



HANTANE NEWS

The News Letter of the
PERRADENIYA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AUSTRALIA VICTORIA CHAPTER
PO BOX 750, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150, Australia

From the President's Pen



Greetings to all Alumni in Victoria

I am extremely proud to be an active member of PUAAViC during the last few years and to have presided over a range of successful ventures during this period. These activities and achievements have been possible because of the commitment of many members who work within and outside the various committees.

This year I have been very happy to see a steep growth in the numbers of life members. Our life membership has increased by more than 20% over the last few months. We are glad to see more and more new members joining to serve the PUAAViC.

Few of our significant activities include the scholarship program, book donation program, annual weekend trip and educational seminars. We are proud to announce that in the past years we have continuously helped our Alma Mater through some of these programs. This year we have awarded about \$18000 worth of scholarships among 143 needy students of our University.

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This news update will be received by all Peradeniya Alumni registered with us at our website whether they are members or not. If you had provided an office email or need to change your email please write to info@peradeniya.com.au and we will change it for you.
 10. **What's new on our website.**
The gallery of photographs of the recently concluded annual trip can be viewed by Ctrl+Click from here [The Photo Gallery from Annual Trip 2015](#)
The Annual Report presented at the Annual General Meeting in November 2015 can be viewed from here. [The Annual Report](#)
All our newsletters and the 10th Anniversary Souvenir can be accessed from here. [Newsletters Alumni Directory in Australia](#)
- If you received this email then your details are with us. Please check your details. You can access your record anytime and correct it. You can search for your friends in Australia and if they are not listed welcome them to register. If you need any help please write to <mailto:info@peradeniya.com.au>

From Page 1**Greetings to all Alumni in Victoria**

....This has been possible largely due to the generosity of our alumni living here in Victoria. We are also in the process of acquiring \$2000 worth of books for donation to the different libraries at the university. This work will be completed within next couple of months. We are expect your continuous support to improve these services into the future.

As President, I take this opportunity to invite all our Alumni to become financial members of PUAAViC. I hope you will consider becoming an active member in shaping & directing the PUAAViC journey. I am sure you will spare a little of your time to think of the positive impact you can make through our Alumni.

We do not rest on our laurels. We recognize the need for continuous improvement in all aspects of PUAAViC functioning. Each successive committee has built on the hard work and achievements of the previous committees, to reach where we are today. Among the challenges for this year is the need to increase the membership, to create facebook page for us and to build new tools in our website such as – the chapter’s e-Newsletter and events calendar. I feel that these are very important directions for PUAAViC.

We need members having the burning zeal to come up with creative ideas. We also would like increasing numbers of alumni and if possible, all our alumni participating in our PUAAViC’s programs into the future.

Mangala Jayasinghe

President

PUAAViC

Editorial**From Jell’s Park to Box Hill Town Hall**

Mountains form from a speck of dust. It wasn’t exactly a speck of dust that gathered at Jell’s Park in Wheelers Hill, Victoria on a sunny Spring day in 1992. This may well have been the birth of PUAAViC although it may not have materialised without the massive efforts of some founder members. Nevertheless it took a good couple of years before the embryo formed into a baby. The rest is history. The baby has now grown into a mature association but not without some irritating bugs that are usually associated with such success.

PUAAViC, just as any such organisation of this nature, is a membership based association. As such the prime obligation of the executive committee is to service its membership. Our main focus is attracting and retaining new and existing members as they are your prime sources of support, energy and income. There are a wide range of different approaches and strategies that can be used to grow an association. It is important to utilise all of our resources and pursue every avenue available for the growth, benefit and knowledge of the Alumni.

A great way to get the cause across is by championing the association's purpose through lobbying campaigns, where you are often able to attract new and existing members. Where ever possible we need to gain free publicity around the lobbying efforts, which will impress upon interested parties that our association is making a difference through the combined voice of the members. Each and every event and activity is a stage for free publicity. Hence the importance of these events to be relevant and of high standard. People want to make a difference and are proud to be part of an active group.

There is no point sitting back and waiting for members to contact us

Perhaps we have not used social media and education-based selling and encourage members to invite friends and colleagues to events as much we should have

The key is to be active, not just wait for the phone to ring or emails to arrive.

On the 6th of June 2015, we are gathering at the Box Hill Town Hall to celebrate and raise funds. See you all there

George Gamini Maharage

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following alumni who took up Life Membership

Chandana Herath

Tikiri Ranaweera

Chandra Ranaweera

Bandula Mallawapitiya

Priyan Ambegoda

Ranabahu Wickramasinghe (A.R.)

