



Hanthana News

2013

Newsletter of the Peradeniya University Alumni Australia Victoria Chapter

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Editorial

Editorial Sub-Committee is delighted to be able to issue the first main issue of the Hanthana News, the newsletter of the Peradeniya University Alumni Australia, Victoria Chapter (PUAAViC). A special issue has already been issued for Father's Day 2013 to raise funds for helping the education of students at Peradeniya University where a strong foundation was laid for our future. We all contributed to this good cause in appreciation of the unforgettable free education, and the social and natural environment we enjoyed there during our undergraduate years

Hanthana News aims to fulfil number of objectives. Firstly, the newsletter aims to report what this branch (PUAAViC) achieved during the year. Reports of Sub-Committees of the branch would accomplish this task. Secondly, the newsletter would convey news about the membership to its readers. Thirdly, the newsletter provides an opportunity to all its members (includes all Peradeniya graduates) to contribute articles in relation to Peradeniya, or in a field that is useful to its readers. Though we had a very short time for completion, this issue has attempted to meet the objectives of the newsletter to the best of the abilities of Editorial Subcommittee.

Many owe our gratitude for the success of this issue. It would not have been possible to accomplish this task if not for the contributors. In addition, some of our members immensely supported this efforts by obtaining contributions from some respected members of the Peradeniya University alumni community. We humbly thank all of them and request the help of all PUAAViC members in future in order to make this a successful annual newsletter.

We hope to continually improve the editorial scope of the newsletter based on the feedback from membership to make it a useful and attractive publication. The help from PUAAViC membership, and from its executive committee and sub-committees will be vital in this regard. Finally, we wish you happy reading of the newsletter.

Editorial Sub-Committee:

Note for contributors:

Members of PUAAViC and graduates of Peradeniya University could contribute articles to Hanthana News on a non-political topic that is useful for its readership.

Whilst the newsletter is in English language, final decision of acceptance of articles and news items rests upon the PUAAViC Committee. Next issue will be Hanthan News 2014. Any articles for this issue should be sent by 1 August 2014. Authors of articles should include a brief note (year graduated from Peradeniya University, subsequent academic achievements, professional career etc.) and a photograph of the author.

Articles/news items should be sent in electronic format to: puaavic.editorial@peradeniya.com.au

Maname and Peradeniya: A Symbiotic Relationship

By 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 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 tampura 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 takes 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.

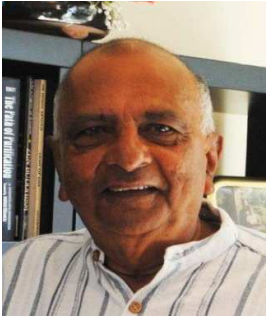
The good thing was that we Peradeniyites went round with the play but we also did our studies. I think the experience with playing on stage in a subtle way enhanced our absorbing ability for academic study. What a camaraderie we built among the team! I suppose that contributed to our stunning performances. 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. Sarathchandra 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!

About the author:



Having obtained a philosophy honours degree in 1960, Shyamon worked as public servant in Sri Lanka until he migrated to Australia in 1994. He was the POTHE GURU (Narrator) of the original production of Prof. Ediriweera Sarathchandra's theatre classic "Maname" in 1956 and by the time he completed his studies 1960 he has performed this role in more than 500 episodes. Astonishing originality and the exceptional skills of his performance of this role made Shyamon fondly remembered as the best ever POTHE GURU even after more than half a century.

In 1983, Shyamon obtained his MBA from University of Melbourne. After returning to Sri Lanka he wrote the first management book in Sinhalese (Kalamanakaranaya) which was widely used in universities in Sri Lanka for many years.

Guess Who?

You made me laugh
Until my belly ached
You made me cry
Till my tears went dry

I flew around like a bird
Until I got tired
Always came back to your nest
That was the safest place I could rest

Humble you made me in every way
When achievements came my way
To be patient you taught me
When everything went wrong for me

My joy knew know bounds
When you were around
You taught me how to share
Even the precious things which were rare

To be friends with everyone,
You taught me how
You helped me to meet,
The precious friends I have now

I took you for granted
Until we had to be parted
Though decades have passed, since I left you
I can still giggle and laugh, because of you

Though I spent a few years with you
I can talk hours and hours about you
Oh! How much I miss you
Guess who? No one but you

My dear **UNI PERA!**

Composed with Gratitude to her Alma Mater by Hemamali Dias

(Hemamali graduated from University of Peradeniya in 1976)

Contribution of Two Eminent British Academics in Establishing and Developing the First University and Its Library in Sri Lanka

By N.T.S.A. Senadeera

Librarian, University of Peradeniya 1982-2002

1. Introduction

Those familiar with the early higher education of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) are aware that Mr. Robert Marrs *M.A.Oxon, C.I.E.* was the first Principal of the Ceylon University College established in 1921 and Dr. William Ivor Jennings *M.A., LL.B. Litt. D. (Cantab), LL. D.(London), of Gray's Inn Barrister-at-law* (later Sir) was the second Principal of the Ceylon University College who later became the first Vice-Chancellor of the first university of Sri Lanka, known at that time by the name University of Ceylon¹. The Ceylon University College was closed on 30th June 1942 and the University of Ceylon was opened on 1st July 1942.

The enormous contribution of Sir Ivor Jennings in building the first university of Sri Lanka is well known. It later became the University of Peradeniya. The remarkable involvement of Mr. Robert Marrs, the predecessor of Sir Ivor Jennings, in preparing the basic ground-work for the first university is known only by those who are familiar with the early history of the Ceylon University College. The contribution of these two eminent British academics in developing the university library as an essential academic support for the university structure they were building up, has not received adequate recognition. Therefore this paper is devoted to trace the contribution of these two great academics in developing the first university and its library in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).

2. Ceylon University College and its first Principal Mr. Robert Marrs

The Governor of Ceylon Sir Robert Chalmers who submitted to the Secretary of State the proposal for establishing a University College in Ceylon mentioned far back in 1915 that the status of the proposed University College was interim. However, the Ceylon University College opened in 1921 as “the forerunner of the university”, continued for 21 years. On 14th July 1942, Dr. Ivor Jennings making his inaugural address to the staff of the newly established university explained the reasons for the delay as follows:

“... It had taken 21 years to get the university established because of the controversy over the site. ... When in 1921 the University College was established, there were some who considered from the beginning that it should be located in Kandy. Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam himself was among them, though he had changed his mind in 1926. I do not propose to rake the embers of this controversy. It was a controversy in which the partisans were all anxious for the establishment of the best university that Ceylon could afford. ... Some of those who supported the Colombo proposal did so, because they foresaw that a decision to move to Kandy would destroy the best part of five years' work, so cause delay in a project which had, they thought, already been sufficiently delayed...”².

Three years prior to the inaugural address of the new Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Robert Marrs, the Principal of the Ceylon University College retired in July 1939 after completing 18 years of service. It is therefore apparent that the most challenging task of preparing the ground-work of the future university from 1921 to 1938 was borne by Mr. Robert Marrs.

When Mr. Marrs assumed office as the first Principal in 1921-1922, the University College possessed most elementary facilities. Ceylon University College Prospectus 1941-42 describes the poor picture that prevailed in the University College in 1921 as follows:

“...at that time the teaching staff consisted of five Professors, three Lecturers and four Visiting Lecturers. The new laboratories were opened on October 1, 1921. In spite of the cessation of courses for teachers, 166 students were registered. There were however no hostels, and the Library mainly the gift of Sir P. Arunachalam, who presented the books of his late son, Mr.A. Padamanabha³ was housed in one room at the College House. The grant for the books in the first year was only Rs.750/=...⁴ .

In this meagre set up the Principal was supported by an authoritative College Council. There was also an Academic Committee consisting of teachers of the College and prominent scholars of that time. With the support of these 2 bodies the Principal gradually organized and built a higher education structure in the College similar to a mini university, consisting academic departments.

