

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018/19 by the Committee of Management

For the period 29 September 2018 to 15 August 2019

1. Management Committee

A new Management Committee was elected to office uncontested at the Annual General Meeting held on the 29th of September 2018. The first meeting of the Committee was held at the Bates Street premises on Thursday 9 October 2018. Until 15 August 2019 a total of Ten Committee Meetings were held with more than 80% of the members participating in the deliberations.

2. Membership

30 new members joined the Association and 33 passed away during the period July 2018 to end of July 2019 and the total membership stands at 777. The membership of 16 members were terminated for nonpayment of annual subscriptions for more than 3 years.

3. Our Activities

18.10.18- Saraswathy Pooja was performed with devotion by Mr. Thanga Raja and Dr (Mrs) Sivarathy Ketheeswaran sang devotional songs which added musical lustre to the serene occasion invoking the blessings of the Goddess Mrs Balam Laksmanan delivered a talk on "Sakthi Valipaadu". She explained the significance of the three Shakthis and how saivaites honour these goddesses over nine days culminating in the Saraswathy Pooja. The Secretary proposed the vote of thanks.

25.10.18 – Dr (Mrs) Manju Rajaratnam spoke on "Power of Mind". She spoke in detail as to how our thoughts and emotions have an impact on our health. Mrs Seetha Ramanathan hosted the lunch in memory of her husband and our past President late Col. V. Ramanathan.

8.11.18 – "Deepavali" was celebrated with music recitals and a speech by Dr Chandrika Subramanian on the festival. She mentioned in her speech about the different reasons told and celebrated in different States of India. Mr Thirunavukkarasu, Mrs Vimala Vigneswaran and Mrs Kanagambikai Jeganathan sang songs of devotion. The celebrations concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the Secretary.

22.11.18 - Mrs Mathuranthaki Vythilingam from Kamban Kazhagam, Australia spoke on "Silappathikaaram". Elaborating, on the subject she said that the story of Kovalan-Kannagi is more than an epic, because of its author's skill and clarity in documenting music and dance theory. She kept the audience spell bound during the whole performance of her speech. Mr Thevarajan proposed the vote of thanks.

6.12.18 - The Annual Carol Service to celebrate Christmas was held at the Bates Street Community Centre, Homebush. President Mr Sivathondan inaugurated the event with his welcome address. The attendance was full house. Cr. Gulian Vaccari, Mayor of Strathfield and Cr Karen Pensabene graced the occasion. After the welcome address the service began with a Nativity scene (Tableau) depicting the birth of Jesus Christ. The Choir made up of members of the Association led the singing. Two special songs sung by the Choir were well appreciated. Congregational songs were rendered by the members of our Association. Mr Charles Dickens, Mr Nicholas Rajanayagam and Mrs P.J. Gunaratnam read sections of the bible. Rev. G. Nadarajah delivered a moving Christmas Message. Mr Sivathondan thanked the participants and the audience. Lunch was hosted by Mr Charles Dickens and Mr M. Mohankumar.

7.1.19 Thai Pongal was celebrated with a speech by Mr Jeiram Jegatheesan from Australia Kamban Kalagam and music recital by Mrs Amirthakala Gnanaratnam. Mr Jeiram quoted verses from Kambaramayam and exhibited his eloquence in the field. The music recital by Amirthakala was a treat to the audience.

14.2.19 - Bro. Umakanthan from "Brahmakumaris Meditation Centre" spoke on "Unconditional Love". The speech brought harmony and peace in the minds of the listeners. Mr Thevarajan delivered the vote of thanks.

28.2.19 - The Outdoor Games Competitions were conducted with the active participation of members at Airey Park. Mr Paskaranathan, Mr Murugesu and Mr Karunalayan were instrumental in organising the competitions and the credit of the success goes to the three of them.

7.3.19 - Hon. Ms. Jodi McKay, M.P. from the Labor Party addressed our members today on the eve of the elections.

14.3.19 - Weekly Meeting - Dr. M. Varagunan and Dr Ms Praba entertained us with their singing talent. They also gave very useful tips to maintain our physical and mental health. Mrs Vasuki Mahadevan hosted the lunch.

22 – 27 March 19 – Cruise -Twenty six of our members went on a cruise to Tasmania from Darling Harbour, Sydney and this was a fascinating and memorable trip.

28.03.19 - Our members participated with enthusiasm in the Cricket Match played at Airey Park. The Cricket match concluded with great success with the President's Team being the victors.

