



HANTHANE NEWS

PERRADENIYA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI AUSTRALIA VICTORIA
PO BOX 750, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150, Australia

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I take pride in contributing to the first electronic News Letter of the Peradeniya University Alumni Association of Victoria Chapter, which we are planning to publish bi-annually.



There had been many thoughts, discussions and deliberations about the printing of a News Letter for the benefit of the members at large. Finally we did manage to print our first electronic copy.

We are extremely proud of what has been achieved and look forward to producing more comprehensive publications in the future. The idea of the News Letter is to provide members with news from the University, achievements of Alumni from around the world and news of our members and their families. This publication can be made more effective and successful only with contributions from the membership and we welcome ideas from the Alumni to make it more meaningful.

We are made to understand that there are around thousand or more Alumni in Australia, with majority living in NSW and Victoria. Regretfully the numbers that interact are just a handful where the numbers in Victoria do not even total up to two hundred.

PUAAVIC is creating many opportunities for the Alumni to interact. Events such as Annual Trip, Hantana Nite Dinner Dance, Family BBQ, workshops and seminars are a few to be named. It is with much regret we note that the participation at these events are just limited to a gathering of same old faces.

In this News Letter one of our members, has written an article amply explaining the benefits of being a member. I am certain anyone who reads it will not hesitate to join us to meet the rest of the alumni and work towards achieving the PUAAVIC objectives.

Sarath Jayasuriya - President PUAAVIC

Contents

	Page		Page
1. Presidents Message	01	10. Events Calender	11
2. Editors Note	02	11. Natural Beauty	12
3. Beautiful Memories	02	12. University History	13
4. Ragging in Our Universities.	03	13. University Education	14
5. Sarachchandra Theatre	05	14. Laughter Best Medicine	16
6. Member Benefits	06	15. DNA Sequencing Services	17
7. Cambridge by the Mahaweli	07	16. Facts about the University	18
8. The Committee	09	17. Kurutu gee and Udurawana	20
9. Sir Ivor Jennings	10	18. Membership Application	21

Editors Note

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the e-newsletter from the Peradeniya University Alumni Australia, Victoria Chapter.

We are proud and delighted that this newsletter has finally come into being. This marks the beginning of our new communication channel that aims to keep our members as well as others interested about the happenings in our Victorian Chapter. It will also serve as a useful vehicle to provide updates of our developments, programmes, stories, pictures and articles from our members, event information, University related articles and Chapter activities. This newsletter is designed as a platform to share updates about the Chapter members and members in waiting, their invaluable views and a unique medium for networking whether academic or for social activities.

To begin with the aim is to publish an issue biannually and intend to keep the content interesting, beneficial and relevant to members of the Chapter.

We invite your questions, comments and constructive criticisms that will make this venture a productive one.

Hence we humbly encourage all of you to make use of this platform to remain connected with the Chapter.

Shaanaz Ozzer

Beautiful Memories

On the rolling hills of Hantane
 Around the roaring waters of Mahaweli
 In the heart of Peradeniya
 Stands the Al Mighty University

We live far faraway from
 The land of sunshine
 For reasons we will never know
 In the hearts of all of us
 Sweet memories will always last

Heavenly love and friendships
 Blossom with the leaps and
 Bounds of young lives
 The chilling breeze touches all
 Sweeping down the valleys of hills-
 With passing clouds and campus girls.

Pathmini Rajadevan

Ragging in our universities: A symptom or a disease? - Nishika Fonseka

Sri Lanka is one of the few countries that provides students the opportunity of a free secondary education. More than 200,000 students sit for the GCE Advanced Level examinations in Sri Lanka every year, of which only around 20,000 are selected to the fourteen universities across the country. It is possible to conclude then that this 10% who make it, are among the brightest and best brains in the country, who deserve every bit of the chance they get to ensure a better life for themselves. Surprisingly then, barely one year into their University careers, a few of these same students get angrily referred to in the media and among the public as being “mentally unstable” and even “psychotic”. The reason? **Ragging**.

Ragging is thought to have begun in educational institutions in the 18th Century and was very much in vogue in European countries. The concept was then adopted in the US in a milder form known as ‘hazing’, and spread across the world during the era of colonization, entering the Indian sub-continent along with the British education system. Stern laws against ragging have resulted in its eradication from the West and most of the rest of the world. However, in Sri Lanka, it remains.

In 1975, Peradeniya University was the first to report a major ragging related incident when a fresher of the Faculty of Agriculture became paralyzed as a result of having jumped from the second floor of the hostel to escape the physical ragging being carried out by the seniors. She later committed suicide.

Dr. Anoma Abhayaratne, the Dean of the Arts Faculty at the Peradeniya University, says that ragging continues to take place at Peradeniya, albeit in a milder form. A lot of the time we get anonymous notes and parents call us anonymously to complain about ragging,” said Dr. Abhayaratne, going on to say that few students are willing to identify the raggings due to the fear of what might happen to them. However, some weeks ago, for the first time in the history of the university, a fresher lodged a complaint against twelve senior students who had ragged him excessively. We are very concerned about the security of this student because of what might happen to him due to his having had the courage to stand up to the raggings,” Dr. Abhayaratne said, The court ordered police protection for him but that is a big challenge especially in an university environment.” The Dean went on to state the case of another fresher who had been physically ragged to the point of sustaining internal injuries to his head. He is still undergoing medical treatment.

Unlike in other countries affected by ragging such as India, no official movements against ragging exist in Sri Lanka, and related information and statistics are almost impossible to come by. However, in recognition of the magnitude of the problem, the Sri Lankan Parliament passed a Bill in 1998 entitled the Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act No. 20. Under this Act, ragging is defined as any act which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological injury or mental pain or fear to a student or a staff member”. The Act makes ragging a distinct and punishable offence under which any individual found guilty would be subjected to two years rigorous imprisonment, ten years if the rag were to lead to sexual harassment or grievous hurt. In addition, depending on the gravity of the offense, students found guilty could face expulsion from the University.

More than ten years after this law became effective however, ragging continues.

In 2002, Samantha Vithanage, a third year Management student at the Sri Jayawardenapura University, pioneered an anti-ragging campaign in the University in an attempt to stop the practice. On November 7th that year, the anti-ragging campaigners sat down for a discussion with the JVP controlled student council who defended the practice. Midway through the discussion, a mob of around 200 JVP supporters armed with clubs and stones stormed into the room and viciously attacked Vithanage and others in the anti-ragging camp. The attackers stabbed their victims with shards of glass and Vithanage who was struck, fell to the floor and had a computer monitor dropped on his head. Two days later he died.