During the 18 year administration of Mr. Marrs, Ceylon University College rose to great eminence and became “the only institution of University College status in the Colonial Empire” at that time. A document prepared and circulated by the College in 1940 bear evidence to this fact. After the retirement of Mr. Robert Marrs in July 1939 the post the Principal, Ceylon University College was advertized in local and British Newspapers. A five page resume entitled “Particulars of the Vacant Post of Principal, University College, Ceylon”⁵ was prepared for the information of prospective candidates. This document vividly portrays the superior attainments of the College reached in 1939-1940. Only the 1st paragraph of this document is reproduced below:

“The Ceylon University College was opened in January 1921, as a step towards the creation of a Ceylon University which was to grant its own degrees in the usual subjects of University study. It was decided at an early stage that pending the inauguration of the University, the University College should prepare the students in the main subjects of the Arts and Science Faculties for the Pass and Honours External Degrees of the University of London. A suitable staff was progressively built up by the recruitment of academic officers from various leading universities of the Empire. The success of the experiment and the rapidity of the growth of the College may be illustrated by a remarkable series of academic achievements, exemplified by the results in 1939 when 6 students were placed in the First Class in the Final Honours Examination of the London University in the subjects which included Classics (Latin and Greek), Mathematics and Chemistry, and also by so rapid a growth in numbers of students that starting with little more than 100 in 1921 the number had grown in 1938 to over 550 and steps had to be taken owing to the deficiencies of accommodation to limit the number of students for the academic year 1939-1940 to approximately 600. ...The College is at present the only institution of University College status in the Colonial Empire, although in further Eastern Colonies Hong Kong has its University and the Straits Settlements Raffles College, the latter of which has now been recommended by a visiting Commission for development into a University College. From it [Ceylon University College] are drawn most of the local recruits to the higher grades of the various branches of the Ceylon Civil Service, and its development during the next few transitional years is likely to be of the greatest importance to the development and welfare of a colony that has progressed far along the road to self government....”

The contribution of Mr. Marrs to higher education in Ceylon is not limited to raising the standards of the University College. He went beyond his duties as Principal by voluntarily participating in state matters relating to the establishment of the University. A University Commission with Sir Walter Buchanan-Riddell as Chairman was appointed by the Governor in 1928 to report on the constitutional and administrative details relating to the previous report of the University Site Committee headed by Justice Akbar as Chairman. As mentioned later by Sir Ivor Jennings, the Buchanan-Riddell Commission Report published in early 1929 was in large measure founded on the scheme prepared by Robert Marrs, though modifications were made to suit to a wholly residential system for the university. A bill was introduced in 1930 to initiate the recommendations of the report, but unfortunately proceeded no further owing to the constitutional changes in 1931⁶.

Mr. Marrs was a supporter of the view that the University should be established in Colombo. Therefore he was interested in establishing the proposed university at a site in Bullers Road (now Bawuddhaloka Mawata). Those

interested in establishing the University in Kandy found fault with Mr. Marris for his good-hearted enthusiasm and blamed him for bypassing his duties as Principal.

As a mark of respect to the contribution of Mr. Marris in preparing the basic ground-work of the first university, the Council of University of Ceylon chaired by Sir Ivor Jennings decided 12 years later, to give his name to a university Hall of Residence at Peradeniya. Today the "Marris Hall" elegantly sits on a hillock at the North-End of the Peradeniya University keeping alive the memory of Mr. Robert Marris.

3. Ceylon University College Library and its Librarian Mr. R.S. Enright

When considering library facilities for the University College, finding no library devoted to higher education in Ceylon to learn from its experience, Mr. Marris followed the practice and experience of existing British Universities. He took steps to develop the College library as an essential educational facility for assisting the teaching and learning activities of the College. In this process, realizing the necessity of an academic Librarian to develop the College Library, the Principal recruited in 1925 a graduate passed out of the College in 1924 with a B.A. Classics Honours (London) degree. The person so recruited was Reginald Stephen Enright, an old boy of Trinity College Kandy. Soon Enright was sent to England for library education and training. At the end of the first round of training, Mr. Enright became an Associate of the Library Association of Great Britain (A.L.A). It was the internationally accepted professional qualification for Librarians available at that time. Later he was awarded the Fellowship of the Library Association (F.L.A.) considering his attainments and dedication to service in the university library profession.

Mr. Enright was responsible for initiating the College Library with the Padmanabha Collection mentioned earlier in this paper. He is also responsible for cataloguing books in the College Library according to internationally accepted professional lines. The Catalogue he started later became the University of Ceylon Library Catalogue.⁷ In later times, the Dewey Decimal Classification he introduced in the University College Library became the standard classification used in both academic and public Libraries of Sri Lanka. Use of abbreviated Dewey Decimal Classification numbers for classifying books and arranging them in the reference rooms and the lending library is also an innovation introduced by Mr. Enright and continued up to recent times. By 1929-1930 the books in the College Library remained thoroughly classified. This has been done considering the convenience of Library readers who could find their own materials quickly grasping the classification numbers used by the library. His preliminary professional work in the College Library resulted in making the library popular among the staff and students in the College.

4. University of Ceylon and its first Vice- Chancellor Dr. William Ivor Jennings

In early 1940 Dr. Ivor Jennings saw an advertisement published in London Newspapers calling applications for the vacant post of Principal Ceylon University College. According to the advertisement, the appointment will be on agreement for a term of five years. The salary of the Principal was £ 1,500 per annum, rising by increments of £ 50 to £ 1,750 in five years. According to the copy of the CV, Dr. William Ivor Jennings was 37 years old at the time he submitted the application. He was married and had 2 children. His educational qualifications were B.A. (1925); LL.B. (1927); M.A. (1928); LL.D. London 1932. His qualifications at the Bar included First in 1st Class, Certificate of Honour and Studentship, Bar Final Examination, Hilary 1928. Called by Gray's Inn, Hilary 1928. He was Reader in English Law at the University of London since 1930.

Dr. Jennings was appointed as the 2nd Principal of the Ceylon University College in August 1940, but due to escalating World War II, he was unable to obtain passage in a ship from England to Ceylon until January 1941. During these rather anxious months, Dr. Jennings studied about the new country to which he was planning to go and the background of the post to which he was appointed, going through the information available in England. In this process he was able to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the reasons for the delay in establishing the University of Ceylon. On his arrival in Colombo, Dr. Jennings lost no time in making a courtesy call to the Hon.

Minister of Education C.W.W. Kannangara. During the ensuing discussion the Minister was surprised about the thorough understanding Dr. Jennings possessed about the university problem prevalent in Ceylon at that time. At the end of the brief conversation Dr. Jennings volunteered to prepare a memorandum⁸ for submission to the State Council for establishing the University of Ceylon. His strategy was to establish the university using the available facilities in Colombo and transfer the university later to Peradeniya. This memorandum formed the basis of the Ceylon University Ordinance of 1942.

5. Growth of the University and its Library at Peradeniya

If we go back to the tail end of the battle of sites, we find that in 1938 Dr. Andreas Nell and the late Dr.S.C.Paul (Both of them served as members of the University Council) who had been strong protagonists of the Kandy proposal recommended the purchase of the Peradeniya Estate for establishing the University. This proposal was approved by the government. Professor (Sir) Patrick Abercrombie and Mr. Clifford Halliday visited Ceylon as visiting architects in 1940 to formulate the site plan of the University. Their plans of the buildings were based on the proposals of the University Commission modified by the decisions of the Executive Committee of Education. As explained earlier in this paper, although Dr. Jennings was appointed Principal University College in August 1940, he could reach Ceylon only in January 1941. Therefore Dr. Jennings had no opportunity to consult the university architects when they came to Ceylon in 1940. However, he later suggested 3 far reaching changes to the site plan, which were accepted by Prof. Abercrombie . The changes agreed by the architects were: (1) Enlargement of the Convocation House from 1,000 seats to 1,700. (2) Enlargement of the library to accommodate from 100,000 to 400,000 books and (3) Provision of a large lecture theatre to seat 480 persons in place of the planned 2 lecture theatres for accommodating 240 persons each⁹. As we know the change 1 relating to the Convocation House did not materialize. Due to change 2, the planned four storied library was redesigned to have 3 more floors. We are having the present magnificent 7 storied Main Library building today, because of the far-sighted suggestion of Sir Ivor Jennings. Due to change 3, the University obtained the "Arts Theatre" which was the largest assembly facility the university possessed until recent times.

