



The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited Annual Report – 2020

Presented at the Annual General Meeting of The Sinhalese Cultural Forum
of NSW Inc on 29th November 2020

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 - 2020 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 29th November 2020.

1.2 Organisation

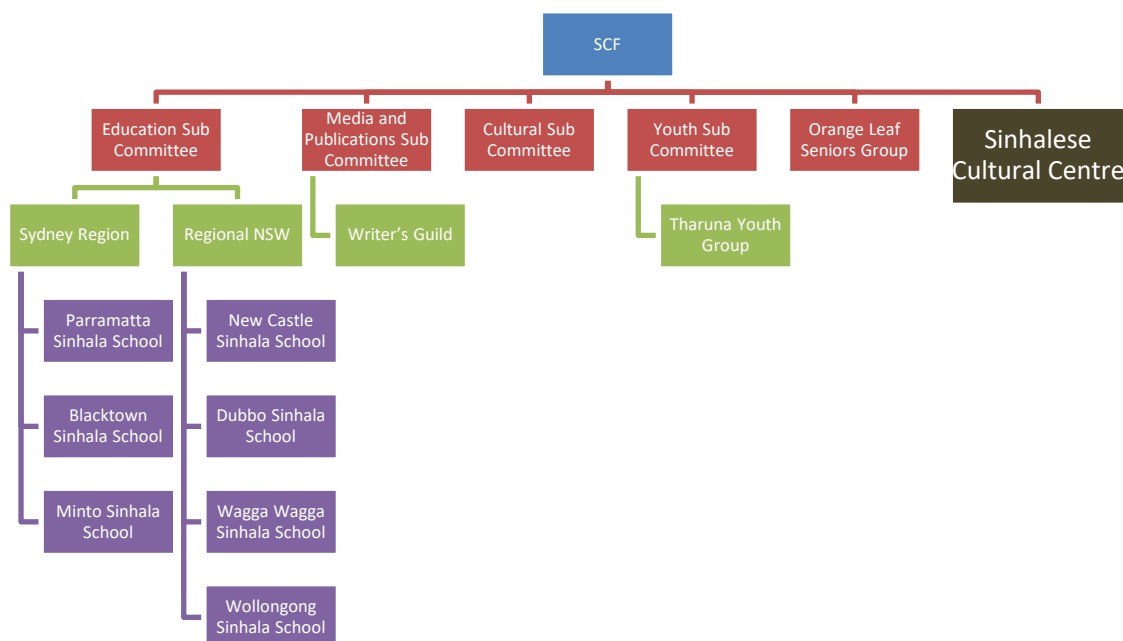
The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited was established by the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW Inc as a Not-for-Profit company in December 2015 for the sole purpose of establishing and managing a cultural centre for the benefit of the Sinhalese community in NSW and other communities around us. The first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

This is the fifth year of operations of SCC. The objectives and the structure of the SCC are summarised below.

The summary of the objectives of SCC are:

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

The organisation chart of SCF 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

- 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 2020 (November 2019 – November 2020) were as follows.

- Nihal Fernando (Chair)
- Dayawansa Siriwardena (Deputy Chair)
- Anil Fernando (Secretary)
- Susil De Zoysa (Treasurer)
- Upul Padukka Vidana (President – SCF)
- Renuka Kaluthanthri Liyanage (Nominee – SCF)
- Don Wickrama
- Pramuk De Silva
- Eranga Ranasinghe



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3 Events and Activities

3.1 Overview

The year 2019-2020 is a very special year for the Sinhalese Cultural Centre. COVID-19 Pandemic affected majority of the planned functions and events. The income and the profits of the financial year were affected heavily like many other organisations and businesses. In a positive note, in year 2020, the Sinhalese Cultural Centre successfully acquired the first property – an important historical event for our community.

The key milestones and significant events in this year are as follows.

