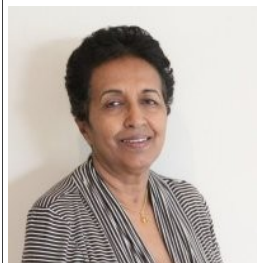




HANTANE NEWS 2016

ISSUE 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Executive Committee 2016 is delighted to be able to issue 'Hantane News' again this year, the newsletter of Peradeniya University Alumni Australia Victoria Chapter (PUAAViC). Hantane News 2016 aims to fulfil a number of objectives. Primarily it reports a summary of the achievements accomplished during the year. It also gives an opportunity to convey PUAAViC news, feedback regarding various activities within the year and has provided an opportunity for alumni to present articles in relation to our alma mater and also indicate their views and ideas regarding the way PUAAViC operates.

For most of us the association is our own platform to keep alive the fading memories of the past and share the fragrance of Hantane lingering in the air at our events. The atmosphere at such events is loved by all purely for bringing back fond memories of our early lives of those carefree days.

PUAAViC has a tradition of implementing a vast number of diverse projects annually to support the current generation of students at the University of Peradeniya and also for the welfare of our own alumni in Victoria. I am extremely glad that we were able to successfully complete and achieve the anticipated objectives of all the projects undertaken in 2016. The year started with Australia Day sports event jointly sponsored with Kelaniya University Alumni which was a fun day for all. MY appreciation to Kelaniya Alumni for their utmost support and friendship. It was followed by the most enjoyable annual trip to Lakes Entrance including the significant Sinhala & Tamil New Year function in April celebrating the traditions of our own culture. Next was Hantane Nite 2016 which had a remarkable attendance and was a night of glitter and glamour with music and dancing of the highest standard. The major iconic event of PUAAViC followed in September on the father's day which was another family fun event. This signified the concept of the younger generation of our alumni while enjoying the day, paying tribute to own dads by supporting the needy students of their parent's university. The funds collected is administered to selected students via the parent alumni body, Alumni Association of Peradeniya University at the annual award ceremony a tradition that has continued among the two associations for 5 years.

2016 has come to an end and our next iconic event will be the upcoming fund raising family night following the AGM in November 2016. The funds raised will be donated to selected faculty Deans of the University of Peradeniya in line with PUAAViC tradition to support the relevant libraries.

This year we have introduced another concept by offering the platform of PUAAViC at the event to display the talents and skills of alumni and their family members.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all alumni for being in the forefront with their continuous and immense support in making the above activities hugely successful. PUAAViC value their active participation, their generous contributions and the efforts in supporting our actions and of course the meaningful and constructive feedback. In addition to the above projects the flood disaster in Sri Lanka made PUAAViC to take an extra step in establishing a disaster fund for which we are again thankful to our alumni.

Our new initiatives in the year 2015/16 includes the commencement of drafting of Policies and Guidelines to support the consistent and transparent management of PUAAViC projects and the launch of the new website, which will be fully managed by the Alumni itself. Our membership keeps growing and in 2015/16 we have seen a significant number of younger members joining the Association.

My heartfelt thanks go to all the committee members and office bearers who were so patient and committed to all tasks accomplished within the year. Without a single one of them we may not have been able to achieve the above. I wish to thank in particular those members of the Executive Committee who took leadership and coordinated the complexities of the above events strategically and successfully in line with the principles of PUAAViC.

Pushpa Jayakody

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<u>Scholarship scheme/ Editorial</u>	2
<u>Hantane Night/ Seminar</u>	3
<u>Cricket match & Family day/ New members</u>	4
<u>Annual Trip to Lakes Entrance</u>	5
<u>Sarasavi Hamuweema / Kumar Udayasiri</u>	6
<u>You are wanted</u>	7



Why do we want to donate for PUAAViC Scholarship Program!

