



Established 1957

The Journal of
The Australia Ceylon Fellowship Incorporated
 (Fostering Goodwill and Fellowship Among all Communities)

63rd. YEAR OF PUBLICATION Vol. 65 No.2 JUNE 2024
 P O Box 2226, North Dandenong , Vic. 3175 Reg. No. A0013324S

THE TEAM 2023 / 24

<u>PRESIDENT:</u>	Desmond Kelaart	0408 312 953	<u>EDITOR:</u>	Chris J. Lawton O A M	8794 9680
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<u>TREASURER:</u>	Kevin Martin	0448 594 628			
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	Pauline Kelaart, Laurette Corteling, Ruby Diaz, Annette Blaze, M.R.M. Zainudeen, Wendy Zainudeen, Rodney Waduge, Eardley Alexander, Elaine Van Twest, Desmond Mills, Noel and Avanthi Ilangatilleke				



A dinner welcoming the new
 High Commissioner for Sri Lanka to Australia
 Her Excellency Mrs. CHITRANGANEE WAGISWARA.
 was held in Melbourne on 9th. June, 2024.
 Above L to R : **The Hon. Cassandra Fernando**, Federal MP for
 Cranbourne South, The High Commissioner and
 ACF Secretary **Therese Taylor** , representing the A C F.
 Left :The Consul General for SL in Melb. **Sandith Samarasinghe**

MOTHERS' DAY CELEBRATION Lunch at the A C F Hall



Mother of the Year winner **Suzie Atton**.



The Annual General meeting of the Australia Ceylon Fellowship Inc.

The Annual General meeting of the Australia Ceylon Fellowship Inc. will be held on **Sunday, 15th. SEPTEMBER 2024** at The Ceylon Centre, 217, Clarke Road, Springvale South, 3172, commencing as soon as a quorum of 15% of Members entitled to vote is formed, after 4.00 p.m.

Members are hereby informed that in accordance with the Constitution of the Fellowship,

- 1) Written notice of EVERY RESOLUTION OR AMENDMENT TO THE RULES to be moved at an Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing to reach the Honorary Secretary not later than the 31st. of July immediately preceding the meeting.
- 2) A person who was not a member on **30th. June** immediately preceding the date of the Annual General Meeting shall NOT be eligible to be present and vote at the meeting.
- 3) Nominations for the following positions will be received:

PRESIDENT	Honorary TREASURER
VICE PRESIDENTS (2)	Honorary Asst. TREASURER
Honorary SECRETARY	Honorary EDITOR, ACF NEWS
Honorary Asst. SECRETARY	Honorary Property MANAGER

Members of the GENERAL COMMITTEE (12)

 - a. The Proposer, seconder and the Nominee should be financial for 2024.
 - b. All nominations should be on the bottom half of this page. A similar typed or photocopy of this section may be used.
 - c. Nominations will **CLOSE ON 31st. July 2024.**
 - d. All nominations should be sent to: The Honorary Secretary,
ACF Inc., PO Box 2226, North Dandenong, Vic. 3175.
 - e. Please write "Nomination" on the corner of the envelope.

Therese Taylor, Honorary Secretary.

AUSTRALIA CEYLON FELLOWSHIP Inc. 2024 NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned financial Members do hereby nominate:

Mr. / Mrs. / Miss / Ms. -----
(First name)
(Surname)

For the post of -----

Proposer's Name ----- Seconder's Name -----

signature ----- Signature -----

Address ----- Address -----

Declaration by nominee:

I, -----a financial member of the ACF, do hereby accept the nomination for the post stated above, and agree to serve in that capacity if elected.

Address ----- Signature -----

----- Date -----

The ACF;s Constitution states that " A person who was not a Financial Member on the 30th, of June Immediately preceding the date of the Annual General Meeting shall not be eligible to be present at the Annual General Meeting.

VALENTINE'S DAY 10th. February 2024 at the A C F Hall.



GATSBY NIGHT - 13th. APRIL 2024 at the A C F HALL



BOLLYWOOD NIGHT - 8th. June 2024 at the A C F HALL



DATES TO REMEMBER A C F EVENTS 2024

24th August ----- Father's Day \$40.00

15th September ----- AGM

12th October ----- Hopper Night at the ACF \$30.00

Contacts: *Nilanthi Martin* 0432020115 *Pauline Kelaart* 0418570244

THE ACF WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Denver & Siromani De Rozairo

Melrose Willenberg

Arlene & Rohan Massrahim

MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

After much consideration the Committee presented a motion at the last AGM to increase the Annual Membership Fee due to the increasing cost of operating the Association

