



# The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited Annual Report – 2018

Presented at the Annual General Meeting of The Sinhalese Cultural Forum  
of NSW Inc on 27th October 2018

## **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 - 2018 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 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

## 1.2 Organisation

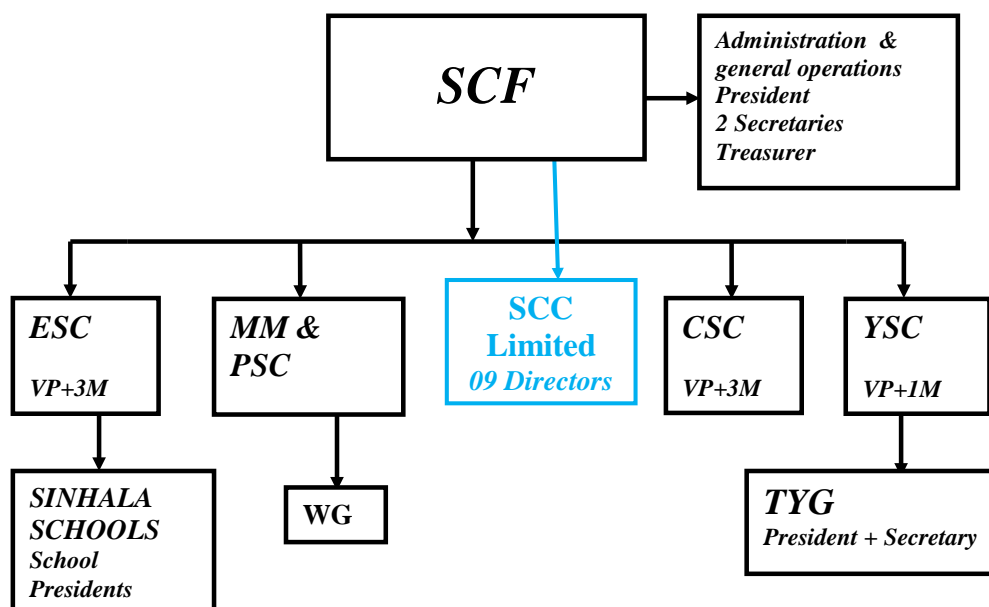
The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited was established by the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW Inc as a Not-for-Profit company in December 2015 for the sole purpose of establishing and managing a cultural centre for the benefit of the Sinhalese community in NSW and other communities around us. The first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

This is only the third 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.

- The sole member of the SCC is SCF, represented by the SCF membership
- The President and another nominated member of the SCF Executive committee are directors of SCC by default
- 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 2018 (October 2017 – October 2018) were as follows.

- Nihal Fernando (Chair)
- Vipulananda De Silva (Deputy Chair)
- Manjula Wettasinghe (Secretary)
- Susil De Zoysa (Treasurer)
- Chandrani Buddhhipala (President – SCF)
- Renuka Kaluthathri Liyanage (Nominee – SCF)
- Don Wijeyananda Wickrama
- Palitha Wickramasuriya
- Shantha Fernando



## 3 Events and Activities

### 3.1 Overview

In the year 2017-2018, the SCC further established within the community with the key objective of establishing the Sinhalese Cultural Centre. The Board of Directors formerly met 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 other 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 the essential 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.

- SCC Raffle - 2017 (Drawn on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the function Madhura Rathriya)
- Fund Raising Event – Madhura Rathriya (Held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017)

- c) Annual Fund Raising Dinner – Jana Sevana 2018 (Held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018)
- d) Launch of JanaShakthi Program
- e) Participation in Sunfest 2018
- f) Fund Raising Event - Screening of the film “Yashodhara”
- g) Fund Raising Event - Lanka Cuisine – Spring 2018 (Held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018)
- h) Negotiate with councils to lease a community centre facility
- i) Explore possibilities of government land leasing
- j) Follow-up the process to achieve Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status
- k) 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. In this year, the SCC opened a new term deposit account (\$25,000) with St George bank to invest its funds with low risk and low return. This has made the total amount of term deposits to \$45,000.

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

Further, the SCC established number of simple internal financial procedures to make sure the proper handling of funds. The SCC produced financial statements for the financial year 2017/2018, approved by the Board of Directors and later audited in accordance with the government regulations. The audited financial statement is provided in section 4.

### 3.2.2 Registration as a Cultural Organisation and DGR Status

One of the key stimuli 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. The SCC initiated this process nearly 24 months ago. This is a long and exhaustive process. The SCC submitted a very comprehensive application and followed-up by providing further information on the RoCO request. The SCC is regularly querying the status of the application from RoCO. The latest query indicated that they do not expect any further information, however the decision is yet to be made.

