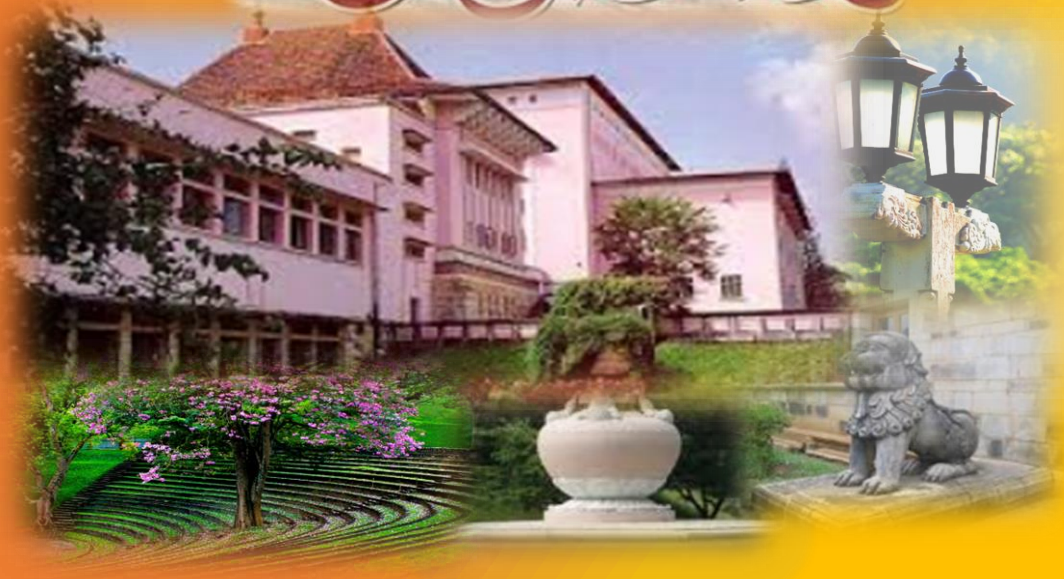




# Peradeniya University Alumni Victoria Chapter

*10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation*

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## ***We celebrate 10 years***

It is perhaps appropriate that we celebrate our anniversary when another cricket world cup is soon to take place in Australia. Some of us who had been at the university together and had dispersed into various parts of the world realised that we were all living in Melbourne when we went to Ballarat in 1992 to see Sri Lanka battle England in a 50 over match. Soon after together with our families we held very informal annual get togethers over a barbeque at one of the parks. The news of such gatherings were transmitted by word of mouth and through the community radio. On such days, there was always a large turnout. We soon discovered that there were a number of different groups of people from Peradeniya who had formed into small social groups living in Melbourne.

At the beginning most of us were opposed to the establishment of a formal organisation. However over time many felt that more could be achieved by becoming one. In 2003 we met for this purpose and decided to appoint the first ever committee to create PUAAViC as a chapter of the Peradeniya University Alumni organisation and register it as a community organisation in Victoria. Thus we became only the second chapter after Colombo and the first ever outside Sri Lanka.

We continued the tradition of meeting together at a BBQ where we brought our own food and drink. We then mooted a proposal to hold a dinner dance. Over the years the dinner dance has not only become a popular event but has earned the organisation a steady income exceeding even the revenue from membership fees. The ready funds enabled us to produce less profitable events until they too broke even. These included cultural shows of young local talent, subsidised family night following the AGM with a favourable setting for families with little children and other such events. A weekend away together was then introduced with much success. These weekends provided a setting, harking back to a time when we lived together in a student community temporarily transporting the adult in us into our remembered youth. A cricket match against the Kelaniya University on Australia Day also became an annual event at which cricket is merely used as an excuse to enjoy a day with alumni of another university. Performances by Jayalath Manorathna one of our more famous alumni, have also entered the milieu of events. Not everyone would enjoy every event on offer but the fervent hope is that everyone would enjoy at least one such event. All these events has led to a vibrant closely knit community of alumni with a shared experience at their beloved campus.

As the organisation matured it began to look at ways to help its alma mater. It provided extra books which were badly needed by the libraries which could not be purchased within their budget. Many contributed funds, others donated their books. Another project helped handicapped students by purchasing PIAF – Tactile Image Makers for the centre for students with special needs. Instrument boxes used by engineering students were donated to the engineering faculty so that students are able to use them and return them at the end of their year to be reused by another set of students. Finally a program to provide financial assistance to students was launched three years ago finding a resonant chord among the alumni here. With this program we have rallied to help many current students at the University.

The organisation has been ably managed by many an executive committee. We now have the tradition of one year president firmly established. It has also faced the hard decision for the need for renewal by bringing in alumni into the committee from social groups not adequately represented. The necessary giving away of positions in the committee has been mitigated by the creation of sub committees where more is achieved with distributed responsibilities. As in any social organisation we have encountered our differences in opinion, have had our arguments, faced disappointments and felt anxious moments. However distant it may now be in place and in time, the memory of enjoying our youth together at this wonderful and sacred place has kept us together and it bodes well for us moving into the future.

**Gamini de Alwis - Faculty of Science 1967-71**





## President's Message

The idea to form an association to help our alma mater, was conceived around ten years ago during a BBQ organised by a small group of alumni. Having given much thought a request was made to a few known alumni to assemble at a community centre to form an official association with the blessings of the Vice Chancellor in consultation with Peradeniya Alumni main body based in Peradeniya. Then Vice Chancellor Professor Kapila Goonesekera sent us the Peradeniya Alumni main body rules or the constitution to formulate our own constitution.



After much deliberations I, Thilak Gunatillake, Gamini Alwis, Gamini Hemachandra and Daya Dayawansa along with Chakra Wijesundera finally came up with a draft constitution which was approved by the gathering to commence work as a legal entity.

Since the formation of the Peradeniya University Alumni Association Victoria chapter we have not looked back but marched forward with pride. Many activities were undertaken and fulfilled to the satisfaction of our membership and to the benefit of University undergraduates. We have managed to support the University by donating a "**Picture in a Flash (PIAF)**" equipment to Late Professor Weerakkody who was vision impaired. Continuous usage of this piece of equipment by the university certainly would give a lifelong satisfaction to the generous donors who fronted to our appeal. We did donate books to all libraries in 2012 and will continue to do so whenever funds are available.

Engineering faculty students were given instrument boxes, which some passed out engineers still admire what we have done.

In a similar note I must mention the support the alumni members, non-members and well-wishers have given us from time to time, by parting with their savings, to donate material and scholarships. This year we donated 142 scholarships and I had the privilege of attending the function held at the University. Amongst the recipients were

handicapped students who were really in need and the credit certainly goes to those who donated scholarships.

PUAAVic has now come of age and are wrapped with a few traditions. The annual trip, Dinner Dance “ Hantane Nite “ and conducting seminars and workshops are a few events we endeavour not to miss. Annual cricket encounter with Vidyalankara is most revered. These events give opportunities, for alumni members and non-members to interact and also develop fellowship.

The idea of celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> year was conceived the day 2013-2014 committee was elected. A subcommittee was formed and sprang into action without much ado. The objective was to celebrate Peradeniya days with a musical evening and finally everyone agreed to invite the dynamic duo **Diga** and **Mano** who were Peradeniya Alumni themselves to display their skills to a wider audience. To give our audience added excitement we also decided to invite Rodney and Madini, two veteran artists to perform along with Diga and Mano. I take this opportunity to thank them profusely for accepting our invitation and deciding to come all the way from Sri Lanka.

The subcommittee spent days and months meticulously planning the entire event and my sincere thanks go to the subcommittee led by Prem Kanahara and Ramya Hewarathna. I also must thank the Members of the Alumni committee for having agreed to hold this event tonight.

Finally I make an appeal to alumni who are yet to become members, to join us to help the University where you laid your foundation of life, to be what you are today, and also to build up fellowship between other alumni.

Sarath Jayasuriya  
President.

02.11.2014



Scholarship award 2014

# Messages from past Presidents.....

## First President Dr Thilak Gunetillake – (2004-2005)

As a founding member and inaugural president of the Peradeniya University Alumni Australia Victoria Chapter (PUAAViC) I am delighted to share a historical perspective of this organization on the occasion of celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Formed in Nov 2004 as the first overseas chapter of the Alumni Association University of Peradeniya (AAUP) through the efforts of a group of Peradeniya graduates living in Victoria. Prior to 2004 several informal gatherings helped many of the Alumni to renew the old friendships at Peradeniya; for some it was an opportunity to meet a batch mate or a hall mate for the first time after leaving Peradeniya or for others to renew friendships. The need for establishing a formal organization was recognized by everyone and at the first general meeting of PUAAViC held in Nov 2004, a 17 member working Committee was elected.



