



### HANTANE NEWS 2017

ISSUE 6

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- 2017



Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of Peradeniya ....

It was a wonderful opportunity and honour to serve as President of this great organisation in 2017 and I am proud not only of achieving our multitude of objectives for this year but also the

formation of even stronger bonds within our executive committee which extends through to all of our current PUUAViC members.

Since we established the Victorian Chapter, we have formed strong networks with our members and Alumni whilst supporting the alma mater of our foundation, the University of Peradeniya.

This year I am delighted to announce that together were able to once again fundraise for our Scholarship Assistance Programme. This has been largely possible due to the generosity of our Alumni from Victoria and I thank you for your assistance. New student assistance ship programme and educational resources programme are other successful schemes that have been implemented this year. Under the current scheme, needy selected students receive monthly payment of three thousand rupees. In addition, we are currently in the process of acquiring \$4000 worth of books for donation to Science and Agriculture faculties whilst assisting the Engineering Faculty with project equipment.

From a social perspective, we have maintained an active year, filled with wonderful memories that we have all shared together. Our year commenced with the annual Australia Day Sports event jointly sponsored with Kelaniya University, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our annual trip to Cammeray Waters , Woodend was remarkable and we shared many memorable moments with our family members. The highlight of our social calendar was Hantane Nite, which was filled with dancing, music and great conversation amongst all. In

addition, the annual Father's Day event was another family fun event where our own children celebrated a lovely dinner with us and proudly took part in joining us in items including dancing and a drama on the Father's Day night. One further memorable occasion was the religious activities at the Keysborough Buddhist Temple.

I would like to extend a heartfelt gratitude towards all the committee members and office bearers as well as their spouses, who were extremely patient, hard working and dedicated in accomplishing our objectives for 2017. Furthermore, I would like to specially thank the members of the Executive Committee and commend them on their excellent leadership skills and coordination of events, which were successfully organised throughout the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all past and present members of Victoria Chapter for their tireless efforts on many fronts to make our society a better place.

It has been an absolute pleasure and honour to serve as your President for 2017.

Thank you  
Sunil Arachchi

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Father's Day / Editorial                         | 2 |
| Hantane Night                                    | 3 |
| Membership drive & Family day                    | 4 |
| Annual Trip to Woodend                           | 5 |
| මනක සටහන් බිඳක් !                                | 6 |
| PUAAViC Scholarship Program                      | 6 |
| PUAAViC Policy & Guidelines                      | 7 |
| Educational Resources Facilitation Sub Committee | 7 |



*Editorial*

**FATHER'S Day 2017**

Annual Father's Day celebrations of PUAAViC was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 at St. Simon the Apostle Parish Hall, Rowville. Father's Day celebrations were started over 5 years back by the children of PUAAViC parents living in Melbourne. It was a magnanimous gesture by the children to support the on-going Scholarship Support Program of the PUAAViC by donating the value of their Father's gifts to the Scholarship fund.

The Scholarship Support Program of the PUAAViC works in unison with other similar programs of 'brother' associations all over the world under the umbrella of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya (AAUP) in Sri Lanka. Apart from granting scholarships and studentships to present day students of the University of Peradeniya, the PUAAViC expanded the scope of activity to provide educational resource facilities to needy faculties of the University. The program has been accordingly re-named as 'Scholarship/Studentship Support and Educational Resource Facilitation Program.

A notable transformation that was introduced this year, was the shift from the Father's Day Sunday, to the preceding Saturday and the shift in time from complimentary lunch on Sunday to complimentary dinner on Saturday. 'Cooked at Site' hoppers with delicious curries substituted the customary 'koththu roti'. Many participants 'took to the floor' to sing their favorites backed up by a talented group of oriental musicians. A new introduction was the dramas and enactments which brought to light the hidden talents of children and members; much is expected in the years to come. These significant changes to the structure of the event, brought the desired results. Going by the number of dinner plates issued, close upon 220 PUAAViC members and well-wishers had participated in the event. However, going by the assumption of a \$50.00 donation from every participant, the committed donations amounted to only \$8000.00, a shortfall of \$2000.00. A lesson learnt was the required participation of at least 275 to achieve a donation target of \$10,000.00. It is also seen that the expenses have exceeded by \$500.00 from the allocated budget of \$2500.00.

