



New Zealand Lanka

Newsletter of the New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation Incorporated

Volume 29 Spring 2005

From the President

It is a great privilege to be elected as the seventh President of the New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation. Over the past, our Foundation has been at the forefront of setting standards in delivering a quality service to our community. It is my intention to build upon the standards laid by our previous Presidents, and to thrust the Foundation forward into another year with the guidance of the membership and well-wishers.

On behalf of the Foundation, I wish to thank Madu, the outgoing President, for his contribution to our community during his tenure. We have seen his wife, Kusum, and the children providing enormous support to Madu while carrying out his responsibilities as the President during a very difficult time. I also wish to express my gratitude to our departing committee members, Ari Randeni, Samadara Ranaweera and Thesara Jayawardena.

You have elected yet another dynamic and enthusiastic executive committee to take the Foundation forward. The committee is determined to engage all synergies available within its reach to meet the expectations of our community. It has a clear vision and a well planned forward programme for the coming year.

I see our members and well-wishers as the most valuable asset of this organisation. Our success depends on their strengths and resources, and their commitment to our Foundation. I hope to tap into the talents and skills of these members and well-wishers to enrich the Foundation, of which we all can be proud of.

We will establish a direct link and strong working relationship with the Badminton Club in the future. As you all know, the Badminton Club was started under the auspices of the Foundation. It is providing an excellent service to our community through its dedicated organisers. I hope to raise our community's awareness of the badminton Club activities through our newsletter and the web page, and encourage greater participation in this sporting activity.

We hope to achieve our goals through various sub-committees appointed under the leadership of the executive committee. Members and well-wishers are invited to join these sub-committees and take ownership of the Foundation's activities. They can play an active role in delivering the outcomes desired by our community.

I will ensure that the Foundation will co-operate and work closely and in harmony with other organisations on matters of mutual interest and of national significance. As some of you may recall, at our inaugural meeting, our first President said that the Foundation members are like threads of a tapestry. I believe that if these threads are multi-coloured and woven tightly, they will add more brightness and strength to our tapestry – the Sri Lankan community.

Dear members and patrons, the Foundation belongs to you. We cannot realise our goals without your support and commitment. The executive committee is the Foundation's vehicle for the conveyance of various services to our community.

May I humbly and respectfully ask your unreserved and wholehearted support and co-operation to the new committee. On behalf of your committee, I wish you all a peaceful and a great year ahead.

Lionel de Silva

The Committee

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Next Event:

Election Information Evening

Every election year we provide an opportunity for the leading political parties to meet our membership to present their policies on the matters of interest to our members and community. This Election information evening will be held on **Saturday 3 September 2005** at Ferndale House, 830, New North Rd, Mt Albert, 6.30pm.

Calendar of Events:

Saturday 22 October 2005 - Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday 12 November 2005 - Members Day

Saturday 31 December 2005 - **LankaNite 2005** (Entertainment for the family with Baila dance and Sri Lankan food)

Saturday 4 February 2006 - Sri Lankan Independence Day

Mid Winter Dance 2005...

The Mid Winter Dance 2005 kicked-off with a bang. It was held on 27 August 2005 at Auckland Normal Intermediate School hall, Poronui Street, Mt Eden from 7pm onwards. This was a family event mixed with Baila music and hot delicious Sri Lankan food priced nominally.

The lucky ones who could make it, praised the organisers as they said the music, lighting and the food were fantastic. We acknowledge that the competitions took away dancing time for some of the participants. We hope to make it better at the LankaNite in December later on this year.



Edward Charitha Gee Miyuru...

Music lovers in Auckland recently had a very rare opportunity of satisfying their thirst for quality Sri Lankan classical music on the 18 June 2005. It was an experience that will linger in their minds for quite some time to come. The occasion combined the melody of music with childhood innocence, exuberance of youth and the serenity of maturity.