FROM Pensioner - single \$ 15.00

Ordinary - single \$ 20.00

TO - Pensioner – couple \$ 20.00

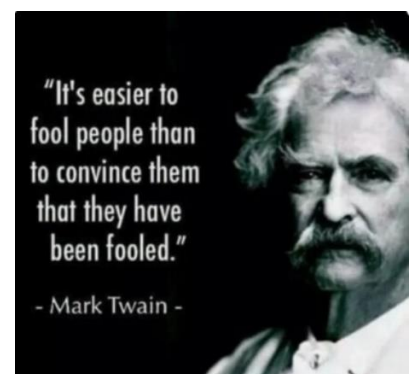
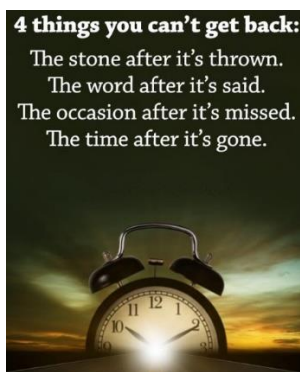
Ordinary - couple \$ 30.00

This was approved by the General Membership at the AGM held on the 5th October 2023 and ***comes into effect from 1st July 2024.***

Thank you for being a valued member of the ACF and we look forward to your continued support toward the Association.

Warm regards,

Pauline Kelaart, Membership Chair .





The Rev. JOHN LOUIS BLAZE _Founder and Life Member of The ACF Inc.

8th. October 1934 - 16th. May 2024

A dedicated servant of his Divine Master and also, of his community, John made himself available when ever and where ever required. As such, he was associated with several Community activities and organisations in addition to those connected with his Ministry.

John's parents , the late Benjamin Blaze and the late Dorrit Blaze, migrated to Australia in the 1950s with their three sons. John was a teenager then . His brother Carel qualified as a Dental Surgeon and established himself in Knox City . Carel later became the Mayor of Knox City. The other brother died under tragic circumstances.

Benjamin Blaze , an English scholar, was a Senior Master in some of the premier Colleges in Sri Lanka. John, thus had the rare privilege of attending , among others , two premier Colleges - S. Thomas' College in Mt. Lavinia and , Royal College in Colombo.

Unlike most Sri Lankan migrants here who were concerned with their own welfare John's parents, Benjamin and Dorrit, were more concerned with the hardships and suffering their Burgher community in Sri Lanka was being subjected to because of the prevailing racial tensions there then. Several distinguished Burghers had their employment terminated and the community as a whole was disadvantaged in many ways. Benjamin and Dorrit, together with their sons and a few other Burgher Stalwarts here founded the Australia Ceylon Fellowship (ACF) in 1957 with the sole purpose of helping Burghers to migrate from Sri Lanka and settle down in Australia. The ACF was the first Ceylon (Sri Lanka) Community organisation established here in Victoria, and possibly through -out Australia then , with helping disadvantaged Ceylonese (Sri Lankans) to Migrate as its main objective. Aided by some prominent Australians the ACF was quite successful in achieving this.

John , with a few breaks between , was actively connected with the ACF through its 67 years of service to the Sri Lankan community here, and in Sri Lanka also. He was elected President in 1977, 1978 , 1979 and 1992 . He continued to maintain a close interest in the activities of the ACF, a legacy left by his parents. In 1981 John was elevated to Life Membership in recognition of his long, continuous service to the ACF.

John has represented the ACF at several important meetings convened by the Federal and State Governments of Australia , by the Migration Department of Victoria, by the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, by the World Council of Churches, et al..

In his connections with the Sri Lankan (Ceylonese) community here , John did not confine his interest and activities to the ACF only . He and his parents were founder Members of the Burgher Association of Australia Inc. , another Sri Lankan community organisation .

His pleasant personality and ready smile endeared him to many of his congregation and colleagues. His stentorian voice enabled him to be heard loud and clear. ! They were attributes which served him well in his service as a Minister of the Church. He served in the Church Ministry of several suburbs around Victoria. . ***Farewell, John. Rest in Peace with The Master you served.'***

ESTO PERPETUA. Chris. J. Lawton, C. Eng. (Lond.),, Order of Australia Life Member ACF. Inc.



Tibertius Cuthbert Doyne Bottoni Caspersz (11. 08. 1935 - 12. 03. 2024)

Marlene Lilani Caspersz (12. 09. 1941 – 12.03.2024)

Doyne and Marlene were members of several Sri Lankan community organisations in Melbourne. Doyne was the Treasurer of the ACF in 1999 through to 2001. He was dedicated to his task and meticulous in his transactions. He adhered very strictly to the Rules and Constitutions of the organisations he was connected to and enforced them quite eloquently in his speeches, much to the dismay of some. This, however, did not deter him as long as he felt he was right! His objective was doing the “Right thing” by the Membership and the State Government.

