

# BLACKTOWN SINHALA SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2018



Providing an unique, individualized, accelerated Sinhala language educational program for the Sri Lankan Sinhalese community living in Western Sydney suburbs which gives our children a taste of Sri Lankan traditions, culture and Sinhalese language skills in multicultural Australia.



# SRI LANKA AND THE SINHALA LANGUAGE

Sri Lanka is an island country in the northern Indian Ocean. Previously known as Ceylon, Sri Lanka claims a documented history that spans over 3000 years. The culture of Sri Lanka has been influenced mainly by this long history and its Buddhist heritage. The country has a rich artistic tradition, embracing the fine arts, including music, dance, and visual arts. The Sri Lankan lifestyle is reflected in the cuisine, traditional festivals, and sports.

Sinhala also known as Sinhalese is the native language of the Sinhalese people, who make up the largest ethnic group in Sri Lanka. It belongs to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European languages. Sinhala is one of the official and national languages of Sri Lanka.

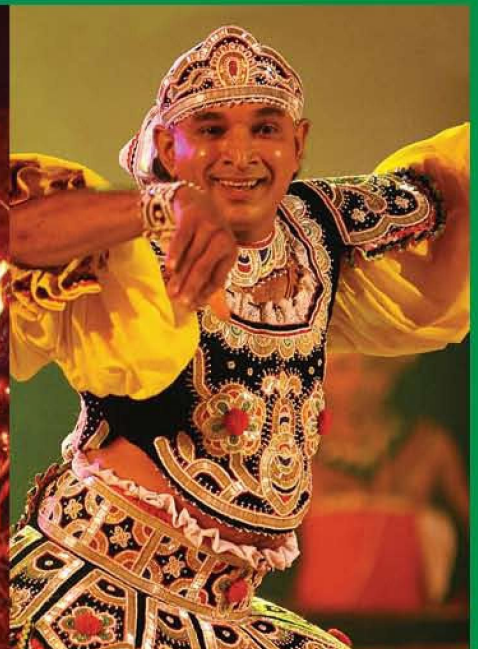
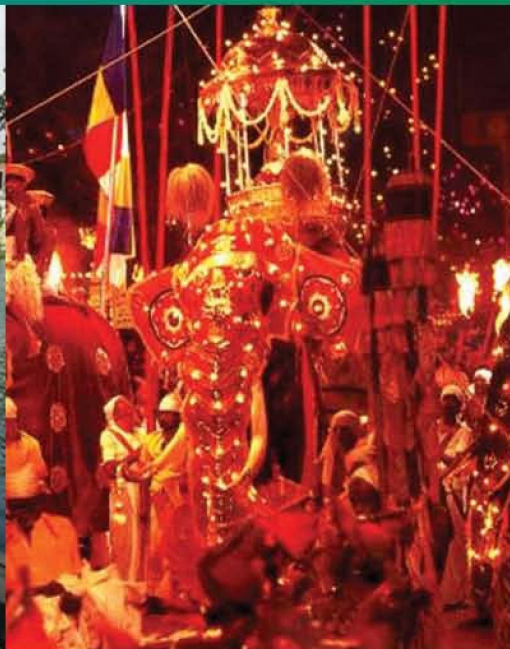
## Sri Lankan Community in Australia

Sri Lankan Community in Australia referred to as *Sri Lankan-Australians*, consist of people and their children of Sri Lankan heritage by birth and by ancestry. This group constitutes one of the largest groups of overseas Sri Lankans living in the Oceania. In NSW, Western Sydney suburbs have been a preferred area for settlement for Sri Lankan migrant professionals and their families due to infrastructure and cultural instincts.

## Sinhala Community Schools in NSW

Sinhala community language schools in New South Wales consists of six schools spread across the state in the suburbs of Parramatta, The Ponds, Minto, Newcastle, Dubbo and Wagga Wagga. These schools play a vital role under the direct supervision of Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW to retain Sinhala culture and language proficiency among Sri Lankan-Australian kids for today, tomorrow and the future generations to come.