Continued..... Page 04

Although the death of 22 year old Vithanage subdued the rag at the Sri Jayawardanapura University for awhile, students say it still occurs. While the rag is now less physical, it continues to be brutal, and a third year Management student recalled her rag as a fresher two years ago where one of the 'activities' the freshers were forced to do involved rubbing their hands in mud just before meals and being told by the seniors that they could only wash their hands once; either before eating or afterwards. Needless to say, many freshers went without meals for days.

A senior Professor at the Moratuwa University, who declined to be named, says that ragging is no longer the problem it once was. Ragging has been eradicated to a large extent, especially in Moratuwa," he said, The administration doesn't really consider it a big problem and because students don't come forward to complain about it there is no real pressure on the administration to take any measures to prevent or stop it." He went on to say that some students even consider it a badge of honour" to have been ragged, but also said that he knows of students who have quit their degrees because of the humiliation they have been subjected to during the rag.

Kanthi Wickramasinghe (name changed) is one of those students. Having secured a place at the Bio Science faculty at the Colombo University, Kanthi endured two months of ragging before she finally decided that it was not worth it. The last straw was when they singled me out and told the rest of the batch that they would be punished if they spoke to me," said Kanthi who had also been banned from going to the canteen and attending meetings held for the freshers. It was one thing to be ragged as a batch but to be targeted personally, partly because I had studied at a private school in Colombo, was unbearable," she said.

The Arts faculty at the Colombo University has been free of ragging for the past five years. This year though, that changed. A group of students who themselves had never been ragged at University, began to randomly corner students in the canteen and verbally assault them, making demands that girls could only wear skirts or dresses to campus. Malini Fernando (name changed), a fresher at the Colombo Arts faculty, said that if a student not from Colombo wore jeans to campus, the ragers would yell at those from Colombo, accusing them of corrupting the others. They go to the extent of threatening to kill you if you don't wear a skirt," said Malini, and even though the freshers are confident that the ragers do not mean this seriously, casually dishing out death threats is not something to be condoned.

The administration at the Colombo Arts faculty, for their part, seems to be willing to control the rag. The lecturers gave us their numbers and told us to call them if we get ragged or see anyone getting ragged," said Malini. However, she went on to say that many lecturers seem reluctant to be identified as being anti-ragging. The lecturers don't come while the rag is happening," she said, they only come afterwards." One wonders about the wisdom in that.

At Kelaniya University, which has seen its share of student clashes, the authorities have taken an extreme and certainly unpopular approach of having police officers stationed both outside and inside the university. However, students say that the presence of the police does little to curb the ragging. Most of the time the police just watch and laugh while the students get ragged," said Sasha Perera (name changed) a fourth year Arts student, who went on to say that a few senior students had taken to saving freshers from the rag. We try to flank them on either side when they enter the university so that the ragers can't get to them," she said, But obviously we can't save everyone and strangely, a few even say they want to be ragged."

Michael John (name changed), a recent graduate from the Kelaniya University, sees ragging in a different light. My batch-mates and I still laugh together about what we went through at our rag," said Michael, who had in turn ragged his juniors when in his second year, tell people to think of ragging as an experience," he said, I'm very glad I went through it because I would probably have been more of an obnoxious prick if I hadn't." While he does not condone any form of physical or extreme ragging, Michael feels that there can be positive side to ragging which is not necessarily demeaning.

In Michael's opinion, ragging is a complex class issue. He identifies those who protest against it as belonging to the middle or upper-middle classes in society and sees those who practice it as coming from the poorer strata of society. The hue and cry over ragging, he says, is a reflection of the intolerance of the rich about being dictated to by people they look down on.

Continued page..... 05

He argues that far from the raggers suffering from an inferiority complex, the complainers instead, suffer from a superiority complex, and he sees those who quit University due to ragging as those who can afford alternate forms of higher education either abroad or in private institutions.

To the vast majority however, ragging is bullying. To them, most of those who practice it, do so to make themselves feel important, feared and respected. A few more do it out of peer pressure. Whatever the perspective, there is no justification whatsoever for depriving any student, whatever his or her background may be, from pursuing the University education that they worked so hard for. There should be little debate that ragging violates civilized norms of behavior and established human values and there should be no place for it in modern society, let alone in institutions educating and nurturing the best brains in the country.

Perhaps it is useful to analyze how Western societies where ragging originated, have succeeded in eliminating it. Is it due to strict laws and their effective enforcement? Or is it due to the fact that the disparities among the student populations there are not as vast as in a developing country like ours? Does the fact that all students pay for their education make them feel more equal?

There are many views on the root causes of ragging varying from it being a psychological problem to it being a form of expression of frustration against inequalities, injustices and disparities in society, particularly the wide urban "rural and rich" poor gap that continues to exist. Proponents of ragging see it as a means of equalizing the wide disparity in social status that exists in a university student body, as well as a means of ensuring that those from more privileged backgrounds become aware that they are no better than those from less privileged ones. Politicization of university student movements, which exist despite claims to the contrary, may also be a contributory factor.

Is the Western success in eliminating ragging replicable in a country like Sri Lanka? Perhaps legislation can only go thus far and no further than in eliminating extreme forms of ragging that lead to grievous hurt or death. Depending on one's view on the root causes of ragging, until some of the wide spread disparities in society are addressed and the gaps bridged, ragging may be one of the few negative consequences of an otherwise equitable free education system, that students just have to put up with.

Having said that, apart from legislation and deterrent punishment, a more effective approach to address the problem of ragging in Sri Lanka, would be through creating awareness and conviction about the futility of ragging among the students themselves. In this context, anti-ragging student movements starting within the universities is a step in the right direction and presents the best opportunity to effectively address this long standing problem. It should therefore be wholeheartedly supported and encouraged by everyone who wishes to see Universities in Sri Lanka rid of ragging.