Doyne never sought prominence or favour for the work he did. Marlene, his devoted wife, encouraged and helped him. Much to Doyne’s grief, in the latter stages of their otherwise happy retired life, Marlene’s health deteriorated to the point that she was very dependent on him.

They were united both in Life, and in Death. A Divine Blessing indeed.

Chris. J. Lawton, C. Eng. (Lond.), Order of Australia Life Member ACF. Inc.

OBITUARIES

by ***Victor Melder***

TOUSSAINT, John. (1.4.1934 – 20.4.2024), father of Kim, Michelle and Chris (dec), father-in-law of Ian and Chatty. Grandfather of 7, great grandfather of 9. (West Australian, 2.5.2024)

LEEMBRUGGEN, Paul Richard, (6.11.1950 ~ 26.4.2024), husband of Lois, father and father-in-law of Brent and Susie, grandfather of Matilda. (Brisbane The Courier-Mail, 4.5.2024).

DE ROZARIO, Geraldine Adeline (née JAMES), wife of Ignatius, mother of Pius John, Panizza and Paulette, mother-in-law of Richard, Jon and Monica, grandmother (Pwa Pwa) of Chrystal and Natalie, great grandmother of Kitana and Faith, on 1.5.2024. (West Australian, 4.5.2024)

LUCAS Yvonne Elaine, (20.12.1933 – 2.5.2024), daughter of Lilian Myles (dec.) and John Lucas (dec.), step-daughter of Patrick Myles (dec.). Sister of Beverley, Cherie (dec.) and Wendy. (Sydney Morning Herald, 13.5.2024)

MAHESAN, Suntheram, (29.10.1930 – 2.5.2024), husband of late Sivanewary, father of Chandran (UK) and Aravindan (Aust), father-in-law of Santhini (UK) and Yarlini (Aust), grandfather of Nina (UK), Shweka (UK), Thivyan (Aust) and Thuvijan (Aust). Son of late Suntheram and Mangayatkarasi, brother of Ganeshan (UK), laye Sivasothy, Nagendran, Nadesan, Gnanambihai, Kanakambihai and Sivalingam, in Sydney. (Tamil Thakaval, 3.5.2024)

COWLEY, David Michael, (14.6.1949 – 3.5.2024), husband of Jean, father of John and Mark. Brother of Stephen. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 11.5.2024)

KEUNEMAN, Indira, (12.1.1943), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

WANIGASEKERA, Clare Phoebe, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

GOPALAKRISHNAN, Radha, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

GERREYN, Layard, in Melbourne. (St Anthony’s Parish, Noble Park, Bulletin)

GILLES, Joan (née CRAGGS), in Melbourne. (Contributed)

ARNDT, Leon Franz, husband of Catherine, father of Fiona, Tanya, David, Kristy and Danni, grandfather and great grandfather, on May 3, 2024. (The West Australian, 8.5.2024)

SOMASUNDARAM, Sarojini Devi, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

ISAAC, Vimala (28.11.1934 – 8.5.2024), wife of Martin (dec), mother and grandmother. (Canberra Times, 11.5.2024)

D’SILVA, Anthony, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

DAVID, Bridget, wife of (late) Douglas David, mother of Tyronne, mother-in-law of Dianne (Aust). Sister of (late) Edward, (late) Walter, (late) Marcus, (late) Christopher, (late) Mrs. Gertrude Perera and Mrs. Ethel Karunaratne. (Daily News, 13.5.2024)

RUPASINGHE Ranjith Perera, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

DIRCKZE, Ninnette Hilda (née Jansz), wife of the late Brian Dirckze, daughter of the late Kenneth and Hilda Jansz, sister of Brian, Carmen, Winston and the late Mervyn, Kingston, Elmo, Pamela, Bubsy and Patrick. Mother of Yvonne Windsor, Penelope Von Meybrink, Deanna Francis, Mignonne Richardson, Edward Dirckze, Maxwell Dirckze and Graham Dirckze, mother-in-law of the late Hemantha Windsor, Irwin Von Meybrink, Christopher Francis and Doug Richardson, grandmother of Venetia, Ramon, Desmond, Aaron, Chantelle, Minelle, Melissa, Amanda, Shane, Cassandra, Craig, William, Shania and Jonathan, great-grandmother of Chanelle, Nathaniel, Isla, Angela, Isaiah, Alina and Briella, In Melbourne. (Daily News, 14.5.2023)