In a holistic view, the effort taken was a worthwhile exercise; apart from the donations received, the camaraderie that developed, the cordiality between the children and the PUAAViC members and the talents exposed among the children and the members are immeasurable.

The commitment dictated by the 2017 executive committee was exemplary; the front desk team did a marvelous job, well supported by the music and dinner organizers and project operators. The table arrangements and décor were fabulous; a novel concept of dual compering as a dialogue in English and Sinhalese was introduced; the drama directors and the actors spared no pains to develop dramas relevant to the topic and the organizing sub-committee worked unitedly with one vision. This report will fall short if the names of Sunil Archchie, Sarath Jayasuriya, Pushpa Jayakody and Rohini Nilaweera are not mentioned for their tireless efforts to revamp and update the program to its present status, along with the counter-parts in Sri Lanka.

Prepared by Nirmalal Dias- Secretary, Organizing Sub Committee

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**Sweet memories!!!**



*Hantane Nite 2017*



## PUAAViC Membership Drive / Family Fun Day - 2017



The Australia Day celebration: PUAAViC Membership Drive / Family Fun Day was held for the seventh time on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at Rowville Reserve. 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.

One of the main events held on this day was a cricket match between alumni of Kelaniya and Peradeniya Universities. Kelaniya recorded a win and taken the Trophy "Australia Day Challenge Trophy" back to Kelaniya University. There was a significant improvement of the participation of the women teams for cricket and netball make the event colorful and truly brought the event to a new level. Thanks girls!

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 PUAAViC Membership Drive subcommittee, it is my pleasure to thank all of the members/non-members for the participation in order to make the event- PUAAViC Membership Drive Day a huge success.

Sunil Ratnayake  
(Co-coordinator-PUAAViC Membership Drive subcommittee)



### *Welcome to the family New members 2017*

- Harinda Rajapakse
- Dhanushka Senavirathne
- Bhagya Hettiarachchige Don
- GG Yapa
- Sujatha Yapa
- Aruna Gayan Vadyasinghe
- Saman Gamage
- Harin Corea



### PUAAViC Annual Trip April 2017, Cammeray Waters, Woodend

Below is a summary of the comments received from the members on the PUAAViC Annual Trip-2017.

"Event was organised in a meticulous way. It's not easy to organise a full 2 day event for such a large crowd. Committee welcomed every one, gave a chance to put forward their ideas and whole crowd from various ages mixed up better than the trips before. As the place was just for us, made the things easier. No restrictions with any things like time, noise etc. Hats off for the 2 main organisers and the subcommittee".

"Venue and program schedule excellent (including enough free time) If we can have bit of a out door area to do more interactive games / events will be good"

"Overall, good team work, friendly environment, comfortable and relax program. Too many group singing events, can you put all three in-one Friday need variety of events from youths and half an hour documentary / video program related in general for example; EDUCATION Saturday morning after games I suggest to organize one hour YOGA OR TAICHEI exercise program for everyone. Need youth participation or involvement for Friday events and Saturday Drama events"

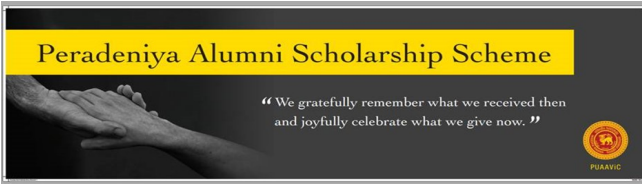
"The place -exclusively to us and even the caretakers left us alone. Close to Melbourne. Lovely grounds, bikes, golf so much more. Meals, entertainment, organisation superb. Recognition of the visitors, the people who worked hard for the event, those who provided music, the recognition of our history particularly at this point in time with whatever went on was very well handled both at the lighting of the lamp and final wrap up. **There was the evidence of the birth of a healing process for us.** To me it was most heartening. My score for the event as a whole was easily a 10 out of 10".

