



The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited Annual Report – 2019

Presented at the Annual General Meeting of The Sinhalese Cultural Forum
of NSW Inc on 03rd November 2019

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited

PO Box 2379, North Parramatta, NSW 2151
Australian Registered Charity
(ABN 58 609 620 617)



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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This is the Annual Report - 2019 of the Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited (SCC), primarily produced to present at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW Inc (SCF, also referred as "Forum") on 03rd November 2019.

1.2 Organisation

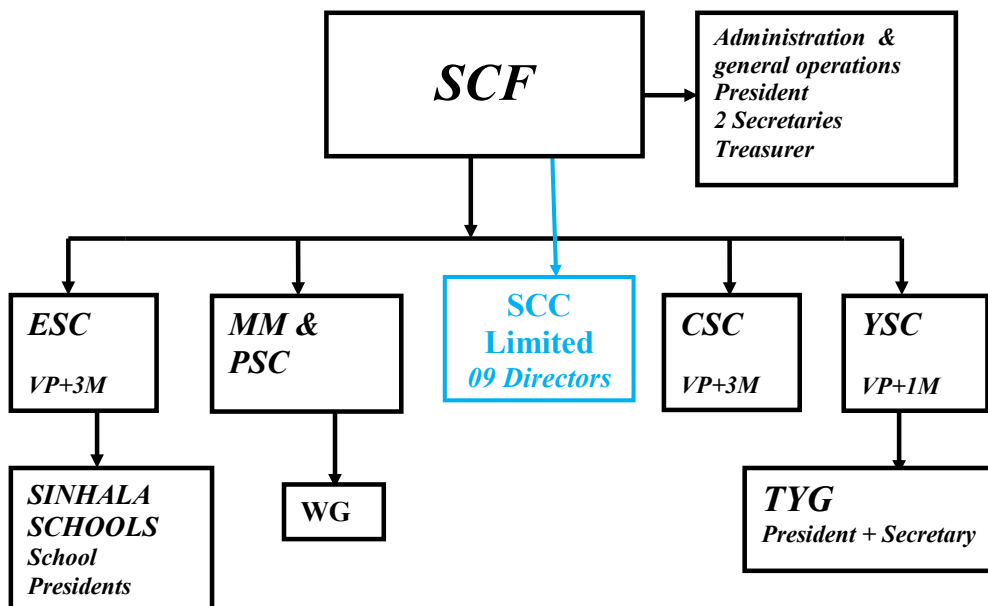
The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited was established by the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW Inc as a Not-for-Profit company in December 2015 for the sole purpose of establishing and managing a cultural centre for the benefit of the Sinhalese community in NSW and other communities around us. The first Board of Directors of the SCC were appointed on 13th March 2016 at a Special General Meeting called by the Forum.

This is only the fourth year of operations of SCC and it is appropriate to re-iterate the objectives and the structure of the SCC.

The summary of the objectives of SCC are:

- a) Provide a permanent place where Sinhalese cultural activities can be conducted
- b) Raise and source funds, acquire land, design and construct the Sinhalese Cultural Centre
- c) Manage and operate the Sinhalese Cultural Centre
- d) Preserve, hold, and keep safe items of Sinhalese cultural heritage
- e) Provide performance space and facilities to allow promotion of cultural performances activities including music, drama, dance and literacy

The organisation chart of SCF (quoted from the SCF constitution) with the SCC in place is shown below.



The relationship between the SCF and the SCC are established with the following constitutional arrangements.

- a) The sole member of the SCC is SCF, represented by the SCF membership
- b) The President and another nominated member of the SCF Executive committee are directors of SCC by default
- c) The SCC board members are elected by the SCF members at the AGM of the SCF

2 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of SCC for the year 2019 (October 2018 – November 2019) were as follows.

