



**Volume 43 Summer 2010 NEWS LETTER OF NEW ZEALAND SRI LANKA FOUNDATION INCORPORATED**

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## Message from President

Yet another successful year is in progress with New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation. We started the year with a very unique event "The spring fiesta" where we engaged for the first time our members and the general public in the entertainment provided. It was a Dance with a twist from the usual event.



We invited volunteers from the audience to participate by singing songs and entertaining the crowd. This proved to be a fun filled evening as there was a lot of socializing and camaraderie that developed as a result of the audience participation.

This event was followed by our annual New Year's Eve Dinner Dance – "Lankanite" which kicked off at the Eden Park Event Centre and was another tremendous success. It was a great opportunity for us to host a truly multi-cultural audience all joining together to enjoy a good evening of music and entertainment.

It was a significant time period for all Sri Lankans as they truly celebrated and ushered in the dawn of a new era of peace

particularly in our mother land.

I am proud and honoured to be the president of an organisation that values and respects every individual as a Sri Lankan irrespective of their cultural background. I hope and pray that our motherland will be able to demonstrate similar values in the years to come.

The vision of the foundation is to unite all Sri Lankans under its banner as children of one proud nation. I am happy to see that we are living our vision each year; growing from strength to strength whilst shining the beacon of "peace and unity in diversity" to all Sri Lankans living in New Zealand.

It is also our bounden duty as Sri Lankans to contribute in any way we can to the re-building of our beloved nation. And to this effect I call upon all Sri Lankans living in New Zealand to make a conscious effort to help in any way you can, be it cash or in kind. Our motherland needs our support more now than she ever did in the past.

I wish each and every one of you peace and prosperity. May the joy be with you!

**Kumar Velambalam**

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### Calendar of Events:

Sat 24 Jul 2010 - AGM  
(Annual General Meeting)  
at St Pauls Methodist  
Church, St Vincent Ave  
Remuera, from 6.30pm

## Donation to MJF Foundation...

The President of The New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation (NZSLF), Kumar Velambalam & some representatives met Merrill J Fernando in Auckland to make a donation to the MJF Foundation. This donation was made from part of the proceeds of the last Gypsies show.

Merrill J Fernando has created a charitable organization, named MJF

Foundation, to serve the needy in Sri Lanka. The goals of this charity organization go deeper than mere charity. The first phase of the MJF Centre, a US\$20 million development that will care for abused women, differently abled and Down Syndrome Children, marginalized children from urban slums in the area was inaugurated by Merrill J. Fernando, Dilmah Founder and Settlor of the MJF

Charitable Foundation. They also have Small Entrepreneur Programme (SEP), which has helped an estimated 5000 people. Mr. Fernando told us about a project that helped Papadam manufacturer to build a bigger factory and to expand his distribution network. This helped the businessman to increase his gross profit margin several fold as he reduced the number of intermediaries. Through the „Reform

and Integrate' component of SEP, the Foundation is helping former prisoners

to start a new life. Former prisoners find it extremely difficult to find a new

job with their past criminal record, he said.

## “Don't forget that you are also a cake baked in Sri Lanka”...



In 2005, almost fifty years after he left Oxford, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar's portrait was unveiled at the Oxford Union. This was a great honour bestowed by the Oxford Union on only 15 others in its 183 year history.

Mr Kadirgamar had this to say about that event;

'.....I would like to, if I may, to assume that I could share the honour with the people of my country, Sri Lanka . I had

my schooling there, my first university was there, I went to Law College there and by the time I came to Oxford as a postgraduate student, well, I was relatively a matured person. Oxford was the icing on the cake ... but the cake was baked at home .....(applause) .'

### Lakshman Kadirgamar

This is indeed true. People appreciate only the icing on the cake not where it was baked first. Please don't forget your motherland”

The above write up is printed in this Newsletter with permission from Mrs. Suganthie Kadirgamar, who responded

to our request as follows: “*The Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKIIRSS) has referred to me the e-mail sent by you to the Institute re: the publication of the quotation from the speech of my husband the late Hon. Lakshman Kadirgamar.*”

*The copyright on all my husband's speeches and writings are owned by me.. I have no objection for the publication of my husband's statement in the proposed news letter of the New Zealand – Sri Lanka Foundation.”*

**Euvarani Jayasena**

## Tourism Industry in Sri Lanka shows Robust Growth...

A stop to the war has made Sri Lanka a highly promising travel destination and already many countries have identified it as such.

The number of tourist arrivals recorded a significant increase this year, while tourists have shown a keen interest to travel to Sri Lanka as the war is no more and they could travel freely. Therefore, the tourism industry is bound to thrive in the coming years.

Since recognizing Sri Lanka as a safe place to travel, several countries had lifted their travel advisories which had been imposed on Sri Lanka earlier advising their citizens not to travel to Sri Lanka due to the then prevailing precarious security situation. More

recently the Government of Saudi Arabia also lifted its travel advisory which had been in force since 2008. This has led to an increase in the number of Saudi Arabian tourists visiting Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has targeted 2.5 million tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka by 2016. In order to achieve this goal the government has already taken several measures to assist those engaged in the tourism industry.