MATHESON, John Kevin, (16.11.1941 – 8.5.2024), father of Darren and Tanya, father in law of Michelle, grandfather of Jakob and Cooper. Companion of Valerie. Brother of Kevin. (The Advertiser, 15.5.2024)

JOACHIM, Gene, on May 9, 2024, aged 95. (The West Australian, 15.5.2024)

VAN DORT, Dawn. (West Australian, 18.5.2024)

MANOHARAN, Velupillai Thambiah, (27.1.1953 – 14.5.2024) husband, father of Ambika, Anna and Esther, father-in-law of Vuthuisan and Jonathan, grandfather of Amira. Son of late Mr & Mrs Tambiah Nagaratnam, son-in-law of late Mr & Mrs Sornam Thangavel, brother of late Bhuvaneshwary, Kanmani Nadarajah, Pakiam, Lakshmanasami and Thiagarajah (Can), Kandaswamy (SL) and Rajamonahari (UK), in Melbourne. (Contributed & Tamil Thakaval, 16.5.2024)).

KOCH, Troy William (4.11.1962 – 15.5.2024), Son of Carl and Pamela. Partner of Michelle. (Adelaide Advertiser, 18.5.2024)

MATTHIES, Arnold Kenneth, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

RODRIGO, Gamini, in Melbourne on May 18, 2024. (Contributed)

HERFT, Christopher, in Melbourne on May 16, 2024. (Contributed)

JOACHIM, Gene. (The West Australian, 18.5.2024)

JOSEPH, Noel C.V. (12.24.1938. – 5.19. 2024) husband of Enid Vanderstraaten, father of Rogan, Sharma and Roma, father-in-law of Shiromi, Dennis and Dilshan, grandfather of Devon, Evaan, Shaun, Dion, Akiva and Dinug, . Brother of late Betzy, Marie, Betty, late Millan, Elean, Ranjith and Evelyn, on 19.05.2024. (Daily News, 21.5.2024.

VISSER, Margaret Joy (née MACLEOD), wife of Albert, mother of David, Michael and Lisa, Mother-in-law of Jo and Peter.

Grandmother and great grandmother, aged 93 years on 16 May 2024. (Sydney Morning Herald, 22.5.2024)

FREWIN, Barbara Christine, partner of Paul, mother of Craig and Kirsten, grandmother of Tayla, Daymon and Piper, on May 15, 2024, aged 75 years. (Sydney Morning Herald, 22.5.2024)

THISASIRAJAH, Kumaraswamy Samuel, on May 16, in Australia. (Tamil Thakaval, 18.5.2024 & Contributed)

MEL Imogen, daughter of Augustine and Celecence Mel, on 21st May (Daily News, 23.5.20-24)

ANDERSON, Malcolm, (19.12.1939 – 13.5.2024), husband of Elizabeth, father of Mark, Claire and David. (The West Australian, 25.9.2024)

HOFFMAN, Sean Joseph, (6.8.1967 – 18.5.2024), Son of Kevin (dec) & Imelda, father of Breanna. Brother of Damien and Marie (dec). (Adelaide Advertiser, 25.5.2024)

RANKIN, Hunter Ian, Much loved son of Norm (dec) & Heather, Brother of Kirsty.. (Sydney Morning Herald, 25.5.2024)

CRONIN, Janice Elizabeth (12.2.1940 – 23.5.2024), wife of Denis, mother of Stephen and Mark, grandmother of Jessica, Finley, Andrew, Imogen and Elanorah. (Brisbane Courier Mail, 25.5.2024)

NATARAJAN, Joy Maureen. (The West Australian, 25.5.2024)

DE ROZARIO, Geraldine Adeline. (The West Australian, 26.5.2024)

BAMBARANDAGE, Jayasena Hewa, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

VAN LANGENBERG, Eustienne, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

WICKREMASINGHA, Radley, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

PERERA, Mahinda, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

SUBRAMANIAM, Maheswary, wife of late Subramaniam, mother of Manoranjitham, grandmother of Yarlina Aravinthan, Nirmalkanhan, Umaknthan, great grandmother of Vilaksan and Sarusan. Daughter of late Mylvaganam and Mamonmani, daughter-in-law of late Karthigesu and Visalatchi. Sister of late Madurai Meenatchi, Sithamparanathan, Thilagawathi, Selvamani and Pathmavathi and Selvarasa. Sister-in-law of late Kumarasamy, Namasivayam and Pakianathan and Sivaloganathan, Balasingam and Pushparani, in Melbourne on May 24, 2024. (

PILLAI, Mayavan, in Melbourne. (Contributed)