The first year was dedicated to establishing the constitution and recruitment of members as well as formulating strategies to initiate project to help members and more importantly students at Peradeniya campus. The first Peradeniya alumni dinner dance was held in June 2005 with nearly 300 alumni, their families and friends attending. This annual event has continued without disruption since then and the event is popularly known in Melbourne as HantaneNite. Over the next few years more regular annual events made in to the PUAAViCs events calendar providing many opportunities to enjoy and at times to recreate 'good old days' at Peradeniya. The annual trip, friendly cricket match, seminar series, AGM & family get together are few of those events.

The committees elected every year worked tirelessly to maintain PUAAViC as one of the very few well respected and well managed organizations in Victoria. The committee members took turns in hosting regular meetings and everyone enjoyed the drinks and dinner followed. Great efforts were made to organize all events professionally with proper management of all finances. All those who served in the past committees should be credited for continuation of this tradition.

Over the past ten years PUAAViC has helped the students of Peradeniya through several project initiatives; the alumni scholarship program, library book donation,



equipment to center for students with special needs, instruments for engineering faculty, to name a few. The success of the scholarship program is reflected by the tremendous support received from alumni, their children and well-wishers, enabling the award of nearly 200 scholarships over the past two years. This program set on a sound foundation is expected to continue to support many more students in future years as well.

The continuation of PUAAViC as a successful organization in future years depends on increasing its membership, attracting youth to management committee, representation across all faculties, attention to the needs of the members, creating harmony among diverse groups within membership, and initiatives to support the current students at Peradeniya to help with difficulties and promoting academic excellence. While we may have not achieved all these objectives over the past 10 years, the current status of PUAAViC clearly reflects that we have been successful in many, credit to all who served in past committees. The support of the younger alumni has been outstanding over the past few years, a clear sign that the future of the organization is bright.

It is my privilege to have been associated with PUAAViC in several different roles and I will continue to support the activities of the organization in future years to the best of my ability. My best wishes for continued success of PUAAViC for many years to come.

### **Nirmalal Dias – (2005-2006)**

I was happy to be the second President of the Peradeniya University Alumni Victoria Chapter. My primary task was to continue with the good work started by the first President, Dr. Thilak Gunatilleke, especially in regard to establishing a close relationship with the Vice Chancellor and the respective faculties of our Alma Mater. Additionally, a barbeque, family dinner, seminar and a dinner dance were held to foster team spirit and camaraderie, impart knowledge to the Melbourne Sri Lankan population, exploit youthful talent especially among children of Peradeniya parentage and collect funds to assist deprived undergraduates in the University of Peradeniya.



The pride of the organised event was the Sarasavi Miyasiya. depicting the talents of Melbourne youth. The drama was well received by the audience. The family dinner, which was to become the forerunner to the present day 'Hantane Nite' saw a large participation, the seminar on 'Stress Management' was delivered by the Peradeniya Alumnus Prof. Padmasiri De Silva.

It was truly an eventful year, which continued to build bridges among Peradeniya colleagues of different vintages. I thank my committee for their splendid support.

### **Daya Dayawansa – (2006-2007)**

It was the third year of PUAAVic when I was appointed the President. This was the period that PUAAVic was making attempts to organise a few events to the benefit of our membership and the University.

The committee decide to go on an outing and finally ended up in organising a trip all the way to Albury-Wodonga. NSW alumni were contacted and did arranged to meet at this border town of Victoria and NSW. The participants were transported in a coach and it was an effort to pick up people from various locations. The journey by the coach was memorable since it took us back to Peradeniya days singing all campus songs and as usual slandering each other.

There were around 20 alumni from NSW meeting PUAAVic members for a two night extravaganza. A Gala dinner was organised with a sing song session entertained by Gamini Maharage and Lalith Welikala without a formal band. This was the first and the last union to date held between NSW and PUAAVic alumni associations.

I am happy to observe that the PUAAVic trip has now become a tradition and is being continued annually.

### **Dr Chakra Wijesundera - (2007-2008)**

By this time, PUAAVic has been in existence for over three years and had emerged as one of the major community organisations in Melbourne. More importantly, the Peradeniya alumni had begun to realise their collective strength, and the power at their disposal to achieve bigger and better things for the benefit of the University and the Melbourne community. Furthermore, the Peradeniya alumni were fast becoming a closely knit extended family unit, which gave much relief and joy to a group of people who had left many close friends and relatives back in Sri Lanka to begin a new life in a distant country.



A number of projects initiated in the formative years for the benefit of Peradeniya undergraduates continued to expand and prosper. These included award of

scholarships to needy students, assistance to students with special needs and grant of reference books to the University libraries. Also, plans to establish an Alumni website jointly with the NSW Chapter were well underway.

Locally, steps were being taken to utilise the diverse expertise and skills of alumni members to conduct regular series of public seminars and workshops on specialised topics, which has now developed in to one of the major activities of PUAAViC. The staging of the PUAAViC annual dinner dance under the banner "HantaneNite" also began in 2008, a practice now followed by all Peradeniya Alumni Chapters in Australia.

It is delightful to observe that over a relatively short period of ten years, PUAAViC has emerged as one of major if not the foremost overseas Alumni Chapter of the Peradeniya University. This is testimony to the unity and dedication of the Peradeniya alumni living in Victoria. I have no doubt that PUAAViC will continue to prosper.

### Gamini Hemachandra (2008-2009)

Peradeniya Alumni Victoria Chapter is a unique organisation with a special character. Most significant out of all is the unity and openness. The dedication of the committee while being engaged in their own personal activities is commendable.



Having being appointed the President for a full year term I was compelled to spend more time in Tasmania during my tenure.

The rest of the committee having understood my predicament fronted to support me in running the association while being in Tasmania. I respectfully commend their commitment and dedication. Such unity works only within Peradeniya alumni.

Although I was away from Melbourne thanks to the availability of Technology I managed to function as I was in Melbourne. During the year we organised two main events that we usually offer the membership which were the annual trip and the dinner dance. We also held workshops / talks on selected topics for the membership and the public.

I salute the membership and the past committees and the committees to come for continuing their dedication towards the benefit of our alma mater and the membership at large.

## Prem Kanahara – (2009-2010)

We started the year 2010 with a Dhamma discussion followed by an alms giving Ceremony at Keysborough temple. Ven. Udairiyagama Dhammajeewa thero who is a graduate of the Peradeniya University Agriculture Faculty was residing at Keysborough Temple and showed a keen interest to meet Peradeniya Graduates living in Melbourne. The executive committee and members of our Alumni participated at the discussions and the Alms giving ceremony.



The month of May dawned with very sad news about a young Peradeniya Graduate who was diagnosed with a brain tumour. He arrived In Australia just a few months ago with the wife and a four year old son. Both husband and wife were unemployed and required financial assistance.

Nothing was available from Government agencies. This sad news was brought to the notice of our executive committee and the committee sprang into action. An appeal was sent out to the membership and other well-wishers to collect funds to help them.

The response was overwhelming and unprecedented. Generous contributions made by the members and well-wishers relieved the burden forced upon the family.

2009-2010 “Hantane night” gave an opportunity for fellow Alumni to mingle with high spirit!!

The workshop on “successful job search and career management” attended by a large number of recently arrived graduates was a resounding success.

In October 2010 a large number of our members enjoyed the annual trip, to RACV Resort at Inverloch. It was another memorable occasion with comedy performances by the Alumni which included many sing songs sessions.



## Gamini de Alwis – (2010 -2011)

No committee can take credit for all the achievements in their year of office. The successful events such as Hantane Nite, an enjoyable weekend trip & Manorathne show in our term owe as much to the build-up in the earlier years as to the work done by committee 2010-2011.



However in 2010-2011, we saw the presentation of the accounts and an annual report produced in a professional manner for the first time. The committee also worked more closely with other chapters in Australia. It was instrumental in sowing the seeds of distributed responsibility to sub committees drawing alumni who were not in the main committee. As a consequence the structure of sub-committees was enshrined in the constitution in the next year. The committee can also take pride in succession planning which brought in people from different social groups into the committee and for starting the development of a framework for scholarships.

My wish list for PUAAViC would include that we establish greater openness by publishing of bank statements, accounts, the minutes of all meetings resulting in an informed and assured membership and better protection than auditing, continuous succession planning in seeking and bringing in people from social groups of alumni not adequately represented into the committees and thereby making PUAAViC more representative and protocols which are not binding but will guide the behaviour of the organisation in a predictable and an informed manner.