04.04.19 – Our affiliate Tamil Senior Citizens' Benevolent Society held its Annual General Meeting and new Board of Trustees were unanimously elected for the current financial year. It consisted of the following names :-

President :	Dr. R.K. Pillay
Secretary :	Mr. S. Sri Ganeshwaran
Treasurer :	Mr. N.S. Thiru
Asst. Secretary :	Mr. S. Kalvalai Seyon
Asst. Secretary :	Mr. R. Manickarajah
Asst. Treasurer :	Mr. S. Logenthiran
Asst Treasurer :	Mr. S. Ratnakumar

11.04.19 - Swami Ramana Suwarupanantha delivered a talk on "Tips for Joyful living". His speech was engaging and proved himself to be an effective speaker. The speech was followed by Prize Giving for the winners of the Indoor and Outdoor Games. Hon. Jodi McKay MP, Cr Gulian Vaccari, the Mayor of Strathfield, Cr. Maryanne Duggan, Cr Nella Hall and Dr. Bala graced the occasion and awarded the prizes to the winners.

18.04.19 - Tamil New Year Celebrations - A music recital by Ms Madhuvanathi Pakeerathan and a speech by Senchotselvar Dr Aaruthirumurugan were the highlights of the Celebrations. Madhuvanathi, in her performance of about an hour, captivated the audience by her eloquent rendering and her musical talents. Dr Aaruthirumurugan spoke on "Tamil New Year and the Traditions of intertwining Tamils". The audience listened to his inspiring speech very attentively and at the end of it a sum of \$1500 was handed over to him as contribution from the audience for his charity projects in Sri Lanka.

02.05.19 – Mr S. Ponmailainathan presented a programme on nostalgic songs with video. Memories of old school days and the songs we were humming during that time were revived by watching this interesting programme. He and his wife also celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary and hosted the lunch.

09.05.19 - Prof. Dr. A.C. Kantharajah delivered an interesting and informative speech on "Home Gardening" which was well received by the audience. In his speech he explained about the advantages of organic farming and how even birds and animals as well as people get affected when they live near the farms where pesticides are used. By any measure he proved himself to be a very effective speaker and educator. Mr. R & Mrs Rita Sathiyamoorthy hosted the lunch.

16.05.19 - Mrs Viji Dhayanathan from Pink Sari Inc. delivered a speech on "Your Bowel Matters" creating awareness on Bowel Cancer. She advised us to do the Test.- Free Bowel Cancer Screening Tests for All Australians Aged 50 To 74 and not to ignore when it is received by post. Mrs N. Kandasamy celebrated her birthday and hosted the lunch.

23.05.19 – “Women’s Day” was celebrated on a grand scale with dramas, comedy and music. Dr Nithi Sivathondan who inaugurated the celebrations mentioned in her welcome speech that the theme of the International Women’s Day Celebrations is “Balance for Better” and quoted proudly the achievements of women in all walks of life. First item in the agenda was Exercise for Seniors with music which was performed by six members well trained by Dr Nithi Sivathondan. Two dramas on captions “Maya Kannan” and “Thaathaamaar Thathinkina thom” were played by our members. Both were absorbing *dramas*, beautifully done by superb teams of cast and crew. Hope to see more *plays* like these in future from these teams. Congratulations to Mrs Vasuki Mahadevan and Mrs Rita Sathiyamoorthy for the hard work they have put in. Mrs Vasuki Mahadevan and Mrs Xavier sang nostalgic songs and entertained the audience. Mrs Elizabeth Rodrigo sang a lovely song in a great tone with good control on the high notes which was enjoyed by all. Mrs Devakanya Kulasekerran presented a stand up comedy which was hilarious and caused laughter and amusement among the audience. The organiser of the whole event Dr (Mrs) Nithi Sivathondan and her team deserve an accolade for making it a success. Concluding the celebrations Mrs Kalaiyarasi Chinniah gave a speech of appreciation on the event. Well done ladies! You did prove a salient point on Women’s day that you are a force to be reckoned with. Mr A & Dr (Mrs) D Sivathondan hosted the lunch on the eve of the birthday of Mr A Sivathondan.

13.06.19 - Weekly Meeting - Lunch was hosted in memory of our founder member Mrs Pathmavathy Arumainayagam by her family. Mr Samy Pasupati spoke about the services she has rendered to the Tamil Community.