OBITUARIES ABROAD

ANANDAPPA, Bede. L, husband of the late Queenie, father & father-in-law of Max & Ophelia, Frank & late Maya, Carmel & late Shanti Canagasabay, Trevor & Iranthi, late Christine, Gladwyn & Bernadette, Pam & Tony Appathurai,

late Hilary & Chulanie, Glossinda & Allistair Solomonsz, grandfather of 11, great-grandfather of 13. Son of the late Joseph Caitan & Magdalene, son-in-law of the late Mr & Mrs A.P. Casie Chitty, in Sri Lanka, aged 103 years old. (Daily News, 14.5.2024)

MEDIS, Frederick, (28.12.1926 – 14.5.2024), in Sri Lanka. (Daily Financial Times, 16.5.2024)

WHITE, Dyan, son of the late Fred & Lavendar White (née Brohier), in Sri Lanka on May 21, 2024. (Contributed)

PEIRIS, His Lordship Most Rev. **Dr VINCENT JOSEPH MARIUS**, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Colombo on 13 May 2024. Son of the late Mr Henry Vincent Peiris and the late Mrs L. Eslin Peiris. (Daily News, 16.5.2024)

DE ZOYSA – EVELYN MADONNA (nee MACINTYRE), wife of late Lucien de Zoysa, mother of Lana de Zoysa Wijemanne, mother-in-law of Channe Wijemanne, grandmother of Senaya and Kaavinda Wijemanne. Sister of Ernest, late Dinky, late Raja and of Gandhi Macintyre, sister-in-law of Nalini, Birte and Dorothy, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 17.5.2024)

KEEGEL, Charles Oswald Richard (Richie), husband of Rita, father of Maxwell and Marguerite, grandfather of Melinda and Nadine, father-in-law of Nigel Coggins. Son of the late Mr & Mrs Hugh Keegel, in Sri Lanka. (Daily News, 17.5.2024)

BARTHOLOMEUSZ, George Russel Layton, (9.7.1942 – 28.5.2024), son of late George and Ethel, brother of late Christopher, Felix and Heather, brother-in-law of Priyanthi, in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

FERDINANDS, Malcolm Royston, son of the late Oswald and Myrtle, husband of the late Marietta, father of Michael, Keith and Dianne, father-in-law of Natasha (Aust), grandfather of Trinity, Joshua, Levi and Tasmin. Brother of Zisca, Cheryl and Leroy and the late Elmo, Sheila, Maurice, Gordon, Barbara, Autry (Lucky), in Sri Lanka. (Contributed)

NOAH, VIVIAN FRANCIS, son of Mr. Albert Victor Noah & Mrs. Claire Margie Bulner (dec), step son of Mr. Collin Bulner (dec), father of Rhienna & Keshia,. Brother of Carmen, Malcolm (Maxie), Barbara, Leonard, Christopher, Anton (Tony) & Robin (decd), brother-in-law of Susil Abayawardana, Priyanthi, Devika & Cathy, in Sri Lanka on May 19, 2024. (Sunday Observer, 26.5.2024)5

PERERA, Desmond George, son of late Leslie and late Topsy, husband of Marcy (nee Misso), father and father-in-law of Anouk and Kevin and of Liza and Ashley, grandfather of Keanu and Keira. Brother of late Melville, in Sri Lanka on 23 May 2024. (Sunday Observer, 26.5.2024)



Shortest Married Couple Claims World Record : Paulo Gabriel da Silva Barros and Katyucia Lie Hoshino, a Brazilian couple, have officially secured the title of shortest married couple in the world . At 31 and 28 years old, respectively, they have become the shortest married couple documented. The news, announced on the official Guinness World Records Instagram page, quickly gained widespread traction.



Python swallows woman whole in Sulawesi, Indonesia : A woman has been found dead inside the belly of a snake after it swallowed her whole in central Indonesia . 45-year-old Farida was found fully clothed inside the reticulated python, which measured around five metres (16 feet). The villagers searched the area and spotted a python with a large belly . they cut open its belly and found Farida fully clothed and dead. Such incidents happen though rarely.



Nasa 'Earthrise' astronaut dies at 90 in plane crash : **Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders**, who snapped one of the most famous photographs taken in outer space, has died at the age of 90. Officials say a small plane he was flying crashed into the water north of Seattle, Washington. Anders' son Greg confirmed that his father was flying the small plane, and that his body was recovered on Friday. He took the iconic first "Earth Rise" photo from space. (08. 06.24)

the 90-year-old was



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FOR THE ASSISTANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT GIVEN

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Pauline Kelaart : 39, Major Crescent, Lysterfield, Vic. 3156

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