- a) SCC successfully acquired the property 28 Cacia Avenue, Seven Hills to establish the Sinhalese Cultural Centre (settlement took place on 16th October 2020)
- b) Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the SCC Nite 2020 was postponed just few weeks before the scheduled date. The planned food fair in July 2020 was postponed number of times. Finally, the first Food Take Away event was held on 21st November 2020 very successfully under COVID-19 restrictions.
- c) For the first time, SCC received the Multicultural NSW grant (\$5,000) to develop the Ozlanka community website. Ozlanka website further development is currently in progress.
- d) SCC received a COVID-19 Community Support Grant (\$5000) from Multicultural NSW
- e) In the property acquisition fundraiser, SCC raised 64K+, just in four weeks, with the excellent support from the community
- f) As a part of the property acquisition, SCC successfully received the stamp duty exemption from NSW Government (Revenue NSW)

In the year 2019-2020, 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, to plan and execute major events. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, after February 2020, most of the meetings were held online using Zoom.

The highlights of the activities in 2019-2020 are as follows.

- a) Fund Raising Event – Lanka Cuisine, Sri Lankan Food Fair – Spring 2019 (Held on 23rd November 2019 at Roselea Community Centre)
- b) Fund Raising Event – SCC Nite 2020 (Planned to held on 28th March 2020, however postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic)
- c) Fund Raising Event – Sri Lankan Food Take Away with Limited Dinning In (Originally planned to be held on 4th July 2020 but postponed to 8th August 2020. Due to increased COVID-19 cases, the event was postponed again. Finally, it was held on 21st November very successfully)
- d) Property Acquisition – 28 Cacia Avenue, Seven Hills (Contract exchange on 18th July 2020, Settlement on 16th October 2020)
- e) COVID-19 Community Support Program (1st July 2020 – 30th September 2020)
- f) Further development of Premier Community Website ozlanka.com
- g) Continued promotion of JanaShakthi Program
- h) 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. The SCC continued to use the operating account at Commonwealth Bank, primarily to assist with the debit card facility. Further in this year, SCC opened another account with the Commonwealth Bank for Ozlanka activities.

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. In this year, upon application, Paypal granted SCC a very attractive reduced merchant fee structure considering the Charity status and the Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

The above described financial structures again changed with the property acquisition activities (post 2019-2020 financial year). The SCC property loan was from the Commonwealth Bank. As a result, a loan account and another society account were opened with the Commonwealth Bank.

The SCC is planning to consolidate the bank accounts with the Commonwealth Bank in the coming months.

The SCC produced financial statements for the financial year 2019/2020, approved by the Board of Directors and later audited in accordance with the government regulations. The audited financial statement is provided in section 4.

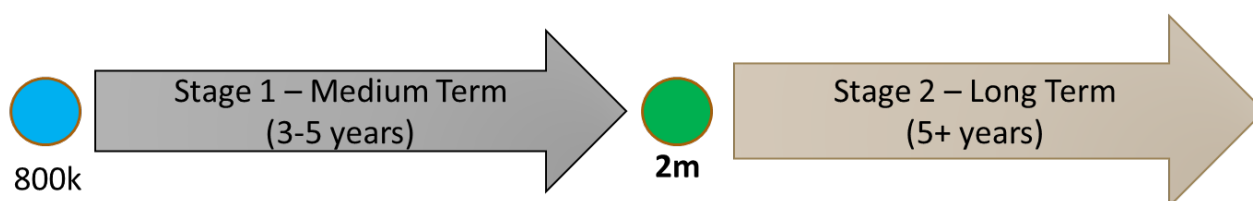
This Annual Report and the Financial Statement will be published in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) online portal, to meet the charity registration requirements and to provide the full transparency to our members and the community in general.

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 Property Acquisition – 28 Cacia Avenue, Seven Hills

A key objective of the SCC was to acquire a property to establish the Sinhalese Cultural Centre. This has always been considered as challenging. In the last two years, the SCC planned for a two-stage process to get where we want to be. The plan in summary was as follows.

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



In second quarter 2020, the SCC applied for a property loan from the Commonwealth Bank (Not for profit branch), primarily based on the cash reserves and the positive financial outcomes of the last three financial years. Considering the application, the Commonwealth Bank approved a loan up to \$800,000 property value with 20% deposit. Even though SCC was looking for properties in the recent past, this was the actual starting point to initiate the property search.

After searching for properties, the SCC found the property 28 Cacia Avenue, Seven Hills. After careful consideration, SCC decided unanimously to pursue the acquisition of this property. The reasons for the decision are as follows.