- Nihal Fernando (Chair)
- Chaminda Kuruppu (Deputy Chair)
- Manjula Wettasinghe (Secretary)
- Susil De Zoysa (Treasurer)
- Upul Padukka Vidana (President – SCF)
- Renuka Kaluthanthri Liyanage (Nominee – SCF)
- Anil Fernando
- Don Wickrama
- Pramuk De Silva



3 Events and Activities

3.1 Overview

In the year 2018-2019, the SCC further established within the community with the key objective of establishing the Sinhalese Cultural Centre. The SCC achieved number of key milestones in this year. They are:

- a) SCC received the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status from 12th November 2018
- b) SCC cash reserves exceeded \$100k
- c) For the first time, SCC net surplus in a financial year exceeded \$50K
- d) For the first time, SCC income in a financial year exceeded \$100K
- e) Acquired the premier community website ozlanka.com

In the year 2018-2019, the Board of Directors formerly met in every month (12 meetings) to discuss, plan and execute the regular operational and specific activities. In addition to the formal meetings, many on-line and face-to-face meetings were held on as required basis, in particular to plan and execute major events. The primary focus in the last 12 months was to further establish operational necessities, fund raising and to initiate long term/short term plans to establish the Sinhalese Cultural Centre. The highlights of these activities are as follows.

- a) Fund Raising Event – Dance in the Isles with Nihal Nelson and Saman De Silva (Held on 02nd March 2019)
- b) Participation in Sunfest 2019
- c) Fund Raising Event – SCC Nite 2019 (Held on 08th June 2019)
- d) SCC Raffle - 2019 (Drawn on 08th June 2019 at the function SCC Nite - 2019)
- e) Continued promotion of JanaShakthi Program
- f) Follow-up and achieving Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status
- g) Planning Stage 1 Property Purchase
- h) Acquisition of Premier Community Website ozlanka.com
- i) Improved Web Presence, Email and online facilities

3.2 Operational Activities

3.2.1 Financial Management

The SCC continued to operate number of bank accounts with St George bank which mainly include the operating account, two term deposits and the Public Fund. In this year, the SCC opened a new bank account with the Commonwealth Bank primarily to assist with the debit card facility.

In addition to the St George and Commonwealth bank accounts, the SCC continued to operate a PayPal account so that online payments (e.g. selling event tickets at the SCC web shop) can be received.

The SCC produced financial statements for the financial year 2018/2019, approved by the Board of Directors and later audited in accordance with the government regulations. The audited financial statement is provided in section 4.

This Annual Report and the Financial Statement will be published in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) online portal, to meet the charity registration requirements and to provide the full transparency to our members and the community in general.

Further, the SCC reported details of the donations received to Register of Cultural Organisations (RoCO), Department of Communications and the Arts in every six months to meet the requirements of Deductible Gift Recipient Status.

3.2.2 Registration as a Cultural Organisation and DGR Status

One of the key necessities to raise funds by seeking donations and public grants is to be included in the Register of Cultural Organisations (RoCO) and to possess the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Status from the Tax Office. After following a rigorous and a lengthy process, the SCC received the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status from 12th November 2018. This is considered as a significant achievement and a major milestone of SCC.

3.2.3 Web Presence and Email

The web presence (www.sccsydney.org) and the email services of SCC have developed further. The SCC website was developed by volunteers in late 2016 and has improved since then. Further the SCC continued to use the free mass emailing account from Vertical Response.

The SCC website now provides a shop front which enables SCC to sell event tickets online. This facility was effectively and successfully used for number of events hosted by the SCC this year.

3.3 Cultural Centre Establishment Planning

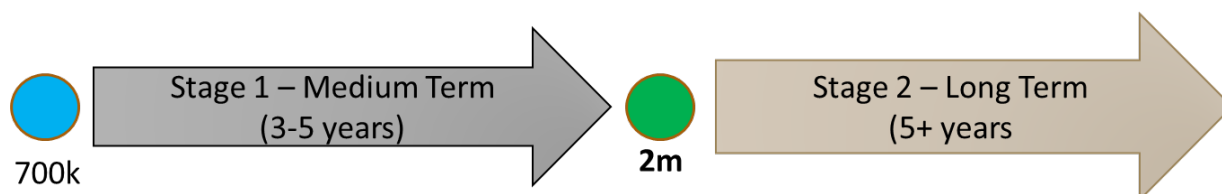
The SCC is continuing to work on two options to establish the Sinhalese Cultural Centre. They are:

