

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017/18 by the Committee of Management**  
**For the period 27 September 2017 to 16 August 2018**

**1. Management Committee**

A new 14-member Management Committee was elected to office uncontested at the Annual General Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2017. The first meeting of the Committee was held at the Bates Street premises on Thursday 9 October 2017. Until the end of August a total of Eleven Committee Meetings were held with more than 80% of the members participating in the deliberations.

**2. Membership**

27 new members joined the Association and 24 passed away during the period July 2017 to end of July 2018. 4 joined as Associate Members.

**3. Our Activities**

28.09.17 - Saraswathy Pooja - rituals were performed by Mr. Thangarajah to pay obeisance to Goddess Saraswathi. The highlights of the celebrations were the talk by Prof. Gnana Kulendran on "Aathi Shakthi" and music recital of devotional songs by Mrs. Kanagambikai Jeganathan. The Secretary Mr. Thevarajan proposed the vote of thanks

19.10.17 – "Deepavali Celebrations" - A speech by Mrs. Karthikayini Kathirgamanathan on "Deepavali" and a music recital by Dr Sivarathy Ketheeswaran were the highlights of the Celebrations of this year.

26.10.17 - Dr. Paran Sithamparakumar gave a talk on "Live long with sickness". Mr. Paramasamy Panchadcharam and Mrs. Sarojini Nallanthuvan celebrated their birthday and hosted the lunch.

09.11.17 - Vedanta Scholar Shri M.K. Ankajan delivered a discourse on "Forget your age and live your life".

23.11.17 - Christmas Carol Services were performed at the Community Centre Hall with a house full of audience. The Adult Tamil Choir of Sydney Tamil Christian Fellowship and our own singers sang the hymns. Rev G Nadarajah delivered the sermon and blessing. Mr. Manickarajah delivered the vote of thanks. Mr. Thisairasa organised the events of the day.

18.01.18 - "Thai Pongal" was celebrated in a grand scale with a music recital by Miss Madhuvanathi Pakeerathan and a speech by Mrs. Kalaiyarasi Chinniah on "Expatriate Tamils & Cultural Festivals".

25.01.18 - Tamil Scholar and Attorney at Law Mr. Bagavadaas Sriskandadaas delivered a speech on "Impermanence in Tamil Literature". Mrs. Pathma Thangarajah hosted the lunch.

08.02.18 - A drama version of the short story authored by Mrs. Thevaky Karunakaran which was broadcast in SBS Radio was again played for the members. Mr.R.Shanmuganathan presented a humorous programme on Films.

22.02.18 - Mr. Thirumugam Arumugam gave an educative and illuminating speech on "Medieval Chola Temples of Polonaruwa" which was well received by the audience.

01.03.18 – Shiyamala and Priya, daughters of our deceased member Mr.T.Visuvanathan, and their families sponsored the lunch in memory of their late father.

08.03.18 - The Outdoor Games Competitions were conducted with the active participation of members at Airey Park. Mr. Paskaranathan and Mr. Murugesu were instrumental in organizing the competitions and the credit of the success goes to both of them. Mrs. Rita Sathiyamoorthy and Mrs. Kamala Krishnapillai celebrated their birthday and hosted the lunch.

10.03.18 - A group of our members went on a tour to Orange, NSW, with a full load of 55 persons and visited interesting tourist attractions like 'Lake Canobolas' and Botanic Gardens. The trip was memorable and every one enjoyed it.

22.03.18 -A friendly Cricket Match was played between the President's Team and the Secretary's Team with interest and enthusiasm. This was followed by the Prize Giving. Dr. Balasubramaniam (sponsor of the shield for the winning team of the Cricket Martch), the Mayor of Strathfield Cr Gulian Vaccari, Deputy Mayor Cr Nella Hall, councillors Karen Pensabene, Maryanne Duggan and Stephanie Kokkolis graced the occasion and gave away the prizes and shields to the winners and runners up. Mr. S. Suntheralingam

proposed the vote of thanks.

12.04.18 -The adjourned AGM of BENSOC was held at Bates Street Community Centre Hall. It was followed by the 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebrations of our former President Col. V. Ramanathan & Seetha. The lunch was hosted by Col. V. Ramanathan and Mrs. Seetha Ramanathan.

19.04.18 – International Women's day was celebrated with two dramas, dances and songs which were well appreciated by the audience.

26.04.18 -Tamil New Year was celebrated with a music recital by Dr Sivarathy Ketheeswaran and a speech by Dr Aaru Thirumurugan.

10.05.18 - Hon. Jodi McKay, MP for Strathfield and Hon. Julia Finn, MP for Granville shared their experiences on their recent visit to Jaffna.

15.05.18 – 19.05.18 - A group of our members enjoyed a Cruise which was facilitated by TSCA.

24.05.18 - Tamil Scholar Mr. Mylvaganam Thanapalasingam delivered a speech on "Heart Touching Silappathikaaram"

14.06.18 – Well known orator from the Australian Kamban Kazhalagam Mr. T, Thirunanthakumar delivered an interesting speech on "Thoughts on Tamil Literature".