Nishika Fonseka is the *Ground views* Staff Writer

Sarachchandra open air theatre

Sarachchandra open air theatre of [University of Peradeniya](#), a well known historical theatre and the only one of its kind in Sri Lanka

Sarachchandra open air theatre is a theatre located in the [University of Peradeniya](#), about one kilometre from the [Galaha](#) junction in Galaha-Peradeniya road. It is popularly known as the *Wala*, among university students and the drama enthusiasts. Theatre is named in memory of [Prof. Ediriweera Sarachchandra](#), Sri Lanka's premium playwright. Built in early 1950s, it is considered to be the only [theatre](#) of its kind in [Sri Lanka](#). It was built according to the architectural style of [ancient Greek theatres](#)



The performance space is a simple semi-circular one in the middle. It is called the orchestra. Spectators sit in the stone steps created at a slope of which produced a natural theatron, literally "watching place". It can accommodate a very large number of people. [Acoustics](#) play a vital role in its construction. Even the spectators in the extreme back row can hear the sounds clearly. Still, most of the dramas shown in the [University of Peradeniya](#) use Sarachchandra open air theatre as their venue. Ediriwira Sarachchandra's ground-breaking Sinhala play, *Maname* was first presented at this very theatre.

Member Benefits - *Gamini de Alwis*

Why should I become a member of PUAAViC, the Peradeniya Alumni in Victoria?

Many have posed this question from time to time particularly when a person is approached to take up membership. One would be hard pressed to answer the question favourably by naming even a single exclusive membership benefit a member would enjoy. A reference to the articles of association is not of much help either. The membership empowers a person to serve in the executive committee and annually elect the members to the committee. Some may declare that this is not a benefit, instead on the contrary it is a cost to their time and energy. In the circumstances we may have to conclude that the simple answer to the vexed question would be that there are no exclusive benefits to a member in the conventional sense.

There are many successful organisations in Victoria, which have very commendable membership benefits. Some of these organisations provide funds to members in financial strife, help to new members on arrival, assist members or their families at a time of bereavement to ease the financial stress at such times and so on. At PUAAViC, we have helped few graduates who have found themselves in extreme circumstances. In these instances too we have come to the aid of Peradeniya persons irrespective of whether they were members or not. We have used our organisation to gather contributions specifically for such a cause.

It seems somehow very contradictory that the alumni association which provides no apparent benefits to their members, has such a healthy membership. How can this be? In the tradition of those who ask a question to answer it themselves, I go on to answer my own question. I believe the desire to become a member stems from the underlying affinity which naturally exists between people who had enjoyed the Peradeniya experience. This is so, even if they had experienced it at different times. When such people meet, the background of their adolescence disposes them to make an immediate emotional connection with each other. It quickly transcends differences and they settle into comfortable, enjoyable and lasting relationships. For many of us who have left our families behind, we find a substitute family here in PUAAViC.

PUAAViC facilitates this process by organising a number of activities for the alumni to participate in. Not every activity is enjoyed by each alumnus or alumna here. However it attempts to broaden the type of activities so that everyone will find at a few events suited to their interest to participate in. There are many such activities and events. The Hantana Nite provides an evening to meet up with fellow alumni and their families in a party atmosphere in their sartorial splendour. The weekend away is an occasion to relax together over a weekend singing songs of the olde culminating with an evening meal together with more music and amusing skits. For those with an artistic bend, we host cultural shows which often feature colleagues in the entertainment industry. For the sports minded an annual cricket match against Kelaniya University takes place on Australia day. For those who continue to seek knowledge we organise seminars where important topics are discussed with guest speakers. All these events which we enjoy together build and bind the community of alumni here.

In addition to these, we are a vehicle or a conduit for the alumni to express their inherent desire to give something back to the great institution from which they had benefited so much. The alumni always generously rallies to the call to donate books to the faculty libraries, to provide drawing instruments to engineering students and to provide scholarships to current students. In doing so, many have experienced the thrill of a shared achievement. Those who participate will continue to enjoy the lasting glow of contentment which emanates from such acts of altruism.

However the question still remains. For all these events and projects, we invite all alumni in Victoria whether they are a financial member or not. If any of us are considering taking up membership, some may think at first sight that we will get nothing more than what we already do. Then again we may realise that as a member we will get much more than what we can discern at first sight. By taking up membership one commits to continue the organisation and shape its future. PUAAViC is not averse to member benefits and is working on schemes which would be sustainable, equitable and would continue to preserve our organisation chaste from a profit sharing membership culture. Even when such schemes are in place, one would still like to think that when someone takes up membership it is done not by asking what PUAAViC can do for us but by answering what we can do to build and strengthen the alumni community in Victoria and thereby give something back in return to that great institution. If you are a graduate of the Peradeniya University, please consider taking up membership.

If however you feel that you are not ready to take up membership as yet, at least be listed in our directory of alumni at our website www.peradeniya.com.au. This will enable you to be in touch with your batch mates and help PUAAViC to keep you informed of its events and activities. After you have made a listing in the directory inform your friends from Peradeniya living anywhere in Australia to place their contact details in the directory as well.

Cambridge by the Mahaweli - Peradeniya University - Sanjī Gunasekara

"But who can deny that Peradeniya of the fifties, in the first decade of our existence as a modern independent nation, with its galaxy of world class intellectuals on the teaching staff and the opportunity of sampling the crumbs of a rich intellectual feast, was not a heady attraction for so many young men and women shedding their starched white school uniforms if only for the freedom to grow a beard, smoke a cigarette, wear the open sandals patented by the revered Sarachchandra and spout a confused mixture of existentialism, nationalism, and Marxism?" - Jayantha Dhanapala in his review of *Peradeniya: Memories of a University* (1997), edited by KM de Silva and Tissa Jayatillaka

For a small, developing country in South Asia, Sri Lanka has produced a disproportionately high number of academics, scholars and professionals that have gone on to prominence on the world stage. There is hardly a major research institution, think-tank or university anywhere in the West that does not have at least one Sri Lankan on its senior staff. Proficient in English, familiar with Western culture (though often its harshest critics) and capable of mimicking the decorum that is supposed to epitomise a true 'gentleman' (or 'lady'), these Sri Lankans are frequently assumed to be products of Oxford or Cambridge. In fact, many are graduates of Sri Lanka's own elite educational facility, the University of Peradeniya, especially during its golden era in the 1950s and 60s. Originally known as the University of Ceylon, the history of this illustrious university is intertwined with that of Sri Lanka, and its fortunes have mirrored the island's political, economic and social trajectories.