The audience was kept spellbound for three hours and forty five minutes by the inspirational voice of Visharada Edward Jayakody coupled with the melodious voice of Charitha Priyadharshani, to the tune of Tabla Guru Dharshanapathi Wijayarathna Ranatunga. No one noticed the passing of time and at the end, everyone had an exalted feeling of satisfaction as they had been treated to a magnificent array of classical music by those three veterans in the Sri Lankan music field.

This event, organized by the New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation was one of the few musical events that fell into the same category 'Amara Gee Sara' of Pundit Amaradeva and 'Nanda Malini Geethavalee' of Visharada Nanda Malini held previously. Edward Jayakody is an exceptionally gifted and talented musician who has enthralled the music loving audiences since 1970s.

Edward and Charitha sang 33 songs selected by them to suit an audience of all ages and of diverse expectations. In addition, they responded to a few requests made by the audience. Performance of the Tabla Guru Wijarathna Ranatunga that kept the audience captivated, truly added lustre to the entire event.

Auckland based group "Cream Plus" led by Hemantha Fernando with back up vocals by Anusha did remarkably well in accomplishing the task of providing music to this amalgamation of Sri Lankan classics. Our young musicians in this group justly deserve applause.

In essence, this was an event that provided the audience with their money's worth. This was an event that filled a gap in a long overdue list of high quality entertainment.

An Enthusiastic Spectator

Whom Would You Vote For?

At a time when political debates are getting hotter, it is almost impossible to write a magazine article for two reasons, Firstly, by the time this comes to your hand and you read it would have lost the momentum as more new policies would have been announced. Secondly, to what ever extent we try to give a dispassionate view of these policies, some bias is sure to creep in. Nevertheless, we will try to look at some policies which will have some impact on New Zealand Sri Lankans.

In general, Labour is a centre left party whereas National is a centre right party. In the world political scene the differences between these two policy platforms have started to blur some years ago. Essentially Labour will pay attention to the lower segments of the population. National on the other hand, is a more conservative party which will favour the farming and business communities from whom it gets its mandate.

Tax Policy

National will push the 15% tax rate threshold from \$9500 to \$12500. Incomes between \$12500 and \$50,000 will be taxed at 19%. Present threshold is \$38,000. Income between \$50,000 and \$100,000 will be taxed at 33%. Presently income over \$60,000 is taxed at 39%. Under national, only incomes over \$100,000 will be taxed at 39%. These personal tax reductions will take place in two stages in April 2006 and April 2007. The company tax rate will be reduced to 30% from present 33% from April 2008.

Labour has announced a more targeted tax relief policy. Families with children earning less than \$35,000 a year will pay no tax. A family with two children earning an income of 65,000 year will receive tax relief of \$64 per week (\$3328 per year) rising to \$84 (\$4368 per year) by April 2007.

Immigration

National has announced that they will introduce a permanent residency qualifying period of four years for migrants during which permanent residency can be revoked for misbehaviour. Labour says that this will strangle business growth due to skill shortage. National has also announced that they also will reduce the refugee quota to 750, which is the minimum approved limit of United Nations, by 300. This compares with 13,000 of Australia.

Student Loans

Labour has said that they will scrap the student loan interest as long as a person resides and works in New Zealand. Presently interest is waived only during the period of study. Labour says that this will act as a disincentive for the young Kiwis going overseas in search of higher income. On a loan of \$60,000 the interest saving will be about \$5,000. National will make student loan interests tax deductible. On the above example, the saving will be about \$ 1,000.

Privatisation

Labour has declared that they will not privatise any existing state owned enterprises (SOEs) including Kiwi Bank, New Zealand Post & electricity companies. National has stated that they will privatise Land Corp's farms and consider selling part of Solid Energy. National has said that they will be 'pragmatic' & 'flexible' in relation to asset ownership.