## Dr Nimal Nilaweera (2011-2012)

*The Tenth Anniversary Celebration* was the heading of President Sarath Jayasuriya's email to me. It landed in my inbox on an evening in early September. I noticed it at once, among the regular stuff I receive these days; the chain letters and the promotional emails. Reading it eagerly, I realized I am still a member of PUAAViC, though living in exile in the ruined Capital of the South Island, New Zealand.



His email was addressed to nine past presidents including me. He has requested a message from all past Presidents for the souvenir to be published on the occasion of

the 10th Anniversary Celebrations. What a democratic organization we are in! Changing the presidency each year. Anyway, the bottom line is I have to write something covering the activities of PUAViC during my tenure, and with enthusiasm obliged to do it.

I was the eighth, the lucky one according to Chinese numerology, contrary to some Sri Lankan belief. I was supposed to lead the A-Team, the Committee, for the year 2011-2012. I recon, it was the period that PUAViC has gained maturity through a rapid process of evolution. It was the period that yielded the outcome of the endurance effort of some diehard alumni, mostly my predecessors, the Seven Past Presidents.

It was the year we all can boast about initiating our Scholarship Program and the launching of the Fathers' Day Celebration, special thanks to the Scholarship Subcommittee and the second generation of the PUAAViC community, and certainly, the donors. We were also fortunate to stage a drama musical with Diga and Mano, a very entertaining evening that traced the traditions of the performing arts of Sri Lanka. Yes, Diga and Mano led us to the Wala, the Sarachchandra Amphitheatre, virtually creating it at the Templestowe Community Centre. Besides that, the subcommittees had managed to continue our regular activities including the Hantane Nite, the Australian Day celebration and our traditional New Year celebrations.

With those fond memories of the PUAViC with success in 2011-12, I should mention the bad one, that is haunting in my mind, perhaps, for the rest of my life that we were unable to materialize the highly expected annual trip and drama night.

So we are completing the success of ten years, and it is time for celebration. I congratulate President Sarath Jayasuriya and the Committee for their effort to realize the Tenth Anniversary Celebration and wish the event a great success.



## Ajith Rukman de Silva – (2012-2013)

PUAAViC reached celebrating its existence unto its 9<sup>th</sup> year with a group of spirited volunteers refreshed after the AGM 2012, forming the new 15 member squad for the executive committee for 2013, and a further 17 members volunteering to go hand in hand with 13 sub committees headed by the Executive Committee members to address the activities for 2013.



It was an impressive beginning by all means and measures, as the way the team planned out for its entire term by identifying suitable events, budgets, fundraisers and dates for activities. Responsibilities and calendar fixtures were made into a matrix for better reference by the sub committees to plan ahead and to act decisively, for better results. As a result, the executive committee had ample time to improve effectiveness and build better rapport with AAUP and counterparts.

I do recall and appreciate the time and efforts of the members who volunteered so much during its 9<sup>th</sup> year, establishing the foundations further by registering a commendable growth in all activities, including record fundraising events, launching newsletters for members, winning the cricket trophy, upgrading web site, offering more scholarships, organising a fun filled trip and the whole new “Kema mesaya”, gainful seminars, nights full of fun and frolic, great cultural events, growing memberships and an eventful AGM at the end.

Today we rejoice the PUAAViC existence of a decade. On behalf of the 9<sup>th</sup> Executive committee let me congratulate the current 10<sup>th</sup> Executive committee and the president Sarath Jayasuriya for making 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration a remarkable reality with “Sarasavi Ninnada”. PUAAViC Membership deserves our sincere appreciation for being part of this celebration and for their passion, interest, support and guidance offered right-through the last 10 years. Thank you PUAAViC members!



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OPENING OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF CEYLON AT PERADENIYA

by

H. R. H. DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K. G.

in the presence of

H. M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II

20th April 1954

# ***A treasure of beauty and wisdom***

The first Vice Chancellor Sir Ivor Jennings' on his first visit to the university site with architect Sir Patrick Abercrombie in said:

**“No university in the world would have such a setting.”**



**It has been sixty years since the ceremonial opening of the Peradeniya University by Her Excellency the Queen Elizabeth II, on 20th of April 1954 on her visit to Sri Lanka.**

The proposal for the establishment of University of Ceylon, the first university of Sri Lanka, which was the predecessor of University of Peradeniya, goes back to 1899. However no progress was made until the formation of Ceylon University Association in 1906 under the guidance of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, Sir James Peiris and Sir Marcus Fernando. Request for a European-style university in Sri Lanka was partially granted by the United Kingdom with the formation of Ceylon University College on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1921.

The University Council, through which the administration of the Ceylon University College was conducted, appointed committees to plan the academic activities of a future university. The committees made suggestions to build the university in Bullers Road (now Baudhdhaloka Mawatha) in Colombo, but it was disputed by politicians. To resolve the conflict, the then **Governor Hugh Clifford** appointed a committee headed by Justice M.T. Akbar on 20 December 1926. It suggested that the proposed university should be unitary, residential and outside of Colombo. Another committee was appointed in 1928 with Sir Walter Buchanan-Riddell as chairman. It proposed a site at Aruppola in the Dumbara Valley close to Kandy. At this stage Dr S.C. Paul and Andreas Nell pointed out disadvantages in the site and proposed a larger one at Peradeniya. In 1938 the government acquired the plot and developed an area about 150 hectares (out of 700 hectares) to create the University Park.

Although the site was acquired, no plans were made to establish the university until 1941. With the arrival of **Sir Ivor Jennings**, as the second principal of the Ceylon University College, establishment, plans were put into effect. He stressed the urgent

need to move the university to Peradeniya to the Minister of Education C.W.W. Kannangara and took the initiative in the process. Thus he is still considered as the forefather of the University of Peradeniya.

## Beginning - 1942 to 1952

In 1942, the University of Ceylon was created as the first unitary, residential and autonomous university in Sri Lanka with its seat in Peradeniya, amalgamating Ceylon University College and the Medical College into a single unit with 55 academic staff members, 904 students in four Faculties. However due to World war II, it was only in 1946, the construction of buildings could be commenced. Until then, the lectures and laboratory classes were conducted in the buildings obtained from the Ceylon University College and the Ceylon Medical College in Colombo. Two consultants, Sir Patrick Abercrombie and Clifford Holliday did the planning and layout of the university complex. The first phase of work constituted only the development of the left bank. The building of a bridge across the Mahaweli River, later known as the *Akbar Bridge*, was planned by Professor A Thurairajah. Transfer of the first batch of students, students from the Departments of Law and Agriculture and the third and fourth year students of the Department of Veterinary Science, from Colombo to Peradeniya took place in 1949. Another major move took place in 1952, with the transfer of staff and students of the Faculties of Arts and Oriental Studies, together with the Main Library and the University Administration. This movement on 6 October 1952 marks the official establishment of University of Ceylon, Peradeniya. At the initial stages, Vice Chancellor Jennings wanted to model the university as British universities, but met with the resistance of students who opposed the changes.



Under the Ceylon University Ordinance No. 20 of 1942, the University of Ceylon was established on 1 July 1942, by amalgamating University College and Ceylon Medical College. The motto of this University of Ceylon was 'Knowledge is the Eye Unto All' (**Sarvasva Locanam Sasthram** in Sanskrit).

## Picturesque Location

The location of the university is extremely charming. It is surrounded by the lovely Hanthane Mountain, Mahaveli River and Kandy-Colombo Road. The world famous Botanical Gardens, another fascinating attraction among tourists and locals alike, is also situated opposite the University site.

The Engineering Faculty and Akbar Hall built closer to Peradeniya Railway Station could be reached across the Akbar Bridge, a portrayal of expertise demonstrated by the engineers led by Prof. A. Thurairajah with advanced technique of construction. The famous Yaka Palama and Sarasavi Uyana Railway Station on Kandy-Galaha Road running through the university strengthen this site with inexpressible beauty to the university. The university premises are unequivocally of natural beauty, with a variety of trees, blooming flowers and radiant breeze.

P.M. Senaratna in his book 'Sir John Kothalawala & The Premier Stakes' in 1952 emphasises the significance of the huge role played by Sir John Kothalawala to establish the University of Peradeniya in getting necessary funds passed by the Government. According to Senaratne, while D.R Wijewardana used his persuasive influence and effort to obtain the services of the world-renowned town-planner Sir Patrick Abercrombie, Sir John Kothalawala insisted that Peradeniya was the best suitable location for the projected university.

The designers and architects have created an excellent masterpiece of work with colossal building structures blending aesthetically with a landscape of natural beauty and incredibly attractive environment. Traditional Kandyan designs have amply influenced the architecture of the buildings.