While major centres of learning have existed in Sri Lanka for over two millennia, these were closely linked to the Sangha (the monastic community of Buddhist monks and nuns) and restricted to matters pertaining to the dharma (teachings of the Buddha). The advent of a modern secular university tradition is a relatively recent phenomenon, introduced towards the end of British colonial rule, although the Ceylon Medical College was inaugurated in 1870. Following prolonged lobbying by a group of public-spirited citizens under the leadership of Sir Ponnambalam Arunachalam, the Ceylon University College was established in Colombo in 1921. Affiliated with the University of London, this landmark act was envisaged to be a preliminary step in the ultimate creation of a fully-fledged university.

In what became known as the 'battle of the sites,' competing proposals were put forward for the location of the university. While Colombo was initially favoured, a decision was eventually taken to settle for Peradeniya, a tea plantation 8km from Kandy and a site of great scenic beauty. Until the new campus was built, however, the new university functioned in Colombo. Taking its first students in 1942, it was a further decade before the transition to Peradeniya. An acute shortage of building materials following the spread to the East of the Second World War was a major factor in this delay.

The unwavering effort of one man, Sir William Ivor Jennings, was instrumental in ensuring the eventual successful transition to the new site in Peradeniya. Appointed as first Vice Chancellor of the University of Ceylon, Jennings was formerly a lecturer at the London School of Economics and Political Science and Visiting Professor at the University of British Columbia. His vision was to recreate a Cambridge in the East – a single residential university on British lines educating a highly select group of young men and women in the English tongue who would take their place as legislators, administrators and professionals in the service of a little bit of England in Asia.

Under his tenure, the new campus at Peradeniya enrolled its first students in 1952 and was officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh in the presence of Queen Elizabeth in 1954. Jennings's contributions extended well beyond the sphere of education. While in Ceylon, he also had appointments as Deputy Civil Defence Commissioner, Chairman of the Ceylon Social Services Commission and was an advisor to the constitutional arrangements prior to independence.

Continued.....8

His primary task accomplished, Jennings left Peradeniya in 1955 and returned to England as Master of Trinity Hall at Cambridge, later becoming Vice Chancellor of the University of Cambridge. For a brief few years after he left the island, Jennings's vision seemed to have become a reality. A rich intellectual tradition flourished and the university soon acquired a reputation as one of the most promising in the Commonwealth. However, Jennings's tenure had coincided with a period of momentous social and political change in the island. After nearly 500 years of colonial rule, independence from Britain came in 1948. The decade that followed saw a continued rise in the forces of nationalism that, together with a linguistic and cultural resurgence, posed a direct challenge to the elitist institution operating on the banks of the Mahaweli Ganga, Sri Lanka's largest river.

Just a few years after Jennings left, sweeping changes were made to the island's educational system. Following popular demand, the government imposed changes in the university admissions policies resulting in enrolments that soon exceeded the levels envisaged. Economic difficulties precluded a commensurate increase in funding. In the 1960s, the University took the momentous decision to offer classes in the vernaculars (Sinhala and Tamil) in addition to English. For the first time, non-English speaking rural youth could pursue higher studies alongside children from the middle classes and elite.

However, many rural youth still felt disadvantaged, particularly with the realisation that a university degree without a command of English was no guarantee of employment. It was just a matter of time before tensions simmering in wider society manifested in the university. Radical undergraduates from Peradeniya were among the leading insurgents in two failed insurrections, firstly in 1971 and again in the late 1980s. Many of the intervening years have been characterised by instability, unrest and frequent disruptions in the academic programme, while political interference frequently encroached on the running of university affairs.

Despite the upheavals, the university has shown a remarkable degree of resilience. Peradeniya continues to produce graduates that have gone on to become prominent figures in politics, business, the arts and academia, and many have excelled on the international stage. Today, the university has seven faculties (arts, science, veterinary medicine, agriculture, dental sciences, medicine and engineering), two postgraduate institutes and over 11,000 students, making it the second largest of Sri Lanka's 13 universities. University education in Sri Lanka is still free, although this means that competition for places is fierce. Among aspirants of higher education across Sri Lanka's schools, Peradeniya continues to be the most sought after of all the country's universities.

As an infant, I frequently accompanied my parents to Peradeniya when they visited the late HAI Gonetilleke - then librarian and distinguished bibliographer - and also my mother's cousin. Returning to the campus earlier this year, I visited the six-storey main library complex where his portrait gazes down from the wall of one of the reading rooms, and to peruse the impressive collection in the Ceylon Room - a concept he is credited with establishing in all Sri Lanka's universities. In another reading room, a young Buddhist monk in saffron robes, a Muslim girl in hijab and a group of female Tamil students adorned in brightly coloured salwar kameez were all engrossed in their books, testament to the diversity of the student body.

Peradeniya has people going lyrical about it and it's easy to understand why. The grounds themselves cover some 700 hectares, of which just 150 are developed. To the west are the pine-covered hills of the Hantana range while flowing right through campus is the Mahaweli Ganga. Well-manicured lawns are complemented by tropical foliage. No doubt many young students fell in love for the first time while strolling along the pathways that meander through the grounds, perhaps pausing to steal a moment of intimacy under the shade of an arboreal canopy. The sprawling nature of the campus is reminiscent of the traditional openness found at Anuradhapura, and the architecture is distinctly oriental, with double-pitched tile roofs and a wealth of ornamentation, including moulded stone bases, carved stone columns and moonstones. Looking down at the campus from the Hantana hills are the staff quarters and university-sponsored places of worship - a Buddhist vihara, Christian ecumenical church, Muslim mosque and Hindu kovil.

Continued9

The mere mention of Peradeniya is certain to evoke nostalgia among its alumni. The late Lakshman Kadirgamar, former Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and one-time President of the Oxford Union, spent his undergraduate years at Peradeniya. During the unveiling of his portrait at Oxford in 2005, he remarked that while "Oxford was the icing on the cake, the cake itself was baked at home". For many Sri Lankans, now ensconced in far less salubrious climes in all corners of the globe, Peradeniya is a reminder of the heady days of youth – a time of new freedoms, a shared sense of optimism and the allure of a rich intellectual grounding. Though many of the buildings are now somewhat faded, a drive through the campus, perhaps after a visit to the nearby Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, is definitely recommended, and provides a glimpse of what must be one of the most picturesque settings for a university campus in the world. *

2014 — PUA AV Executive Committee

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REUNION

At a recent reunion held at the Peradeniya Campus one past Alumni with a walking stick wanted to show his wife the room that he stayed while at the university of course during his prime life.

So he walks her to his previous hall of residence Marcus Fernando. He goes to his room number 111 and opens the door to find a male student in the room. He tells his wife that the room looks same just like when he was staying and the furniture is the same and "see my darling those scribbling on the wall, they are University Kurutu Gee" they are still there !!