Dilki Gawarammana

Eeshara Kottegoda

Chamila Fernando

Hema Ratnayake (RWK)

Champika Wijeratna

Shiran Wijeratna

Lakshika Bogoda

Kapila Bogoda

Sunil Ratnayake

Sirimavo Ediriweera

Sanjeewa Manamperi

[CLICK HERE](#) to download a copy of the Membership Application Form

A Period of 'Timeless' Extravaganza!

Click her for [The Photo Gallery from Annual Trip 2015](#)

A fortunate crowd of 64 Peradeniya University Alumni members from Victoria and Canberra entered into a 'timeless,' 'borderless' and 'space-less' extravaganza at Wodonga's Boathaven Resort during the week-end 24th to 26th April 2015. They were the fortunate ones as the 'house was full' and no room for any more.

The participants lost touch of time, restrictive borders and spacial limitations by moving about freely and chatting in the 'machan' language as was so common in the University days. Even the 'Weather Gods' nor the Resort Authority's early closure of the formal dinner and talent quest (which deprived a hour of baila), could dampen the exuberance, solidarity and camaraderie of the participants.

The participants trickled down, after a long journey from Melbourne or Canberra, to an informal session of music and dinner on Friday 24th from the 'new found music duo' Sarath Wijesundera and Asoka Athureliya. The shared dinner was reminiscent of



the 'bathh mula' being shared with room-mates, once arriving from home in the 'Podi Menike'. Saturday was a busy day with a tight program, starting with Prem's Avurudu Table that would put to shame an Avurudu Table in Sri Lanka. Avurudu games were held in-doors (weather being harsh) but the enjoyment exceeded the out-door experience. The evening sessions started to the music of Tusitha, Sampath and Erasha, and along with Rukman and Mangala, supported the dramatists and singers in friendly competition for honours. Padma Herath Drama Troupe won the nod of the judges as the best drama, along with Tikiri and Padma as the outstanding actor and actress respectively, and Nirupa as having the 'sweetest voice'. The sumptuous dinner from Vindhi Caterers made everyone's stomach happy.

It was a day of glorious memories and happy tidings; only who participated would have experienced the mindfulness of being 'timeless,' 'borderless' and 'space-less'. On Sunday 26th all gathered to the 'Goodbye' Breakfast, vowing to meet again next year.

Let us remember with gratitude those who were responsible for this extravaganza; the trip sub-committee consisting of Pushpa Jayakody, Sarath Jayasuriya, Gamini Maharage, Prem Kanahara, Sunil Ratnayake and the undersigned, ably supported by Mangala Jayasinghe.

Nirmalal Dias

Faculty of Agriculture, 1972 - 1976



Hantane Mite

2015 Annual Dinner Dance



FEATURING :EBONIE
ENTRANCE \$60
SATURDAY 6th OF JUNE
7.30pm TO MIDNIGHT
PRE DINNER DRINKS 6.45pm
BOXHILL TOWNHALL

DESHLIYANAGE
0469972026

PROCEEDS IN AID OF WELFARE OF
NEEDY STUDENTS
CONTACT 0411646944, 0437634243

DRESS CODE: FORMAL; AFTER FIVE
SMORGASBORD DINNER BY
MAZHAR OF CEYLON AUS CATERING
BYO

Peradeniya Alumni Scholarships Scheme

*We gratefully remember
what we received...*



*...and we joyfully celebrate
what we give.*

On the 30th of April this year 140 students received their scholarships provided by alumni in Victoria at a ceremony attended by the vice chancellor and the deans of the faculties. PUAAViC has been running the scholarships program for three years and in those years over 350 students have benefitted. This has been made possible by the alumni, their families and others in Victoria who have embraced the idea that we who have benefited directly or indirectly from a good education and experience in Sri Lanka should give back something to those who may be struggling back home.

Among our many contributors is Ranjan Fernando an engineering graduate from the University of Moratuwa. When he heard about the scheme, he came forward with a generous offer to help a number of students annually. Ranjan did not come from an affluent family. His further education would have been hampered had it not been to a Mahapola scholarship he received at the time. His finances were further supplemented by a generous stipend during his student years organised by a Peradeniya engineer Upali Wijesiri through the old boys union of Sri Sumangala College where they both did their schooling at different times. He not only organised the scholarship but Ranjan remembers him with gratitude for his subsequent guidance and mentoring in his early professional life.



Figure 1- Last year's recipients of Ranjan's generosity

Ranjan has now established himself in Victoria as a pile designer and his expertise is in great demand all over the world for the design of the foundations for high rise buildings. He has not forgotten the struggles of his past and as a thanksgiving for what he has received, he derives joy and satisfaction in giving.

