

Executive Committee

President: Tony Sookoor (9896 5415)
Vice President: Hussain Buckman (9621 7100)
Secretary: Shalina Sabar Mendis (9626 1951)
Treasurer: Farrah Carim (9633 5751)

Committee

Marina Buckman
 Fazil Ousmand

Sub Committees

Sports- Rukshan Carim
 Religious Affairs - Haniff Buckman
 Cultural Affairs - Surathie Sappideen

Patrons

Nizar Sappideen
 Amin Buksh
 Ruswan Lye

Auditor: Razikin Dole

Editor: Zahara Dole

Suara Melayu Langkawi

SLAMA Newsletter

PERSATUAN SRILANKA AUSTRALIA MELAYU



Sri Lankan Australian Malay Association

EDITORIAL

SLAMATH, SAUDARA ,SAUDARI,

The start for the year has been rather quiet for the community. Needless to say the mood has been low due to the recent tsunami. As one would expect, this edition leans heavily on tsunami related articles. A few personal tributes have been included here, but of course SLAMA recognises the countless unnamed victims of the tragedy. A write-up of the SLAMA Tsunami Rathib can be found in this edition.

I did not trouble Haroun or India this time for articles. Sadly, due to the absence of other contributions, this edition has no children's corner. Parents are you willing to help?

We discovered some old photos bringing back memories of the past. It is gratifying to know that as a whole the community remains intact. MashaAllah! I guess as long as we all stick together despite the occasional upheavals, SLAMA will remain strong.

The new additions to our community – our very own Carim and Mantara couples have already made admirable contributions in terms of time and effort. Their presence has also injected a good bridge between us old folk and our next generation. We now have hope that SLAMA will prevail.

I wish to comment on the “non-members” of SLAMA who faithfully attend our functions – the Salgados come to my mind. This integration proves SLAMA's genuine warmth spreads over many.

LETS KEEP IT UP!

SLAMATH
EDITOR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Editorial
- 2** Calendar of Events
- 3** SLAMA Sports Day / Religion
- 4** Tsunami Relief Projects
- 5** Hambantota / 2004 AGM
- 6** Tsunami Tributes / Rathib
- 7** Veteran Members – Dr A.R. Deane

MEMBERS DO NOT FORGET THE LITTLE MATTER OF YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS. THIS STANDS AT A REASONABLE \$15.00 PER ANNUM! PLEASE CHECK IN WITH FARRAH OUR FRIENDLY TREASURER AT THE NEXT FUNCTION. SHE WILL GLADLY ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR PAYMENTS.

DISCLAIMER: Articles published in this newsletter represent the views of the individual writer alone. SLAMA shall not be liable for the accuracy, content, or the reliability of any articles published in this newsletter. None of the articles herein may be reproduced in any way without the permission of SLAMA.

Calendar of Events for 2005

Please keep these dates free!

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
Tsunami Rathib	6 February 2005	Wentworthville Community Hall ✓
Picnic/Sports Day	6 March 2005	Curtin Reserve, Winston Hills ✓
Rasool Mowlood Recital	28 May 2005	Wentworthville Community Hall Gravillea Room
Malay Food Night	24 September 2005	Redgum Function Centre Wentworthville
SLAMA Social	12 November 2005	TBA
Eid-ul-Fitr Celebrations & AGM	4 December 2005	Wentworthville Community Hall Gravillea Room

Memories are made of this.....

REMEMBER THIS DAY – 2002 BUS TRIP TO BUNDEENA ?



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Roshmin Veerbangsa, Surahie Packeer, Fatheela Ahlip, Zahara Dole, Zareena Jalill, Zeeniya Shaideen, Yeolande Jason, Rasheeda Shaideen , Surathie Sappideen (It could be Nizmin Miskin standing behind Rasheeda)

(Photo taken by Ayesha Salgado)

IF MEMORY SERVES US RIGHT, THE DAY STARTED DISMALLY WITH A STEADY DRIZZLE, BUT THE BATTLERS OF SLAMA DID NOT GIVE UP. THE SKIES CLEARED, THE SUN CAME OUT AND THE REST OF THE DAY WAS BLESSED WITH THE BEST PICNIC WEATHER ONE COULD EVER WANT!



Nizar Sappideen and Amin Buksh in a joyous mood doing the traditional (just kidding!) chairdance

SLAMA Sports Day

The day got off to a good start. The sun was out, the sound blaster was pumped up to full volume, the people and food poured in. Zeena Ahlip's kiribath and katta sambol provided the first of the mouth-watering food to be shared around!

The cricket match kicked off first... then the races started...