Then he slowly opens the door of the cupboard to see a girl hiding inside. Immediately the boy in the room jumps to explain that she was his sister who had visited from another girls hall and they were discussing some family issues. The old man has a hearty laugh and says "Ha ha you guys still carry the same old story that we used to say" to his frowning wife.

More on Sir Ivor Jennings

March 13, 2014, 12:00 pm



As an admirer of Sir Ivor Jennings, I wish to express my gratitude to Frank De Silva for his piece in today's Island. Unfortunately, it was only five years later that I managed to enter this magnificent institution which he had founded. But, I had the good fortune to see Sir Ivor in person when he did his last visit there in August, 1962. H. A. I (Ian) Goonetilleke refers to this in his long and beautiful Introduction to his edition of Jennings's autobiography, *The Road to Peradeniya*. I can still visualise that lanky figure with an easy and confident delivery addressing us at the Arts Theatre on that sunny afternoon. It is a treat to read Ian's meticulous description of this visit:

"On August 1, 1962, on his way to Australia and New Zealand alone, he broke journey in Colombo and stayed at the Galle Face Hotel. The next day, Thursday August 2, he travelled to Peradeniya, looked over the campus and saw the new buildings that have come up and occupied in the seven and half years since he left. After lunch with the Vice Chancellor, Sir Nicholas Attygalle, he had a brief nap in his old bed in the Lodge (as he wrote to his wife late that night) and then addressed a packed Arts Theatre, overflowing with students and staff. After tea with the Vice Chancellor, Deans and the Registrar, he returned to Colombo the same evening, and was hosted to dinner by the University of Ceylon Teachers Association, Colombo at the Mount Lavinia Hotel. He left the next day. The best report of his speech appeared in *The Ceylon Daily News* on August 3. from which I have extracted the salient observations germane to the occasion, some verbatim. Sir Ivor recollected that there was nothing like Peradeniya anywhere in the world – nothing so beautiful nothing so unique. "I am very pleased to see how the university has grown since 1955. Of course, the trees have grown too. Some of them were planted on my instructions 21 years ago, before any buildings had come up. I hope your university will go on developing, and growing. You are heirs of the pioneers of 1952 and I hope you are looking after the property really well in the traditions of all other universities. You have the foundation here of an excellent university."

What have we to say today (2014) about the Founder's pious hopes?

Be that as it may, regarding Frank De Silva's write up, I have the recollection of seeing in a paper sometime back (perhaps *The Sunday Island*) a photograph of the farewell episode with the Arts Theatre in the background. Also, I have heard that the students asked Sir Ivor to switch off the engine of the car and pushed it all the way up to the Galaha Junction. I hope someone would respond.

K. N. O. Dharmadasa

Extract from the Island News Paper published on 13th march 2014



EVENTS CALENDAR 2014

Event	Date	Venue	Contact
Annual Trip	24th to 26th April 2014	GRAMPIANS	Gamini Maharage gmaharag@optusnet.net.au
Annual Dinner Dance	7th June 2014	SPRINGVALE TOWN HALL	Mangala Jayasinghe mangalaj@melton.vic.gov.au
10th Anniversary Celebration Variety Entertainment	4th October 2014	DANDENONG DRUM THEATRE	Prem Kanahara sujathakanahra@yahoo.com
Annual general meeting	25th October 2014	Ajani Centre 284 Thompsons Rd Lower Templestowe 3107	Prasanna Kalusinghe Kalusinghe@yahoo.com

*We proudly announce that we are
celebrating this year our
10th Anniversary*

Reminiscence



*University of Peradeniya
and it's Natural Beauty*

History

The University of Peradeniya is the heir to a sixty year old University tradition which commenced with the inception of the University of Ceylon, the first institution of its kind established in Colombo on 1 July 1942. It moved to the banks of Mahaweli River, the longest in the Country, in 1952. However the history of its evolution as the oldest and the largest University in the country pass through the following stages.

1942 to 1952 University of Ceylon

1952 to 1972 University of Ceylon Peradeniya

1972 to 1978 Peradeniya Campus, University of Sri Lanka

Since 1978 University of Peradeniya

Sir Ivor Jennings the first Vice-Chancellor, on his first visit to the campus site in 1944 with the site plan of the architect Sir Patrick Abercrombie's, has written,

"No University in the world would have such a setting".

The University is located in Peradeniya in the Central Province, which bares lush greenery vegetation and mist-clad mountains, approximately 6 km from the City of Kandy, the historic Capital of the last independent Kingdom and 110 km from Colombo, Capital of Sri Lanka, and can be reached within two to three hours by public road or by railway.

The access to the University premises is through Galaha Road from the turn off near the historic Royal Botanical Gardens of Peradeniya, a popular tourist and lovers' attraction, famous for its rare tropical plants and orchids

The University covers about 700 hectares of land and the developed area covering approximately 130 hectares is occupied by buildings of the Faculties, Halls of Residence, Staff bungalows etc.

Throughout the campus most trees begin to bear flowers in early March signaling the coming of spring. Lovers' Lane, Kissing Bend, open-air theater and the lower Hantana Road display a rare aesthetic beauty through the rich foliage.

University Logo



In establishing its identity at its inception in 1942, the then University of Ceylon decided that a coat-of-arms would not be in keeping with the traditions of an oriental country. Instead, it chose a seal with a lion motif that has remained the university's logo over the years although small changes were made during its transformation into the University of Peradeniya.

The original Logo of the university consisted of a lion--the lion being the symbol of Sri Lanka-- surrounded by a circle containing the Sanskrit motto Sarvasva Locanam Sastram (knowledge is the eye unto all) and the words University of Ceylon in English. Outside the circle was a design of 'Pala Pethi', a symbol of purity and wisdom in indigenous art, represented here by stylized lotus petals of the Kandyan Period. The colours of the Logo are gold on maroon.

In 1978, when the University of Peradeniya became an independent entity, the Council adopted the Logo of the University of Ceylon without the Sanskrit motto, but with the words University of Peradeniya in Sinhala, Tamil and English. The annual reports from 1979 came to carry the Sanskrit aphorism from Hitopadesha, Vidya Dadati Vinayam (Knowledge gives discipline).

In 1991, the Council decided to restore the original Sanskrit Motto in the University Logo. As it was observed that the shape of the 'Pala Pethi' and the original colour combinations have changed over the years, the Council decided in 2011 to restore all the features of the Logo in accordance with its original design.