- a) Meets the conditions of the bank loan (e.g. purchase price, property valuation, potential rental income)

- b) Reasonable land size (771 Sqm) with an old house (5 bed room, small)
- c) Adjacent to parks, foot/cycle tracks and other amenities (Council Property)
- d) Property zone allows community facilities with Council permission
- e) Public Transport – 850m to Seven Hills Station, 250m to busses
- f) Price - \$780K
- g) Agreement for 90 – days Settlement



The SCC exchanged the contracts on 18th July 2020 to purchase the property with 5% deposit and 90 days settlement period. A longer settlement period was chosen as the SCC had to raise nearly \$60K for the settlement, assuming there is no stamp duty exemption. The SCC was determined and had the confidence to raise this deficit from the community, while there were back-up plans.

The SCC launched the main crowdfunding effort through the Ozlanka Crowdfunding Platform in August 2020. Due to the excellent community response, the SCC raised nearly \$64K in four weeks to successfully complete the acquisition. Further, the SCC received the stamp duty exemption from Revenue NSW, as a result of the comprehensive application justifying the eligibility.

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Centre for All Sri Lankan Community
 The Sinhalese Cultural Centre is acquiring a property to establish the "Sinhalese Cultural Centre"

Seven Hills- Central to where our community is living,
 It is adjacent to parks, foot/cycle paths and amenities,
 Close to public transport, potential for future.
28 Cacia Avenue, Seven Hills

Your support is vital at this moment!
 You can financially support through

- Direct Donations
- Jana Shakthi Contributions
- Crowdfunding Project

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

For details please join live **zoom** meeting
Sunday 16th Aug 2020 7:30 pm

Meeting ID 897 1703 5940 Password 804079

Contact
 Daya - 0408 228 435 Nihal - 0417 660 646
 Pramuk - 0425 358 508 Susil - 0410 168 572
 Upul - 0425 272 945

www.sccsydney.org.au sccmedia@sccsydney.org.au

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The property settlement successfully took place on 16th October 2020.

The SCC would like to thank all the members of community who contributed in numerous ways (JanaShakthi and General Contributions) towards this property acquisition!

The SCC would like to thank all the community organisations who contributed towards the property purchase.

Further, SCC would like to thank Mrs Visakha Ratnapala (VI Ratnapala Solicitors) for providing conveyancing services to successfully complete the property acquisition.

The SCC is currently planning to take the property out of rental, carry out an initial renovation and start using the facility for the planned community activities in early 2021.

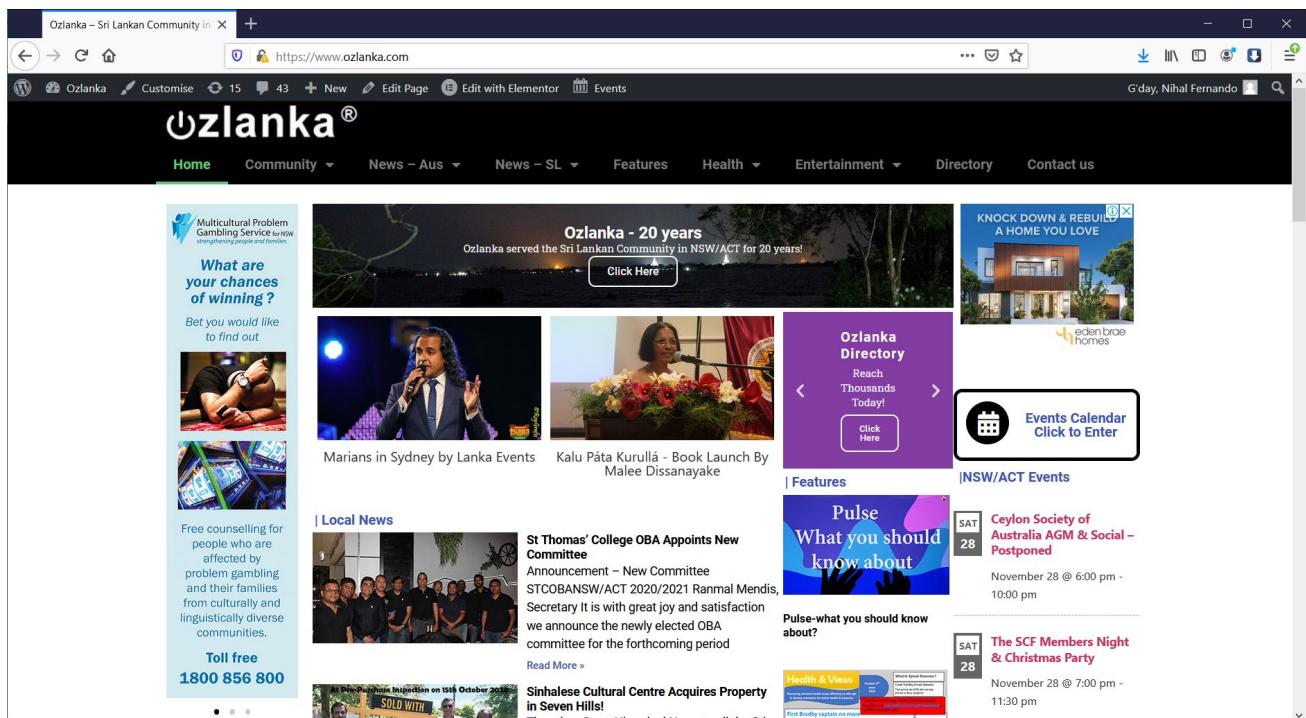
3.2.3 Ozlanka Acquisition and Further Development