Dr. Jennings was indeed a great supporter of the Library. Using his position as Vice-Chancellor he encouraged well-wishers to donate valuable private collections of books to the Library. It was because of his initiative that Mr. D.R.Wijewardene donated the Donald Ferguson Collection and the W.A.de Silva Collection he had purchased for the library of the University Sangarama. These collections never went to the Sangarama but were made secure in the Main Library. Just 7 days after his becoming the Vice-Chancellor on 7th July 1942, a letter written by the Vice-Chancellor appeared in the letters to the editor column of the "Daily News", soliciting funds for purchasing a large collection of materials (a library of a Professor of History) advertized for sale by Blackwells, Oxford. The Vice-Chancellor gave two telephone numbers (office and home) for any interested person to contact him. To satisfy my curiosity, I checked the Library and found books belonging to this collection in the Library.

Dr. Jennings drove his Ford car almost every week-end for nearly 10 years to supervise the university building operations in Peradeniya. In these weekly journeys he became so familiar with the Kandy Road. That prompted him to write a book entitled "The Kandy Road". The weekly journeys of Jennings to Kandy and back ended on 6th October 1952 with the formal establishment of University of Ceylon at the newly established university park at Peradeniya. By the beginning of October 1952 the Arts Block, Peradeniya was ready for occupation, but the Library (Main Library) was still under construction. As previously planned, the Library books were shifted to the Ground Floor of the Arts Block. Mr.Enright who reached to Kandy after supervising the shifting operations passed away after a very brief illness. However, the Library opened at Peradeniya as planned at 8.00 a.m. on 6th October 1952, but Sir Ivor Jennings described the loss of the University's most beloved Librarian who served the College Library and the University Library continuously for 27 years as the most regretful fatality of the university's transfer from Colombo to Peradeniya.

6. Concluding remarks

Sir Ivor Jennings spent nearly 15 years of the best part of his life to build the University of Ceylon Peradeniya. He headed the university he very fondly built up at Peradeniya only for 3 years. In 1955 he left the University to take up a senior position in the University of Cambridge. Five years later in 1960, when the Library moved to its the seven storied purpose-built home at Peradeniya, neither Sir Ivor Jennings who suggested the expansion of the building to accommodate 400,000 books, nor Mr. R.S. Enright who built the Library from its inception in 1925 inside a room at the College House and physically transferred a splendid university library to Peradeniya in 1952 was there to share the joy of seeing this great library becoming a reality. The colleagues and well-wishers of Mr. Enright got his portrait unveiled in the Librarian's Office at Peradeniya to perpetuate his charming memory. As a fitting gesture to remember Sir Ivor Jennings as the "real architect of the Peradeniya University" in addition to his role as the proposer, the helper and the great friend of the Peradeniya Library, the University of Peradeniya Library honoured Sir Ivor Jennings during the course of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 1992 by publishing his book "The Kandy Road" which he could not publish during his term of office as planned.

Notes and References :

1. The University of Ceylon established in 1942 continued till 1972 for 30 years. The University of Ceylon was first established in the premises of the former Ceylon University College later named the College House (originally known as "Regina Walawwa" at Thurstan Road, Colombo) purchased by the Ceylon Government for establishing the Ceylon University College in 1921). It was transferred to the newly developed University Park at Peradeniya in 1952. There after the University of Ceylon continued to function as "The University of Ceylon Peradeniya" for 15 years with its Medical Faculty and some parts of the Science Faculty functioning in Colombo. In 1967 the sections of the University of Ceylon functioning in Colombo were separated from the University of Ceylon Peradeniya, to form the new "University of Ceylon Colombo". In 1972 University of Ceylon Act No. 1 made the four existing universities - Peradeniya, Colombo, Vidyodaya and Vidyalandara together with the Ceylon College of Technology, Katubedda, five constituent campuses of the single university known as "The University of Sri Lanka" with its central administration at 20, Ward Place, Colombo 7. The process of disregarding the importance of the first university of this country commenced in 1967 was thus completed in 1972. Universities Act No.16 of 1978 transformed the five campuses into five separate universities, thereby the Peradeniya Campus of the University of Sri Lanka became the University of Peradeniya, at the beginning of 1979.
 2. University of Ceylon. Inaugural address of the Vice-Chancellor W. Ivor Jennings. *Litt.D, LL.D Barrister at Law*. 14th July 1942. Typescript in the Jennings' Papers. University of Peradeniya.
 3. As a mark of remembrance of this founder collection which became the property of the University of Peradeniya Library, a portrait of Mr A. Padmanabha hangs in the Acquisition Room of the Main Library. As the Ceylon University College Prospectus 1925-26 mentions the library began with a collection of books from the library of the late Mr.A.Padmanabha, presented to the College by his father, the late Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam. It is interesting to find that the book bearing Accession No.1 in the University of Peradeniya Library is a set of Encyclopedia Britannia belonging to the Padmanabha Collection. It is found in the Ground Floor Reference Room of the Main Library at Peradeniya. In the early days the staff of the Library consisted of only 2 members: (1) R.S.Enright B.A.(London) Librarian and (2) R. de Alwis (Clerk). One need not be unduly surprised that the Librarian had only one clerk to assist him, because the entire College had a staff of 3 clerks designated as Chief Clerk, Second Clerk and Third Clerk.
- It is also relevant to mention that Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, better known as the father of the University movement in Ceylon was the Chairman of the Ceylon University Association formed in the early years of the 20th century to focus on the need to establish a university in this country.
4. University of Peradeniya. Ceylon University College Prospectus 1941-42. Colombo: Government Press, 1941. P. 3.
 5. The five page resume entitled "Particulars of the Vacant Post of Principal, University College, Ceylon" was prepared for the information of prospective candidates. The writer of this paper copied the 1st paragraph of this five-page resume from the

copy kept by Sir Jennings in his personal papers (now called Jennings Papers) handed over to the University of Ceylon Peradeniya Library in 1955. Although the entire five pages are filled with valuable details, due to the constraints of space only the 1st paragraph is reproduced.

6. Ivor Jennings. The University of Ceylon at Peradeniya. P.1. (Undated unpublished type-written manuscript in the Jennings Papers, University of Peradeniya Library) .
7. The continuation of this catalogue today is the University of Peradeniya Card Catalogue arranged in 2 sections, classified according to DDC and alphabetical. Even at present, a person going through the impressive card catalogue placed in the First Floor of the Main Library of the University of Peradeniya will come across aged hand written catalogue cards of Mr. Enright. They bear silent testimony to the efforts of the first College Librarian who built up the Library without much equipment as we see in our modern university libraries today.
8. A copy of this memorandum is found among the Jennings Papers in the University of Peradeniya Library.
9. Ibid 6.
10. Sir Ivor Jennings wanted to publish “The Kandy Road” hoping to generate funds by making the book popular among the tourists visiting Kandy. He wanted to use the funds so generated to beautify the Peradeniya University Park. His intensions did not materialize and the hand-written manuscript was handed over to the Library when he left Ceylon in 1955. The University Library took the initiative to publish this book in 1992 as a University Golden Jubilee publication under the editorship of Mr. H.A.I. Goonetilleke, former Librarian, University of Peradeniya.

About the author:



Having graduated from University of Peradeniya in 1961 he served the Sri Lanka Department of Education for a short period and the Department of National Archives. He served University of Peradeniya for the rest of his professional/academic career since 1965 as a Librarian and as the University Librarian from 1982 to 2002. During his career, he obtained Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship from University of London in 1968, Associate of the Library Association (UK) in 1969, as well as the Fellowship of the Sri Lanka Library Association in 1998. Currently, he is an Editor of the Buddhist Publication Society of Sri Lanka.