University Education: Let Not Poverty Stand In The Way - Chakra Wijesundera

From time to time, we hear stories about students who having qualified to enter University are forced to make the painful decision not to proceed as they cannot afford the costs involved. Samudrika's father had passed away when she was just a toddler and was brought up by her mother with what little she earned as a laborer. When Samudrika was selected to enter the Arts Faculty of Peradeniya University, they mortgaged their tiny land (paddy field) they had for Rs. 25,000 to pay for Samudrika's University expenses. Samudrika soon found out that this money was hardly enough to sustain her University education and was becoming increasingly anxious about her future. Her plight was recently highlighted by the "Sannasa" newspaper in Melbourne. Fortunately for her, from the moment the PUAAViC got wind of her situation and went to the alumni here, there was a spontaneous flow of offers to support her. Thanks to the generosity of the Alumni members, Samudrika has been able to get their land back and is assured of financial support to complete her University education. Samudrika expressed her appreciation as follows:

"ජීවිතයේ තීරණාත්මක මොහොතක අනන්ත වූ දුක් කම්කටොලු අතර සිරවී සිටියදී ඔබතුමන්ලාගේ සංගමයේ පිහිටිමිම දෙවිං දුන් තැත්ගත් සේ මා හට වටිනේය. මා අධ්‍යාපනය තුලින් ලබන සියලු ජයග්‍රහණයන් ඔබලාගේ දයාබර බවෙහි ප්‍රතිපලයක් ලෙස දකිමි. ඔබ තුමන්ලා මා හට පිහිට නොවන්නට මා ඉදිරි අධ්‍යාපනය පිළිබඳව සිතන්නේ කෙසේද කියාවත් මම නොදනිමි. මාගේ අධ්‍යාපනය සාර්ථක වන යම් දිනයක එහි ගවිචය ඔබ ආදිශිෂ්‍ය සංගමයට හිමි වන බව සිහිපත් කරමි. මා වැනි ජීවිතයේ පතුලටම වැටී සිටින තවත් සිසු සිසුවිආන්ට ඔබ තුමන්ලාගේ සහයෝගය ලබා දීමට ශක්තිය ධාර්ය පුර්වතා කරමි."



The quick resolution to Samudrika's predicament was possible because the alumni here were already helping students through PUAAViC in partnership with the parent Alumni with a well developed Scholarship scheme. Throughout the past 10 years, members have sponsored many a students to see them through difficult times. PUAAViC recognised the need and the desire of our alumni to support the needy students. A couple of years ago, the alumni embarked on an ambitious project to establish a sustainable scholarships program to assist students in greatest need. The new program was launched on the Fathers Day 2012. The idea of conducting a fundraiser on Fathers Day came from the daughter of an alumnus who suggested that it would be a wonderful opportunity for the parents and children of the Alumni to meet up and celebrate Fathers Day together. More importantly, it would provide an opportunity for the children to donate money to assist Peradeniya students in financial need rather than buying gifts for the dads, who in most cases didn't really need them. Of course, as we have observed, the parents not be outdone by their children, also make generous contributions.

It has now become customary to celebrate Fathers Day in the company of fellow alumni together with their family and friends. The tradition which began as a relatively small gathering in 2012, has since grown in to a much bigger event as seen by the attendance of over 175 alumni family and friends for the 2013 event. Those who attended the last event enjoyed a fun-filled day with parents and children taking part in many activities, and all those present were treated to a delicious 'kottu' lunch prepared on site by volunteers.

The donations to the scholarship fund were spontaneous enabling the collection of over \$11,000 on the day. The money raised at this event together with the proceeds from Hantane Nite 2013 enabled PUUAViC to offer 143 scholarships in 2014, which is the 10th anniversary of PUAAViC.



The current PUAAViC scholarship scheme allows donors to choose between offering scholarships immediately or contributing to a capital fund where the money would be invested and the accrued interest is used for giving scholarships in future years. In addition to supporting students in financial need (Equity & Excellence Scholarships), the donors can also offer scholarships to recognise and encourage academic excellence (Excellence Scholarships). There are also opportunities to name a scholarship after someone as long as there is assurance for its continuity for several years. Donors can also nominate the faculty, department or even such things as the school the student entered from. The 2014 offers were largely based on preferences expressed by the donors. Where there were glaring inadequacies in the numbers initially allocated by faculty, for example the Faculty of Arts, the final offers were supplemented from the capital fund. The 2013 round of scholarships were awarded with the cooperation of our parent organisation, the Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya (AAUP) which advertised, interviewed and selected students for the scholarships. AAUP will oversee the process in 2014 as well, except that selection of students will be done by the Deans of the respective faculties.

Table: Scholarships Offered to Peradeniya Students by PUAAViC in

FACULTY	Equity & Excellence		Excellence		Named Scholarships	
	Rs.12,000	Rs.24,000	Rs.12,000	Rs.24,000	Rs.12,000	Rs.24,000
Agriculture	10	0	1	0	0	0
Allied Health	7	0	0	0	0	0
Arts	35	0	1	0	0	3
Dental	3	0	0	1	0	0
Engineering	18	0	2	1	0	0
Medicine	18	0	0	1	0	0
Veterinary Science	3	0	0	0	0	0
Science	20	0	1	6	0	1
Special Needs Centre	10	0	0	0	0	1

This year's Fathers Day Celebration will be held on Sunday 7th September 2014 at the St Simon Parish Hall, 2 Taylors Lane, Rowville. This is the same venue as last year. We look forward to another fun-filled day where the alumni families get together with the fellow alumni and at the same time help to assist financially disadvantaged students at the University of Peradeniya. It is a day when we remember in gratitude and affection what we received from a great institution and celebrate with joy what we give in return. Unlike most other events when you return home you will be enveloped with a rare feeling of lasting joy which results from a shared achievement of a community.

PUAAViC Scholarship Sub-Committee

For more information write to scholarships@peradeniya.com.au. Also visit www.peradeniya.com.au

මට ඉංග්‍රීසි බෑ භාවුදුරුවනේ....

කරමක හලකුනා රියාදුරකු මාර්ග නීති කඩකළ බවට අල්ලාගෙන පොලීසියෙන් උසාවියට ඉදිරිපත් කළේය. ඔහු කර ඇති වරද වූයේ "STOP" සඳහන් පුවරුවක් ඉදිරිපස නොතවත්වා ධාවනය කිරීමයි.