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 operates 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. As a result, SCC registered a separate business name called "Ozlanka Services" to enable this segregation.

To further develop the Ozlanka Community Website, the SCC applied for a grant from Multicultural NSW and received successfully. The SCC would like to thank NSW Government (Multicultural NSW) for providing this grant to carry out the essential website development work. The website development work is currently in progress and largely completed.



The SCC expects to further enhance the community services through Ozlanka website. Further, the SCC expects increased financial return once the new plans are implemented.

3.2.4 COVID-19 Community Support Program

COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge to all of us. Many members of our community have been affected in numerous ways due to the pandemic. To support the affected community members, the SCC applied for a grant from the NSW Government (Multicultural NSW) and received. With the support of this grant, the SCC launched the COVID-19 Community Support Program in July 2020.



The support program was aimed at providing food and groceries to the affected community members. To maximise the effectiveness of the support, the SCC decided to provide “Woolworths Grocery Only Gift Cards” to the selected recipients. Woolworths offered a discount (5%) on these gift cards considering the charity & DGR status of SCC.

Even though the SCC planned to provide food to the selected recipients, SCC later decided to extend the support through Grocery Only cards, recognising the effectiveness of the method of support.

The SCC supported over 60 needy community members (families with children, couples, and individuals) in different ethnic backgrounds including Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim through this COVID-19 Community Support Program.



3.2.5 Web Presence, Email and Use of Social Media

The web presence (www.sccsydney.org) and the email services of SCC have been 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.

Further, many events and activities were promoted heavily through WhatsApp which is recognised as highly effective.

3.3 Fund Raising and Community Engagement Activities

3.3.1 Fund Raising Event – Lanka Cuisine, Sri Lankan Food Fair – Spring 2019

The SCC hosted the event “Lanka Cuisine, Sri Lankan Food fair – Spring 2019” at Roselea Community Centre on 23rd November 2019. This is the first food fair hosted by the SCC and the event was a great success considering it is the first of the planned regular event.

The food stalls were organised by number of community organisations and teams including Ceylon German Technical Training Institute Old Boys' Association NSW Inc (CGTTIOBA-NSW), Peradeniya University Alumni Association (PUAAN), North Parramatta Sinhala School (NPSS) and Blacktown Sinhala School (BSS).

The key outcomes of this event are as follows.

- a) A great start to the SCC food fairs and similar fundraising events
- b) Created the much-needed community awareness about the Sinhalese Cultural Centre including the establishment of close relationships with other community organisations
- c) Raised an income over \$13K
- d) Raised a net surplus over \$6K considering donations, re-usable equipment and consumables
- e) Enhanced the community bonding



The SCC gained valuable experience in hosting food fair events and identified number of improvements to be implemented in the future similar events. The SCC plans to implement the identified improvements and enhance the community experience and the return to the Sinhalese Cultural Centre.