The most of the buildings with granite slabs and huge images of lions, 'Pun Kalas' and Moonstones, resembles constructional structures of the historical Polonnaruwa era. The doors of the art gallery are covered with the historical Embekke Devale carvings and colonial lampposts.

## Significance of University of Peradeniya

The University is a well-planned city of its own. The concept of the founders of the University to adopt the environment equivalent to that of Cambridge and Oxford Universities under the British patronage has been magnificently achieved with no fence or wall demarcating the neighbourhood.

As a mark of respect for Sherly Alwis who was a member of the architectural team the pond near Arunachalam and Jayathilake halls named 'the Alwis Pond'.

The plaque displayed in remembrance of the visit of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in 1954, erected in the Senate building built on 130 granite columns is a resemblance of a historical palace from the Polonnaruwa era.

## Change of name

While University of Ceylon was functioning its academic schedule smoothly, Colombo University was established in 1967 as a separate university which was operated as a campus of University of Ceylon. Major departments including the Legal Department were moved to Colombo University with all the facilities enjoyed by the University of Ceylon Peradeniya.

In 1972 all the universities were brought under one umbrella as University of Sri Lanka and all universities became campuses under the new University of Sri Lanka. Universities in Sri Lanka were introduced as Peradeniya Campus, Colombo Campus, etc. Then in 1978 with the implementation of new amendments, all campuses became separate universities. Peradeniya Campus was made a separate independent university with a change of name as University of Peradeniya.

The Head of the Government in power became Chancellor by ex-officio, a portrayal of the prestige of the university. It was followed in accordance with British University system. In 1979, President J.R. Jayawardena introduced the appointment of reputed personalities as Chancellors of Universities, ending the prestige enjoyed by University of Ceylon Peradeniya.



## Facilities at the university

University of Peradeniya is the largest residential university in Sri Lanka with all requisite facilities such as student halls of residences, housing quarters, etc. which were made available for the academic and non-academic staff and students. There are 12 student halls including the newly-opened 'Ivor Jennings hall' in the University built with the ancient architectural design in line with the Polonnaruwa era. All these halls have been named after families that spent their money on building the university.

Places of worship of all religions have been made available in the university premises for all to practice their faith. Sarasavi Seya or stupa constructed on top of the mountain hill portrays that of the Thuparamaya in Anuradhapura and gives an additional attraction to the beauty of university. The playgrounds, swimming pools and health centre are a few of the other available facilities.

The Library located in the high rise building of seven floors is one of the largest in South Asia, complete with a colossal number of invaluable books. Names of professionals like H.A.I Goonetilleke, Walter Marasinghe and others who made an invaluable contribution to bring its high recognition should be written into



the history of University of Peradeniya. The Arts Theatre with parapet made out of granite located at the centre of the university is a symbol of the University.

The popular Open Air Theatre Wala built to match the Greek architectural design in the early 1950s is a spectacle that invaded the university. Beyond exaggeration, even nature virtually illuminates the environment with sparkling light and radiance of blooming flowers during the May and June season. This Open Air Theatre, popularly known as Wala, has now been named the Sarachandra Open Air. The debut of the famous drama Sinhabahu was performed at Wala.





## Memorable Locations

There is a plethora of lovely places of past memories around the university. Kissing Bend, Lovers' Lane and 'Strike Gaha' enlivens the romantic background at the university. Sandasiri Hotel situated outside the university has become a frequently accustomed eatery for the university students.

Responsibility lies in each and every person affiliated to the university to honour the beauty and its culture and to maintain its high profile reputation, for the benefit of the future generations. – *Compiled by Sarath Jayasuriya.*

### List of Founders of the University of Ceylon

Mr. Justice M.T. Akbar	Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, K.C
Sir Marcus Fernando	Sir Baron Jayatilaka
Dr. Robert Marrs, C.M.G., C.I.F	Dr. S.C. Paul
Sir James Peiris	Sir Ponnambam Ramanathan
Rt. Hon. D.S. Senanayake	Mr. D.R. Wijewardane

### University of Ceylon and University of Sri Lanka Early Chancellors

Sir Andrew Caldecott (1942–44) Sir Henry Monck-Mason Moore (1944–49)  
Lord Soulbury (1949–54) Sir Oliver Goonetilleke (1954–62)  
William Gopallawa (1962–78)

# “*MANAME*” and PERADENIYA

## A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

Shyamon Jayasinghe



Can I suggest that Sarachchandra’s masterpiece, *Maname*, could not have sprung up from any other locale in Lanka but Peradeniya? Art and the environment of its creation are inextricably linked. The decade of the 1960’s was like a renaissance period in Lanka, and Peradeniya, its foremost seat of learning, had to produce *Maname*. Just six years later it had to produce the other great classic, *Sinhabahu*. **Peradeniya generated these two strokes of genius and these two, in turn, indelibly enriched the image of Peradeniya.**

Such an atmosphere there was in the Hantane valley. The area of the campus constituted an unreal little peaceful world locked in somewhere between the busy town of Kandy, the traffic-laden road to Gampola and Nuwara Eliya and the sleepy villages of the Galaha range. The Mahaweli quietly winds its way in one of its serene segments. Hills and hillocks with emerald green turf, showy flowers remarkably turning into subtle seasonal hues, water spouts gushing forth and trickling down through streams and streamlets over rocks and stones, yield a coolness in the purified air.

These were all defining geographical characteristics of the campus now known as Peradeniya University. When I attended the International Students’ Conference in Bonn in 1958 I realized for the first time that Peradeniya had already earned global fame as one of the most beautiful University campuses in the world.

At that time it was known as The University of Ceylon. Truly, it sequestered and quarantined us safely in an unreal world peacefully to do our own. This mission was operative regardless of the 1956 turbulence of the social environment that was shaping the country-at-large both for good and for bad. The bad kept out of the radar. What was relevant for artists was the liberated feeling of the present. That collective superior feeling was sort of magnified by the privilege that Peradeniya offered.



Peradeniya in 1956 was so remarkably different to its metamorphosed version of later times. We had a room for each one of us, and three excellent meals of table-served food with



waiters waiting on the diners. Medical, recreational and laundry facilities were fine. There was a rich library beckoning students to come in. Classes were small. It was co-educational and that meant an allowance for the natural mingling of the sexes that human nature demands. It was all residential learning and that signified better learning. Students did not leave the campus after lectures; they stayed behind. That added a qualitative element into the seat of learning. It developed a pride and solidarity among students and a congenial opportunity for collaborative studying and extra mural activities.

Attending rehearsals of *Maname* from our halls of residence was easy. We were never under stress for want of necessities, as the university supplied them. We had no home pressures to distract us. Players picked for *Maname* initially had rehearsals at Professor Ediriweera Sarachchandra's residence on Sangamitta Hill. We used to call the Guru, "Doctor" when referring to him with third parties and "Sir" when addressing him. Sarachchandra had got down the Ambalangoda Nadagam specialist Charles Silva Gunasinghe Gurunnanse and kept him at his residence. He had come to befriend the Gurunnanse while doing research on his classic: "The Sinhalese Folk Play." There would have been no *Maname* sans Charles Silva Gunasinghe Gurunnanse who wore a wry smile over his countenance and had prominent squint eyes. When I once went to visit Gurunnanse at his home in Ambalangoda I was deeply touched to see that he had hanged a photograph of me on his wall!

Fortunately, *Maname* justified the privilege that Peradeniya offered in more than ample measure. Here was a play that the renowned litterateur Reggie Siriwardena, who first reviewed it, described as the best he had seen in the theatres of the world. For Sarachchandra, it was a rare phenomenal occurrence (*Sansiddiya*) with a most creative script, a great cast and a passionate organizing committee, The Sinhala Cultural Society, led by Arthur Silva, the late Wimal Nawagamuwa and the late KAD Perera.

*Maname* had no sets. It was played out on a vacant stage. Sarachchandra's vision: the playing is the thing and not so much the props. Let's show the audience a forest without a semblance of forest! A beautiful script had to be brought out and given flesh and blood by human players. Sarachchandra chose the technique of a bare stage because that was the tradition of Eastern Drama. Even the Japanese Noh, which has been shown to be an exception, had only a symbolic curtain as a prop. Stage props are a technique of modern Western Drama. The *Maname* players were all novices but they triumphed in the challenge. They brought out the tension, sang out the lyrics and

danced to the traditional drum of maestro Charles Silva Gunasinghe Gurunnanse and the dance choreography of Vasantha Kumar. The harmonium, the drums, the tamera and the sitar rounded it all up.