එම වරදට කරුණු ගෙනහැර දැක්වූ රියාදුරු තමා ඉංග්‍රීසි නොදන්නා බවත් ඉහත දැන්වීම් සිංහලෙන් සඳහන් නොවූ බවත් එබැවින් මෙම වචනය නොතේරෙන නිසා වාහනය නතර නොකළ බවත් තමා නිවැරදිකරූ බවත් පැවසීය.

මොහොතක් කල්පනා කළ විනිසුරුවරයා තමාගේ කාරයේ අංකය කුමක්දැයි විමසීය. ඔහු අමාරුවේ වැටුණු බව තේරුම් ගත් රියාදුරුද මදක් සිසීය. සී.වයි. 307 කාරයේ අංකයයි. එක්වරම ඔහු මෙසේ කීය. බිංදුවෙන් පලුවයි, කැටපෝල් කරුවයි කුන්සිය හතයි ඔහුගේ පිළිතුරයි. වික්තිකාර රියාදුරු නිදහස් කැරිණි.

නිමල් හඬමින් සිටිනු දැක පියල් ඔහුගෙන් මෙසේ ඇසීය

පියල්- ඇයි ඔන් උඹ අඬන්නේ?

නිමල්- මං පොතක් කියවේවා. ඒකෙ අවසානය හරිම දුකයි ඔන්

පියල්- මොකද්ද ඒ පොත?

නිමල්- මගේ 'ඔරොකු පොත' ඔන්



සීයට 70ක් වෙලන් සීයා නවම ආවිච්ච කතා කරන්නේ

පුතාට කියන්න ඔ ඔ වැටුප්පු 10කට කලින් වට උඹලගේ ආවිච්චගේ නම ඩාලිං, පැවරගේ, බබෝ කියලා...

දැන් ඔය ගැනිගොත් නම ආහන්ත වට ඔයයි බං...





DNA Sequencing Service

Department of Molecular Biology & Biotechnology
Faculty of Science
University of Peradeniya



Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the Faculty of Science in University of Peradeniya provides DNA Sequencing Service to Researchers.



DNA Sequencing

We employ an ABI 3500 genetic analyser with 8-capillary system from Applied Biosystems® for sequencing. It combines Sanger sequencing technique and capillary electrophoresis to determine the DNA sequence. Sanger Sequencing is the most accurate, definitive method in identifying genetic variation, and Applied Biosystem's capillary electrophoresis platforms are the industry standard, state of the art, reliable, efficient, and widely published technology for DNA sequence analysis.

Sample Submission

We accept PCR products and plasmids for sequencing. The quality of DNA is the most important factor in obtaining high quality sequence data. There should be a single clear band of the appropriate size when the sample is analyzed on an ethidium bromide stained agarose gel. Smearing or multi-bands can be causal factors of sequencing failures. To ensure proper concentration, please check your samples by electrophoresis prior to sending. We require purified PCR products or plasmids for sequencing. Please submit the DNA samples and the primer in **nuclease free water**. EDTA in TE buffer can inhibit polymerase in the sequencing reaction. We also offer gel purification of PCR products for an additional cost. Samples can be submitted in microcentrifuge tubes.



Sample Concentration and Quantity

Template	Concentration	Volume
PCR product		
100- 200 bp	0.5-1 ng/µl	10 µl
200- 500 bp	2-2.5 ng/µl	10 µl
500- 1000 bp	3-5 ng/µl	10 µl
1000- 2000 bp	6-10 ng/µl	10 µl
Plasmid DNA	60 ng/µl	15 µl

Primer		
	0.8 pmol/µl	6µl

Price

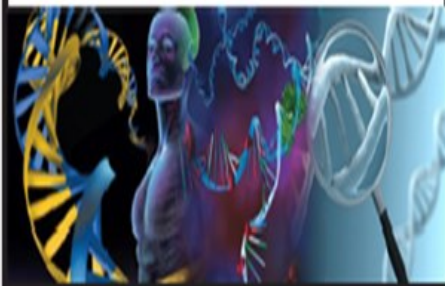
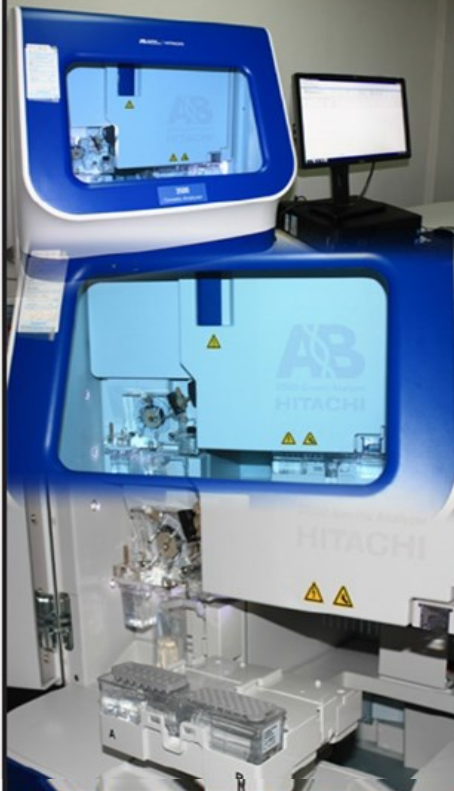
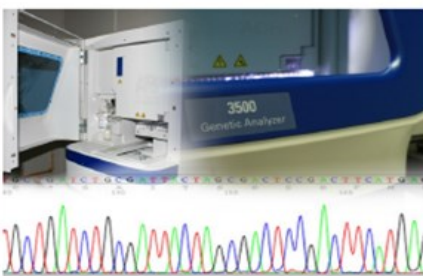
Service	Price
Sequencing purified sample	Rs. 2000/= per reaction
Template purification	Rs. 400/= per sample

Results

Results can be delivered via email or CD in AB 1,txt or FASTA format.