Hand Hygiene – An important tool in infection prevention in community

Healthy fit individuals can usually defend against any germs. The natural immune system of an individual is affected when weak or sick. Having clean hands is a way of defending ourselves from various infections. By following simple hand hygiene we can play an important role in stopping infections in community.

Hand hygiene can be carried out by simple methods like

- (a) Washing hands with soap and water,
1. Before and after having meals
 2. Before and after using toilet facilities
 3. After touching or feeding pets
 4. After gardening
 5. Before and after providing care for a family member or friend.



- (b) Using an alcohol based hand rub

This is generally used in health care environments like hospitals and nursing homes.

Hand hygiene is the most effective way to reduce infection that causes respiratory disease in community.

1. Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing. A tissue can be used to cover your mouth and nose. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. The tissue must be disposed in the nearest waste bin after use.
3. A surgical mask can be worn to reduce the spread respiratory infection.
4. If no tissues are available cough or sneeze into the inner elbow.
5. If you have coughed or sneezed into your hand keep it away from mucous membranes of the eyes and nose

By following the simple but important steps you can play a role to help in developing a healthy community.



Clean hands, safe hands.

Source

Hand Hygiene Australia

Australian College of Infection Prevention and Control

National Health and Medical Research Council

Pathmini Rajadevann

(Graduated from University of Peradeniya in 1979)

Kumar discovers the magic of *soil mechanics*

By Jayantha Kodikara (25 Sept, 2013)

It is almost sunset at the idyllic Hikkaduwa beach. Kumar gazes into the mild waves that wash the sand in front of him. About half a kilometre from the shore, the sea is furious with big swells crashing onto the coral reef, though the waves that run over it only makes mild ripples in the relatively calm lagoon towards the shore. While hanging onto the ropes of the swing in his old classmate Pradeep's backyard, his eyes focus onto the sandy beach glowing orange in the evening sun. With that, his mind races back to the interconnected events in Peradeniya and later in Monash that led him to fall in love with soil and soil mechanics.

Hikkaduwa Beach at sunset



Fish in coral reef lagoon at Hikkaduwa beach



As his mind reflects, he despises the notion that soil generally carries a demeaning connotation in common language, both as a verb and a noun. Even in Sinhalese Folk Law, 'soil (pas)' is referred to as an inferior substance, for instance, it is said that Andare (A royal clown to King Rajasinghe in Sri Lanka) fooled the King and ate sugar laid out on mats in the palace, by referring to them to as (dirty) soil. Kumar knows that soil is THE natural resource that provides us food through agriculture, helps us build geo-infrastructures such as water storage dams and flood protection levees, and above all, provides the interface between the surrounding atmosphere and the planet earth, regulating earth's temperature and sustaining most living species. This is why the wise people like Franklin Roosevelt (the 32nd American President) said '*The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself*' and the great Indian soul Mahatma Ghandi said '*To forget how to tend the soils is to forget ourselves*'.

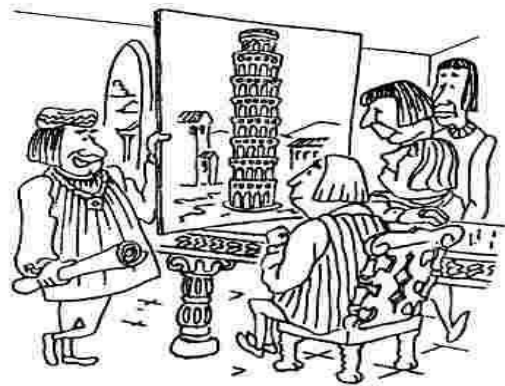
The use of soil as an engineering material goes back as far as recorded human history, but the birth of modern soil mechanics as a universal language among nations can be considered to have started when Swedish scientist Albert Atterberg (1913) invented useful limits of soil with water content (*i.e.*, plastic limit – soil becomes plastic from a brittle material, liquid limit - soil ceases to be a solid becoming a liquid), known as "Atterberg" limits. These basic limits are now used in universal engineering soil classification. For instance, Kumar could text using his mobile phone a fellow soil engineer in Australia of a soil found in Sri Lanka, and the Australian engineer instantly could get a good feel of how this soil may be used to build a proposed earth dam in Sri Lanka.

The soil is generally a three phase material, namely comprising solid soil particles, water and air. For a given volume of soil, roughly half of the space is taken by soil particles, and the remaining void space is taken up by water and air. As you go down from the ground surface, the degree of saturation of voids with water increases and becomes 100% at the water table. Below the water table, the soil remains fully saturated, meaning that all voids between soil particles are filled with water only. Since Atterberg, the initial developments of soil mechanics was focused on saturated soil

mechanics, credited to Karl Terzaghi (1920s), an Austrian civil engineer, known as the “father of soil mechanics”. In addition to developing mechanical concepts of soil loads, the crowning contribution of Terzaghi was the introduction of “the effective stress principle” for saturated soils mechanics. This principle meant that the soil behaviour can be explained by the effective stress between the soil particles taking away the water pressure from external (total) stress applied. In a more mechanical sense, the rate of energy input into a draining soil can be completely explained by the effective stress conjugated to the strain rate experienced by the soil matrix. Another by-product of this principle is that the soil strength, which arises mainly by slippage of soil particles relative to each other (or known as ‘shear’), can be explained as proportional to the prevailing effective stress and the proportionality constant is the coefficient of friction between the soils particles – a fundamental property depending on soil mineralogy.

General behaviour of soil can be considered under two basic forms, volumetric behaviour (or change in volume – reduction in pore spaces) under an all-round equal stress (or mean stress) and shear behaviour that arises from a deviator stress (i.e., difference between vertical stress and horizontal stress). When soil is loaded, the volumetric behaviour (squeezing out water as soil particles come together reducing pore space) can lead to ‘consolidation’ of soils leading to surface settlements. The Leaning Tower of Pisa (1173) is a classic example where (differential) soil consolidation has led to spectacular leaning of the tower, and imminent toppling failure until recently controlled by intervention of modern soil engineering. Shear behaviour, on the other hand, can lead to failure of soil, generally responsible for catastrophic failure of buildings, slopes, dams etc.

Leaning tower of Pisa, Italy



However, we can save 700 lire and two months by not doing a geotechnical investigation!

Terzaghi’s work dealt with the soil behaviour considering volumetric and shear behaviour as two separate components. The unification of these two components as needed for general soil behaviour was developed by Roscoe and his co-workers at Cambridge University in early 1960s. They introduced what is known as “Cam Clay” model for saturated soil mechanics, now embedded in many computer programs used for design of soil structures. Kumar remembers in admiration his soil teachers at Peradeniya – Thurairajah who contributed directly to this landmark development with Roscoe and - Seneviratne and Ranaweera who, having worked at Cambridge, helped conceive his passion for soil mechanics and solid mechanics respectively

Peradeniya University, Sri Lanka (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A128zwlINN8>)



Even as a two phase saturated soil, it is a complex material to deal with. For instance, loose saturated soil can normally support buildings or roads, but can also quickly 'liquefy' losing strength altogether during earthquakes or rapid movement, drowning anything placed on the ground. That's why, most roads in Christchurch became 'rivers' in the 2011 earthquake (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QM29rIHHnTc>). On the other hand, dense saturated sand will dilate under loading gaining more strength. Kumar then wonders – a story he heard from his father when he was little could not be right! His father told that King Gajaba (A Sri Lankan King during 136 AD), once intimidated a rival king by squeezing water out from sand. The more you squeeze dense sand, the more water it likes to suck in, not drain out! (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_qRh5Y-hO8). This is very much like when I walked on the wet sand in the morning – around my foot a dry patch was created as water was got sucked in under the foot, Kumar remembers (watch the above video).