**Sarachchandra's vision of a "complete theatre" was born.** Reason and emotion - the two great faculties of the mind - unified in response. **Art raises the human consciousness (pragna). Aristotle said that good art expands insight and results in a catharsis of emotion. We come out of theatre as different beings because we've been made different by the theatrical experience.** The latter observation would dismiss the misconception among some narrow-eyed persons that watching a play or movie or even listening to a song recital etc. are superficial activities that take second place to social or political issues, for instance. On the contrary, artists have formed the intellectual background of social, political and Cultural Revolution.

It is hard to think of any Sinhala artist before Sarachchandra who achieved that with such impact. His twin greats, Maname and Sinhabahu, did just that for the first time in the annals of our history. In this manner Maname opened a curtain of consciousness-raising. Discerning audiences kept flowing to see us perform-in Kandy, in Matara, in Colombo, in Ratnapura, in Chilaw, in Anuradhapura and, to cap it all in Jaffna itself! **No Sinhala play before or after had ever been shown in Jaffna. The conquest was complete. No count has been kept but I believe the play would have surpassed the twenty thousand mark. It has been shown non-stop for 55 years and yet there is no sign of it ceasing in appeal.**

The instant success of *Maname* led the University authorities to accede to Sarachchandra's request for an open air theatre. The 'WALA' (stage at bottom) came into being, located by Sangamitta Hall. This was a useful addition to the Peradeniya Campus. Over 5000 persons attended the first night show held under light. Having got wind that a Nagdagama is to be shown, villagers from Hindagala and Galaha travelled by foot to see *Maname* on that night of nights. Some were perched on trees! Campus students and ordinary villagers were fused at last. One of my friends picked his spouse from among the villagers that night! I hope the marriage lasted.

The good thing was that we Peradeniyites went round with the play but we also did our studies. I think the experience with playing on stage in a subtle way enhanced our absorbing ability for academic study. What a camaraderie we built among the team! I suppose that contributed to our stunning performances. We used to return to campus in the dead of the night singing away in the bus and exchanging jokes originating mostly from Amaradasa Gunawardena.

Like with Shakespeare, *Maname* has the chance of perennial survival for one reason, namely that it deals with a universally relevant existential theme not restricted to space or time. Like all great art *Maname* leaves questions open for interpretation depending on the viewpoint of the audience. It is not a closed discourse. The queen is at the centre of all questions. Did she betray fidelity? In other words, did she give the sword or was the sword grabbed off her? Was there an unconscious desire to give the sword? What was the inner conflict raging within her from the point the Veddah King invaded her romance with Prince *Maname*? Did she have to take a stand between insecurity and security? There are subliminal issues, too: Did the sheer power of masculinity win the day? Aren't these all humanity's eternal issues? Don't we have to try and comprehend these questions without the dressings of hypocritical morality?

The demand to look at the text in different ways is the inherent artistic strength of *Maname*. It underlines the problem of perceptual differences that human beings are beset with. This feature also makes *Maname* appealing both to the less sophisticated and the sophisticated audiences. It depends on the level of perceptual absorption. Sarachchandra was influenced by the great Japanese movie of the 1950s-Rashomon by Akira Kurosawa where four different observers of a murder in the forest interpret the ghastly event differently. Good artists have the knack to synthesize in this way across a range of experiences.

That is creative genius. Hurrah to Peradeniya for nurturing this creative genius! What a humble man in a humble human frame.



Professor Sarachchandra



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# Reminiscence of Peradeniya Days

Compiled by Sarath Jayasuriya 1972-1976

**Students Closed the Campus** - Like there is an old saying, everything happens unexpectedly. On a Saturday afternoon when all of us were preparing to sit our final examination, all of a sudden a call was received from the President of the Students Council to meet at the Senate building to sort out a student issue with the President (Vice chancellor was designated as the President in 1972-1978). I was not in the Council that year but was in the previous three years of my 4 year University career.

We were in our youth and did never bow down to unfairness which prompted me to run to the Senate to join the meeting with my roommates who were totally ignorant of what was in the pie.

PSU gathering grew to a large mob in no time. Majority did not know what the reason was as usual. We all charged into the President's office without any invitation when he was having a meeting with the University registrars. Even at that minute I was not aware what the actual reason was, to meet the President. However I was told by the PSU President that it was to protest, Marshals walking into Ramanathan and pulling first and second year girls physically and throwing them out for "gajefying" during exam time. Apparently one of the girls was a potential girl friend of one of the committee members of the PSU. However the forced entry into the President's office ended up with the PSU writing down 13 demands and obtaining the signature of the President.

As soon as this episode was over I smelt that we were in danger for having locked up the President by force and would end up in disaster. Within around an hour police moved in, to relieve the President from wrongful confinement. Following day the entire Students council was suspended including myself depriving all of us, who were to sit the Finals.

Police were after the suspended students, to take into custody for wrongful confinement of the President. The news of suspension spread like wild fire resulting in the entire student body rising to the occasion. Following day the PSU called for a general meeting of the entire student population at the Arts Theatre. Authorities attempted to deprive the use of the Arts Theatre. But the Officer in Charge Mendis Aiya did otherwise. We, the suspended students mixed up with rest and could not be

identified by the loads of Police who were present in helmets, battle gear wielding clubs and dressed in protective armour to combat unarmed students, had there been a struggle.

It was a successful meeting. One of my batch mates who we always admired for her “Guts” addressed, clad in a white saree and proposed that **we vacate the** University leaving it to the President. Proposal was seconded unanimously and creating history the entire student population walked out of the University for their Homes. It was the first time a University was closed by the Students.

The President, frantically tried to get students to return without success. Students were advised to return only when the PSU calls. Students returned on the advice of PSU after the University decided to reinstate studentships of those who were suspended. Students continued their demand the removal of then President. Struggle to remove the President, which we started in 1976 unfortunately ended in 1978 with the death of a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student by police firing. We were then out of the University. The government decided to remove the President with this death. Damage done was immeasurable.

**Occupying the Lodge** - Year 1974 was full of excitement. The cost of living was escalating and student loans were insufficient. Students were to find accommodation outside the University in their second year. Suitable accommodation outside were scarce. Majority sought accommodation in “Rajawatte” I was the secretary of the Science Students Union and also the Assistant Treasurer of the PSU.

At one of the SSU meetings a decision was taken, to demand for accommodation for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students from the University. While the discussions were on one of our left comrades proposed as a mark of protest that the entire science faculty to move into the LODGE. Proposal was unanimously adopted. However at this point I as the secretary demanded that all, including girls should walk into the lodge with the underline objective of diffusing any violence that may perhaps take place. My thinking was that when girls are around the male students generally behave.

We walked into the “LODGE”. I informed marshal’s office about the incident and Mr. Nagahawatta (who was brutally murdered subsequently by the “Deshapremi Sishaya Viyaparaya” - Revolutionary wing of JVP 1988) was present at the scene. I advised him to allow the students to stay for a while and they will perhaps walk away after it is dark. In the contrary students were not in a mood to listen to the SSU committee but demanded that the University President to come and give an assurance on

accommodation for 2<sup>nd</sup> years. President (VC) did not occupy the LODGE but lived around the lake at Mahamaya principle's bungalow since his wife was the Principal.

I, Nagahawatta and few others had to go to Kandy in the dead of the night or early hours in the morning to inform the President of the situation. This was a time where communications were difficult. Only way was to go in person which was faster than getting to a phone. Unfortunately president had gone to Colombo that night and was to return following day afternoon. With no hope we were back at the LODGE and, tired myself retired for a nap at Hilda Obeysekera where I was in my third year.

Early morning around six thirty Nagahawatta walked into my room with the sad news that the "Guramiya" a fish in the Pond at the LODGE Foyer had been consumed by the squatters. Adding insult to the injury they have laid the bones in the shape of the fish on the Coffee table in the foyer. There were several empty bottles spread in the lawn amply displaying the time students have had in the night. Nagahawatta was upset and was looking at buying a "Guramiya" before Presidents returned from Colombo.

However the struggle for accommodation ended in a WIN situation for students with the University agreeing to purchase a property close to "Sandasiri" to accommodate 2<sup>nd</sup> year science students. The hall was named after "LENIN" by students, since it was acquired through a student struggle.

**Ragging** - Ragging was always fun as long as there was a limit imposed? We enjoyed ragging except for the fact that I had to be confined to bed at the Health Centre for about a week. I was asked to touch the ceiling standing on a three legged stool in Marrs hall. Since I could not touch from where I was standing was asked to jump and catch the ceiling, which I did falling back on the imbalanced stool and striking my back on the stool and the bed nearby. I was injured with no wounds but hairline fracture which I suffer to date. But it was all in fun and was lucky to have survived without any dislocation or permanent damage.