The life style of a Peradeniya uni student is ever changing, its much different from the uni life we had decades ago. Then we all were typical uni students, there were not much differences of rich and poor. Everyone dressed up in ordinary cloths, ate food provided by halls of residences. Walked to faculties, and did not try to be distinguished or having separate elite groups.

But now with all the socio-economic and technological advancements, it has been inevitable affecting the culture of uni students in Peradeniya creating a sort of gap between mainly rich and poor thus forming certain groups. There are stories like two students sharing a basic packet of rice and curry while some students having frequent dinner outs in posh Kandy restaurants. Even academic performances of students may not be entirely based on the natural talents of brilliant students as it was before. Underprivileged brainy students may not able to concentrate towards academic achievements but to find the way on survival measures with day to day living on campus.

It's true that disadvantaged students are getting scholarships like Mahapola these days but for a needy student that could be the only source of financial aid to live on campus which might not meet most of their basic requirements.

So what's the value of a PUAAViC scholarship? a mere \$110 per student which could be affordable for most of us. It's Rs12,000 per year for a needy student which is not much either, but it could partly contribute to fulfil their basic needs like most essential food & clothing and helping them with productive study time.

Moreover we are in this country thanks to Uni Peradeniya for making us eligible for being here. In this life style most of us may not be having second thoughts to spend an amount like this for a single item on our own kids. I sincerely believe as alumni of Peradeniya we all should be able to donate a scholarship for a needy Peradeniya student!

Robini Nilaweera

Editorial

Blood, sweat and tears of many bearing fruit now

Peradeniya University Alumni Association in Victoria in its current enviable form and shape is not something which has suddenly come into being out of nowhere. It has been a slow and a steady build up with the dedication of many of our senior alumni over the years. As one of the pioneers; Gamini Maharage stated in last year's newsletter, none of these achievements would have been possible if not for the massive effort put in by every past member since the humble beginning at Jells Park on one spring day in 1992.

Today we boast of a membership base that consists of 133 alumni most of whom are life members. In addition, there are large number of alumni who support this effort even when they are not members or have allowed their membership to lapse. Peradeniya Alumni is no longer just another Sri Lankan Community Organisation but one of the most successful institutions of its kind.

We should consider each AGM as an occasion to look back and make a self-assessment. What else can we do to make our Association from great to the greatest? One very important aspect in my view is the need for more young blood to come forward and take leadership positions. Let's try individually and collectively to get Alumni from younger generations to come on board and be active in our Association in 2017 and thereafter.

Upali Ileperuma



Hantane Night 2016



PUAAViC Seminar on 21st August 2016

As a part of our commitment to the Sri Lankan community in Melbourne, PUAAViC conducts a seminar each year to share our knowledge and experience. The Seminar Subcommittee, decided to have this year seminar to target mostly young Sri Lankan population who came recently to work in Australia. This year's seminar delivered by industry experts focused on following topics.

- Australian Taxation System
- Superannuation and Retirement
- Work Safety and Workers rights

There was a moderate number of attendance to the seminar and all of them highly appreciated the topics we discussed according to the feedback we got. We intend to continue on this type of topics in future to get younger people involve in our PUAAViC activities.

Koshala Rupassara
(Coordinator- Seminar Subcommittee)

Sweet memories!!!





Family Day & Cricket Match—Australia Day 2016



The Australia Day celebrations: PUAAViC Family Fun Day was held for the sixth time on 26th January 2016 at Rowville Reserve, 1377 Stud Road, Rowville. It was a very relaxing and fun filled day in a friendly environment and it reflects the significance and effort of celebrating the Australia Day among the Sri Lankan community living in Australia. There was a significant participation of the young families with children which was very encouraging. Having a very specific and unique Sri Lankan cricket “Papare band” to the event truly brought the event to a new level.

One of the main events held on this day was a cricket match between alumni of Kelaniya and Peradeniya universities. Peradeniya recorded a very exciting and trilling win after 2013 and taken the Trophy “Australia Day Challenge Trophy” back to University of Peradeniya. Kanchana Senarathne from Peradeniya University was announced the ‘man of the match. Congratulations PUAAViC team!