The Ministry of Tourism has decided to provide assistance to the private sector to construct 50,000 new hotel rooms to cater to the large number of tourists who are expected to arrive in Sri Lanka in the coming years. A program has

been drawn up to provide a maximum of Rs.100 million loan credit to medium-scale businessmen who engage in the hotel industry to renovate and/or construct new hotels and holiday resorts. Those who are interested in investing in the hotel industry in Sri Lanka could contact the Ministry of Tourism for further details.

As a patriotic gesture we Sri Lankans living in New Zealand have a bounden duty to give wide publicity to the Tourists Attractions in Sri Lanka to promote and encourage the Kiwi's and others Foreigners to visit Sri Lanka.

**Niroshini Jayasekera, Treasurer**

## Challenge of the Day...

In New Zealand we have number of organizations representing Sri Lankans. Out of those organizations the New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation (NZSLF) has been in action for more than a decade with an outstanding vision. Its vision statement says the New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation (NZSLF) Promotes Culture, Heritage and the fostering of fellowship through community participation.

Adhering to the vision statement, The New Zealand Sri Lanka Foundation and other Sri Lankan organizations with somewhat similar vision statements, have created activities and provided services that have attracted their potential constituency. An obvious approach was to provide Sri Lankans with services catering to their needs. In the case of new immigrants, it included English education, legal services,

logistical and work related information, and a reinforcement of positive self-identity through ethno historical commemorations and social events.

These organizations have provided immigrants with tools explicitly needed for naturalization. By providing services, sharing information, and reinforcing group identity, our organizations have helped to give their constituents some of the traits that are generally characteristic of civically active segments of the population, social and economic stability and positive self-identity.

Having contributed to these in somewhat isolation, with time, Sri Lankan organizations have build connections among them and the constituency so those organisations are positioned to mobilise people around relevant issues.

With time some issues have changed, new ones have risen, and more importantly, a second generation has immersed with completely new issues. The new generation Sri Lankan New Zealanders have different demands and different attitudes towards some of the issues we have been dealing with.

Are we ready to provide this new generation with what they lack while continuing to serve new immigrants and mature Sri Lankan immigrants?

Can we do it in isolation as things were done in the past?

The objective of this short article is to open a forum to discuss appropriate methodology to deal with new challenges faced by Sri Lankan community as a maturing community in New Zealand.

**Sydney Fernando**

## Appeal for Contribution to upgrade the Jaffna Public Library...

The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs visited Jaffna recently and agreed to provide books and monetary assistance to upgrade the Jaffna Public Library.

If individuals or groups are interested in assisting in this endeavor by way of monetary assistance or by donating books, please contact the Sri Lanka High Commission in Canberra via

e-mail: [admin@slhcaust.org](mailto:admin@slhcaust.org).

Sri Lanka High Commission  
35, Empire Circuit  
Forrest, Canberra  
ACT 2603  
Australia.

## New Years Eve Dinner Dance – 31 December 2009...

The Foundation keeping up with the tradition once again held a successful dinner dance on the night of the 31 December 2009 to welcome the new year and the new decade. It was held at Tasman Ballroom of the Alexandra Park Function Centre with the Cream Band providing music to suit all tastes.

This year's 31st Night was a significant event, as it was lead by Mr Kumar Valambalam, President of NZSLF

foundation who always worked hand in hand with all religions and races to cherish the the New Year with their first ever Tamil President.

A very special thank you to the Indian and the South African community who joined us in large numbers – together we united as One nation at the Tasman Ball room, as we greeted each other at the dawn of the new year.

Among the dancers was a small boy, Dineth Wickramasinghe (8 years), who was visiting his relatives in Auckland with his grand parents, Mr & Mrs Frank Irugalbandara. Those who saw Dineth dancing were so intrigued and showcased him by placing him on the stage. He sang and danced all night long and could have continued to perform beyond the wee hours of the morning.

## Free English Lessons...

NZSLF is organizing free English language evening classes in Auckland for new migrants arriving from

Sri Lankans. If you like to be part of this programme in any way please email us on

[nzslf@nzslfoundation.com](mailto:nzslf@nzslfoundation.com) or please contact a committee member for details and enrolment.

## Import Vehicles to Sri Lanka...

Vehicles can be imported to Sri Lanka under Gift Scheme. Sri Lankan (Dual) citizens are eligible to donate a vehicle to blood relations (father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife or children). The engine capacity of the cars should not exceed 1800cc for petrol vehicles and 2300cc for diesel vehicles.

The applicant has to remit US\$24000 to a NRFC account during the last 2-3 years and the minimum current balance should be US\$10000.

Total Excise duty, VAT, import duty amount to almost 300% of the CIF value. The CIF value is based on a specific calculation and not on the actual CIF value. The original price of a brand new car of that year is

obtained from the agent of the car. For example if it is a Nissan Pulsar manufactured in 2005, Associated Motorways will give the Yen price at that time. From this figure an allowance for depreciation can be deducted.