### 3.2.3 Web Presence and Email

The web presence ([www.sccsydney.org](http://www.sccsydney.org)) and the email services of SCC has 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 the Yashodhara film screened in mid this year.

## 3.3 Cultural Centre Establishment Planning

The SCC is currently working 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 Community Centre Facility Request from Councils

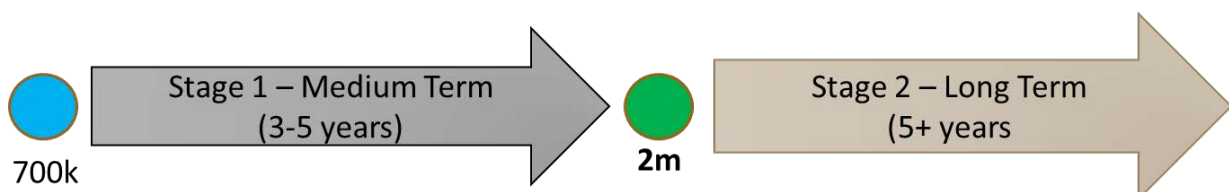
As the short-term plan, the SCC is looking for leasing a facility to establish the Sinhalese Cultural Centre. While there are number of options including leasing a commercially available property, leasing a community centre facility from a Council is considered the most viable option. In the last 12 months, the SCC approached a number of Councils, primarily the Hornsby Shire Council. The SCC had discussions with the Hornsby Council Mayor Philip Ruddock and his administration staff on our request in October 2017 and followed-up with number of communications. However, due to various constraints and policies within the Council, a favourable outcome hasn't been possible so far.

### 3.3.2 SCC Property Purchase Proposal

The SCC considered, brainstormed and analysed a number of options to purchase a suitable property. In the last year (2017), SCC proposed and pursued an Investor/Contributor proposal to acquire a property. While there were very positive feedback from the community, due to legal reasons and associated risks, the SCC decided not to proceed with such a plan.

After comprehensive analysis and advice, the SCC decided to progress with a completely Not-for-profit path to acquire a property. While this path will take more time to achieve the end goals, SCC views this as a more sustainable low risk approach. Further SCC has now planned a two-stage approach considering the following:

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



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 at a 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 \$160K – \$200K initial reserves. At the present time, the SCC has funds in excess of 70K 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 JanaShakthi program has been very promising in the last few months, however there is a long way to achieve the required level of funds.

As preparation to Stage 1, at the Annual General Meeting 2018, the SCC is seeking the members' approval 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.

### 3.4 Fund Raising and Community Engagement Activities

#### 3.4.1 SCC Raffle – 2017

The SCC organised the first of its regular raffle-draw primarily to raise the funds for the Cultural Centre. The raffle tickets were released in September 2017 and the raffle draw was held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017 during the Madhura Rathriya event at the Cherrybrook 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 \$15,600 worth of tickets. The net profit from the raffle was in excess of \$10,800. This achievement was remarkable and the community supported is greatly appreciated by the SCC.

This raffle is expected to be held biennially to raise funds for the Sinhalese Cultural Centre.



#### 3.4.2 Fund Raising Event – Madhura Rathriya

The SCC hosted the Madhura Rathriya” entertaining evening on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at the Cherrybrook Community Centre. The objective of this event was primarily to accommodate the SCC raffle draw and at the same time to provide an affordable entertainment evening for families. The tickets were priced at \$20 per person which includes the dinner (hoppers and rotties).

### 3.4.3 Fund Raising Dinner - Jana Sevana 2018

For the second time, the SCC fundraising social event, Jana Sevana 2018 was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018, at the Roselea Community Centre, Carlingford. The function hall was filled with over 230 distinguished guests and the Guest of Honour was Hornsby Council Mayor Honourable Philip Ruddock. 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 a net profit of over \$5400
- Enhanced the community bonding and everyone enjoyed
- Many community organisations made representations at the event

The Jana Sevana 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.



### 3.4.4 Sunfest 2018

The SCF annual New Year Celebration event Sunfest 2018 was held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 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.

### 3.4.5 Screening of the film “Yashodhara”

The SCC undertook the screening of the popular Sinhala film “Bimba Devi alias Yashodhara” in July-September 2018, at Event Cinemas (Vmax), Castle Hill. The film was screened twice (22<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 and 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2018) successfully and both the screenings were sold-out. The SCC raised a net profit in excess of \$6,000 from these two film screenings.

This film was distributed by Lanka Events (Yasiru Multimedia Pty Ltd) throughout Australia and the SCC would like to thank Mr Kithsiri Karunaratne – Managing Director of Yasiru Multimedia for providing this opportunity to SCC.