The breakfast of kiribath and lunumiris was followed by a free BBQ while the kids were busy with their games including a thriller in the jumping castle and the adults were enjoyed the relays and other sports activities. On behalf of the Australia day events subcommittee, it is my pleasure to thank all of the members/non-members for the participation in order to make the event- PUAAViC Family Fun Day a huge success.

Sunil Ratnayake
(Coordinator- Australia Day Events Subcommittee)

Welcome to the family New members 2016

- Dharmawijaya N Lekamge
- Nissanka Ratnayake
- Sunny Sisiranatha
- Jeewantha S Wijesinghe
- Dimuthu K W Wijesinghe
- Ravi Corea
- Chinthana Wijeweera
- Keethi P D Bandaranayake
- Senarath Rajasinghe
- Palitha Amarasena
- Ranjith Gamage
- Rizana Zubair
- Sardha de Silva
- N Dias





PAAAViC Annual Trip April 2016, Lakes entrance.

Below is a summary of the comments received from the members on the PAAAViC Annual Trip-2016.

“Great event, nice people, feeling like family, time-travelled back to Uni days! Hats-off to all those who shed their "sweat" to make it a success, including ‘Thri-Sunil’ Team & spouses of all who supported in organising the event!! decent, well-mannered, well-behaved active participants & mingled well equitably!!!”. (Rukman Wimalasuria)

“Wonderful and great trip. Sarath Wijesundara done a fantastic job and Mangala Fernando too. Location is excellent but too far from Melbourne. As most of the members are 50-70 years old, I hope next time you will be think about to find a safety and secure location for Awurudu games”. (Tikiri & Chandra Ranaweera)

“Congratulations on taking the lead in organising what appears to have been an enjoyable and very well planned event. It is refreshing to see an event report such as yours with full account details etc. Personally I regret not been able to attend due to unavoidable family circumstances”. (Chakra Wijesundara)

“Congratulations for a fantastic trip 2016. Kamini and I enjoyed it very much”.

(Gamini & Kamini Maharage)

“Thank you for the careful planning & organising of the weekend, thank you for the beautiful music, the witty skits, the fresh food, the wholesome fun and the fine company. It was most enjoyable”. (Gamini Alwis)

“What a fantastic weekend. We always let our hair down and enjoy to the max with our friendly company of Pera friends. Big thank you to Sunil and the subcommittee. Looking forward to the next trip”. (Padma Herath)

“A big thank to you all making the event graceful and our lives refreshed and rejuvenated. The weekend was an absolute thriller. Sorry for the people who missed out. They missed it badly. Love the participants! Organisers are too good. Costs unbelievably low. Next time 3 nights please”. (Ajith De Silva)

This fabulous event came out as a result of a great team work of all of our members and it certainly showed true “Pera Spirit” that still remains in our hearts!

(Sunil Ratnayake)





Kumar Udayasiri (1950- 2016)

Instrumentation. A continuous and dedicated career of 27 years with the same Company. In a true testament to his dedication to the field of engineering, he was admitted to Fellowship of Institute of Engineers Australia very recently.

Udayasiri was very active in social sphere for a very long period of time. He was one of the founder members of Sri Lankan Engineers Association of Australia, and also a past President of Nalanda College OBA in Melbourne. He has been a keen supporter of the PUAAViC for many years.

Kumarawadu Udayasiri or affectionately known to his friends simply as Udayasiri, passed away in Melbourne on 22 September 2016 after a prolonged battle with an illness.