The **DONUT EATING** race was as much fun for the onlookers as it was stressful for the younger participants. **Ijaz Miskin** just wanted a donut – he did not want to run. **Atisha Buckman** hurt her hand, got upset and stepped out. **Haroun Dole** stared horrified as his half eaten donut tumbled onto the grass and disqualified himself. **Riaz Ousmand** pounced on his donut despite its grassy destination and continued on to win a place. **Six year old Sarah Packeer** who was visiting with her parents from Sri Lanka showed spunk when she persevered with her donut, hands held firmly behind her back in strict accordance to the rules.

The ladies donut eating race was as hilarious...It's anyone's guess how **Suthami** managed to put away an entire donut in such record time...

The children's **wheelbarrow race** saw some confusion. Some wheelbarrows took off without their "pushers". Other better-coordinated pairs had navigation problems and headed sideways - away from the finish line.

The **women's tug-o-war** was another barrel of laughs. **Nizar** and **Amin** tried hard to keep husbands and sons from jumping in to help their struggling women folk. **But they were dreadfully, dreadfully unsuccessful.** At the last moment all hands jumped into the fray to help out.

The committee provided a meal of string hoppers & hot dogs. **Rukmin, Fransia, Fiona, Gunasmin** and **Charmila** helped to warm and serve the food. ***Ah...the trials of the SLAMA wives!***

Razikin Dole's late entrance into the event kicked off the joyous **sing-song** with his lively handling of the tambourine. **Mr Jamu Uduman**, who was visiting from Melbourne, entertained the group with a mix of Malay, Hindi and yes...even Islamic "pathams" - EM Haniffa style...with some very able assistance from **Amin**.



HATS OFF TO RUKSHAN AND FARRAH AND ALL THOSE WHO LENT THEM ASSISTANCE ON THAT DAY.

RELIGION

Take time to read the Quran and understand it.

الرَّكَتَبُ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ
إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ

ALIF-LAM-RA KITABUN ANZALNAHU ILAYKA LITUKHRIJA ALNNAASA MINA ALTHTHULUMATI ILA ALNNOORI BI-ITHNI RABBIHIM ILA SIRATI ALAAAZEEZI ALHAMEEDI

ALIF LAAM RAA. A BOOK WHICH WE HAVE REVEALED TO YOU SO THAT YOU MAY LEAD THE PEOPLE FROM OUT OF THE DARKNESSES INTO THE LIGHT BY THEIR LORD'S LEAVE TO THE PATH OF THE ALL-MIGHTY, THE PRAISEWORTHY."

Tsunami Relief Project organized by the Colombo Malay Cricket Club (CMCC)

SUBMITTED BY MELATI WIJewardene on behalf of her mother Marina Lye

On 20th Feb. a group of us (15 ladies and 10 gents) from CMCC travelled to Hambantota via Ratnapura where we were warmly received by the President and members of the Ruhunu Malay Association. There, the ladies formed into groups of three and, armed with a female guide from the Ruhunu Malay Association, went to meet the widows affected by the recent Tsunami. Each group had a questionnaire to record details of the victims, their lost husbands and children, and their needs. Gift packs including cash were presented to each widow.

Based on the responses in the questionnaires it was decided to provide the following:

(a) Long term productivity assistance like **micro projects** to commence self-employment in sewing, preparing and marketing of home made products, etc.

(b) To start a **foster parent** scheme for children for education or up to employment stage.

Proposed relief projects for the victims at Hambantota

STAGE 1	RUPEES
Rebuilding 3 damaged houses	375,000.00
Assistance in finding Foster Parents	60,000.00
Establishing Micro Projects on Sewing,	350,000.00
Construction of 4 houses initially	1,200,000.00
STAGE 2	
Providing Fishing Boats & Fishing Nets	1,900,000.00
Construction of 6 more houses	1,800,000.00
TOTAL	5,685,000.00

1) **Women in Hiddha** – After the four month period we intend getting all these women into one forum to discuss proposed plans for micro projects, and this would assist in the maintenance of the children.

2) **Fishing** – being the livelihood in the affected areas, we intend assisting in reviving this industry

3) **Foster Parents** – would be responsible to provide for education and other means that may be required from time to time until they get married or gain employment.

4) **Funds** – through donors and fund raising projects.

The total cost of the project would be 5.7 million (and the foster parents approx. Rs.5.0 million being a long term project costing Rs.60,000- monthly and assistance to be provided for 8 yrs in average has been taken into account).

On 20th March we made a second trip to Hambantota, this time via Galle. Enroute we placed an order at Matara for the manufacture of three fishing nets. On reaching Hambantota we had an interview with the fishermen, collected the details of each fisherman and their needs, and selected three of the most deserving who would receive the fishing nets on our next visit.