Contact

Dr. Preminda Samaraweera
Department of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
Faculty of Science
University of Peradeniya
Peradeniya
Tel no- 081-2394502
email- mbdnasequencing@gmail.com
Fax- 081-2388018



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Arts	Arts Education (Full time & Week-end course) Physical Education Translation Studies	Master of Arts Master of Education	MPhil PhD
Agriculture	Programmes are conducted by the PGIA		
Engineering	Disaster Management Electrical and Electronic Engineering Engineering Mathematics Engineering Management Environmental and Pollution Control Engineering Environmental Water Engineering Geotechnical Engineering Industrial and Systems Engineering Manufacturing Engineering Mechanical Engineering Structural Engineering	MScEng in Disaster Management Electrical and Electronic Engineering Engineering Management Environmental and Pollution Control Engineering Environmental Water Engineering Geotechnical Engineering Industrial and Systems Engineering Manufacturing Engineering Mechanical Engineering Structural Engineering	MPhil PhD
Science	Programmes are conducted by the PGIS		
Veterinary Medicine & Animal Science		MVSc in Animal Reproduction Diagnostic Veterinary Medicine Poultry Health and Management Veterinary Public Health	MPhil PhD

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[Bachelor of Business Administration \[BBA\]](#) (online)

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Diploma in Cooperative and Development

Diploma in Participatory Housing and Community Development

Certificate/Short Programmes

Certificate Course In Information Technology.

Short-term courses on Participatory Project Planning

[Information Technology Centre \(ITC\)](#)

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Introduction to Computers and MS Office

Web Development

Computer Graphic Animations

Computer Hardware and System Administration

DBMS and Programming

Practical Computer Networks

-Computed - aided Design

Training Program in ICT for GCE (O/L) Teachers

ICT Skills Development of Unemployed Youth in the Central Province

[Centre for the Study of Human Rights \(CSHR\)](#)

Diploma in Human Rights

Certificate Course in Human Rights

Laughter the Best Medicine

Some signboards picked up from India



Beware of the Nudists !!!



Lovely Saloon



Foot in the Mouth



Gentle Comer



Everything on the reverse !!!



Served with cockcurry !!!

Sudoku

Complete the Grid such that every row, every column and the nine 3 X 3 blocks contain digits from 1 to 9.

1				5	8	9	6	3
					9		5	7
	3	9	6			2		
3	7		4					8
4	8	2		3	6		9	5
6	9		7					1
	1	3	5			8		
					3		1	9
8				1	4	3	7	2

				6	2	9		
2		7		8		4	1	
3	8					9		
	1		4			8	5	7
8			7		2			9
6	7	3			8		4	
		4	9				3	8
	6	9		4		1		2
1				2	5	7		

කැමිපස් වන්දනාවට සූදානම් වීමේ ගාථාව මෙක් සිකින් ගයනු මැනවි

අධ්‍යාපන සබ්බ රෝගෝ උසස් පෙළ හරි විශ්වවිජ්ජාලාව	හයකාර නිවාරණ සනීප ගවිජම	ශුද්ධ ගණිත නොම ව්‍යවහාරිකයේ ක්‍රිකෝණමිතිය සර්වසාමය සයින් කොස් ෮෦	ශුද්ධ ගණිත සර්ව සූට	ජීව විද්‍යා අති පාඩම් නොකරොත් නං කෙළං ගෙම්බං ජේදනං සර්ව රෝගං	සුක්ෂම නං කෙළං ඔක්කාර නිවාරණ
සර්ව ආතල් විසුක දස්සනං විත්ත සම්පත්ති නේක විසුක	දුරිංහුතං බලං දුරංගමං දස්සනං	පාඨශාලා සියට අසුවම ක්ලාස් රීටර් ජේප් ප්‍රින්සිපල් මරණ	අතාවශ්‍යං ගවිජපං න්‍යායං හය	රොටරි සක්යා සැසිල් පලයං ටියුෂං පරමං ගෘප් ක්ලාස් A/C මාස් ක්ලාස් දාඩිය	පලයං නිර්මලං සුවදං ගදං
යාන්ත්‍ර විද්‍යා අති වන්දේ හෝම්වර්ක් සාදු සාදු අයිසැක් සාදු සාදු	තුච්ඡං කන්දං නිවිටං අයිත්සට්ටියි	ධෝල්ටං හොල්මං රදර්ෆඩ් නේක වර්ණේ වර්ණාවලී	කරපං සරණංවරං අලංකාරං තේජේබලං	වාණිජං නිර්හයං කලා නං අති සාර්ව ආර්ථික මනා සන්දේශ කාව්‍යං සර්වං සුභං	සුක්ඛං හිතකරං තේජං සුභං
රසායන විද්‍යා සිලබස් පහරංග විද්‍යාගාරං අති ප්‍රැක්ටිකල් කරපං	මහප්‍රාණං ජාතකං උත්තමං මවං	ආවර්තිතාවෝ හයිඩ්‍රජං ලිතියො ඔක්සිජන් නං පට්ට හුස්ම ඇද ඇද පාඩං	අලංකාරං අයො අවමං කරපං	ඉංජිනියරී මෙඩිකල් කැමිපස් ආතල් විද්‍යා පීඨං අති අලංකාත	සුඛං පරිකල්පිතං ස්වඵලනං දර්ශනං

නරියා හු කියයි සිත්‍රිය උගට
එළුවට රැවුල ඇත කැමිපස් ආවේ
මේ දෙක අපට ඇත එනමුදු දැනුම
සහතික පමණි සිත්‍රිය නම් පලක්

මා වැනි ප්‍රේමාලා
තෙලදී ලගට කැන්දා
මුරංගා අත්තේ තියා
කඩේ යැවී උන් දැන් කොයිත්දා

UDURAWANA

Udurawana calls Air Lanka
How Long Does it take to fly to New Delhi ?
Just a second says the rep.
“Thank you “ says Udurawana and cuts the line.

Udurawana buying a TV asks the salesman “ Do you have Colour TVs” The man says Yes.
Udu says then give me a green one please. ?????

මා ද ඔබ විය
ඔබ ද මා විය
ඔබ අන්සතු විය
මට කෙල විය ...

UDURAWANA GONE TO THE TEMPLE

Udurawana got his 4th child. He fills data in the birth certificate
Mother: Sri Lankan.
Father: Sri Lankan.
Kid: Chinese.
"How come you write "Chinese" when both parents are Sri Lankan?"
says Udurawana "Ahhh... I read in the newspaper, that the every 4th person born on Earth now is a Chinese."





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			
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.

.....
Signature

.....
Signature

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

Membership Fees:

Annual: Individual Member \$15 Family Membership \$25

Life: Individual Member \$75 Family Membership \$125

Payment by cash or cheque. Please make cheques payable to Peradeniya University Alumni Australia-Victoria Chapter Inc., Address: PUAAVic, PO Box 750, Glen Waverley, Victoria 3150.

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

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