The soil between the ground surface and the water table (known as the vadoze zone) is normally unsaturated meaning pore spaces are filled with both water and air. Depending on geographic location, depth to the water table, and the vadoze zone depth can vary markedly. For instance, close to the sea in flat ground, it would be a few meters, and in arid places like in Alice Springs in Australia, it could be tens of meters. Since the Cambridge triumph of the Cam Clay model to explain general saturated soil behaviour, much effort has been directed to develop a similar model for unsaturated soils. Researchers realised this was much more complicated than for saturated soils since three phases are involved. Bishop at Imperial College (UK) (early 1960s) led these early developments, but much support was rendered by Donald, who later became the founding soil professor at Monash and one of Kumar's teachers at Monash. It was found that Terzaghi's effective stress principle cannot be generally used for unsaturated soils. Instead they had to use two independent variables, namely (net) stress and soil suction (which is simply the negative water pressure given as a positive quantity). The first breakthrough of developing a general model for unsaturated soils came when Alonso and co-workers (1990) in Barcelona extended the Cam Clay model to unsaturated soils, referred to as the Barcelona Basic Model (BBM). Subsequently, there have been many attempts to extend this model and develop new models for unsaturated soils

A major issue associated with current unsaturated models is that they include suction as one of the constitutive variables and there are many parameters that need to be determined with very difficult suction control testing. Suction is actually a potential, which gives the energy of the water within the soil. For instance, water flow within unsaturated soil is controlled by suction (total head potential in general) gradients. As soil dries suction increases, and drier soil tends to have higher strength, so suction is like a stress variable. But the difficulty in its measurement in the laboratory and in the field limits the use of these models in practice. Nevertheless, it is advantageous if we can develop a soil model without using suction - is it possible? Kumar wonders. In any event, Kumar knows that one must be a friend of suction – why? Suction is the reason why soil sustains a water holding capacity and allows us to grow food in soil. Let's say, somehow, soil loses ability to maintain

suction. Then all the rainwater that falls on soil will quickly drain down (or run off) and very quickly the vadoze zone will be bone dry. Under these conditions, the ground will be mostly lifeless like on Mars, where most of the water has evaporated. This means, life, including human race, may NOT exist as we know it on the dry earth, although water may still exist.

In 2012, Monash researchers put forward a framework (dubbed MPK, where 'M' stands for Monash and 'P' for Peradeniya, <http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/doi/story/10.4141/news.2012.12.05.98>) to explain volumetric behaviour of compacted unsaturated soils. This framework was built on a concept developed by Proctor in the USA for soil compaction in 1930s after the First World War. In this framework, soil moisture content (defined as moisture ratio) is used in place of suction as an independent constitutive variable. An interesting aspect is that entire soil behaviour in volumetric space can be measured and visualized using relatively simple testing methods in contrast to much more complex suction controlled testing. Furthermore, most observed complex unsaturated soil behaviours can be explained relatively easily using the framework. If this framework can be developed further to cover shear behaviour as well, it will certainly be a significant addition to the current state-of-practice. However, Kumar instantly remembers Moore's (one of Kumar's post-doctoral mentor) saying, "All models are guilty, until proven innocent through experimental validation". So more experimental work is needed to cement the development.

Kumar recollects that soil has a "memory" of its past (because it is an elastic-plastic material) and some aspects of this memory (e.g., pre-consolidation stress) can be unmasked through certain soil testing. Much of its past information such as how it got there, how it was formed etc, can be inferred through scientific observation, measurement and reasoning as embedded in Engineering Geology –the immediate cousin of soil mechanics. If a wet soil formed under an aqueous environment becomes exposed to atmosphere and sun's energy, then it will undergo wet and dry cycles. It is evidential that wet soil when subjected to wet/dry cycles undergoes swelling and shrinkage and eventually reaches some form of minimum energy configuration in 'dynamic' equilibrium with the surrounding environment. Soil engineers have referred to the suction at this condition as "equilibrium suction". For clay soils, development of well-known soil cracks and their associated dynamics with water flow and evaporation with wet/dry cycles is an inherent part of this environmental stabilization process of soils. Monash researchers have significantly contributed to modelling of soil crack formation and environmental stabilization but much more is needed to be done. (e.g., <http://users.monash.edu.au/~kodikara/index.html>).

Grand Canyon, USA



Rain induced landslides in Sri Lanka



Anthropogenic climate change is considered to be one of the Grand Challenges humans are facing in the 21st Century. While major efforts must be directed to minimize further damage, one must also consider what may be the current level of damage as the CO₂ emissions continue at the present rate? How will the perceived climate change affect soil and all structures such as building foundations including your house, roads, water and gas pipelines and cables buried in it? How much will the equilibrium suction change due to this and what affects it may cause? Kumar thinks that changes that take place due to the environment are very slow, and may be it is to our advantage, but can we be complacent? For instance, soil erosion due to water flow may happen at 1mm per year. But its impacts are massive, for instance (1 km) Grand Canyon has developed due to soil erosion that took place over about 100,000 years, which is relatively short in the geological time scale. On the other hand, corrosion of metals in soil may be 0.1 mm per year, which can eat away a 10 mm thick pipe in 100 years. If this corrosion rate increases by 50% due to soil temperature and moisture changes, it can almost halve the remaining life of an existing water pipeline, not to mention the capacity of possible increased shrink/swell aggressiveness of soils to cause pipe failure (<http://www.eng.monash.edu.au/civil/research/centres/mapps/>; www.criticalpipes.com). Similarly, with the rainfall patterns changing, how more aggressive will be those devastating rain-induced slope failures in Sri Lanka (and elsewhere in the Tropics) – a classic case of atmosphere-ground interaction for ‘soil detective’ Kumar to delve into. But more importantly over a short period, are we able to unmask “tell-tale” signs of soil due to anthropogenic climate change effects from the plethora of other changes and use that knowledge to avert or adapt to any future disasters and build required resiliency to the human habitat? As the sun sets at Hikkaduwa beach, Kumar feels that this is a grand challenge soil mechanics needs to solve as a matter of urgency, regardless whether the answer is going to be *bitter or sweet*.

About the author:



Jayantha K Kodikara is Professor with the Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University, Australia. He obtained his Bachelors from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka in 1983 and PhD in Geomechanics from Monash University in 1989. He was born in Hikkaduwa Sri Lanka and now lives in Melbourne Australia. He is a Chartered Professional Engineer in Australia and a Fellow of Engineers Australia. He has published over 200 technical papers in a diverse range of topics. His current main research area is atmosphere/ground/structure interaction analysis as applied to geo-infrastructure resilience. He is also associate editor of Canadian Geotechnical Journal and Environmental Geotechnics. In 2013, he was awarded Monash Dean’s and Vice Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Innovation and External Engagement. (Jayantha.Kodikara@monash.edu)

Making money from manure and hostile soil

Nirmalal Dias writes about the research contribution made by Dr. Renick Peries

Manure has been used to maintain soil fertility for millennia "Now it's being used to completely transform some of Australia's most hostile ground. Victorian researcher Renick Peries is showing how large additions of poultry manure to dense clay sub-soils can return profits on farms in a couple of years. Dr Peries says that until now, most farmers have been putting up with their worst ground, thinking it's too expensive to fix. But Renick Peries wanted to prove that's not true, and says there's strong evidence now from ten years' research exploring the agronomy and economics of manuring duplex clay sub-soils". (from ABC –Tasmanian Country Hour, 7 Aug 2013)

Project title: Subsoil Manuring: a new practice with the potential to double crop yields in the high rainfall zone (HRZ) of southern Victoria.

Background:

The Primary Industries Grains Program and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) have identified the Victorian high rainfall zone (HRZ) of SW Victoria and Gippsland as having the potential to significantly increase grain production for export and domestic use. In the last decade, the grains industry in the HRZ has grown rapidly from about 100,000 hectares to over 450,000 ha, with the industry now producing over \$200 million in grain exports.

The development of raised beds in broad acre farming was an important practice change that has contributed to improved productivity in the HRZ, but further increases in grain yield have been constrained by the hostile nature of the subsoils in much of the HRZ. The dense clay subsoils have low macro porosity, aeration and hydraulic conductivity and these constraints limit plant-available soil water storage capacity, commonly known as the "bucket size" of the soil. The bucket size, the amount of stored water available to a crop in spring, is a critical factor for crop production in a rain-fed system where rainfall is often unpredictable and usually winter dominant. Shortages of soil moisture in mid to late spring are predicted to become more prevalent with a warming climate. This means that increasing the bucket size by overcoming the subsoil constraints will be the key to the grains industry reaching its potential and contributing to the Victorian Government's key strategic priority of ***productive and competitive primary industries supporting Victoria's long-term prosperity.***

The nature of the contribution:

Proposing a subsoil amelioration practice to increase grain yields, researching the new practice, and then working with perseverance and determination to help grain producers understand and adopt the practice.