We then proceeded to Kirinda where we visited a **temporary housing project** of hundred dwellings made of timber and provided with electricity, water, common toilets and a few items of basic furniture. Here we met 10 widows and presented them with gift parcels including cash.

We also interviewed two children who had lost their fathers. Brig. Bohoran of the CMCC and another donor agreed to foster them, pledging to visit them every month and support them financially and otherwise till they gain employment or get married. These children are aged between six and eight years.

Other projects carried out by Sri Lanka Malay Confederation (SLAMAC)

(There are nearly 84 Malay orphans in Hambantota and Kirinda)

- Sponsorship of 17 orphans by the Malaysian High Commissioner. All 17 are attending school and are looked after by relatives.
- A further number of orphans will be sponsored by SLAMAC via the Aalul Mahfil Association. Each orphan is to be given Rs.3,500 each initially and a further Rs.3,500 per family for 6 months.
- Assistance for further families will be sponsored in due course as more funds are donated by different organisations.
- Any organisation can now sponsor any number of orphans through SLAMAC for any period selected by them.

HAMBANTOTA

The Malay Community in Sri Lanka and abroad have focused their attention on Hambantota, a littoral town located in the southern region of Sri Lanka. Hambantota was one of the many coastal towns that was affected by the tsunami.

Renowned for its salt pans, where a majority of Malays, beginning from their forefathers, had found employment, Hambantota suffered heavy casualties with a death toll of nearly 4500: 361 injured, 903 missing and 2234 families displaced. In addition 2303 homes completely damaged, 1744 houses partly damaged and 2 hotels, the Oasis and Peacock Beach Hotel, placed out of operation (statistics as at 23/1/05).

Malay Organisations in Sri Lanka, London, Canada and Australia are very concerned and perturbed by this calamity and have rendered a great deal of relief measures. Sri Lankan Australian Malay Association (SLAMA) in Sydney Australia has launched a "Tsunami Fund" and although SLAMA has a small membership around 60 families, it has been able to collect a tidy sum of money, which would be distributed among all those families who are in dire straits. The organisations in Sri Lanka are now involved in rehabilitation work.

Reverting to history, it is revealed that the Malays from the Indonesian Archipelago were the first in the Malay world to set foot on Sri Lankan soil. Their maritime contact gave rise to the port settlement of Hambantota when they were engaged in a flourishing spice trade with Arab merchants in East Africa and Madagascar. It is of historical importance to know that the Indonesian Mariners and Sailors on their return journey home on completion of their bartering and sale of spices at East Africa and Madagascar, they made it a regular practice to break journey at a cove bordering an inhabited coastal town. They grounded their Sampans in this cove and went ashore to replenish their stock of water and food. Some of the members of the crew remained behind in this town, which was named SAMPANTOTA. The word "SAMPAN" is a Chinese name for a boat/outrigger, which the Malay seafarers use very commonly. The word "TOTA" is a Sinhalese name for a Port. With frequent visits and passage of time, SAMPANTOTA was changed to its present name HAMBANTOTA.

The Dutch under their rule in Ceylon, brought in a group of Ambones from Central Malacca in East Indonesia. They belonged to a seafaring race who were masters of the sea. They were settled in Hambantota with their families.

Lord Frederick North, the first British Governor of Ceylon in 1798, formed 2 Regimental Companies from the Ceylon Rifle Regiment, consisting of infirmed and invalid soldiers and transferred them to the convalescent camps in Hambantota. No sooner the soldiers were pronounced fit, they were sent to MAHAGAMPATU to develop the salt pans in this village. Two other settlements were opened, one in KIRINDE and the other in PALATUPANA and the Malays were deployed for work in the 2 salt pans in these 2 villages. Almost at the same time, Malay political exiles were also sent to Hambantota from Colombo to join their Malay comrades who were already there.

Malays who were not employed on the salt pans, followed agricultural pursuits, farming and fishing, while their womenfolk engaged themselves in rattan weaving, turning out dried fish and dried meat (Deng-Deng). They also turned out delicacies such as Dodhol, Cheena-Kuwe, Curd and Jaggery.

CAPT T.A. DOLE (Retd), P.P.N.

ID-UL FITR CELEBRATIONS AND AGM

The SLAMA Annual General Meeting and Hari Raya Id-ul-Fitr lunch for 2004 was held on the November 21st 2004 at the West Epping Community hall. A large and well represented SLAMA membership, was present with their families. The atmosphere as usual was charged with cheery greetings and comradeship among all Malay brothers and sisters.