- a) Long Term Plan – Acquire a land and build the Sinhalese Cultural Centre
- b) Short Term Plan – Lease a facility such as a Community Centre to establish the Cultural Center for short term use

3.3.1 SCC Property Purchase Proposal

After a comprehensive analysis, last year SCC decided to progress with a completely Not-for-profit path to acquire a property. Further SCC planned a two-stage approach considering the following:

- Needs to be a viable plan
- Financing is the key driver
- The risk needs to be acceptable



The approach to the two-stage process, in summary are as follows.

- Purchase a low value property (e.g. value: \$700k, 600-800 Sqm land with an old house in a low cost suburban area, at a viable location)
- Establish the Cultural Centre and operate for few years in lower scale
- Pay-off the mortgage and generate the equity
- Purchase the property we finally need

To initiate the Stage 1 process, the SCC will require \$170K – \$200K initial reserves. At the present time, the SCC has funds in excess of 110K (by November 2019, after the investment on ozlanka.com) and needs to progress much further to achieve the required levels of reserves.

The SCC launched the JanaShakthi program in March 2018, as one of the key initiatives to raise these funds. The achievement of DGR status has helped for this program immensely. In the last financial year 2018-2019, the SCC has received \$36,640 worth of JanaShakthi Contributions. The SCC greatly appreciates and be thankful to all the donors.

In the Annual General Meeting 2018, the SCC members approved to acquire a property for the establishment of the Sinhalese Cultural Centre (SCC), with a purchase price not exceeding one (1) million dollars, in accordance with the section 24(c) of the SCC Constitution.

The SCC is progressing towards the purchase of the Stage 1 property. As stated earlier, SCC needs to raise minimum \$170K of cash reserves to initiate this process. **The SCC expects continued support from the community to achieve this goal.**

3.4 Acquisition of Ozlanka.com

Ozlanka.com is the premiere community website for the Sri Lankan community in Sydney NSW. This website was established by Mr Imtiaz Issadeen, 20 years ago. Mr Issadeen maintained the website voluntarily in the last 20 years. The community has been grateful for the service ozlanka.com provided, including the community events calendar, articles, event albums, obituaries and many more.

The SCC was planning to establish a community website to provide services. While these plans were underway, the SCC received an opportunity to acquire the ozlanka.com website together with three ozlanka related domains, three IP Right deed and the existing content. After careful consideration of the offer, the SCC Board of Directors made a unanimous decision to acquire the ozlanka.com website considering the future prospects. The acquisition was completed in September 2019. The SCC is extremely grateful to Mr Imtiaz Issadeen for providing this opportunity to SCC.

The SCC expects to operate the ozlanka.com website as a separate operation serving the whole Sri Lankan community in the same way it has been operated in the past. Further, the SCC expect to enhance the site with a new development to expand the community service aspect and to improve the financial return.

3.5 Fund Raising and Community Engagement Activities

3.5.1 Fund Raising Event - Dance in the Isles with Nihal Nelson and Saman De Silva

The SCC hosted the musical concert “Dance in the Isles with Nihal Nelson and Saman De Silva” at Roselea Community Centre on 2nd March 2019. The SCC received the event from Mega Live Events Pty Ltd in Melbourne under a signed contract.

The music was provided by the popular band Tantra from Melbourne. The same band provided music in the concerts held in number of other states as well. The sound and lighting were provided by Event360. The band, sound and lighting in the concert was well praised.

The event was attended by a moderate 290+ audience, including the support personnel. The performance of the veteran artists, in particular Nihal Nelson were well praised and the audience enjoyed.



From this event, the SCC received an income in excess of \$17k. However, the net surplus from the event was just \$404. This is due to the attendance being lower than expected. The SCC will consider these experiences in organising similar events in the future.