28.06.18 -"Singing Fun Show" called "Paaddukku Paaddu" was ably conducted by well known radio announcer and programme producer Mrs. Sona Prince. The lunch was hosted by Mr. VM Thevarajan and Mr. K. Thanga Rajah.

05.07.18 - Prof. Sathiyamoorthy delivered a philosophical discourse on "Mental Resource is Community Resource" which was well received by the audience. Vote of thanks was given by Mr. Thevarajan.

07.07.18 – Grand Parents' / Grandchildren's Day was celebrated at Carrington Church Hall, Strathfield. Our former President Mr. Shiva Pasupati awarded the Certificates of Appreciation to the participant grandchildren

12.07.18 -Mr.A.Kugarajah delivered a speech on "A few Memories". Mr.Kalvalai Seyon celebrated his birthday and hosted the lunch.

19.07.18 – Ms Yoga Subramaniam hosted the lunch and provided 'Aadik kool' in view of Aadi Pirappu.

26.07.18 - Men's Day was celebrated with two dramas, songs and various interesting programmes. Mr. A & Dr (Mrs.) D. Sivathondan hosted the lunch.

02.08.18 - Mr. V & Mrs. PJ Gunaratnam celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and hosted the lunch.

16.08.18 -Mr. M. Sithamparabharathy, Famous Orator from Madurai, Tamilnadu delivered a speech on "Thamilar Aram". Mr. C. Sivasooriyar hosted the lunch in memory of his late father.

#### **4. BENSOC**

The Benevolent Society, our affiliate, held their Annual General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018 having been adjourned on 15<sup>th</sup> March due to lack of quorum. The following were elected as Trustees.

K. Kalvalai Seyon – President, S. Sri Ganeshwaran, Secretary, N S Thiru Treasurer,  
M. Mohankumar – Assistant Secretary, R. Rajendram - Assistant Secretary,  
K. Ratnakumar , Assistant Treasurer and S. Nithianantham , Assistant Treasurer.  
Dr. R.K. Pillay and Samy Pasupati were appointed as our TSCA Representatives.

#### **5. Physical Exercise Classes**

Every Thursday, except on Members' Day and the second Thursday, physical exercises are being held under the able guidance of Mrs. Sarojini Nallanthuvan. These exercises help in maintaining the physical fitness of our members. In the early part of the year Mrs. Kanagaratnam conducted this program.

#### **6. Arts & Crafts**

On the second Thursday of every month Arts & Crafts classes are conducted and an exhibition is held annually well organized by Mr. Thisairasa. Arts, crafts and other creative pursuits have the power to help seniors improve their hand-eye coordination, cognitive abilities and concentration.

## **7. Indoor & Outdoor Games**

Chess, Carrom, Bridge, Scrabbles, Draughts and Table Tennis are facilitated at the Community Centre for the benefit of Members. This year we have added Bingo and Rummy to our games list. An Indoor Games Tournament is organized in March each year to coincide with the Seniors' Week and the winners are awarded trophies. An Outdoor Games Competition and a Cricket Match is played at Airey Park near our Meeting Hall during the Seniors week. (List of winners & runners up appears on Page 26). These events foster socialising, physical activity and fun. They also serve the seniors as a great resource to escape from the stress associated with the day to day living.

## **8. "Issaiyum Kalaiyum"**

This new program has been introduced this year. Once a month members have the opportunity to exhibit their singing skills as well as relating comedies or their past experiences. Members show keen interest in participating and everyone enjoy the day.

## **9. Website**

TSCA's website is actively managed by Mr. V.M. Thevarajan with the Weekly Journal and photo albums. Thank you Col.Ramanathan for administering the website in an excellent manner during the past years until this was taken over by the Secretary last year. This website serves to keep our members and the world informed of how active we seniors are.

## **10. Photographs**

All these years Col. Ramanathan and Mr. Kunaseelan were using their own cameras for taking photographs of Association's activities. Now the Association has its own camera bought at a cost of \$ 872 in March this year. Mr. Thevarajan makes use of this camera in the absence of Mr. Kunaseelan.

## **11. New PA System**

In the past Air Microphones were hired at a high cost when required for dramas performed on our stage. Very often the PA system too was borrowed from Auburn Tamil Society for events such as AGM, Christmas & Pongal Celebrations. The Association has, in January 2018, added a good PA system to its assets at a cost of \$4100.

## **12. Grants**

We have been successful in getting a grant of \$3000 from Hon Ray Williams, Minister of Multicultural Affairs NSW of which \$1000 is for Grand Parents / Grand Children's Day and \$2000 for the purchase of two laptops. We wish to thank the Honourable Minister for the grant and our thanks are also to Hon Scott Farlow MLC Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier and His worship the Mayor of Strathfield Cr Gulian Vaccari for facilitating the grant.