Quirath was recited by Razikin Dole followed by the rendition of the SLAMA theme song. The SLAMA banner in the background and the theme song instilled a sense of pride and nostalgia with memories of the development of SLAMA since its inauguration.

The day commenced with the AGM meeting where the membership duly elected a new committee. *The names of the committee members are listed on the page 1 of this newsletter.*

The luncheon that followed comprised of the most delectable Malay cuisine, individually prepared by the ladies of SLAMA - well done girls!

The exotic chuka daging, kaliya, rending daging, famous Malay achar, with the fragrant nasi kumbuli was a feast from heaven indeed.

Special mention has to be made of the desserts. They were simply universal in quality, taste and presentation.

The day concluded with plenty of goodwill and a prayer for all to meet again, Insha Allah in the new year and share the glory and the spirit of SLAMA, Alhamdulillah.

ZAREENA JALIL

THE LATE MORANO BASIM AMIT

"WHO SEEKS FOR HEAVEN ABOVE TO SAVE HIS SOUL MAY HELP THE PATH BUT WILL NOT REACH THE GOAL, WHILE HE WHO WALKS IN LOVE MAY WANDER FAR, YET GOD WILL BRING HIM WHERE THE BLESSED ARE."



In the wake of the world's worst natural disaster, when Sri Lanka and many other Asian countries lay shattered to their core, an urgent message was received from Colombo, that Morano Amit, his wife and two daughters were among the many thousands who had fallen victims to the disastrous Tsunami tidal wave. The news was unbelievable and it took sometime for me to accept the position that tragedy had struck an innocent and peace-loving family. There are times in life when one feels bereft, dumbfounded and bewildered - this was how I felt.

The late Morano Amit was the eldest of three children of the late T.N.Y. Amit, formerly of George Stuart & Co Ltd. and Shireen Jaro Amit of Maharagama. He was 57 years old at the time of death.

An old boy of Carey College, Morano was a quiet lad, well disciplined and soft spoken. He had very few friends who shared these rare qualities. He was popular among his close relatives who treasured his friendship and honesty.

Leaving school, his instinct prompted him to seek employment so that he could contribute to the progress of his family. With an excellent command of the English language and a working knowledge of the official language, Morano accepted a secretarial appointment that enabled him to work full-time in the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka. He then found overseas employment and on completion of his tour of duty, returned to Sri Lanka and took up a permanent job in keeping with his years of experience. He joined the House of Parliament as a Hansard Reporter in 1977 and by year 2003, was elevated to the position of Editor. In the words of the Secretary General, I quote "His long years of experience had given him a good grasp of the practices and procedures of the Parliament, so much so that he hardly, if ever, needed my guidance in editing the speeches of the members of Parliament". The members of the entire Editorial staff held him in high esteem.

After an exhaustive search that lasted almost two weeks after the disaster, only Morano's body was found. Janaza took place on 8 January, 2005 at the Jawatte Muslim Burial Grounds, Colombo.

Morano is no more. He was a tower of strength to his family. He will be missed.

CAPT ANWAR DOLE

DR. (Miss) FAIZA SIFANI BONGSO.

The only daughter of Farouk & Kumala Bongso of Colombo. A student of the International College in Colombo, Sifani entered the Petersburg University in Russia for her medical degree six years ago.

On her return to Sri Lanka she was posted to the Homagama Base Hospital for her Internship. She would go driving to work in her new car, which her father presented to her on her academic success. Sifani was only 24 years old!

On this fateful day, she went with a friend to Hambantota. Her work is unfinished, her life is no more, her service to mankind is lost, the dreams of a future gone!

Sifani was the loving neice of Rashida Shaideen of Sydney.

"TOO YOUNG TO DIE , TOO GOOD TO DEPART FROM THIS WORLD, BUT PARADISE BECKONS THE WORTHY TO ITS PORTALS, FOR THERE LIES THE ETERNAL GLORY OF JENNA."

ABDUL AZIZ JALILL

Working in Galle, he was visiting his family. On that fateful day, he had arranged to take the baby to the Mosque. When the vehicle arrived the family was yet not ready, and the driver was requested to turn up at 9.30 a.m. Fate decreed otherwise. His wife survived, but lost her parents, sister and baby.

A product of Zahira College Colombo, he grew up on the Welimada hills.

Loving nephew of Zareena Jalill and cousin of Zinnia Shaideen both of Sydney.