The depreciation amount varies from 20% for a three year old car to 60% for a 6 ½ year old car (gazette 1362/5 of 14 Oct 2004). For example for a 2004 Nissan Pulsar the depreciation for 6 years is 60%. Assume the price was NZ\$25,000 in 2004. The depreciated value of the car is NZ\$ 10000. To this value an estimated amount of freight & insurance will be added. Assume this amount is NZ\$2300. Import Duty, Vat etc. are calculated on this price.

This article is based on information obtained from Import & Export Department & gazette notices. This gives only general guidelines and for specifics further inquiries can be made from them by phone 9411 232 6774. The following link gives the general guidelines.

<http://www.imexport.gov.lk/download/Gift%20Scheme%20Guidelines.pdf>

*All Sri Lanka Nation Building holders of US\$50,000 or over become eligible to import a vehicle at a Motor Vehicle Concessionary Levy of 25%. The CIF value of the vehicle should not exceed 20% of the bonds held and the maximum value of the vehicle should be less than US\$35,000 (gazette 1446/16 of 23 May 2006).*

## Baddaginnie a town in Australia...

Baddaginnie is a small town in Victoria, Australia. It is located on the Albury-Wodonga railway line, in the Rural City of Benalla, 12 kilometres south-west of Benalla itself on the old Hume highway. It is situated in mainly flat unforested country, one kilometre west of the Baddaginnie Creek. At the 2006 census, Baddaginnie and the surrounding area had a population of 460.

Although often mistaken for an aboriginal word, Baddaginnie was the name given to the local township by Sri

Lankan railway workers building the Melbourne-Sydney rail line in the 1860s. According to local legend, when provisions failed to arrive at the settlement, the Sri Lankan men named their camp 'baddaginnie' meaning 'empty belly'. Baddaginnie really means hunger, Bada is 'stomach' ginnie is 'fire'.

"Australian Places" quote: "The site for Baddaginnie was surveyed in 1857. Its name is believed to be derived from an expression learned in Ceylon by the surveyor, meaning "hungry", as the

survey team was without food when it arrived at Baddaginnie". The town was surveyed in 1857 but settlement was slow, a Post Office finally opening on September 16, 1879

It is believed to be named after the Sinhala word meaning "hungry" by the surveyor, as the survey team was without food when it arrived.

George "Joey" Palmer, the 1880s Australian test cricketer died here on 22 August 1910.

**Wikipedia**

## Beckham invited to Sri Lanka for Ayurveda treatment...

Mar 28, Colombo: International football star, David Beckham has reportedly been offered the services of Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa's spiritual healer and personal physician to help him get back on the field within three days.

President Rajapaksa's personal physician, Eliyantha Lindsay White had told the AFP that the former England captain had been invited for treatment involving "faith and ayurveda."

White has helped a string of Indian sports stars including cricketer Sachin

Tendulkar. Recently, Indian cricketers Gautam Gambhir and Ashish Nehra were also treated by White.

ColomboPage.com

## In Lighter Vain...

An mature man in Invercargill calls his son, who has not seen him for five years, who is in New York and says " I hate to ruin your day, son but I have to tell you that your mother & I are getting a divorce: 35 years of marriage .... and that much misery is enough!"

"Dad, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer", dad says. "We're sick of

each other and I am sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in London and tell her.

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone.

"Like heck they're getting divorced' she shouts, I' I'll take care of this"

She calls Invercargill immediately and screams at the father" You are not getting divorced; Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my

brother back and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then don't do any thing. DO YOU HEAR?" and she hangs up.

The dad hangs up the phone and turns to his wife." Okay" he says," It's all set. They're both coming for our anniversary and paying their own airfare!"

## Body, Soul and Spirit...

*Be gentle with yourself, treat it as a whole*

*Entity of life with Spirit, Body and Soul*

*Listen to those messages that your inner voice unroll*

*And follow them with care and they'll lead you to your goal.*

*Relaxing of body and soul at their best*

*Is essential for health whether you are from East or the West*

*Stress can cause upsets that make you break rest*

*Leaving you tired and weary, not best.*

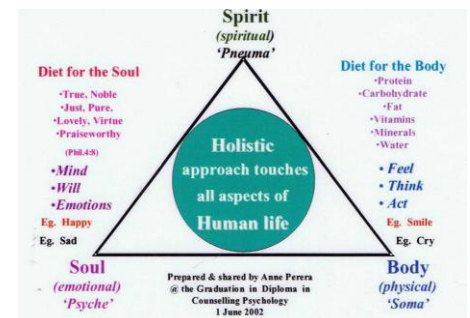
*The aches and the pains we all seem to feel*

*Have rooting somewhere that we do have to deal*

*The body needs right food in order to heal*

*But it's the health-giving spirit that'll flow well and seal.*

*...Spirit, Body and Soul! ...*



Anne Perera, 1 June 2002©.

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

### This newsletter is published quarterly.

We welcome contributions to this newsletter and apologize for not being able to publish all contributions due to the limitation of the available space. We reserve the right to edit submitted material. Being a not-for-profit-organization, we do not make any payments for articles. Please send your contributions to the Summer Issue by July 2010 to the correspondence address below. Attn: **Editorial Committee or by email to: nzslf@nzslfoundation.com**

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