Treaty Settlements & Maoris

In his famous Orewa speech 1 Don Brash said that he does not want any citizen to be treated differently due to their ethnicity. National has said that special seats in the parliament, local councils and district health boards for Maori will be abolished. Labour has said that this will lead to dangerous race relations issues. Labour has stated that treaty settlement claims have to be lodged by 1 September 2008 & all claims settled by 2020. National says that this too far out. They have said all claims should be lodged by end of 2006 & settled by 2010.

Ethnic Affairs

Labour has committed \$4.1 million for ethnic affairs. This will fund additional ethnic advisors all over NZ and a Language line to help interpreting into 37 languages.

Nuclear Policy

National's nuclear policy states that they will hold a referendum to review the current nuclear free policy. Current policy does not allow nuclear arms carrying ships or even nuclear propelled ships to come to New Zealand. They also say that they do not have any plans to hold the referendum. Labour says they will not change the current policy at any cost.

Transport

National says that investment has not been sufficient during the past few years. They say that they will allocate \$100 million per year more than the current allocation. This is being funded by additional petrol tax that is being collected. This will be additional \$2.1 billion over the six years. This is more than what Labour has committed.

Past Achievements

Due to the economic growth and tight labour market, most migrants have been able to get jobs. However National says that economic growth has got nothing to do with government fiscal policy and Labour has been just 'lucky' during the past few years. Labour says that they helped new migrants to find jobs by funding Newkiwis Web site etc. They also funded the migrant services centres. Raven Prasad, former Race Relations Conciliator once said that job finding for new migrants and improving of race relations should not be left to market forces.

Ganesh Nana, an economist, recently said at a TV interview that he is saddened by the short term nature of policies put forward by both parties. Discussion on funding for infrastructure such as Roads, Drainage, and Sewerage etc. is not given much priority.

Gareth Morgan, another economist said, in the final analysis every one will vote for the party which will give them the highest benefit, from a selfish point of view. How many of us will have the will power to vote for the party which will bring greater benefit to the country rather than lining of our own pocket?

Jayasena Widanagamage

Kadirgamar's speech to SL Cricketers in the UK a couple of years ago...

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Kadirgamar's after dinner speech in the UK, at which Sri Lankan Cricketers were present.

Captain Atapattu and members of the Sri Lankan team Members of the Sri Lankan community Friends of Sri Lanka Ladies and Gentlemen; Some historians say, I think uncharitably, that cricket is really a diabolical political strategy, disguised as a game, in fact a substitute for war, invented by

the ingenious British to confuse the natives by encouraging them to fight each other instead of their imperial rulers.

The world is divided into two camps - those who revel in the intricacies of cricket and those who are totally baffled by it, who cannot figure out why a group of energetic young men should spend days, often in the hot sun or bitter cold, chasing a round object across an open field, hitting it from time to time with a stick - all to the rapturous applause of thousands, now millions, of ecstatic spectators across the world. The game has developed a mystical language of its own that further bewilders those who are already befuddled by its complexities.

In the course of my travels I have a hard time explaining to the non-cricketing world - in America, China, Europe and Russia - that a googly is not an Indian sweetmeat; that a square cut is not a choice selection of prime beef; that a cover drive is not a secluded part of the garden; that a bouncer is not a muscular janitor at a night club, that a yorker is not some exotic cocktail mixed in Yorkshire; that a leg-break is not a sinister manoeuvre designed to cripple your opponent's limbs below the waist.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me see whether politics and cricket have anything in common. Both are games. Politicians and cricketers are superficially similar, and yet very different. Both groups are wooed by the cruel public who embrace them today and reject them tomorrow. Cricketers work hard; politicians only pretend to do so. Cricketers are disciplined; discipline is a word unknown to most politicians in any language.

Cricketers risk their own limbs in the heat of honourable play; politicians encourage others to risk their limbs in pursuit of fruitless causes while they remain secure in the safety of their pavilions. Cricketers deserve the rewards they get; the people get the politicians they deserve. Cricketers retire young; politicians go on for ever. Cricketers unite the country; politicians divide it. Cricketers accept the umpire's verdict even if they disagree with it; politicians who disagree with an umpire usually get him transferred. Cricketers stick to their team through victory and defeat, politicians in a losing team cross over and join the winning team.