Ranjan has channelled his donations through our scholarships scheme because he has confidence in its process and delivery. He is particularly impressed that every cent of his dollar goes to the targeted recipients. No funds from individual donations are deducted for administrative or other expenses. This has been made possible because everyone working in this regard are volunteers and any administrative expenses are borne by PUAAViC or through a hat collections among those who are committed to the scheme. Very few charities can make or boast of such a claim.

If you are aware of the scholarships program and have participated in it, we are sure you would continue to do so and make suggestions to improve our program. If you have not participated in the program please go to <http://vic.peradeniya.com.au/projects> and see how the program is structured

and executed and find out how you could be part of this effort. For further details or clarifications you could write to <mailto:sholarships.puaavic@peradeniya.com.au>

On the Fathers Day, Sunday 6th of September we will meet again over an unpretentious meal of Koththu Roti and together remember what we received then and celebrate what we give now. All alumni, their families and wellwishers are welcome to join in, lend a hand and enjoy the day.

They received - Scholarship award ceremony at Peradeniya on 30th April 2015



... what we gave – Images from the Fathers Day 7th September 2014



Wanted

Alive and Well

We are looking for the following Peradeniya Alumni in Victoria. We have no way of contacting them as their contact details last known to us have changed. If you know of their whereabouts please send us an email to info@peradeniya.com.au to inform us of their whereabouts. Your help will be much appreciated. Any information leading to their arrest into our community will be rewarded. They are wanted to build and strengthen our Community of Peradeniya Alumni in Victoria.

Ajith Ranabahu
 Bandu Gamage
 Vajira Nanayakkara
 Dinudu Wijesundera
 Sardha de Silva
 Dulip Gunawardena
 Gaya Wanninayake
 Gunadasa Ginneliya
 Indrani Guneratne
 K Thiru
 Mahendra Tirimanne
 Lalith Gunasekara
 Nilantha Herath
 Niroshan Samarasinghe
 Priyan Sisira
 Ranabahu Wickramasinghe
 Samson Dias
 Senaka Minithanthrige

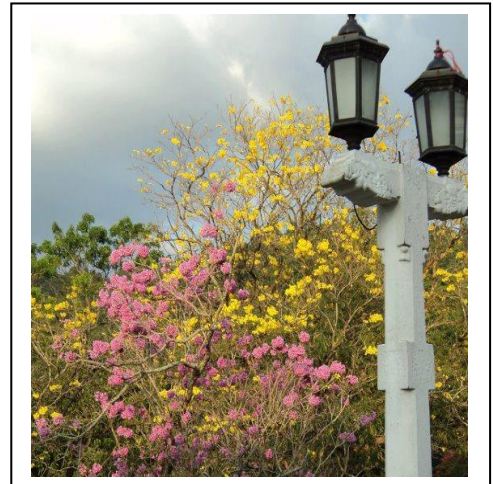
Anura Nagasinghe
 Anura Amarasiri
 Dhammika Jayasuriya
 Dilhani Rathnadiwakara
 Vajira Nanyakkara
 Dushan Hettiarachchi
 Dushamantha Kannangara
 Kulanthi Salgado
 HAS Perera
 Jagath Vithanage
 Mahinda Vithanage
 Kumudini Ekanayake
 Lionel Bopage
 Nimal Rajapaksa
 Peshala Herath
 Priyanandani Wijesinghe
 Rasika Kumarasinghe
 Wickrama Bandaranayake

Reward

Your reward will be that they may be there to enjoy with you when we next meet at a PUAAViC event.

Life Goes On.....

PUAAViC has made a huge progress and grown creditably in the last 10 years. Looking back at the past, my mind goes back to our time at Peradeniya University bringing fond memories during our adolescence. Three to four years spent in this lovely campus has left us with indelible memories. We love this place not only because it is one of the most beautiful campuses in the world but also because the environment and the people we met are entwined closely with our lives in different ways.



For many of us no doubt, the most significant decisions for later lives were made during this period at the campus. The beautiful surroundings of Hanthane has become part and parcel of our lives. This bond developed with our alma mater, makes PUAAViC a very special organisation to be in and work for; to contribute towards its benefit while we continue with our lingering memories connected to the most special moments in life!



I met my husband Jaya who wasn't a student of the university at an unexpected moment during my time in the campus. His special ability to initiate and develop meaningful connections made him a good friend to the many that he met there even briefly. Due to his open and warm nature, networking and continued liaison with past friends and contemporaries at school, university and even former work places became very much a reality in my life even after migrating to Australia. His broadminded thinking is evident in the significant contribution & excellent support he provided to me for my continuous key involvements in many of the social & community activities in the last decade or more. It was such a blessing to have his strong & unreserved support to uphold these values I had. He never discouraged me nor said a negative word for being with people and friends and for initiating action for social gatherings and community connections.