In 2004/05, Dr Peries was a key player in the development of raised beds for cropping in the HRZ. He proposed at that time that grain yields in the region would be further increased, perhaps even doubled, if it was possible to double the active rooting depth of crops in the HRZ cropping soils. He believed this might be achieved by using organic soil improvers and placing them in bands at 30-40 cm depth beneath raised cropping beds. With limited resources, and with collaboration from farmer members of Southern Farming Systems (SFS) and academic colleagues at Melbourne and

La Trobe Universities, Dr Peries initiated Participatory Action Research (PAR) trials at a number of sites to test this new practice.

The results were very encouraging. It was clear that this new practice was increasing both crop yield and crop root growth, although these very early results were not sufficient to lead to practice change. Communication and collaboration with farmers and other scientists had played an important role thus far and Dr Peries persevered by seeking avenues for advancing the concept further. Deliberation between farmers, DPI researchers and academics led to La Trobe University securing an ARC-Linkage grant to undertake research on these subsoil problems. That project conducted its initial work on Dr Peries' idea of banding organic material into the subsoil at Yaloak Estate near Ballan, the industry partner for the research. Dr Peries became an active member of the new research team.

The concept of ripping the soil and placing a large quantity of organic amendment, into the heavy clay subsoil was entirely new when Dr Peries proposed it. In the prevailing climate of Conservation Agriculture, in which minimum soil disturbance is advocated for the preservation of soil health, it was initially difficult to change the mindset of farmers and persuade them to try such an aggressive activity on their soils. Dr Peries and the team therefore had to present the new practice as a one-off activity, part of an integrated soil improvement package for farmers who grow crops on raised beds. The practice would be feasible within a ***raised bed controlled traffic farming system*** as it would really contribute to enhancing soil health.

Two years down the track, convincing evidence of the benefits of this practice, known now as subsoil manuring, began to emerge. It delivered large increases in grain yield, with gains of up to 100% recorded at several sites. It was clear that these gains came from the capture and storage in the soil of large amounts of water from winter rainfall, which became available to plants to fill their grain in late Spring. The capture and use of that extra water was made possible by changes to the physical properties of the subsoil which had been postulated by Dr Peries in 2005. The work undertaken by the joint research team also led to important findings on the appropriate rates of manure (10-20 tonnes per hectare of poultry manure) that needed to be placed in the subsoil as an amendment, and the nature of the resulting changes to the soil physical properties which contributed to the enhancement of the "bucket size".

Convincing yield and soil water use data were required, and these needed to be extended to HRZ grain producers. The prototype machine, developed with limited funding from DPI and SFS and by now known as the Peries-Wightman subsoiler, began to be used in Victoria and interstate to set up small scale trials on farmer's paddocks to test the feasibility and the scientific merit of the practice. The results produced thus far (2009-2012) on grain yield, changes to soil physical properties and returns on investment have been significant. Dr Peries' frequent invitations to present the results have been convincing farmers to try out subsoil manuring by borrowing the Peries-Wightman subsoiler to do trials on their farms. The 2012 crops were the 4th consecutive crops in paddocks that were subsoil manured in 2009, and large yield increases continue to occur.

The economic analysis of the practice suggests that only two years of yield benefits will be sufficient to cover the initial costs of manure, transport and application. Any yield increases after that will be profit. Importantly, subsoil manuring appears to be self sustaining, with the extra root growth and water storage contributing to ongoing subsoil improvement. This makes it likely that

the subsoil intervention will be a 'one-off' practice that will deliver continuing yield benefits beyond five years under the good rainfall conditions in the Victorian HRZ.

The single biggest success story in 2012 was the production of the **first commercial subsoil manuring machine**. This is a \$150,000 investment by a private investor, who is convinced the practice will be cost effective and will raise crop yields to a new high in the years to come. This is evidence of a **major step in the adoption of a new practice deemed appropriate by the farming community**.

For the farmers, it is a novel practice that can deliver substantial productivity gains and sustained beneficial changes to soil health. It will continue to become even more cost effective as the current research investigate new and cheaper alternative amendments, and other methods of cost minimisation. For Dr Peries and his team, the journey has been one of perseverance, determination and commitment which, at the same time, has been very rewarding.

About the author:



Having graduated from Peradeniya University in 1977 (Agriculture), he worked as a Research Scientist/Principal Research Scientist with the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka from 1978 to 1996. In 1990, he obtained his PhD in Agriculture from University of Queensland, Australia.

After migrating to Australia in 1996, he joined the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (previously DPI) in 1998 and currently functions as a Project Officer in Productive Soils.

In the last 15+ years, he has involved in research and development projects involving cropping and soils in the high rainfall zone of Victoria, dealing with subjects such as alleviating water logging, raised beds and controlled traffic cropping, stubble retention and management, conservation tillage, farming systems development and subsoil amelioration.

The work reported in the article relates to a challenge undertook in 2003 to improve the productivity of dense clay soils in the volcanic plains of Victoria. The emerging technology is capable of doubling the current cereal yield in the high rainfall zone of Southern Australia.

In 2013, Dr Peries and his team were finalists in the DPI Science Awards in the 'Practice Change' category. Renick's contribution to scientific innovation was also recognised with an award of appreciation in the 2013 SCATS Victoria 20-year anniversary awards

Life and Times of Professor Wimal Weerakkody

Written by Prem Kanahara

Professor Wimal Weerakkody was born to educated parents from Tudella Jaela, in 1945. The youngest of a family of four, his parents soon realised that their youngest son was blind, but they were determined to give him a good education. Fortunately he was born to a home environment where his older siblings were already attending school and having a good education. He entered Ragama School for the blind where the foundation was laid to gain skills necessary to familiarise with the Braille system that helped Wimal to climb the ladder of educational excellence. At Tudella Secondary Collage, where he had his secondary education, Wimal excelled in academic activities on equal par with his fellow classmates. He passed his Advanced Level Examination with flying colours and entered Peradeniya University's Faculty of Arts.

From childhood Wimal had a passion for music. His uncle Julian Perera was his inspiration in learning musical instruments like violin and Piano. At the School for the blind, he mastered playing piano.

At the time he entered the university, the facilities for blind students were **Maigre** to carry forward their educational activities. Wimal had to rely on sighted students to read books for him. It was a monumental task on the part of Wimal, considering the fact that his friends who read books for him were also busy with their own academic work. He overcame all those barriers to complete his Bachelor of Arts Degree with first class honours. He subsequently went to the University of Hull, on a scholarship to read for his Doctor of Philosophy degree. On his return to Peradeniya University he was made the Professor of Classical Languages, the post he held until his retirement a decade later.

Wimal was engaged in translating Greek and Latin texts and plays. He also continued his passion for music by obtaining Visharadha Degree at Bhatkande in Lucknow, India. He won many international awards for his achievements from Commonwealth and SAARC.

He helped set up the Special Needs Resource Centre at Peradeniya University for the benefit of vision impaired students, in order to give back what he received as a blind academic. He was a strong believer that a change in attitudes towards vision impaired people was necessary to move forward in fulfilment of the handicapped. Age old prejudices towards handicapped were the biggest hurdles for their march forward, he often lamented.

But Wimal, grappling with immense obstacles, but never faltering in his endeavour to achieve his goals, climbed the dizzy heights of academic excellence.

He passed away this year at the age of 68.