Clearly, cricketers are the better breed.

It is said that the task of a foreign minister is to lie effusively for his country abroad. That may be true, but it is certainly true that he has to fight for his country and defend it at all times. Our cricketers may recall that in the run-up to the 1995 World Cup Australia refused to play a match in Colombo, citing security reasons. Shane Warne said he wouldn't come to Colombo because he couldn't do any shopping there. The press asked me for a comment. I said "shopping is for sissies".

There was a storm of protest in Australia. A TV interviewer asked me whether I had ever played cricket. I said I had played before he was born - without helmets and thigh guards, on matting wickets that were full of holes and stones, and I had my share of broken bones to show of it. My friend the Australian foreign minister was drawn into the fray. He phoned me. We decided to cool things down. A combined India/Pakistan team came to Colombo at very short notice to play an exhibition match in place of the Australian match. It was a magnificent gesture of South Asian solidarity. Against strong security advice I went on to the field to greet and thank our friends from India and Pakistan.

When the whole episode was over I sent a bouquet of flowers to my Australian counterpart. Flowers are also for sissies.

I remember vividly the incident that occurred in Australia when Murali was called for throwing and Arjuna led his team to the boundary, in protest, but cleverly refrained from crossing it. I was watching TV in Colombo. As a past captain I asked myself what I would have done in Arjuna's place. In my mind I had no hesitation in supporting his decision. A few minutes later the phone rang. The President of the Board called to ask for advice. I said Arjuna was right because a captain must, on the field, stand up for his men and protect them, but the consequences must not be allowed to go too far; good lawyers must be engaged and a reasonable compromise must be reached. That was done...

During that tour I paid an official visit to Australia. My friend the Australian foreign minister in the course of a dinner speech invited me to go with him the next day to Adelaide, his home town, to watch the final day's play. I knew what the result was going to be. In my reply I said that at the end of the match I did not want to be the one to tell him that Australia had "won by a Hair.". Accordingly, I went back home, as planned, to maintain the good relations that we have with Australia.

Foreign ministers sometimes find themselves in very difficult situations. Take pity on the Foreign Minister of Uganda President Idi Amin had told him that he wanted to change the name of Uganda to Idi. The minister was told to canvas world opinion and return in two weeks. He did not do so. He was summoned to come. He was now in danger. He was asked to explain. He said: "Mr. President, I have been informed that there is a country called Cyprus. Its citizens are called Cypriots; if we change the name of our country to Idi our citizens would be called... Idiots". Reason prevailed.

A shark was asked why diplomats were his preferred food. He replied because their brains being small are a tasty morsel, their spines being supple I can chew on them at leisure - and they come delightfully marinated in alcohol.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I approach the close of this brief address I wish to speak directly to our Sri Lankan team. Today we lost a match. But you lost to the rain and M/s Duckworth and Lewis. You did not lose to England. Only a few weeks ago you had a resounding victory against South Africa. You will win again tomorrow. What is important is to keep up your confidence and spirits.

All of us, your fellow countrymen, and countrywomen, have been enormously impressed in recent times by the commitment, discipline, athleticism and determination that you have displayed in the field. The people are with you. We all know that you by hard. All of you, each and every one of you, are constantly busy honing your skills. We can see that you are maintaining a high standard of physical fitness. When the people see this it gives them not only immense pleasure but the moral uplift that Sri Lankans are capable of rising to the challenge of sustained performance.

Every team loses. It takes two to play a game. One has to lose. It is the manner in which you play the game which gives the promise of success to come. It is a great pleasure to see how youngsters are being drafted into the national team. Our team is united; it reflects all the races and religions of our country. Cricket, like all international sport today, is highly competitive; and so it must be, and so it must remain. It must always be regarded as a very high honour to represent one's country at any sport. All of you are role models for our youth. They will be looking to see how you take defeat.