Udayasiri entered Peradeniya Engineering Faculty in 1970. He was among the top students in the national university entrance exam that year. Udayasiri graduated as an Electrical & Electronics engineer and specialized in Instrumentation and Controls during his work in the Sri Lanka State Fertiliser Corporation. There he was responsible for the commissioning and operation of the fertiliser factory. He then worked for several years in Saudi Arabia before migrating to Australia in 1989. He joined a PVC processing plant which was owned by ICI at that time and continued there until he retired in 2016 as Manager-

He never missed Hantane Night, and most of us remember he was there on at the last Hantane Night on 25 June 2016. He was the same joyful character on the night despite fast deteriorating health. He left behind the love of his life Chandima. He will be remembered for his many achievements but he would like to be remembered for the three masterpieces Ruwangi, Dilshan and Sonal he helped to mould together with Chandima.

We bid adieu Udayasiri, we shall dearly miss you!!

Prepared by Upali Ileperuma based on the eulogy by Bandula Gunawardena & others



සරසවි හමු වීම

තුරුණු දිවි මාවතේ
නුහුරු නුපුරුදු ලොවේ
ඔබ හමුවූ ඒ දිනේ
සදා මතකේ රැඳේ

කහ පාට රතු පාට
මල්වලින් පිරි තුරුය
හත්තන කඳුපෙලින්
වටවූ බිම පිවිතුරුය

අසිරිමත් සරසවිය
සිරිපුරකි ඔබ අපට
වෙන ලොවක් ඇත අවට
නොහිතේවී මොහොතකට

එවන් බිම උපන් ඒ
සදාතන ප්‍රේමයෙන්
එකිනෙකට ලංවූනිය
දඳනර සෙනෙහසින්

එතැන් සිට ආ ගව්ව
දුර විය නොසිතාම
කෙටි දුරක් තවත් ඇත
නොමඳනී කවදාද?

සෙනෙහසේ නාමයෙන්
ගෙවූන අපෙ දිවි ගමන
විටෙක රළු බොරළු විය
දිනෙක සඳ කිරණ විය

නමුදු අප එක්ව ආ
මේ ගමන සුන්දරය
කඳුල වුව සිතහ විය
ඔබ සෙවන තුල නොමඳ

සුභද ඔබ සතු විරිය
සුමුදු ගුණ සහ කැලන
මගේ හද පසන් කල
පහන විය නිරතුරුව

සුජාතා රත්නායක

PUAAViC T-shirts and caps

PUAAViC T-shirts and caps embroidered with the original University of Peradeniya logo are now available to purchase at future PUAAViC events for AU\$ 20.00 and 10.00 respectively.



Available for sale at all PUAAViC Events

INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING?

VISIT: WWW.PERADENIYA.COM.AU/VIC

WANTED

ALIVE & 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. They are wanted to build and strengthen our Community of Peradeniya Alumni in Victoria. If you know of their whereabouts please send us an email to secretary@peradeniya.com.au to inform us of their contact details or ask them to write to us. Your help will be much appreciated. Any information leading to their capture into our community will be rewarded.

Senaka Minithanthrige	Anura Nagasinghe
Bandu Gamage	Anura Amarasiri
Vajira Nanayakkara	Dhammika Jayasuriya
Dinudu Wijesundera	Dilhani Rathnadiwakara
HAS Perera	Vajira Nanyakkara
Rasika Kumarasinghe	Dushan Hettiarachchi
K Thiru	Mahinda Vithanage
Indrani Guneratne	Dushamantha Kannangara
Mahendra Tirimanne	Jagath Vithanage
Samson Dias	Kumudini Ekanayake
Nilantha Herath	Nimal Rajapaksa
Niroshan Samarasinghe	Peshala Herath
Priyan Sisira	Priyanandani Wijesinghe

REWARD

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

Contact us:

- Email: secretary@peradeniya.com.au
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PUAAVIC/>
- Postal Address: PERADENIYA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA CHAPTER PO BOX 750, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150, Australia

NOT A MEMBER YET, PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION FORM FROM [THE WEBSITE](#) AND SEND THE COMPLETED FORM TO; secretary@peradeniya.com.au