I still remember participating at the first gathering of past students of Peradeniya University in Melbourne at Jell's Park with much enthusiasm immediately after we arrived in Australia in 1992. In 1994 we moved to Brisbane for employment & returned to Melbourne in 2008 after 14 years. PUAAViC established during this time, had become a strong organisation. Almost immediately on my return to Melbourne I resumed my involvements with the organisation.

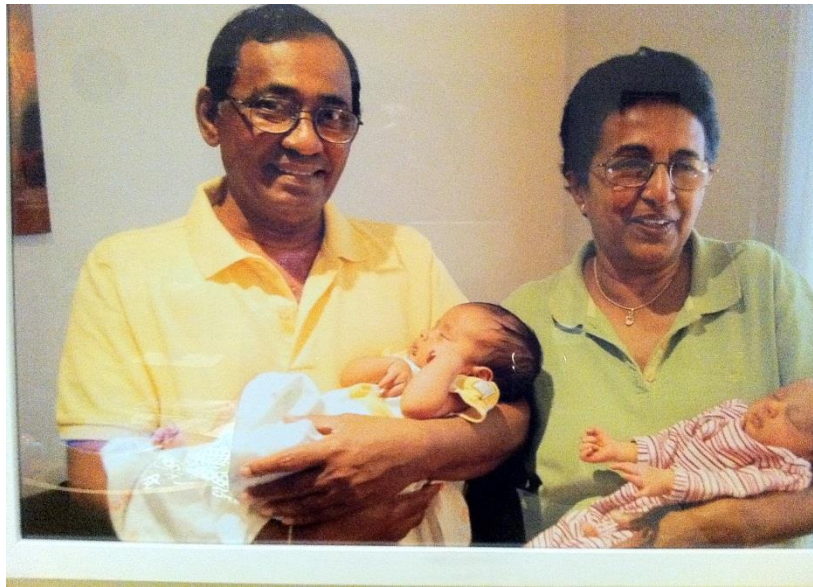
However since then things changed drastically at a personal level. Jaya who was so supportive of all these activities suddenly found it difficult to comprehend even with familiar day to day situations around him. His sense of direction & coordination gradually diminished. Everything slowed down. A total confusion of where to go what to do! He was disoriented even within our own home. Driving was stopped. He didn't know why we were at a particular event or at a friend's place. While participating at a meeting, I suddenly noticed that he wasn't there and later found he had wandered off, which made me very nervous till he got back. This was a strange behaviour as leaving without telling anyone wasn't his usual manner. Gradually it became a routine that I needed family & friends to care for him in my absence. Both my kids moved closer to us with their families and little ones.

The situation became worse and he got more and more confused, forgetful and after a few years gradually he totally lost his memory and emotional connections with us.

Jaya was diagnosed with Vascular Dementia and Alzheimer's. A disease with no curenot easy at all to cope with.....loosing your life long companion, a very loving warm and a caring person.....all lost within a very short space of time. Today Jaya doesn't know when I sit beside him for hours at times and I constantly feel sad that he is missing out on engaging with our lovely grand kids and taking pride in the achievements of our two beautiful children! .

There is no remedy and the only recovery is acceptance taking up the challenge strongly and to live with it while gradually letting go!. Dhamma and the aligned upbringing helps to cope up with the inevitable changes and acceptance. Life has to go on and our responsibilities and duties to the family and community cannot stop. That was his way of thinking & I continue with my involvements and support the family and society up to my capacity and ability. This is the biggest respect I could show him, who always considered services to others as priority.

Having his physical presence and the opportunity to care for him; I consider as a positive and a fortune. He is still a strong part of our family and is part of everything we do. The strong ties of affection and the memory of encouragement he gave me in the past, in turn gives me today the courage to



spend more time with him. I try my best to be mindful of what goes on at present enriching the one way connection we have while desperately grasping to the hope that at a deeply sub conscious level he is aware of my presence and love. This creates a striking entry to a new altitude in life's journey started at Peradeniya!. All this compels me to think further..... At times PUAAViC is a forum to share our stories both happy and sad. This connectedness I trust helps us derive comfort and strength while we reconcile ourselves to our own circumstances even during these fragile moments of our lives.

Here I am also giving a link to a beautiful song that my son Dulip has done last year as a tribute to thaththi that they love so much!. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bfuzbcXtDo8>

[CLICK HERE](#) For the link to my poster done for 30th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International held in Perth, Australia in April 2015 is OR Go to page 146 OR search for Pushpa (Control F and type pushpa)

Pushpa Jayakody

Faculty of Science 1968-71