To exult in victory is easy, to remain well balanced in defeat is a mark of maturity. Do not allow yourselves to be disturbed by the armchair critics who will no doubt engage in a display of theoretical learning on how the game was played. Many of these critics have never put bat to ball. It makes them feel good to indulge in the past time of amateur criticism.

They do not know what it is to face fast bowling in fading light; to engage in a run race against daunting odds; to find the stamina and sheer physical endurance to spend concentrated hours in the field of play. They know nothing of the psychological pressure that modern sportsmen are subject to.

Therefore, my advice to you is - ignore them. Go your way with customary discipline and methodical preparation for the next game, the next series in different parts of the world under different conditions.

For me it has been a great pleasure and an honour to be here with you tonight. When I was invited to be the Chief Guest at this occasion on my way to New York for the General Assembly of the United Nations, I accepted with eager anticipation of meeting our cricketers and relaxing for a moment. Nobody told me that I had to make a speech, until last night.

It came home to me then that there is no such thing as a free dinner.

A dedication to the late Lakshman Kadiragama, Sri Lanka Foreign Minister, killed recently.

General Elections 2005...

On 17th September at the General Elections 2005, voters of New Zealand will decide on a government that will rule the country for the next 3 years. All eligible and registered voters are required by law to vote at this general election. It is not only a legal requirement but also a right and a fundamental duty of every voter in a democracy. In New Zealand the eligibility to vote is very liberal. Almost all adult residents whether new migrant or permanent resident is entitled to be registered as a voter as long as they have resided in the country for one year.

For Sri Lankans as a migrant population in this country, it is a matter of great importance that they vote at the general elections. It gives an opportunity for them to participate in the selection of a government and the electoral candidate of their choice. Above all it gives us the opportunity to be heard and recognised as a group of residents forming an integral part of the population of New Zealand.

MMP Voting System

New Zealand Parliament is elected on a Proportional Representation System known as MMP (Mixed Member Proportional). This system of representation is adopted in several countries of the world including Sri Lanka. The best known example is Germany where it has been in practice for 50 years. No doubt as Sri Lankans we are familiar with this concept of representation. However, let us look at the New Zealand version of proportional representation-MMP, in some detail. The New Zealand Parliament will normally have 120 members comprising: 62 representing general electorates 7 representing Maori electorates.

51 MPs out of Party lists depending on the proportional share of the total votes received by each party. In order to elect the representatives on this basis, each voter will have 2 votes, i.e. one party vote for the political party of your

choice and another vote to choose the electoral candidate of your preference from your electorate.

The total number of MPs representing each Political Party depends on the share of the total party votes received at the general elections. Let us look at an example: At the next General Elections Party "A" gets 40% of the total Party votes polled and 30 electorate seats. The 40% of the Party vote will entitle Party "A" to have a total of 48 MPs comprising 30 electorate MPs and 18 Party list MPs.

However for a Political Party to be eligible to receive a proportional allocation of seats in Parliament, the Party should get a minimum of total Party votes polled at the election or win at least one electorate seat. It is important to observe that under MMP system voting both votes i.e. "Party Vote" and the "Electorate Vote" are important but for different reasons. The voter is at liberty to cast both votes or only one vote. The "Party Vote" to choose the Political Party of your choice and the "Electorate Vote" to elect the candidate you will like to represent the electorate.

Under normal circumstances the voter is most likely to cast both votes in favour of the Party and the electorate candidate of the same party. However if the electorate candidate of your choice is from a different party you support it is still possible to vote for the candidate of your preference and also vote for the Party of your choice. There may be other tactical reasons why you want to split your votes which you will figure out during the election campaign. Election campaign is now on full swing. It is an interesting and an exciting time for the voters, whether committed supporters or otherwise.