3.5.2 SCC Raffle – 2019

The SCC organised the second biennial raffle primarily to raise the funds for the Cultural Centre. The raffle tickets were released in March 2019 and the raffle draw was held on 8th June 2019 during the SCC Nite 2019 event at the Roselea Community Centre. The raffle tickets were priced at \$20 each or 3 for \$50.

The support the SCC received for the raffle draw was excellent and as a result the SCC was successful in selling in excess of \$9,300 worth of tickets. The net profit from the raffle was in excess of \$3,700. This achievement was remarkable and the community supported is greatly appreciated by the SCC.

This raffle is expected to be held bi-annually to raise funds for the Sinhalese Cultural Centre.



3.5.3 Fund Raising Dinner – SCC Nite 2019

For the third time, the SCC fundraising social event, SCC Nite 2019 was held on 8th June 2019, at the Roselea Community Centre, Carlingford. The function hall was filled with over 230 distinguished guests and the Guest of Honour was Parramatta Council Lord Mayor Honourable Andrew Wilson. Further, Mr. Lal Wickrematunge, the Sri Lankan Consul General for New South Wales and Queensland, was represented by the Consul Ms Pramuditha Manusinghe.

This event was very successful in many respects:

- Created the much-needed community awareness about the Sinhalese Cultural Centre
- Raised the SCC profile among the Local Government Officials
- Raised an income over \$12,000
- Raised a net surplus of over \$4,100
- Enhanced the community bonding

The SCC would like to thank all the sponsors of this event including our major sponsors Castle Group and HSBC Bank Australia.

The SCC Nite is hosted by the SCC as an annual event. The SCC expect to host next year's event with a renewed concept to improve the outcomes of the event.



3.5.4 Sunfest 2019

The SCF annual New Year Celebration event Sunfest 2019 was held on 13th April 2019 at Showground, Castle Hill. The SCC participated in this celebration by occupying a trade stall and promoting the Sinhalese Cultural Centre among the community. Many community members visited the SCC stall, received information and expressed their full support to establish the Sinhalese Cultural Centre.

4 Financial Statement

Financial statements for SCC was prepared for the year ending 30 June 2019 and shown in the next few pages.

SCC would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Prabhath Amarasinghe (CPA) for providing the auditing services to the SCC for the 2018-19 financial year.



Sinhalese Cultural Centre
(The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Ltd)
P O Box 2379, North Parramatta, NSW 2151
ABN: 58 609 620 617 ACN: 609 620 617
Registered Australian Charity



Financial Statement

Financial Year 2018/2019

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS

The Directors of The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited submits the financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 30 June 2019.

DIRECTORS

The names of the members of Directors at the date of the report are:

Name	Position	From	To
Waduge Nihal Parakum Fernando	Director / Chairperson	13/03/2016	Present
Manjula Wettasinghe	Director/Secretary	13/03/2016	Present
Demuni Jercy Susil Jayawardhana De Zoysa	Director/Treasurer	13/03/2016	Present
Chaminda Janath Kuruppu	Director/Vice Chairperson	28/10/2018	Present
Don Ubeyasiri Wijeyananda Wickrama	Director	13/03/2016	Present
Renuka Kaluthanthri Liyanage	Director	13/07/2018	Present
Upul Mangala Padukka Vidana	Director	28/10/2018	Present
Pramuk Lasantha De Silva Weerawardane	Director	28/10/2018	Present
Samarappulige Anil Shantha Fernando	Director	28/10/2018	Present
Vipulananda Weerasena De Silva	Director	13/03/2016	28/10/2018
Shantha Kumar Fernando	Director	13/03/2016	28/10/2018
Mahinda Palitha Wickramasuriya	Director	13/03/2016	28/10/2018
Diminguwarige Chandrani Buddhipala	Director	29/10/2017	28/10/2018

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited (SCC) was established on 22 December 2015. SCC is a company limited by guarantee (not having a share capital). SCC's objectives are set out in the Constitution.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

There were no significant items to note.