### **3.4.6 Lanka Cuisine – Spring 2018**

The SCC hosted the event Lanka Cuisine – Spring 2018 on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018, at Roselea Community Centre in Carlingfrod. The objective of this event was to promote Sri Lankan food to the many communities while raising funds for the SCC. Even though the initial discussions with various stakeholders were promising, the SCC faced fundamental difficulties in the detailed implementation phase of this event. As a result, the conceptual model of this event had to be modified significantly. Further, a number of other social events were held on the same day and in the weekend which were not published at the time SCC was deciding on the date. As a result, attracting the guests to this well-planned event was challenging. The event was planned for 300-350 guests, however the SCC only managed to attract around 200 guests.

Even under difficult circumstances, the SCC hosted the event successfully and the guests were very happy with the event. The SCC primarily achieved an excellent community engagement in this event. While the financial outcome of the event is not finalised yet, this event is expected to deliver a moderate net loss around \$500.

## **4 Financial Statement**

Financial statements for SCC was prepared for the year ending 30 June 2018 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 2017-18 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 2017/2018

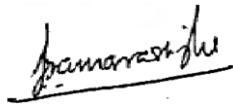
# **The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited (SCC)**

## **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 2018 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 2018.



**Prabhath Amarasinghe**

**Auditor SCC**

**21 October 2018**

# 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 2018.

## DIRECTORS

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

Name	Position
Waduge Nihal Parakum Fernando	Director / Chairperson
Vipulananda Weerasena De Silva	Director
Don Ubeyasiri Wijeyananda Wickrama	Director
Shantha Kumar Fernando	Director
Manjula Wettasinghe	Director/Secretary
Demuni Jercy Susil Jayawardhana De Zoysa	Director/Treasurer
Mahinda Palitha Wickramasuriya	Director
Diminguwarige Chandrani Buddhhipala	Director
Renuka Kaluthanthri Liyanage	Director

## 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.

## OPERATING RESULT

During the year ended 30 June 2018 surplus funds generated from ordinary activities amounted to \$31,955 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 2018 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  
21 October 2018

  
Nihal Fernando  
Chairperson  
21 October 2018

# The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Community referral income (STG/Westpac)		6,295	3,448
Contribution from SCF		-	10,000
Donations		-	248
JanaShakthi Contributions		9,590	-
Fundraising	2a,3a,4a & 5a	35,309	25,179
Interest		299	21
Other operating income		-	57
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>51,493</b>	<b>38,953</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
ASIC fees		-	47
Bank charges		3	4
Fundraising Expenses	2b,3b,4b & 5b	19,009	15,155
SunFest trade stall		233	250
Hall Hire Investor Meeting		140	-
Administrative, Stationary and Printing		153	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>19,538</b>	<b>15,456</b>
<b>Surplus</b>		<b>31,955</b>	<b>23,497</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
Receivable from SCF	400	400
Receivable from Sinhala School (Written-off)	-	100
Receivable for JS advertising (Received)	-	200
Parramatta City Council Bond	500	-
STG Account 0947	21	20,013
STG Account 2449	9,523	12,934
STG Account 1291 (Public Fund)	9,630	-
STG Term Deposit 4098	25,000	-
STG Term Deposit 1609	20,228	-
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>65,302</b>	<b>33,647</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated Fund	<b>65,302</b>	<b>33,647</b>

SCC is a company limited by guarantee and therefore has no equity capital

**Susil De Zoysa**  
Treasurer  
21 October 2018



# 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.

### Fundraising Events

2018

#### 2 Jana Sevana 2017

\$

##### Income

Sponsorships

a 200

#### 3 SCC Raffle and Madhura Rathriya - 2017

##### Income

SCC Raffle Ticket sales

15,620

MR Ticket Sales

3,740

Miscellaneous Income

75

##### Total Income

a 19,435

##### Expenses

SCC Raffle Prizes

4,722

Hall Charges

880

Food and Beverages

1,616

Entertainment expenses

300

Miscellaneous expenses

1,186

##### Total Expenses

b 8,703

##### Surplus

10,732

#### 4 Jana Sevana 2018

##### Income

JS 2018 Ticket sales

11,510

Sponsorships

2,950

Miscellaneous Income

1,124

##### Total Income

a 15,584

##### Expenses

Hall Charges

1,060

Food and Beverages

5,715

Entertainment expenses

770

Miscellaneous expenses

2,579

##### Total Expenses

b 10,124

##### Surplus

5,460

#### 5 Yashodhara Movie Screening (Main event finances are in yesr 2018/2019)

\$

##### Income

Movie Ticket income

90

##### Total Income

a 90

##### Expenses

Ticket Printing

182

##### Total Expenses

b 182

##### Surplus

(92)