The political parties and the electoral candidates are canvassing for your votes, through mass media, political meetings, face to face debates and in several other ways. Bill boards are on the increase as never before. The election campaign of rival parties will assist you to understand the policies and promises of each party to see for yourself what's in there for you and the country.

Sri Lankans have a long tradition in actively participating in elections. They have a very keen political awareness. Sri Lankan participation in elections is one of the highest in the world. We could expect a very high turnout at the elections on the 17th September. If you are an eligible voter, please make your vote count on the day of the Elections 2005.

Growth momentum in all major sectors - Central Bank...

The Monetary Board has decided to conduct open market operations aggressively to mop up excess liquidity from the market while maintaining the policy interest rates of the Central Bank at their current levels after having reviewed the recent economic developments and projections.

The growth momentum in all major sectors in the economy is continuing as expected at the beginning of the year. The Agriculture sector is expected to recover with the continuation of favourable weather conditions. Following the all-time high level in paddy production recorded in 2004/05 Maha season, paddy harvest in Yala 2005 is also expected to reach a high level. Tea and rubber production has recorded a strong growth in the first half of the year while coconut production has indicated a gradual recovery.

The output of the industrial sector has grown by 5.9 per cent during the first half of 2005 and this growth has been broad-based and balanced across export and domestic market-oriented industries. The growth in the services sector is

continuing with major sub sectors such as telecommunications, tourism, port services and transport showing improved performance. Tourist arrivals increased by 12.3 per cent from 50,525 tourists in July 2004 to 56,745 tourists in July 2005.

The expansion of external trade continued during the first half of the year. Export earnings increased by 11.5 per cent during the first half of the year, reflecting a continuous improvement in all three major export categories. Expenditure on imports increased by 10.3 per cent during this period. Private remittances have increased by 21 per cent during the first half of the year.

Due to the higher private remittances, official inflows to the government and the benefit of debt relief, official international reserves have increased, giving stability to the domestic foreign exchange market. Gross official reserves increased to around US dollars 2,378 million as at end June 2005 from US dollars 2,196 million by end December 2004. Reflecting these developments, the rupee has appreciated against the US dollar by 3.6 per cent so far during the year. Inflation that continued to be moderate during February-June 2005 due to the improvements in supply conditions as well as the monetary policy actions taken so far, has increased again in July 2005.

The point-to-point change in the Colombo Consumers' Price Index (CCPI) increased from 9.4 per cent in June 2005 to 10.8 per cent in July 2005, while the Sri Lanka Consumers' Price Index (SLCPI), which is available with a lag of one month, recorded a decline from 13.2 per cent in May 2005 to 11.7 per cent in June 2005, on a point-to-point basis.

Recent tax revisions by the Government would help contain further inflationary tendencies, even though soaring international petroleum prices continue to threaten price stability. The level of reserve money, which is the principal operating target of monetary policy, remains close to the expected path. The growth in broad money continues at around 20 per cent mainly due to the increase in credit to both the public sector and the private sector.

The growth in money supply is expected to moderate with the monetary policy measures taken so far being gradually transmitted to the financial system. Following the policy rate increases in May and June 2005, short-term money market rates have adjusted upwards and commercial banks have responded positively raising both lending rates and deposit rates.

Considering these developments, the Monetary Board has decided to conduct open market operations aggressively to mop up excess liquidity from the market while maintaining the policy interest rates of the Central Bank at their current levels, the bank said yesterday.

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nzslf@nzslfoundation.com

Attention Omar Fahmy, visit our website at:
www.nzslfoundation.com

How the New Zealand Sri Lanka Buddhist Trust is helping to rebuild Sri Lanka

The opening of Srilankaramaya helped to fill the enormous void felt by the migrant Sri Lankan Buddhist community since arriving in New Zealand. Srilankaramaya quickly

became a popular and busy place enabling religious and cultural ceremonies, daily chanting, meditation, dhamma discussions, counselling, the offering of alms, food festivals, art exhibitions, blood donation campaigns and environmental activities such as New Zealand native tree plantings and park and beach cleaning. This encouraged our community to get involved in the wider community and within a short period, the New Zealand Sri Lanka Buddhist Trust became an active community group in New Zealand.