"For someone to give 'full marks' is unbelievable and makes me convinced that this annual trip was the most enjoyable and has broken many records. Let us give credit where it is due and let me re-iterate that it was just two personalities, who planned meticulously ably supported by the Trip Sub Committee and others to make this trip a 'record breaking' success".

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  
(Co-coordinator-PUAAViC Annual Trip subcommittee)





**PAAViC – AAUP Scholarship Program - Accountability Structure 2017**

Scholarship Program of PAAViC which commenced about 5 to 6 years is a popular program among members of alumni family in Victoria. Being one of our flagship programs no doubt it brings pride to the Victorian chapter by the great opportunity it creates to be involved in a valuable scheme putting our thoughts and efforts towards improving the education of needy students of the current university.

PAAViC is extremely grateful for the continuity and unreluctant support of our donors. We are even more privileged to have the younger generation of our sons and daughters (educated in Australian Universities) to be able to think, feel & massively contribute to the advancement of the academic achievements of students at Peradeniya university. The Father's Day social gathering is an established event in PAAViC's annual calendar and is the main fund raising opportunity for the program. This would continue as a major family fun day for alumni with many innovations and creations in the years to come.

It is a massive advantage that we always had capable and keen group of voluntary staff who were readily responding to our requests as officials of Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya (AAUP). We are extremely fortunate to be able to maintain an excellent working relationship with AAUP and come up with several improvement strategies throughout the project life. Alumni could be happy that there is much credibility in all steps followed in selections procedures, awarding scholarships as well as in monitoring the progress of beneficiaries. The current accountability structure established in 2017 includes the following.

- Students to submit the academic performance reports monthly at the AAUP Office.
- AAUP to release monthly instalments to students only after the above submission.
- Monthly instalments to be released through bank transfer.
- AAUP to submit details and signatures at agreed time intervals and formats to PAAViC.
- Document & report any unethical behaviours of eligible students and reassess eligibility.
- AAUP to issue a letter of award to eligible students stating the conditions of award.
- Indicate responsibility in letter of award for students to know continuity criteria.
- AAUP to report details of all bank transactions to PAAViC in an accountable format.
- AAUP to provide relevant documents to PAAViC Auditor for annual assessments.

**Pushpa Jayakody**

**මතක සටහන් බිඳක්!**

සෞම්‍යය පරිසරය, ලෝපනල සරසවිය පිහිටියේ පාමුලය, හත්තන කඳු වැටිය ගැලු හැටි මතක ඇත, කොමළ ලෙස මහවැලිය හැඩ කළා දස අතම, මතකයම සුන්දරය එවන් වකවානුවක්, යළිත් නම් නොඑනු ඇත!

හත්තන සිසාරා, හමා ආ මද පවන කඳු මුදුනෙ හෙමි හෙමින්, එබී බැලූ සුසුන් සඳ හාදු වංගුව අසල, එළිමහන් රඟමඩල පෙම්වතුනගේ සොදුරු, අදුරු පටු මාවනද සිසිලසකි ගෙන දුන්නෙ, යොවුන් හදවත් වලට!

මලල ක්රිඩා පිටිය, විසල් ක්රිඩා ගාරෙ එදා අපගේ දෙපා, සිප නොගත් නැතක් වෙද දැල් පන්දු, පා පන්දු, අත් පන්දු, පැසි පන්දු හේදයන්ගෙන් තොරව, අපව එකමුතු කළෙන් නියෝජන කළා අපි, දයාබර සරසවිය!

මතකයේ රැඳී ඇත, රමිය වූ අතීතය නිදැල්ලේ සිත නොසිත්, ගෙවූ ඒ සිව් වසර නැණ වතුන් විදු වතුන්, දහස් ගණනින් ලොවට බිහි කරන දැකුම්කළු, තක්ෂලා සෙවන ඔබ හරසරින් අපි සදා, වදින්නෙමු ඔබ දෙපා!