The SCC would like to thank all the organisations and individual teams who supported this event, sponsors and all the community members who participated in the food fair and purchased food.

3.3.2 Fund Raising Dinner – SCC Nite 2020



For the fourth time, the SCC fundraising social event, SCC Nite 2020 was planned to be held on 28th March 2020, at the Roselea Community Centre, Carlingford with an improved format. The entertainment was planned to be provided by the popular “Desmond and the Impressions”. The buffet style food was organised, sponsorships were arranged, and many reservations were in the guest list. However, unfortunately, just few weeks before the event, the SCC took the decision to postpone the event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SCC plans to hold this event (as SCC Nite 2021) next year. The SCC has reserved the Roselea Community Centre for number of days (March, July, September and November). One of these days will be used for the SCC Nite 2021, depending on how the COVID-19 situation progresses.

3.3.3 Fund Raising Event – Sri Lankan Food Take Away with Limited Dinning In

The SCC together with SCF hosted the event “Sri Lankan Food Take Away with Limited Dinning In” at Roselea Community Centre on 21st November 2020. This event was originally planned as a Food Fair, then later changed to a Food Take Away event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was then postponed from July 4th to August 8th and then to 21st November. Finally, the event was held on 21st November with COVID-19 restrictions in place and it was a great success!

The key outcomes of this event are as follows.

- a) A great start to the SCC food take-away type of events
- b) Created the much-needed community awareness about the Sinhalese Cultural Centre
- c) COVID-19 restrictions needed extra planning and resources
- d) Sold 960+ food packs
- e) Raised an income over \$11.5K including event related donations
- f) Raised a **net surplus over \$8.5K** including event related donations
- g) Enhanced the community bonding

Please pre-order by 19th November!

Sri Lankan Food

Take away with limited Dinning In!

21st November 2020

12:00noon – 6:00pm

Roselea Community Centre,
645-671 Pennant Hills Rd, Carlingford NSW 2118

Other pick-up locations
Kellyville Glenwood Minto

Chicken Biriyani & Vege Biriyani

Contact
Daya - 0408 228 435 **Nihal - 0417 660 646**
Pramuk- 0425 358 508 **Upul - 0425 272 945**
Eranga -0401 326 921

\$10

Online orders
www.sccsydney.org.au/shop
 Email - events@sccsydney.org.au

All Proceeds go to the Sinhalese Cultural Centre




The SCC gained valuable experience in hosting food-takeaway type events which will be used in the future. Further, SCC identified number of improvements to be implemented in the future similar events. The SCC plans to implement the identified improvements and enhance the community experience and the return to the Sinhalese Cultural Centre.

The SCC would like to thank all the volunteers who supported immensely to make this event a great success. Specially the great effort of the team of volunteer chefs is kindly appreciated. All the donations from the members of the community towards the event was a great help and much appreciated. Finally, SCC would like to thank all the community members who supported our effort by purchasing food!

4 Financial Statement

Financial statements for SCC was prepared for the year ending 30 June 2020 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 2019-20 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 2019/2020

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 2020.

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
Dayawansa Siriwardena	Director/Vice Chairperson	8/11/2019	Present
Samarappulige Anil Shantha Fernando	Director/Secretary	28/10/2018	Present
Demuni Jercy Susil Jayawardhana De Zoysa	Director/Treasurer	13/03/2016	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
Manjula Wettasinghe	Director/Secretary	13/03/2016	8/11/2019
Chaminda Janath Kuruppu	Director/Vice Chairperson	28/10/2018	8/11/2019

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 2020 surplus funds generated from ordinary activities amounted to \$25,596 and was transferred to the accumulated fund.