When the Tsunami hit, most of the Sri Lankans living in Auckland were at Eden Park watching the Black Caps and the Sri Lankan national cricket team. But soon afterwards we saw thousands of heart-wrenching images of devastation and destruction and heard many tales of destitute people in a number of Asian countries, including Sri Lanka.

While people around the globe organised massive relief efforts, members and well wishers of Srilankaramaya and the New Zealand Sri Lanka Buddhist Trust came up voluntarily and offered to organise a number of fund raising events. In particular the youth were very active and organised sausage sizzles to raise funds. All our community members wanted to do whatever they could to help.

But it was the overwhelming sense of humanity and compassion that was so humbling as we counted the coins given by Kiwis. Many of our Kiwi friends, whatever their backgrounds and incomes, came to help. All the clothes, foodstuffs, medicines and utensils collected by various groups had to be sorted, packed and labelled along with messages of support from well wishers. With generous free air passage, container loads of goods reached needy people in time in many remote Tsunami affected areas.

The New Zealand Sri Lanka Buddhist Trust established guidelines and supported and monitored all the fund raising groups. More than two thirds of the funds were collected from sausage sizzles at various supermarkets and the support of youth groups was wonderful. Within a month, NZ\$62,66g had been collected and we gratefully acknowledge the very generous gesture of the New Zealand government by providing us with the dollar for dollar matching funds through NZAID. As a result, our total collection was \$127,53°. This is being used for rehabilitation efforts in Sri Lanka.

We had regular meetings with interested parties and discussed how we were going to use the public funds collected. Several members visited affected areas and also

took part in Tsunami donor conferences in order to select projects, which are mainly building houses, water and sanitation and health maintenance.

With the help of the New Zealand Sri Lankan Engineers Association we have now completed a proper evaluation of a water and sanitation project in the Moratuwa area which will assist 46 families to repair sanitary and water systems. We have agreed to provide assistance for house building in two villages with the balance of the money. Building plans, land blocks and affected families are being identified and construction work has already started in one project.

A memorandum of understanding has been drawn up for all parties involved and funds will be transferred. Whenever possible our trust members will visit the projects during visits to Sri Lanka and we are looking forward to being closely involved with more projects.

Rukman Wagachi is a trustee of NZSLBT

Colombo Stock Exchange Looking for Investors from New Zealand

If you interested in this Investor Forum in Auckland on 31st October at Langham Hotel Auckland at 7.00 p.m.
Register by visiting our website at:
www.nzslfoundation.com

In Lighter Vein...

Mental Patient

One Patient at the Angoda Mental Institute was in the Garden sitting beside a Well - Peeping and counting ...Nine...Nine...Nine... Nine...without stopping.

A doctor who was going on his rounds saw this patient, but continued to finish his rounds visiting the wards. On his way back, he saw this Patient still sitting beside the Well, counting Nine....Nine....Nine.....

He really wanted to see what he was doing and went near the Well and Peeped into itAh.....

The Patient raised his right hand behind the Doctor and Pushed him into the Well -Splash!!! and continued counting (10) Ten...Ten.....Ten.....Ten... Still peeping into the Well like Hell.....

Views expressed in articles are those of the contributing authors and may not necessarily reflect the views of the NZSLF

Contributions

This newsletter is published quarterly. We thank everybody who sent contributions to this newsletter and apologize for not being able to publish all contributions due to the limitation of the available space. Please send your contributions to the Summer Issue by the end of November, 2005 to the correspondence address below. Attn: Editorial Committee or by email to: nzslf@nzslfoundation.com

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