27.06.19 - "Paaddukku Paaddu" was conducted by Mr Suji and Mr Rajkumar and the members participated and sang songs with zeal. Mr. K.Thanga Raja, Mrs. R. Thirunavukkarasu, Mr V.M.Thevarajan and Mr T. Thirugnanasambandar who celebrated their birthdays during the month of June hosted the lunch

25.07.19 - Men's Day was celebrated on a grand scale with a drama on caption "Enakku Ivar Vendaam", written by Mr V.M. Thevarajan and acted with him were Mr S. Suntheralingam and Mr A. Naguleswaran. Mr Thirunavukkarasu and Mr Ponmailainathan sang captivating songs while Mr Sivasooriyar presented a few songs on his Mouth Organ. All programmes were well received by the audience. Mr. Radhakrishnan delivered a speech of appreciation and Mr Kalavalai Seyon proposed the vote of thanks.. Dr.K. Kugathan, Mr. R. Sriskantharajah, Mrs N. Naguleswaran, Mrs D. Kulasekerran, and Mrs B. Gananadha who celebrated their birthdays during the month of July hosted the lunch.,

4. Physical Exercise Classes

Physical Exercise classes are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month under the able guidance of Mrs Sarojinidevi Nallanthuwan. These exercises help our members to maintain the physical fitness of our members. Mr Ponmailainathan / Mr Panchadcharam acts as instructor if Mrs Nallanthuwan is absent.

Arts & Crafts

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

6. Indoor & Outdoor Games

Chess, Carom, 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 another page of this bulletin). 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.

7. “Issaiyum Kalaiyum”

Once a month members are afforded the opportunity to exhibit their singing skills as well as relating comedies or their past experiences. Members are showing keen interest in participating and awaits the day anxiously every month.

8. Website

TSCA’s website is actively managed by Mr. V.M. Thevarajan with the Weekly Journal and photo albums. This website serves to keep our members and the world to know about our activities. .

9. Photographs

Mr Kunaseelan takes photographs of the special activities of our Association at our weekly meetings and these are being sent to all members who have email facilities by Mr Thevarajan. Thank you Mr Kunaseelan.

10. Bates St Premises and hire charges

Last year we reported the continuous negotiations with the Strathfield Council re the hire charges payable for the use of the Bates Street premises.

In December 2017 we were asked to pay \$19714 for 2018. After protracted negotiations between the Strathfield Council and the president Mr Sivathondan, it was reduced to \$4066 for a year effective August 2018.

Our president took up the matter again and after intense negotiations Strathfield councillors unanimously agreed to give us a discount of 95% on the normal hire charges subject to certain conditions. This new rate applies from the last Thursday of February 2019. This equates to \$1600 (approx) for a year. We trust that we will continue to get this rate in the future.

The mayor and the councillors have complimented Mr Sivathondan, our president, for his persuasive but professional manner of negotiations.

We wish to thank the Mayor and the councillors of Strathfield council for their understanding and assistance in solving this important issue.

11. Recognition by NSW Government

Our Association proudly announces that it has been awarded the NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Award for for this year too. We received the award once previously in 2011.

Hon Ms Jodi McKay M.P. said at the award ceremony that the award recognises the Association's service to the community and also the persuasive and successful negotiations the president had with the Council that resulted in lower hire charges not only for our Association but also for the benefit of other similar organisations that use the Bates Street Community centre premises. We wish to thank Hon Ms Jodi McKay M.P for recognising us. Mr Sivathondan received the award on behalf of the Association.

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. Kunaseelan and Mr. Logenthiran in arranging the hall in the mornings and tirelessly stacking the chairs back in the afternoon. Mrs. Sarojini Nallanthuwan who does a wonderful job guiding the physical exercise owes our gratitude. Our thanks are due to Mr. Ponmailainathan and Mr. Panchadcharam who were conducting the exercise classes whenever Mrs. Nallanthuwan is absent.

Mr. Thanga Raja for ensuring our refreshments, plates, cups, rice etc. whether in meetings or at functions are well stocked. Mrs. PadmaThangarajah, Mrs Naguleswaran, Mrs Suntheralingam, Mrs. Kamala Sivanandarajasingam, Mrs. Kandasamy, Mrs. Nallanthuwan, Mrs. Subathra Ramanathan, Mrs. Indra Pathmanathan, Dr Mrs.Nithi Sivathondan, Mrs. Rita Sathiyamoorthy, 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 and Mr Panchadcharam for their enthusiastic support given to Mr Thevarajan in setting up of the audio and slide projector.

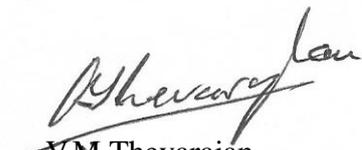
We also express our thanks to:

- Strathfield Municipal Council for allowing us the use of the Community Centre Hall for our weekly gatherings at a concessional rate of hire, office space and Airey Park for our annual outdoor game competitions.
- Members / their families who hosted lunch at our meetings.
- Editor of "Uravu" Mr Thevarajan for doing the designing and print layout as well, thereby saving a considerable amount of dollars for the Association. He has taken this huge task in addition to his numerous other functions in the Association. He deserves a special Thank You from all members for his contribution to TSCA.
- ABC Shop, Toongabbie for printing our News Bulletin "Uravu" and the Member's Directory..
- 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 and healthy life 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 \$5240 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.