It is with much sadness I record the permanent disability caused to one of the first year students as a result of ragging or otherwise. This incident was however controversial, since there had been many discussions over. However the student was disabled after she had fallen off the parapet wall on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Ramanathan. She was permanently disabled and passed away few years ago apparently after falling into an unprotected well with her wheel chair.



**Food Crisis** - In 1973, the then government started reducing the assistance given to the University resulting a reduction in the quality of food provided at halls of residences. We faced a food crisis. This was the time when the public were prevented from carrying more than two measures (kilo) of rice per person and no rice dishes were sold on Tuesdays and Thursdays in restaurants. Government even erected a barrier called "Haal Polla" at the Captain Dawson monument in Kadugannawa the entrance to hill capital.

As usual the student body was divided under the influence of various political parties. There were groups supporting the government, who followed their leaders blindly. One such group had gone to Colombo to participate in a May day rally and over the Radio were heard them shouting if "Methini (Mrs Srima Banadarayanayake then Prime Minister) kiyawanam" we will eat even straw and eat gravy without chilies eat gravy without coconut milk etc." They were to come back to Peradeniya for dinner and the Sub Warden had reserved food plates for them. To teach them a lesson we slowly hurried to the kitchen at Hilda Obeysekera and polished the plates for the second time leaving Straw in their plates. There was a big commotion on their return in the kitchen looking for food, late in the night and all the raw filth were expended without mercy at the expense of our mischievous behaviour. They slept without food but a plain tea only.

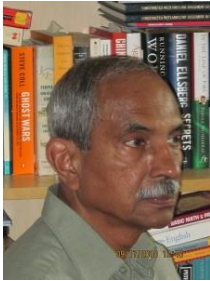


Children of Alumni performing in "SARASAVI MYASIYA" - 2005

# Revisiting the Peradeniya Campus –

*and thoughts on a Sri Lankan dilemma.*

Kenneth Abeywickrama



On the morning of 02 February, 1969, contingents of the Sri Lanka Army disembarked at the small Peradeniya University railway station with much fanfare for their forthcoming participation in the Sri Lanka Independence Day celebrations. They were to be housed in the university gymnasium. The government of Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake had decided that the annual Sri Lanka independence celebrations of 1969 would be held in Kandy and not in the capital city, Colombo. The Sri Lankan Army was small, with a total of around 12,000 personnel, and poorly equipped with antiquated World War 2 equipment. But it was high on ceremonial parades and spit and polish. The small army contingents had always been the main attraction of the annual Independence Day parades.

I was a major in the Sri Lanka Army Service Corps (Volunteers) or the SLASC (V) and was to lead the SLASC contingent. Having been a student at the Peradeniya campus a little over a decade ago, I looked forward to this visit with nostalgia. There were over a thousand students lining the roadway leading from the station: curious admirers, we thought. As we disembarked, the stentorian voices of sergeant-majors yelling at their troops to form up were being heard. The marching band of the Ceylon Light Infantry formed the head of the line and the drum-major struck the first note. Just then it started. Hails of rock stones were hurled at the troops by the now jeering students. One large stone hit the drum-major's large drum, tearing its side with a gaping hole. Others fell on the soldiers bruising some of them. But the officers showed their grit, yelling at their troops, "Ignore the missiles. Form up to march forward in good order! Eyes front!"

Throughout the half hour march to the gymnasium, we were accompanied by wildly jeering students throwing whatever missiles they could pick up. Finally, we reached the safety of the gymnasium. The students did not cross the path leading to the entrance. They were not going to risk a direct physical encounter with the much tougher soldiers.

For most of the soldiers, mainly from poor families from rural areas of the country, Kandy, the picturesque capital of the last Sinhala kingdom, was a tourist attraction and

a place of pilgrimage to the famed Temple of the Tooth. After the student attacks subsided and all seemed clear, small groups of soldiers in civilian dress went to visit Kandy. They had to return before 6.00 p.m. As these small groups or individuals returned, they were ambushed by large bands of students who savagely manhandled them and stripped them of their clothing. Soldiers were running back to the gymnasium in the nude with a hand covering their genitals. There was uproar in the gymnasium. Soldiers were screaming to go out and thrash the students. Major-General D.S. Attygalle, the Commander of the Army, had arrived and he sat on a chair at the entrance. He yelled out that no one was permitted to leave the gymnasium. He shouted at his men: "Damn it! You are soldiers and you must bear a beating. I cannot answer to the Prime Minister if you go out and maul the students." It was not an easy situation. One soldier came running naked saying that he was held to the ground while female students urinated on his face. There was an angry roar from the soldiers. Inside, we officers were doing our best to quell the revolt among our men who were shouting that they could not bear this outrage. However, General Attygalle's strong personality prevailed. He himself could be as loud and nasty as any among us. That night, army trucks transported the troops out of the campus to the Gannoruwa School of Agriculture for the rest of our stay.

I had my own share of adventure. I had gone to Kandy with two of my fellow officers and was returning in the evening when we saw the mob of students once again gathered on the other side of the road opposite the gymnasium, screaming obscenities at the army. We had no choice but to get to our soldiers inside the gymnasium. So we boldly mingled with the students pretending to be part of them. Some of the students looked askance at my companions, who were much older than me, and challenged them: "You two fellows are too old to be students. Who are you?" One of them tactfully replied they were school teachers studying for the teacher's diploma in the campus. But we had to get inside. After a while we saw a large SLASC truck approaching. The driver recognized us and drove the truck fast and made a screeching halt in front of us. "Now" I said and we jumped in front of the truck and raced to the other side behind its cover. The mob screamed in frustration.

It was rumoured that the night after the troops left the campus, a small band of soldiers dressed only in their underwear and carrying clubs, led by a young infantry officer, entered the halls of residence under cover of darkness and beat up the students who were asleep, forcing them to run away to the nearby hills, screaming out in fear. This was not verified. But soldiers usually do not tolerate a humiliation of their colleagues. Eventually, the military show at the Independence Day parade in Kandy went off without a hitch.

Most people look forward nostalgically to a return to their alma mater. I graduated from the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya Campus, in 1958, with fond memories of that place where I had spent some of the happiest years of my life. I was elected President of Ramanathan Hall where I resided, and also of the Union Society, the apex student body. We had our version of student rebellion, with protest demonstrations over the quality of the food and the laundry services. But our relations with the university authorities and staff were cordial and never confrontational. Most of the students claimed to be socialists and Marxists but this was of a non-violent type. The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Nicholas Attygalle, was a man with a gruff exterior but in our many private meetings he was a kind and helpful gentleman.

The universities in Sri Lanka are free for students, part of the package of free education from kindergarten to university level granted by the government since 1944. It is a benefit not found anywhere else in the world (except in the former Soviet Union). Peradeniya was also a residential campus and poorer students got an additional bursary to cover other expenses. Further, all public health services and hospitals were free. Sri Lanka was still a poor developing country that could barely afford such generous social benefits.

Later that year in 1969, there was an explosion in Marris Hall within the campus. Investigating police officers discovered that students were manufacturing bombs and collecting firearms. The Inspector-General of Police, John Attygalle, a highly respected Police veteran, presented the government with a report detailing plans by Marxist students to overthrow the government by violent revolution. The Prime Minister and her cabinet dismissed the report as a figment of police imagination. Army intelligence officers confirming this report were ridiculed by left-wing cabinet ministers.

Unknown to us, we had stepped into the hotbed of a violent revolutionary movement. In 1971, two years later, it broke out with a fury, with large bands of well-armed youths from around the country simultaneously attacking police stations, military detachments, killing hundreds of local political leaders and those suspected of being allied to the government in politics. The then government of Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, that had succeeded that of the gentle and mild mannered Dudley Senanayake, was caught completely by surprise. Her government had faced a right-wing coup attempt by some disgruntled army officers in 1962 and her present cabinet also consisted of left-wing leaders from the Communist and Trotskyite parties. So the government dismissed any prospect of a leftwing revolt. Eventually, she herself was forced to take refuge in a ship in the Port of Colombo for fear of being captured by the rebels.

Sri Lanka was a properly functioning democracy at the time when the USA, which was denying basic voting rights to minorities and legalising widespread discrimination against them, was not. But left-wing revolutionary fervour had been growing in Sri Lanka. And violence against the state, as distinct from peaceful protests or political organisation, once allowed, has a habit of perpetuating itself. It recurred in Sri Lanka again in 1987 and then gave way to the armed revolt of the Tamil Tigers that went on for three decades. As in Pakistan, where military coups became a pattern of political life, Sri Lanka was to be threatened by violence against the state for half a century.

