



**The new tourist city in Galle is designed to attract more foreign cruise vessels to boost tourism**



**New tourist city designed to span on 40 hectares of reclaimed land**

**An investment of US\$175 million sought to complete it in three years “The proposed new tourist space is designed to span on 40 hectares of reclaimed land, taking a cue from the Port City of Colombo, Rohitha Abeygunawardana”, Minister of Shipping said.**

**“The project will transform Galle like Colombo in its economic and metropolitan significance creating dividends for all people in the region,” he said. The minister said that the government would be fully conscious of any environmental impacts, and therefore, the development would take place in accordance with environmental laws of the country.**

## JUST FOR FUN

- *Do men's ears actually work or are they just for show?*
- *A naked man broke into a church, The police chased him around and finally caught him by the organ.*
- *The terrible thing about dying in Ireland is you miss your own wake. It's the best day of your life. You've paid for everything and can't join in!*
- *A married man took his side chic on a date and said to her "babe tell me words that will increase my heartbeat" She said, "your wife is sitting behind us"*
- *A woman goes out shopping with her hubby ad spots a pair of boots she loves, the husband says "no chance love they are way too expensive." Later in bed the wife is just falling asleep when the husband tries his luck. She turns to him and says "no chance mate, if you are not prepared to shoe the horse then you sure as hell aren't riding it!"*

**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE MAKE PEOPLE AWARE OF THIS DANGEROUS VIRUS\*\*\*\*\***

A highly dangerous virus called 'Weekly Overload Recreational killer' (**WORK**) is currently going around. If you come in contact with this WORK virus you should immediately go to the nearest Biological Anxiety Relief (**BAR**) centre to take anecdotes known as 'Work Isolating Neutralizer Extract' (**WINE**) or 'Radioactive Un-work Medicine' (**RUM**) or 'Bothersome Elimination Re-booter' (**BEER**) or 'Vaccine Official Depression Killing Antigen' (**VODKA**)

Good Luck, stay safe!

.....

## THE PERKS OF BEING OVER 60!

- Kidnappers are not interested in you.
- In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
- No one expects you to run – anywhere.
- People call at 8 pm and ask “did I wake you”.
- You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Things you buy now won’t wear out.
- You can eat dinner at 5 pm.
- You can live without sex but not your glasses.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can’t remember them either.
- Your supply of brain cells is down to a manageable size.
- And this is in larger bold print for your convenience.

An elderly couple were invited to an old friend’s home for dinner one evening. The host was impressed by the way her friend preceded every request to her husband with endearing terms such as honey, my love, darling, sweetheart and pumpkin. The couple had been married almost 70 years and, clearly, they were still very much in love. While the husbands were in the living room, the host leaned over to her friend and said: “I think it’s wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your husband all those loving pet names.” The lady hung her head. “I have to tell you the truth. His name slipped my mind about 10 years ago and I’m scared to death to ask the cranky old bastard what it is.”

At 33 he quits smoking	will power
At 43 he quits drinking	will power
At 53 he quits gambling	will power
At 63 he quits sex	<b>POWER FAILURE</b>

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