## **13. Bates St Premises and hire charges**

As usual, we applied to Strathfield Council in November 2017 for permission to use the Bates St premises on Thursdays in 2018. On 5 Dec we were sent an invoice for \$19714 as hire charges payable for 2018. We appealed against this and our president Mr. Sivathondan interviewed the Mayor, General Manager and Director of Corporate Services and stated our case for use of the premises free of charge. Mr. Shiva Pasupati, past president, accompanied Mr. Sivathondan for one meeting. As the Council officers appeared non-negotiable re the hire charges, assistance was sought from Cr Karen Pensabene who made representations on our behalf. We also made Minister Hon Ray Williams and Hon Jody McKay M.P aware of the issue. However, the councilors passed a resolution confirming the rates of hire charges. On 7<sup>th</sup> August a motion for a lesser hire charge was submitted by Cr Karen Pensabene and it got lost by one vote. In the circumstances, Mr. Sivathondan, sought an appointment with Director of Corporate services, met him and the Manager on 14<sup>th</sup> August. Cr Karen Pensabene and Cr Maryanne Duggan accompanied him. After a frank discussion the Director and Manager agreed to give us the maximum permissible 85% discount. This needs further clarification. We will have to pay a rent of \$3816 if we use the main room (Redmire) for 4 hours and the small room (Airey) for 6 hrs on 48 days in a year. In addition, an annual cleaning and utilities fee of \$250 is payable. We will keep you informed of further developments.

## **14. Recognition by NSW Legislative Council**

We are pleased that a motion acknowledging the "tireless efforts and work" of Mr. Sivathondan, committee of management and members of our Association was presented by Hon Scott Farlow MLC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier NSW Legislative Council and Leader of the House, and unanimously passed. A copy of the motion appears on page 19.

## **Acknowledgements**

We would like to commend all those, especially our past presidents and other office bearers, who support us in ensuring that the TSCA continues to be a strong and loud voice in our efforts to improve the quality of life for the seniors.

The Management Committee has great pleasure in gratefully acknowledging the contributions made by members in various ways enabling us to accomplish our tasks to the best of our ability. Sincere thanks to those who work unheralded –

Mr. N.Murugesu, Mr. Naguleswaran, Mr. Manickarajah, Mr. Suntheralingam, Mr. Prabakaran, Mr. Kunaseelan and Mr.Logenthiran in arranging the hall in the mornings and tirelessly stacking the chairs back in the afternoon. Mrs. Sunnenthra Kanagaratnam and Mrs. Sarojini Nallanthuvan who did a wonderful job guiding the physical exercise owe our gratitude. Our thanks are due to Mr. Ponmailainathan and Mr. Panchadcharam who were conducting the exercise classes whenever Mrs. Nallanthuvan gets absent.

Mr. Thanga Raja for ensuring our refreshments, plates, cups, rice etc. whether in meetings or at functions are well stocked. Mrs. PadmaThangarajah, MrsNaguleswaran, MrsSuntheralingam, Mrs. Kamala Sivanaanda Sivanandarajasingam, Mrs. Kandasamy, Mrs. Nallanthuvan, Mrs. Subathra Ramanathan, Mrs. Indra Pathmanathan, Dr Mrs. G. Ponnambalam, Dr Mrs.Nithi Sivathondan, Mrs. Rita Sathiamoorthy, Mr. Velupillai, Mr. Mohan Kumar, Mr. Karunalayan, Mr. P. Arumugam and Mr. Manickarajah for their team effort to ensure orderliness and timely supply of refreshments and lunch smoothly served. Mr. Prabakaran for his enthusiastic support in setting up of the audio and visual equipment. Mr. Kunaseelan, with his expertise in photography for recording the events of the Association.

We also express our thanks to:

- Strathfield Municipal Council for allowing us the use of the Community Centre Hall for our weekly gatherings, Airey Park for our annual outdoor game competitions and the office space for BENSOC, our affiliate.
- Members / their families who hosted lunch at our meetings.
- Editor of “Uravu” for doing the designing and print layout as well, thereby saving a considerable amount of dollars for the Association.
- Gnanam Art Creations for printing our News Bulletin “Uravu”.
- Australian Tamil Broadcasting Corporation for making announcements of our activities.
- RAMS for the catering.
- Our Honorary Auditor Mr. Alagan Hariharan for his remarkable service.
- Mr. N. Murugesu for functioning as the Returning Officer.

## **Concluding Remarks**

On behalf of the Management Committee and on my own as Secretary of the Association, I wish to record my appreciation and gratitude for the trust and confidence you have placed on us. We wish the Association and each and every one of the members a bright future in the coming years.

On behalf of the Management Committee

*V.M.Thevarajan*  
*Secretary*

### ***TSCA ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS***

**Our Financial Report for the current year shows that a sum of \$5844 is due from the members as Annual Subscriptions.**

**Members are kindly requested to pay the dues before the AGM and give their continued co-operation.**