After the 1962 attempted military coup, successive governments deliberately kept the military small, ill-equipped and unprepared for military action. That was a crucial mistake, rectified only after 2006. It kept the government weak and vulnerable to these armed revolts. In hindsight, it is seen that the students' attack on the army in Peradeniya in 1969 was a test to gauge the reaction of the government to their planned insurrection. The government failed the test, giving the student revolutionaries the confirmation they needed.

*Kenneth Abeywickrama is an international management consultant on privatization and enterprise restructuring. He has worked for the World Bank, USAID, and International Trade Center (UNCTAD/WTO) and for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, often as team leader of multi-disciplinary teams of international experts. He has experience in a variety of countries including Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Lesotho, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Bosnia and Albania, China, Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Nigeria and India.*

*Mr. Abeywickrama graduated from the University of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in 1958. Before he became an international management consultant he served in a variety of senior positions in his home country. He was the Head of Marketing of Unilever (Ceylon) Ltd. the country's largest consumer products company. He also functioned as the Chairman-Managing Director of a large ailing state enterprise, the State Timber Corporation of Sri Lanka. He is credited with having successfully turned around the Corporation to a profit making enterprise. It is one of the case studies analyzed by Professor James Austin of the Harvard Business School in his book Strategic Management in Developing Countries (Free Press of McMillan, 1990). It was also highlighted in the California Management Review (Spring 1986) and the Asian Wall Street Journal (Sept. 22 and 28, 1981).*

*His book on management, Adventures in Management, published by Sage Publications of New Delhi, in 2007, was the best seller in the business books category in the first part of 2008 in India. (Extract of Kenneth's blog)*



## **DOWN MEMORY LANE.....**

The mail train pulled into the Jaffna railway station huffing and puffing. The platform was a sea of heads both young and old. The majority among them were students going to Peradeniya University. Most were leaving home for the first time. The parents were nervous but the children were happy and thrilled to test their independence.

I was among them with a crisp white pillow tucked under my arm and carrying the carefully packed fried fish, boiled eggs and a tin of Lakspray milk powder for senior students as instructed by a postcard received a week earlier. On either side of me were my parents, my father carrying my packed new suitcases and my mother with packed dinner and a thermos flask of tea. The train was partially full as a number of students have paid people to go to Kankesanthurai– the station where the train originates to reserve window seats, which is a common occurrence. Pushing and shoving we scrambled into our carriage and settled in. The guard blew the whistle and the train started at snails speed. We were travelling on a railway route that had seen little or no maintenance in a long time. The engine hissed and the brakes squeaked. The train came to a halt. Someone had pulled the emergency chain to stop the train. The guard patiently visited every carriage to check and reset the alarm and warned the passengers that they will be fined if found to have wrongfully activated the alarm. This repetition of pulling the chain occurred a number of times during our journey until everyone got sick and tired of this play.

As dusk arrived with a magnificent sunset, our tropical country is blessed with. We were able to catch glimpses of village life, paddy fields and beautiful young women. Children ran along the tracks laughing and waving. The train came to a halt in Palai for dinner. Passengers opened their dinner parcels and the aromatic smell of the food was tantalising. In addition the hawkers were calling out “vadai vadai “and we couldn’t resist the temptation and bought a few and were prepared for the long and tiring journey. The train moved at a slow space and is known for being always late. After twelve hours of slow and bumpy ride the city of Polgahawela was in sight. We got off and boarded the connecting train to our final destination

“Sarasaviyana”. We freshers were all nervous to meet the senior students visiting our carriages with list of names. They collected the packages of fish and eggs. By this time the eggs were gone off and stunk the carriages and these were quickly discarded. At the journey’s end, to our pleasant surprise we were greeted by smiling senior students and were guided to our respective halls with our parents in tow.

The subsequent period of my campus life was an eye opener as I was a naïve girl from a conservative family who was only ever allowed to go out with a chaperon. I enjoyed my independent decision making in everything I did from then on. We all adapted to university campus life which was very different to the life experience we have had before. It also taught us values in life such as respect for others, appropriate behaviour, unity and integrity which, we now as adults practise in our daily lives.

Now I am a proud taxpayer in my adopted country putting into practice all of the experience and knowledge my alma mater offered me.

While I was in Peradeniya I learnt the saying “Never trust the Kandy rain and campus love as they are both like passing clouds”

I salute to my Alma mater for making the person I am today.

Pathmini Rajadevan

Faculty of Agriculture 1975 – 1979

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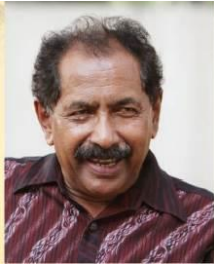
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## About our Artists .....



### JAYALATH MANORATHNE

Mano as he is fondly known in the arts and theatre arena, entered the dram performances while at school Poramadulla Central, when he was chosen for the drama Aspa gudun. He entered the University of Peradeniya and had the privilege fo studying under Professor Ediriweera Sarachchandra the legend behind Maname and Sinhabahu fame. Mano was offered a major role in pematho jayathi sosko. He went on to play diverse roles in Maname and Sinhabahu. He was not just a theatre performer but one of the few who studied theatre and performance, from folk to stylised mode academically. Having won many awards ranging from OCIC, Presidential, Sarasavi and the state literary, Mano continues to shine in theatre, small screen and big screen.



### NISSANKA DIDDENIYA.

Henry Nissanka Diddeniya had his early education at Panawanna Buddhist School and later at Gankanda central College Pelmadulla. Even as he entered the Peradeniya University, he was dreaming of playing in a drama directed by Professor Sarachchandra. And for the first time he met the famous Professor in front of the Arts Theatre, Peradeniya University. Diga, as he is popularly called, had an ability to sing from an early age. Because of this talent Professor Sarachchandra selected him for the drama Pematho Jayathi soko. From there onwards Diga, went on to play the lead role in Singhabahu, and many other popular stage dramas. He is a talented artist who had developed ability in acting singing and dancing.



### MADANI MALWATTEGE

Peradeniya University's open air theatre, mostly known as "wala" is the place where Madani's life changed. Her father who was working at the Peradeniya University, used to bring his daughter Madani to university's annual drama festival at "wala" which attracted students as well as outsiders. She was not just sitting and watching the dramas, but it was like sitting for the entrance exam at the university and getting through to graduation. Naturally her mind and soul flowed into the art and



Madani decided to be a stage actress. Madani won the best actress award in the state drama festival in 2009 for her excellent performance in JAGAN MA. Madani believes acting is an art.



### RODNEY WARNAKULA.

He is diminutive in stature and has a mischievous look. One glance at his eyes and his cheeky smile makes you laugh. It is the born talent and the acting experience that blends perfectly with the characters he has been slotted to play as a comedian. Today he has become very popular with his varied roles. He has been a dramatic artist for more than twenty years, and has been playing serious roles ever since he appeared in Lucian Bulathsinhala's popular drama. His other talent is singing and he had been wise to choose a rare section such as theatre songs. Rodney has two ambitions, one to diversify his acting career with more serious roles and two, to be recognised as a singer



Maestro Manorathna performing at a Paduru Sajjaya

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# Photo Gallery.....



Book Donation - Peradeniya



Annual trip - Inverloch



Await Avurudu Nekatha



Excursion in high country – Grampians



Dance away at dinner



Avurudu Kema mesaya





The Powerful ladies behind the first Committee



First Committee 2004/2005

Standing: Dayawnasa, Nirmalal, Gamini H, Kularatne, Gamini A, Sunil P, Thilak A, Saddha. Seated: Sujatha, Thilak G, Ramya h, GAP. Absent: Sarath J, Kusimi S





### Executive Committee 2013 / 2014

Standing - L to R *Ajith De Silva, Prasantha Hapuarachchi, Gamini Maharage, Kithsiri Dissanayake, Ranjith Jayasinghe, Tilak Gunatillake, Shanazz Ozzer, Mangala Jayasinghe, Chakra Wijesundera,*  
Seated - L to R *Prem Kanahara, Saddha Gunasekera, Sarath Jayasuriya, Prsanna Kalusinghe, Ramya Hewarathna, Sunil Arachchi.*

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### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Subcommittee

Prem Kanahara  
Ramya Hewarathna  
Pathmasiri Hewarathna  
Mangala Jayasinghe  
Sunil Arachchi  
Nirmalal Dias  
Ajith De Silva,  
Rohini Nilaweera  
Sunil Wickremasinghe  
Pushpa Jayakody



### කුමරිඳු සොබනියා

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කුමරිඳු සොබනියා කඳවු සළන්නේ - හේතුව මම තොදනිමි  
හිරි ගෙල්ලු අරංගී ඇති මගෙ නිවසට - මම ඔබ ගෙන යන්නමි  
ඔබ හට හැම සැප වීගි දෙන්නමි - ඔබ හට හැම සැප වීගි දෙන්නමි