(Prem Kanahara graduated from University of Peradeniya in 1970)

PUAAViC Activities

The first day of spring

The Peradeniya Alumni, their families and friends met in Rowville on the 1st of September 2013, the Fathers Day. When the children of the Alumni had met last year, a suggestion by one of them found favour among everyone that it would be a great idea to provide scholarships for current students at Peradeniya instead of buying traditional gifts for their dads. The Alumni Association PUAAViC agreed with them and decided to launch on the same day its scholarships program which they had been working towards for some time. Last year the collection on the day and subsequent donations together with the interest from association funds enabled PUAAViC to provide 55 scholarships.

The Fathers Day event this year received a big boost from the tireless work put in by the children of the alumni. Many had studied at Universities in Australia. Yet they had been smitten by the affection their parents had displayed over the years towards their university at the foothills of Hantane. Some tirelessly organised games for the parents, children and grandchildren. Others leading to the event and also on the day gave moving testimonies. One spoke eloquently about the elation he had felt when he experienced the joy he was bringing to the students he had sponsored from last year. Another spoke of the need of the students based on her experience in Sri Lanka a few years back when she had returned with a few mates from University to work at Peradeniya.

The hall at St Simon's Church Hall in Rowville was booked for the event because the hopes of an outdoor event had been fast fading with the wintry conditions refusing to ease up even towards the end of August. As it turned out, it was a glorious crispy morning with bright sunshine to lift the spirits yet cool enough to stay lively. As people walked into the hall they were greeted to the beat of Koththu Roti in progress and to the waft of the spicy curries being cooked on location. The alumni members had undertaken to provide the main meal to minimise the expenses by such industry. It was a delight to see the youthful alumni enthusiastically blending with the more experienced in the kitchen. They turned out a lovely midday meal to go with additional food brought by the families. Many sat and enjoyed each other's company and the food on offer. The children and grandchildren were outside enjoying some fun and games organised for them. Some of the games were eventually brought into the hall. A heavy embarrassment to the fathers from what would have been a lopsided tug o' war contest between them and their sons was prevented when the rope gave way early in the contest. Musical chairs between mothers and later between fathers were keenly contested.

Even if the promotion of the event had helped to bring scholarships into focus, the donations were generously contributed by the alumni and their children driven by their inherent desire to give something back to their own or their parent's alma mater. Most present had been direct or indirect beneficiaries of a wonderful education. The Fathers Day was simply an occasion and the Scholarships Program a mere vehicle for the alumni and their progeny to give expression to their instinctive altruism.

This year being the 10th anniversary of PUAAViC, there was an expectation of providing 100 scholarships. The funds donated both on the day and subsequently have amounted to \$ 11,565.

It now appears that the target of 100 scholarships in the year 2014 will be easily exceeded. This year PUAAViC has also decided to place half of its excess funds in year the 2013 in the capital fund and with the other half to give scholarships in 2014. In previous years the affordable excess was held in the capital fund. With this gesture the number of scholarships may approach 200.



As the assembly broke up and returned home, they were enveloped with a rare feeling of lasting elation which results from a shared achievement of a community. At the end of the day, there was no one to give thanks, none to receive. It had been a universal expression of gratitude and affection by all who were present to the great institution that is the University of Peradeniya.

Scholarships Sub Committee

If you wish to make a donation or learn more about the scholarships scheme, please write to scholarships@peradeniya.com.au

Seminar Sub Committee Report

Seminar Subcommittee is working with PUVAVIC Executive Committee to arrange seminars for Peradeniya Alumni members and community in general. This high light commitment of our association toward its community service. This year committee has organized three seminars and scheduled to have in May, September and in November.

1st Seminar was held on 26th May 2013 at Pinewood Primary School in Mt Waverley. The speech was delivered by well-known academic in Sri Lanka prof; Daya Rohana Athukorale. The speech was on **“POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO A SUCCESSFUL AND HAPPY LIFE”**. It was a successful seminar with attendance over 60 delegates. Seminar was concluded with afternoon tea, display of books written by Dr Athukorale. Delegates also had the opportunity to purchase the books at the venue. The positive feedback received from delegates was encouraging.

The second seminar was held on 29th September on **“HEALTH LIFE STYLE FOR ALL”** and the speaker was Kim Welch, Diabetic Educator and Facilitator for Life Care. The seminar was well received by the attendees.

The 3rd seminar is scheduled to be held on 10th November, 3.00pm at Engineering Lecture Theatre, Monash University, Clayton Campus. It will be on a very popular topic, **“MINDFULNESS: WHY ATTENTION MATTERS”**, by Dr. Craig Hassard, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Monash University.

Hope you will be able to attend, learn and practice.

Dr Theja Senevirane (*Coordinator, Seminar Subcommittee*).

PUAAvic 2013 Annual Trip

The long awaited annual trip and family get together were held from 19th to 21st April 2013. Altogether 59 members and their families and friends enjoyed a memorable week-end at Ramada Resorts at Cowes, Phillip Island.

Most of the participants arrived on 19th Friday afternoon and after settling down in their respective cottages, assembled in the evening in the Bronze Hall to warm up for the following day with music provided by the ever green Gamini Maharage and Asoka Athureliya. A few arrived on early Saturday morning.

Saturday, the key day, was a glorious day and some had been up early to loosen their limbs, walking through the tracks surrounded by lush green, reminiscent of the good old days down the 'Lovers Lane.' The official program of the day started with Prem Kanahara's out-door Avurudu table, full of traditional delicacies, contributed by the participants. Daya Dayawansa, along with Chamida Jayasena and Prasantha Hapuarachchi were seen preparing the ground for traditional games. Some were seen polishing their rusted stroke play in the tennis court. Avurudu celebrations started with the welcome speech by the President, Ajith De Silva followed by relishing the delicacies and participating in the games. Bun eating and blind folded wife finding the correct husband took center of attraction, with the participants enjoying a warm morning, with full of laughter and good will.

The dinner function, which started in the late evening, was the cynosure of all eyes. A sumptuous buffet dinner with a cuisine to satisfy western and eastern palates, and a bottle of wine for every table, were the Resort's contribution towards the 'Night.' Two top musicians of 'B' Sharp fame, Roshan and Gihan were 'imported' from Melbourne, to dish out music from ball room to baila, which pulled out even the most 'reserved' lady to the floor. Many participants, ladies and men alike, displayed their singing talents but the talents displayed in acting in the Asoka and Prem production of the 'Yaka" Bus Ride from Peradeniya to Kandy, drew much applause. The day ended, having become younger by going back to the good old days, in friendly surroundings of one's own contemporaries and Peradeniya colleagues of older and younger generations. The 'Night' progressed well past mid-night, to call it a day. Sunday was the day of parting, longing to meet again in the near future.

A word of thanks goes out to the Resort management for providing a wonderful service, in spite of initial hiccups; to the participants who assisted in numerous ways and for their camaraderie and to the organizing committee consisting of Daya, Prem and Gamini De Alwis.

Prepared by Nirmalal Dias

(Coordinator, Annual trip subcommittee)

It was a very happy New Year festival

The cultural events subcommittee organised a Sinhala and Tamil Awurudu event for the first time this year. In response to requests from a number of our committee members, the subcommittee decided to organise this event to coincide with the Sinhala and Tamil New Year festival.

The initial idea was to enable our members to have an enjoyable time on the occasion of Sinhala and Tamil New year and follow the rich cultural traditions away from the motherland.

Traditionally, Sinhala and Tamil New Year is not complete without traditional New Year food. We rallied our members to bring in all the traditional foods like Milk Rice, Kawum, Kokis, Aluwa, Athirasa, and bananas, etc. Others promised other food items like cakes, sweets, etc., to make it a really good food table. The alumni annual trip provided us the backdrop to have this traditional event because this year the trip was planned for April, just after the Sinhala and Tamil New Year festival.

So the Awurudu Festival was held on a bright autumn day at Philip Island Ramada Resort. All our Alumni friends were in attendance for this traditional event. The Festival started with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp, to the tunes of traditional Sinhala awurudu songs.

The table was complete with all the traditional foods, reminding us all the good old days in Sri Lanka. Few speeches were made to emphasise the importance of the occasion, and guests were invited to enjoy the food,

After the initial partaking of the traditional food, all the participants joined in the Awurudu games. There was ample space at the venue to play the games such as bun eating competition, marking the elephant eye competition, egg throwing competition, etc., all the participants enjoyed the games.