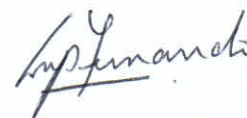
The Committee, having determined that the Association is a non-reporting entity, states:
That in the opinion of the Committee the financial statements as set out herein:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited as at 30 June 2020 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
24 November 2020



Nihal Fernando
Chairperson
24 November 2020

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income			
Donations		200	285
JanaShakthi Contributions		9,980	36,640
Fundraising	2	13,432	63,475
Ozlanka Services Income	3	645	-
Ozlanka Grant	3	5,000	-
COVID-19 Support Grant	4	5,000	-
Miscellaneous Income		1	-
Interest		1,455	1,373
Total Income		35,713	101,772
Expenses			
Bank charges		36	-
Fundraising	2	9,126	49,831
Ozlanka Services Expenses	3	810	-
SunFest trade stall		100	-
Administrative, Stationary and Printing		45	-
Total Expenses		10,117	49,831
Surplus		25,596	51,942

Susil De Zoysa

Treasurer

24 November 2020

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Bank	6	136,289	115,544
Parramatta City Council Bond		-	500
Other	7	1,031	1,200
Current Assets		137,320	117,244
Non Current Assets			
Investments	8	6,000	-
Total Assets		143,320	117,244
Liabilities			
Deferred revenue	9	480	-
Liabilities		480	-
Net Assets		142,840	117,244
Equity			
Accumulated Fund	10	142,840	117,244

Susil De Zoysa

Treasurer

24 November 2020

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
Year Ended 30 June 2020

1. Basis of preparation

1. The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting.
2. The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited is a company limited by guarantee and has no equity capital.

2. Fundraising Events

\$	SCC Nite 2019	SL Food Fair Nov 2019	SCC Nite 2020	Total
Income				
Sponsorships	100	125	-	225
Food sales	-	13,050.15	-	13,050
Donations	-	50.85	-	51
Other Income	-	106.45	-	106
Total Income	100	13,332	-	13,432
Expenses				
Hall Charges	-	(344)	-	(344)
Entertainment	-	(500)	-	(500)
Material Cost (Food and other supplies)	-	(4,409)	-	(4,409)
Equipment Hire	-	(2,761)	-	(2,761)
Other Expenses	-	(716)	(396)	(1,112)
Total Expenses	-	(8,730)	(396)	(9,126)
Surplus (Deficit)	100	4,602	(396)	4,306

3	Ozlanka	2020
		\$
	Income	
	Advertising	645
	Grant	5,000
	Total Income	5,645
	Expenses	
	Operating expenses	(810)
	Total Expenses	(810)
	Surplus	4,836

4 COVID-19 Support Grant

CoVID-19 Support Grant was received on 25 June 2020.

As per the grant condition funds were disbursed to recipients between 1 July 2020 to September 2020

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited
Notes to and forming part of the financial statements
Year Ended 30 June 2020

5 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.

6 Cash and Bank

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
STG Account 0947	21	21
STG Account 2449	30,709	21,378
STG Account 1291 (Public Fund)	57,843	46,972
STG Term Deposit 4098	25,939	25,529
STG Term Deposit 1609	21,009	20,665
CBA Account 1944 (Operating)	147	200
CBA Account 8977 (Ozlanka Services)	446	-
Paypal Account	175	779
	136,289	115,544

7 Other assets

SCC Nite Sponsorships Receivable		1,000
SCC Nite Tickets Receivable		200
SCC Nite 2020 Hall Charges	281	-
SCC Nite 2020 Food Deposit	500	-
SCC Nite 2020 Entertainment Deposit	250	-
	1,031	1,200

SCC Nite 2020 was postponded due to Covid-19 restrictions.

8 Investments

The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited purchased ozlanka Website and Associated rights for \$6,000 and the transaction was completed on 30 August 2019.

9 Deferred revenue

	2020	2019
SCC Nite 2020 Tickets	480	-
SCC Nite 2020 was postponded due to Covid-19 restrictions.		

10 Accumulated Fund

	\$	\$
Balance Brought Forward	117,244	65,302
Transferred to fund	25,596	51,942
Balance Carried Forward	142,840	117,244

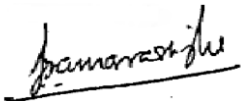
The Sinhalese Cultural Centre Limited (SCC)

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SCC

Review of Financial Affairs:

I examined the Balance Sheet of (SCC) as at 30 June 2020 and the related Statements of Income and Expenditure 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 2020.



Prabhath Amarasinghe

Auditor SCC

24 November 2020