Tsunami Rathib

THE MEMBERS OF THE SLAMA ASSOCIATION GATHERED TOGETHER AT THE WENTWORTHVILLE COMMUNITY HALL AFTER THE TSUNAMI IN SRI LANKA, TO RECITE A RATHIB IN MEMORY OF ALL THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON THAT FATEFUL DAY. THE PRAYERS WERE LEAD BY SEENAR SAPPIDEEN AND HANIFF BUCKMAN. ALL THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAD LOST THEIR NEAR AND DEAR ONES, MOSTLY IN THE HAMBANTOTA / GALLE AREAS, WERE ABLE TO FIND SOLACE IN THEIR HEARTS AND PEACE IN THEIR MINDS IN THE COMFORT OF THESE PRAYERS.

WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO TOOK THE TIME AND THE INITIATIVE TO PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE DEAR DEPARTED. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

VETERAN SRI LANKAN MALAYS

THE LATE DR. A. R. DEANE

"Who can say that a life so rich in memories was incomplete"

The late Dr. Abdul Rasheed Deane has been described and accepted by the community as a dedicated Medical Practitioner, a sportsman, a devoted husband and father. He belonged to a distinguished Malay family. His father, the late A.A. Deane held a senior and coveted position of Chief Accountant in H.M. Customs, Colombo, during the colonial regime. He compiled the Jubilee Book of the Colombo Malay Cricket Club in 1924.

A product of Royal College and the Colombo Medical College, as a student Dr. Deane displayed a high intellect and a powerful retentive memory. He represented his Alma Mater in Cricket in the years 1936 and 1937.

On completing his MBBS and internship in government hospitals he commenced his medical practice at the Wattala Nursing Home, and later functioned as the Medical Officer of the Colombo Commercial Company, Hunupitiya. After some time he moved his residence over to Kompaniveediya where he established a Medical Clinic and Dispensary and attended to the medical needs of the residents of Kampong Kartel, the majority of whom were from the Malay community.

Like his grandfather and father, Dr. Deane identified himself in the activities of the Colombo Malay Cricket Club and the All Ceylon Malay Association. There were occasions when at 16 years he was called upon to play for the Malay Cricket team whenever there was a shortage of regular players.

In 1948 as a member of the Malay Cricket team he toured South India under the Captaincy of B.J.H. Bahar (snr.). He captained the C.M.C.C. Cricket team in the years 1957 and 1958 and was elected President of the C.M.C.C. in 1965 and 1966. After the formal opening of the new cricket grounds at Padang on 23rd Dec. 1961, a "home-and-home" cricket match was played between the "Past" and "Present" to mark the occasion. The "Past" team was captained by Dr. Deane and the "Present" team by Fareed Sabar. The highlight of the day's play was when Dr. Deane hit the first six and a boundary in his classic knock of 62 runs.

For nearly 5 years, Dr. Deane was away in England, where he served as a Medical Officer in CELL BARNES Hospital, London. His patients, who came under his care were very appreciative of his medical attention and were impressed by his calm composure and patience. He was a popular figure among the staff of the Malaysian High Commission and the Indonesian Embassy and attended to their medical needs whenever necessary.

He had a heart that never hardened and a touch that never hurt. In appreciation of his many contributions and services to the C.M.C.C., SLMA and SLMA Rupee Fund, his portrait along with his grandfather's were unveiled in the pavilion of the C.M.C.C. on 12th Dec. 2003.

CAPT. ANWAR DOLE

FACTS OF LIFE

Today upon a bus, I saw a charming girl with golden hair

She seemed so happy, I envied her and wished that I was half so fair. I watched her as she rose to leave and saw her hobble down the aisle

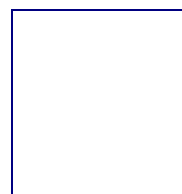
OH ALMIGHTY ALLAH, FORGIVE ME WHEN I WHINE
I HAVE TWO LEGS – THE WORLD IS MINE.

Later on, I bought some sweets. The boy that sold them had such charm. I thought I'd stop and talk awhile – if I was late, it will do no harm. As we spoke he said "Thank you, its nice to talk to folks like you because you see, I am blind".

OH, ALMIGHTY ALLAH FORGIVE ME WHEN I WHINE
I HAVE TWO EYES – THE WORLD IS MINE.

Later walking down the street, I met a boy with eyes so blue. But he stood and watched the others play, it seemed he knew not what to do. I paused and then I said "Why don't you join the others dear?" But he looked straight ahead without a word and then I knew he couldn't hear.

TWO LEGS TO TAKE ME WHERE I'D GO
TWO EYES TO SEE THE SUNSET'S GLOW
TWO EARS TO HEAR ALL I SHOULD KNOW
OH ALMIGHTY ALLAH FORGIVE ME WHEN I WHINE, THE WORLD IS MINE.



If undeliverable please return to:

**18, Tamboy Avenue
CARLINGFORD NSW 2118**