ඔබේ තුරුලේ ඉන්න, උණුසුමක් ලැබ ගන්න යළි වරක් චිත් යන්න, අපට අවසර දෙන්න ඉති සිතීන් පනන මේ, සුභාසිරි පිළිගන්න කාලයේ වැලි තලාවේ, කිසි සේත් නොසැඟවෙන අනභිනම මැණික ඔබ, "පේරදෙණි සරසවිය"!

ගෝභා පීරිස් (වීරසිංහ)  
ජීලොං, වික්ටෝරියා

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Australia



### PUAAViC Policy & Guidelines

Peradeniya University Alumni Australia Victoria Chapter (PUAAViC) is the first Peradeniya University alumni organization in Australia which was officially registered around 14 years ago.

Keeping the essence of PUAAViC core structure, each year subsequent committees added variations and new events & items to PUAAViC calendar in line with the growing necessities of members & community. With the consistent growth of PUAAViC, It was realised that the importance of setting up a suitable set of guidelines to act as a document of "best practice" to efficiently undertake the tasks for primary PUAAViC procedures and annual key activities. It was agreed that formulating a suitable set of guidelines will facilitate current and future committees to manage relevant tasks efficiently and accurately.

As a result, a set of Guidelines for PUAAViC Financial policy and procedures has been formulated and uploaded to PUAAViC webpage which has become a vital document for implementing PUAAViC Financial procedures. Thanks to dedicated committee members for spending their valuable time on formalizing this document which is widely being used as a guidance for newly appointed committee officials.

Similarly in future, guidelines for annual key activities such as Hantane Night, Annual Trip, Communication, Committee meetings & recording minutes, and Australia-Day Sports Program, General matters etc. will be suitably formulated and uploaded to PUAAViC webpage for reference as required, though not to be followed essentially.

It is expected that past and present PUAAViC committee members will get together to devote and contribute their time in formulating necessary guidelines for all above mentioned key PUAAViC activities. It would definitely be a vital documentation for reference for future PUAAViC committees to efficiently carry forward the continuity of PUAAViC in future years.

**Rohini Nilaweera**

Not a member yet, please download the application form from the website:

<https://Peradeniya.com.au/vic>

and send the completed form to;

[secretary.puaavic@peradeniya.com.au](mailto:secretary.puaavic@peradeniya.com.au)

### Educational Resources Facilitation Sub Committee

Peradeniya University Alumni Australia Victoria Chapter (PUAAViC) has been actively involved for more than a decade in providing assistance to the current students in many ways to achieve best academic results in their chosen area of studies. In addition to providing scholarships the association had also assisted the University by donating educational equipment and books.

In the past PUAAViC donated 100 sets of drawing instruments to the Faculty of Engineering, to be used mainly by the needy first year students. These consist of 100 Instrument Boxes, 100 Engineering Scales and 100 Set Squares Sets. The total cost of the project was AU\$ 3,566.00. The Association contributed AU\$ 1,150.00 collected from the Youth Concert held in 2006, towards this donation. The balance was collected from 32 Engineering Alumni from Victoria, NSW, Queensland, WA, Brunei, Canada and USA.

On three occasions we have donated books to all faculty libraries and the main library. 2010, 2012 and in 2015 we donated books to the Management faculty headed by Prof Milton.

Present committee has decided to allocate AUD 4,000.00 to Science and Agriculture faculties to purchase books for respective libraries. The process, the association follow is to communicate directly with the deans and the librarians of faculty libraries and prepare lists of books required and check with Sri Lankan suppliers already registered with the University before looking for overseas suppliers.

It is the objective of the sub-committee to communicate with the Deans of faculties and librarians on a fact finding mission to understand their requirements. Identifying what is needed by the University and students are based on the information received.

In addition to donating books, efforts are being made to donate used note book computers to faculties to be used by students in their reference work. The ownership of the equipment will be held by the deans of the respective faculties.

The committee has decided to allocate the funds collected at the evening function held after the Annual General Meeting, to provide Educational Services to the students. This includes Books, Computers and any other equipment as the need may arise.

Sarath Jayasuriya  
Educational Resources Facilitation Sub - Committee