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# BLACKTOWN SINHALA SCHOOL

## OUR VISION

To introduce, appreciate and nurture values of Sri Lankan culture among children with Sri Lankan heritage living in North West Sydney suburbs and to knit them together through cultural & linguistic relationships.

## OUR MISSION

- To teach Sinhala language through a dedicated and committed group of teachers.
- To provide and create an environment in which our children will have an enjoyable experience in learning Sinhalese language and make them understand the importance of language as the vehicle to go deep in to Sinhalese culture and civilisation.
- To facilitate learn through practice by creating an opportunity to participate in Sri Lankan cultural events.
- To help create a place where our young Sri Lankan-Australian new generations to meet and develop lifelong relationships with those who have same roots and appreciate similar values.

Blacktown Sinhala School is committed to creating a vibrant, dynamic and a welcoming environment for the children of Sri Lankan heritage to engage, learn and embrace a lifelong love for the Sinhala language and Sri Lankan culture.

The school adopts a scaled teaching methodology through our qualified and dedicated panel of trained teachers. The curriculum is developed and managed by the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW and confirms to the guidelines of the Education Department of NSW and Community Languages Schools Program.

- Operated in the The Ponds High School (180 Riverbank Dr ) on every Sunday from 10.00am to 12.30pm.
- An average of 110 students are currently enrolled in a structured classroom based study program (Kindergarten to Year 6) with a staff of 8 teachers.
- Curriculum is targeted towards improving Sinhala language Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking skills.
- Our children participate in extracurricular activities in speech, singing, dancing, drama, art and craft throughout the year gathering experiences in comprehension, presentation and organizing skills.





# ANNUAL EVENTS

## Some important events from our annual calendar

**Bakmaha Rangana** An annual cultural extravaganza organised by the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW, celebrating the Sri Lankan New Year festivities. The event has undoubtedly progressed to become the most prestigious cultural event for the Sri Lankan community of Sydney. Students of Blacktown Sinhala School take pride in participating in this grand event to kindle their talents and perform in front of a large audience.



### Sinhala New Year Celebrations

New Year in Sri Lanka or the Sinhala Tamil New Year (Aluth Avurudhu) usually falls on April 13th or 14th every year. According to Sinhalese astrology, New Year begins when the sun moves from Meena Rashiya (the house of Pisces) to Mesha Rashiya (the house of Aries). It also marks the end of the harvest and spring thus creating the most expected and largely celebrated cultural event in Sri Lanka. We at Blacktown Sinhala School organise New Year celebrations to let our little ones feel the warmth of cultural values and get hands on experience in participating in them.



### Mahawansa

An exhibition organized by the Sinhalese Cultural Forum of NSW showing exhibits from all the Sinhala Language schools in NSW on a selected historical theme. In addition, it explores the relationship and modern history between Australia and Sri Lanka with a special segment exploring historical similarities between Sri Lankan and Australian indigenous people.



### Sinhala School Cultural Concert

A cultural show organized with the collaboration of all six Sinhala language schools in Sydney to provide a stage for our kids to show their talents in Singing, Drama, Oratory and Dancing.



**Blacktown Winter Dinner Dance** This is the school's main fundraising event of the year. This gala event is positioned as providing entertainment for the whole family. A live band performs to a diverse audience playing popular hits from several generations back to the latest giving the opportunity to dance and swing their body to the beat.

**Christmas Party** The much looked forward event by all children, arrival of Santa Clause, presents and Christmas carols are very much the highlight of this event. With this event we wind up the school activities for the year.





# FUTURE PROJECTS AND FUNDING

Blacktown Sinhala School is partly funded by a grant provided by the Community Languages Program of the Department of Education, NSW.

The school also receives invaluable contributions from local businesses, parents and other well wishers. The school's committee actively participate in fundraising activities to raise money to enable the school to expand and develop.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the school.

Currently, we are seeking funds for the projects mentioned below;

- Printing of school text books
- Providing school uniforms to all the kids
- Organising & participating in cultural events
- Purchase of Audio & Video Equipment for enhanced learning
- Year end Christmas Party



# Blacktown Sinhala School

The Ponds High School  
180 Riverbank Dr, The Ponds NSW 2769

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