



# THE RISE OF AN ERUDITE WRITER Mathu Liyanage

Mathu Hikkaduwa- Liyanage was born in Hikkaduwa in the Galle District in the South of Sri Lanka. He was educated at the Hikkaduwa Government English School and the Dodanduwa Buddhist English Mixed School from where he passed the Senior School Certificate, in the English medium, in 1943, obtaining a Distinction (Very Good) pass in History and Good passes in English Literature, Sinhalese and Rural Science. Although it was a two-year course, he was allowed to sit the examination after one year, as a special case.



Underage at 16 for public service appointments and, in the absence of a University in Sri Lanka till 1948 when one was established at Peradeniya, he studied for University of London examinations. He obtained Advanced Level passes in Economics, English Economic History, British Constitution, Sinhalese, Pali and Indian History – an unguided mixed bag of subjects – which ultimately boosted his ability and talent to become a versatile writer.

He switched on to Philosophy, and earned a Degree of Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Philosophy from the University of London. There was yet another change as he earned a Post Graduate Degree of Master of Letters in Creative Writing from the Central Queensland University (Australia), and topping it up with a Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Creative Writing from WC Ireland.

Mathu gave up his post of Lecturer in Social Work at the Sri Lanka School of Social Work, and migrated in 1975 to Australia as a member of the Australian Association of Social Workers. He worked in Senior Social Worker positions in public welfare departments in Victoria, New South Wales and Adelaide, where he was an Inter-country Child Care Consultant in charge of inter-country adoptions. He also worked as a Senior Social Worker for the Commonwealth Department of Social Security.

He has a Special Certificate in Advanced Social Work awarded by the Philippines School of Social Work of the Philippines Women's University under a United Nations ECAFE Fellowship Scheme. He has also a Diploma in Social Work from the Sri Lanka School of Social Work.

Mathu has contributed, almost regularly, letters, articles and poems, in both English and Sinhala, from a very young age to the Ceylon Daily News, Dinamina, Sunday Observer, Sun (now defunct) The Island (Sri Lanka), and Serendib, Pahana and Sannasa monthly newspapers published in Melbourne. To sharpen up his skills in writing, he followed a course of study and earned a Higher Diploma of Advanced Freelance Journalism from the Australian College of Journalism.

He also had the distinction of writing about 250 letters to the South Australia's national newspaper The Advertiser in just three years, and contributing a series of articles about health to a national magazine Health & Healing published in New South Wales (Australia).

Mathu is the author of Boxing Day, Hello Dolly, A Collection of Essays on Sri Lanka, Crushing Blooming Flowers, Domestic Violence and Child Abuse, and his latest novella The Errant Professor.

The Sri Lanka Presidential Secretariat has commended his art of writing, adding that he will be a "tremendous influence and a motivating factor to the present-day writers in their careers."



## Looking for professional Migration advice ?

The experts in all Australian visa categories with thousands of successful applications from around the world

### Our Services :

We offer you a number of services, ranging from phone consultation to lodging your migration application and appeals on your behalf. Our core services involve:

- ▶ General Skilled Migration
- ▶ Partner Migration
- ▶ Business Migration
- ▶ Parent Migration
- ▶ Visit / Tourist Visas
- ▶ Student Visas



Hemantha Punchihewa  
MARN 0209063



Surani Punchihewa  
MARN 0426579

Australian Address :  
H&S Associates  
737 Burwood Road,  
Hawthorn 3123.  
Australian Contact Number :  
00 61 419 373 888  
E-Mail : [contact@hs-associates.com](mailto:contact@hs-associates.com)

**AUSTRALIAN  
MIGRATION  
CENTRE**

Sri Lankan Address :  
5/6, Railway Avenue, Nugegoda.  
Tele: 011 281 8 833  
Fax: 011 281 8 835.  
E-mail : [contact@australianmigrationcentre.com](mailto:contact@australianmigrationcentre.com)