සඳු පායන කල හඟවබ ඉඳුගෙන ඔබෙ හිස පිරන්නමි  
මල් පෙති විසිරන සුදු වැලි මතුපිට ඔබ ගෙන ඇවිදින්නමි  
සොඳුරිය ආදර මස් දෙන්නමි - සොඳුරිය ආදර මස් දෙන්නමි

තණ අඟ දිළිසෙස පිණිකැට අරගෙන ඔබෙ ඇත දෝවන්නමි  
ඉර පායන වීට පුඹුදින මල් ගෙන ඔබෙ හිස සරසන්නමි  
කුමරිය ආදර මස් දෙන්නමි - කුමරිය ආදර මස් දෙන්නමි

### අන්ත බලන්න සඳ

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අන්ත බලන්න සඳ රන් නැටියක් සුදු - සීත හඟුල් ගලනා  
ගඳු සෙසක නැවුල් නිවනා

වන්දන පල්ලව කෝකිල කුර්න - සංභිතයේ පැටලී  
සුන්දර මේ වන බලුම් යහන් ගැම - ආදර මස් දොඩනා  
හඬ දේවී දෙකන් පිනනා

අත් පසුරෙන් කුරු පෙම්බරයන් බඳ - මන්දා සෙසන් සිහිනී  
ලිය වැල් පැටලී ගොසිනී

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මන්මද රංගන මණ්ඩපයේ මම - මන්ද බලා හිඳියේ  
තව පෙම්බර මා සාමියන්

### අද වෙස්සන්තර

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අද වෙස්සන්තර රාජ පුතා මන්දී කුමාරි බඳී  
දේවවිජයාර වෙචා සැදී සෙත්  
රට වැස්සන්තර කාලෙ හොඳා දුර්භික්ෂ යාග සිඳී  
මංගල්ලෙ සාර වෙචා සැදී සෙත්

බෙරම ප්‍රීතී කෝෂා ඇසෙන්නා මේ සිවි දිසා  
සෙත අන්තේ වෙචා මන්දී කුමරි හට දැන්  
රාජ සම්පත් කොමිත් දේය රාජා උතුම්  
කුමරාගෙ පිනක් මැයි වාසනා වෙර - වාසනා වෙර

### ආලො මැන්ද

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ආලො මැන්ද මාගෙ රම්‍ය වන් - ඒ ...

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මේ සුනිමිල - මගෙ දික්කල

ආලො මැන්ද මාගෙ රම්‍ය වන්

අවුරුදු සතක් දකින - මෙහෙවර කර මෙමා

ගත් පුදුස් මගේ - අදාග රූපය බොහො අගේ

ගන්නට ගමට මෙදීන - මඒ පියස් දකින ලෙසා

තැනි ලෙසට දැන් - ගෙන යාමේ රස කැවුම්

### සාන්ත රෝන්ගේ

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සාන්ත රෝන්ගේ ඒදිගේ කඩී

මාට් වෙළඳාම මාට් වෙළඳාම

සාන්ත රෝන්ගේ ඒදිගේ කඩී

මාට් කඩී වට් ගැනු - මාට් නැතුව ඉදිනු පේනු

සවස දෙකේ ඉඳලා රැ - නවස දහස පසුවන තුරු

ඉස්සක් කුනිස්සක් හාල් මැස්සක් පොකිරිස්සක් ගස

හොඳ බලසක් අරිනගලක් බේර ලාබට් බේර ඒකිගේ

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බොහො වු ජාති දෙමළ ඉංග්ලීස් - තුප්පහික්ද අරාමේ ඒකි

තෙක තෙක දිග රක් පාටිනි - නන් නන් මාට්ස් ඒකිගේනි

රට් ලුඹි වමිඹට් කරපිංචි ද සේර ද ඒකුණනෙග

### හා හා පුඳේ

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හා හා පුඳේ - හා හා පුඳේ

හා හා පුඳේ - මගෙ මහ මැදුරේ පුඳේ

මගෙ රජ දහනේ පුඳේ - මගෙ අඟ බිසව් තොමේ

රන් සීනු හඬින් නිල් දිගැසින් මා මනලාලු වඩනා

රණ හිසරු පැමිණ පුඵලකුලින් මා මහ බද්දින පුඳේ

රන් තෝවු දමා මාලු ගොනා මිබ මගල සරසන්නමි

රන් ඒයන ගටින් පළස මහින් මිඹ කැඳවා ගන්නමි

### මුදු පතුල ගට ඉඳලා

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මුදු පතුල ගට ඉඳලා - මුතු ඇටියක නිදි කරවා  
පොණ කැටියක පා කරවා - මගෙ දෝතට පුතු ආවා

සුදු පාටින් පහන් කරනු දුර අහසේ දිලියෙනවා  
සුදු පාටින් රිකිරි සිතා පුතුගෙ මුළින් හිඹුහෙනවා

වෙරළෙන් කිරි කළුබී සොයා කෙතක් පුතුට ගෙන එනවා  
තවත් කෙතක් පාට පාට පබළු කඩක් ගෙන එනවා

ඒ කළුබීයි මේ පබළුයි එක නුගේ අමුණනවා  
එවායින් කළුබී තනා පුතුගෙ ඉසේ පළඳනවා  
පුතුගෙ ඉසේ පළඳනවා

### ගමිඹිර තෙදැනි

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ගමිඹිර තෙදැනි කොත්ස්තන්හිනු පුරේ - කොත්ස්තන්හිනු පුරේ  
පුරවර්ධන කරන අග නරතා මමිම

නාමය මිං අලිසන්දිරි

මම ධරමෙන් මෙපුර පාලන කරමින්සේ - ධරමෙන් මෙපුර පාලන කරමින්සේ  
ඉන්සේ මැදුරේ ප්‍රීතිය එදිමින්සේ

එහෙම උනත් මමිම අත ලොකුම දුකක් - මමිම අත ලොකුම දුකක්  
කරකාරයක් නැතිව සිත නොමැත සැපක්

එය එසඳා ගන්නා ලෙස

මගෙ මස්තී කැඳව මම පහදා කියමි එය

මස්තී කැඳව මම පහදා කියමි එය

නොමැත උඳක් මෙහෙසිය ලෙස ගන්නට

### අත්තෑවේ මේ

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අත්තෑවේ මේ මළු කෙරළු

පාටර ගන්නට බෑ මුත්තෑ සමඟින්

මව් පියා නිදහස් වන්නට සිතා බැඳ

දුන්සේය මා මේ අඟුටුම්ඵියාට

අඟුටුම්ඵියා වට මිං සුන්දරියේ

කැද්ද හැකි රුව මිං

අයි සුන්දරියේ කැද්ද හැකි රුව මිං

කාලා බිලා සැප සේ හිඳ කල් හැර

එවිවා මමවිවා කිව්වේ කවුරුදු නුමට

## වාසනා දිනෙකි

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වාසනා දිනෙකි මේක පාමු තුට්ටු සිටන්  
වාසනා දිනෙකි මේක පාමු තුට්ටු  
පාමු තුට්ටු නටමු මේ ලී දරා අපේ  
වාසනා දිනෙකි හ හා - වාසනා දිනෙකි ගතා ගතා  
වාසනා දිනෙකි මේක පාමු තුට්ටු සිටන්  
වාසනා දිනෙකි මේක පාමු තුට්ටු

කෝමල මධුර බසිනි මේ ගී - සාදා පවසමු දැන්  
නටමු පේළි පේළි ගැසී රජිදා තුටු වන මෙන්

සිරිසා වසාය උරේ ආසාවේ තුළති  
නෙරසා තිබේය දීපල ආලෝක වී අපේ  
නෙරසා තිබේය දීපල ආලෝක වී  
ආලෝක වී රජිදා වෙයි පිති වේ අපේ  
නෙරසා තිබේය දීපල ආලෝක වී අපේ  
නෙරසා තිබේය දීපල ආලෝක වී

නට නට කිංකිණි කාද දී මහි ගමු පාරේ  
තුනි දිදී වඩාගෝපේ තුළති ලක වැරදේවා  
හිනිතා හිරෝගි වෙවා රාජා මේ සිංහලේ



*Our Sincere thanks to .....*

**Artists from Sri Lanka**

Jayalath Manorathana  
Nisanka Diddeniya  
Rodney Warnakula  
Madini Malwattage

**Two Comperes**

Charitha Dissanayake & Rashmi Soysa

**Dancing Troupe**

Rangana & Udumbara

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