It was a memorable day for all the alumni members, and everyone participated, has one common request. Let's make it an annual event.

(Prem Kanahara , Coordinator , Cultural events subcommittee)

PUAAViC Members List

A big THANK YOU to all members for their continued support

Membership #	Faculty	Title	Surname	First Name	Membership
2	Arts	Mrs	Ratnayaka	Sujatha	Life Member
3	Sci	Mr	Rathnayaka	Kularathna	Life Member
4	Sci	Mr	Kodikara	Nihal	Life Member
5	Arts	Mrs	Soysa	Kusumi	Life Member
6	Arts	Mr	Soysa	Ranjith	Life Member
7	Eng	Mr	Dewalagama De Silva	Piyathilaka	Life Member
8	Arts	Mrs	Kanahara	Sujatha	Life Member
9	Arts	Mr	Kanahara	Prem	Life Member
10	Sci	Dr	Gunatillake	Thilak	Life Member
11	Arts	Mrs	Gunatillake	Chandra	Life Member
13	Agric	Mr	Dias	Nirmalal	Life Member
14	Agric	Mrs	Dias	Hemamali	Life Membwr
15	Agric	Mr	De Silva	Ajith	Life Member
16	Agric	Mrs	De Silva	Mangala	Life Member
17	Sci	Mr	Gunasekera	Saddha	Life Member
18	Sci	Mrs	Gunasekera Arachchi	Mala	Life Member
19	Agric	Mr	Pusppasiri	Sunil	Life Member
22	Dental	Dr	Jayasinghe	Ranjith	Life Member
23	Sci	Mrs	de Alwis	Manik	LifeMember(Deceased)
24	Sci	Mr	de Alwis	Gamini	LifeMember
27	Eng	Mrs	Dayawansa	Rekha	Life Member
28	Eng	Dr	Dayawansa	Daya	Life Member
29	Sci	Mrs	Jayasuriya	Harsha	Life Member
30	Sci	Mr	Jayasuriya	Sarath	Life Member
31	Agric	Mr	Fernandopulle	Anton	Life Member
33	Agric	Mrs	Karunaratne	HariPriya	Life Member
34	Arts	Mr	Abeyrama	Tilak	Life Member
35	Arts	Mrs	Abeyrama	Lakshime	Life Member
36	Arts	Mr	Rajapaksa	Indra	Life Member
37	Arts	Mr	Ranasinghe	Edwin	LIFE Member
38	Sci	Dr	Mathes	Prem	LifeMember
39	Arts	Mr	Hewarathna	Pathmasiri	Life Member
40	Arts	Dr	Hewaratha	Ramya	Life Member
43	Sci	Mr	Maharage	Gamini	LifeMember
44	Eng	Mr	Perera	Prasada	Life Member
45	Arts	Mrs	Perera	Indrani	Life Member
48	Eng	Mr	Hemachandra	Gamini	Life Member
49	Med	Dr(Mrs)	Hemachandra	Jayantha	Life Member
56	Arts	Mr.	Gunapala	Matararachchi	Life Member
66	Sci	Dr	De Silva	Basil	Life member
67	Sci	Mrs	De Silva	Lalitha	Life member
72	Eng	Mr	De Silva	Lawrence	Life Member
76	Sci	Mr	Jayasundara	Karu	Life Member
78	Med	Dr	Kumarsinghe	Sunil	Life member
79	Med	Dr(Mrs)	Kumarsinghe	Padma	Life Member
83	Med	Dr	Perera	MH	Life Member
84	Med	Dr (Mrs)	Perera	Chandrika	Life Member
87	Sci	Dr	Wijesundara	Chakra	Life member
88	Sci	Mr	Gunatillake	Kusum	Life Member

98	Sci	Dr	Nilaweera	Nimal	Life Member
99	Eng	Mrs	Nilaweera	Rohini	Life Member
104	Sci	Mr	Bogoda	Kapila	Life Member
105	Med	Dr(Mrs)	Bogoda	Lakshika	Life Member
106	Sci	Mr	Fernando	Chamindra	Life Member
122	Sci	Dr	Machado	Rienzi	LifeMember
124	Sci	Mrs	Jayakody	Pushpa	Life member
130	Sci	Mr	Dassanayaka	Dharmasiri	Life Member
131	Agri	Dr	Dassanayaka	Kithsiri	Life Member
132	Eng	Mr	Herath	Amarasiri	Life Member
133	Agri	Dr	Peries	Renick	Life Member
134	Arts	Mrs	Peries	Shobha	Life Member
135	Vet	Dr	Wimalasuriya	Rukman	Life Member
136	Eng	Mr	Jayasena	Chaminda	Life Member
138	Sci	Mr	Kulasinghe	Prasanna	Life Member
139	Arts	Dr	Hettihewa	Samantha	Life Member
140	Eng	Dr	Hapuarachchi	Prasantha	Life Member
141	Eng	Mr	Pimburage	Bimsara	Life Member
142	Dental	Mr	Ozeer	Shahnaaz	Life Member
143	Agri	Mr	Wickramasinghe	Sampath	Life Member
144	Agri	Mrs	Perera	Ruchithra	Life Member
145	Medi	Dr(Mrs)	Senevirathne	Theja	Life Member
146		Mr	Rathnayaka	Sunil	Member
147	Eng	Mr	Senaviratna	Abeykoon	Life Member
148	Sci	Mrs	Jayasooriya	Jayanthi	Life Member
149	Sci	Mr	Piyanandana	Susil	Life Member
150	Agri	Mrs	Piyanandana	Shanthi	Life Member
151	Dental	Dr	Gamage	Sarath	Life Member
152	Vet	Dr	Gamage	Sudharma	Life Member
153	Agri	Mrs	Rajadevan	Pathmini	Member
154	Eng	Mr	Jayasinghe	Mangala	Life Member

2013 PUAAViC Ex-co and Subcommittee members list

Last Updated: 14th December 2012

2013 PUAAViC Sub Committee Schedule

	1. Call @	2. Mail @	3. Social @	4. Cultural @	5. Home @	6. Home & Family @	7. Home @	8. Home @	9. Home @	10. Home @	11. Home @	12. Home @	13. Home @
1. Chan nee Jayasena													
2. Nirub Das													
3. Eri zo Mibura ji													
4. M. K. G. Jayasinghe													
5. H. P. Jayasinghe													
6. Murali M. Jayasinghe													
7. U. S. Jayasinghe													
8. Ajith de Silva													
9. Chaithe M. Jayasinghe													
10. G. M. H. Jayasinghe													
11. P. M. Jayasinghe													
12. P. M. Jayasinghe													
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30. S. Jayasinghe													
31. S. Jayasinghe													



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

Individual Membership Family Membership

Title:	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other.....		
Name:			
Peradeniya Graduates:	Degree	Year	
Other (Specify):	Degree	Year	
Faculty & Year of Entry			
Hall of Residence:			
Postal Address:			
Email address:			
Telephone:	(H)	(O)	(M)

If a Family Membership is required provide the following details of the spouse:

Title:	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other.....		
Name			
Peradeniya Graduates	Degree	Year	
Other (Specify):	Degree	Year	
Faculty			
Hall of Residence:			

I/We certify that the above information is true to the best of my/our knowledge. I give my/our consent to publish the following information on PUAAVIC web site (www.peradeniya.com.au): name phone number e-mail address [Please mark (X) the information allowed to publish]

.....

Signature

Signature

Date:/...../.....

Membership Fees: Annual: Individual \$15 Family \$25 Student \$5 Life: Individ\$75 Family \$125 Payment by cash, cheque or electronic transfer. Make cheques payable to Peradeniya University Alumni Australia-Victoria Chapter Inc., Address: PUAAViC, PO Box 750, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150.

Electronic transfers to PUAAVIC Account, Westpac, Brandon Park, BSB: 033126: AC# 304051

For Official Use Only	
Membership: <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Denied	Membership Number:..... Year.....