During the year ended 30 June 2019 surplus funds generated from ordinary activities amounted to \$51,942 and was transferred to the accumulated fund.

The Committee, having determined that the Association is a non-reporting entity, states:
That in the opinion of the Committee the financial statements as set out herein:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited as at 30 June 2019 and its financial performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Mandatory professional reporting requirements and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.
2. At the date of the statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors and is signed for on behalf of the Directors by:



Susil De Zoysa
Treasurer
23 October 2019



Nihal Fernando
Chairperson
23 October 2019

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Income			
Community referral income (STG/Westpac)		-	6,295
Donations		285	-
JanaShakthi Contributions		36,640	9,590
Fundraising	2	63,475	35,309
Interest		1,373	299
Total Income		101,772	51,493
Expenses			
Bank charges (Note 2)		-	3
Fundraising	2	49,831	19,009
SunFest trade stall		-	233
Hall Hire Investor Meeting		-	140
Administrative, Stationary and Printing		-	153
Total Expenses		49,831	19,538
Surplus		51,942	31,955
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2019			
		2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets			
Receivable from SCF		-	400
Receivable for SCC Nite Sponsorships		1,000	-
Receivable for SCC Nite Tickets		200	-
Parramatta City Council Bond		500	500
STG Account 0947		21	21
STG Account 2449		21,378	9,523
STG Account 1291 (Public Fund)		46,972	9,630
STG Term Deposit 4098		25,529	25,000
STG Term Deposit 1609		20,665	20,228
CBA Account 1944		200	-
Paypal Account		779	-
Net Assets		117,244	65,302
Equity			
Accumulated Fund		117,244	65,302



Susil De Zoysa
Treasurer
23 October 2019

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements

1. Basis of preparation

- The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting.
- SCC is a company limited by guarantee and has no equity capital.

2. Fundraising Events

	Yashodhara Film Screening 1	Yashodhara Film Screening 2	LankaCuisine 2018	Dance in The Isles with Nihal Nelson and Saman De Silva	SCC Raffle 2019	SCC Nite 2019	Total
Income							
Ticket Sales	8,625	8,555	6,060	14,609	9,160	9,383	56,392
Sponsorships	920	180	350	300	-	2,629	4,379
Food sales	-	-	-	2,470	-	-	2,470
Other Income	-	-	183	50	-	-	233
Total Income	9,545	8,735	6,593	17,429	9,160	12,012	63,475
Expenses							
Provider Charges	(6,000)	(5,850)	-	-	-	-	(11,850)
Hall Charges	-	-	(1,092)	(1,092)	-	(1,092)	(3,276)
Entertainment	-	-	-	(13,327)	-	-	(13,327)
Food	-	-	(4,149)	(2,216)	-	(5,083)	(11,448)
Entertainment	-	-	(1,000)	-	-	(700)	(1,700)
Raffle Prizes	-	-	-	-	(5,085)	-	(5,085)
Other Expenses	0	(182)	(1,180)	(390)	(358)	(1,035)	(3,144)
Total Expenses	(6,000)	(6,032)	(7,421)	(17,025)	(5,443)	(7,910)	(49,831)
SURPLUS	3,545	2,704	(828)	404	3,717	4,102	13,644

3. Taxation

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited is endorsed as tax exempt under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 and no tax provision is made.

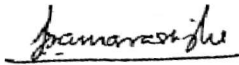
The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited (SCC)

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SCC

Review of Financial Affairs:

I examined the Statement of Financial Position of (SCC) as at 30 June 2019 and the related Statements of Financial Performance for the period then ended. I have reviewed all the presented information and explanations which to the of my knowledge and belief were necessary for purpose of the audit.

In my opinion, as appears from examination, proper books of account have been maintained by SCC and to the best of my information and per the explanations given to me, the Financial Statements referred to above, together with the notes referred to herein, give a true and fair view of the financial position of SCC as at 30 June 2019.



Prabhath Amarasinghe

Auditor SCC

23 October 2019