



PUAAN NEWS

Peradeniya University Alumni Association NSW Chapter

Newsletter

Vol. 2

March 2010

PUAAN Newsletter

Greetings to all Alumni of Peradeniya University and friends. This is the second Newsletter of the New South Wales Chapter. Since the last Newsletter there have been several events held to report on as well as forthcoming events of which we wish to keep our readers informed.

Activities in 2009/2010

PUAAN Third Annual General Meeting '09

The Third Annual General Meeting of the NSW Chapter was held at the Cherrybrook Community Centre on 29 August 2009. Treasurer, Upali Aranwela presented the audited financials for the financial year ending 30 June 2009, which showed a healthy surplus, leaving member contributions fully intact and a healthy cash balance at year end.

The following were elected as new office bearers:-

- President** - Janaka Seneviratne
- Vice President** - Wasantha Wickremanayake
- Secretary** - Palitha Siriwardena
- Assistant Secretary** - Lakshman Randeniya
- Treasurer** - Earl Forbes
- Assistant Treasurer** - Rajayogan Rajalingam
- Public Officer** - Lal Rankothge
- Assistant Public Officer** - Sanath Abeywardena
- Editor** - Srikantha Nadarajah
- Committee Members-**
 - Ernest Macintyre
 - Premaratne Jayatilleka
 - Thilaka Mampitiyarachchi
 - Don Sandanayake
 - Malini Arumugam

Subsequent to the meeting, Don Sandanayake resigned from his position. At the next committee meeting held on 16 October 2009 the committee appointed Nihal Balasuriya to fill the vacancy.

The Annual General Meeting was followed by the gala celebration "Hantana Night 2009". We had several performers swinging between Sinhala, Tamil and English

songs. The violinist of the evening young Tamarie Senadeera had the guests join spontaneously in the rhythms of her music. Gandhi Macintyre, the only performer to use the immediate floor space close to the audience, though not from Peradeniya himself, kept everyone laughing attentively as he performed by proxy a short skit about Peradeniya memories.



There was a fund raising auction to find a buyer for Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardena on a limited edition, large photo portrait memento of their record breaking partnership of 624 against South Africa, in 2006, which was proudly grabbed by Benny Fernando.

The flower arrangements in the colours of Peradeniya University, exquisitely created by Sunethra Nadarajah, were given to the departing guests as they prepared to drive home.

Victorian Bushfire Appeal

The first event after the last newsletter was the assistance provided to the food fair, organized by the Australia Sri Lanka Forum in conjunction with other Sri Lankan community organizations, in March 2009, in aid of the 2009 Bushfire Appeal. The PUAAN stall which, with the assistance of Feel For Life, generated approximately \$5000 was the highest contributor to the project.



Farewell to Consul General, NSW

A farewell dinner to outgoing Sri Lanka Consul General in NSW, Mrs Gothami Indikadahena, was held on 15 June 2009 at the Blue Elephant Restaurant in Pennant Hills. She, is an alumna of Peradeniya University and, as a founder life member of PUAAN, had been pro active in the formation of the NSW Chapter of the Alumni. She has participated in all our events including being the moderator at a seminar held in Sydney on Ethnicity in Sri Lanka.



Despite the short notice, there were a reasonable number of people in attendance at the farewell. The President, Janaka Seneviratne, thanked Gothami for her enthusiasm and support to the Association, and she in turn while expressing appreciation for arranging a farewell party congratulated the President and the Committee for the great team work and spirit of cooperation which has made the Association win the recognition as a major community organization.

Hunter Valley Excursion '10

We had the annual week end excursion to Hunter Valley from 12 to 14 February 2010 with the attendance of over 100 people. Friday night was an informal get together with music and entertainment provided by a DJ and performances by local artistes within the PUAAN group. The dinner was catered for by Curry Leaf. On Saturday morning we had outdoor activities including a mixed gender soft ball cricket match, badminton and some just chatting over "WUS" canteen goodies while Wasantha and Jaya were busy with BBQ tools. The main attraction, the Saturday night social was well attended. Live music was provided by Bonnie and the Clan along with performances by well known local artistes. Ernest MacIntyre gave an interesting description of life in the Peradeniya Campus in the fifties, supported by brief talks by Chalice and Monica Moldridge and Rex Olegasegarem. Dr Tom Silva spoke about the Nayakar kings in the Kandyan kingdom and problems in succession to the throne. A multiple choice quiz relating to events and people at Peradeniya University sponsored by Ernest MacIntyre and Thiru Arumugam generated much enthusiasm. As in the past, Earlson Forbes did good work in presenting the program as M C. A sumptuous buffet dinner was provided by Flavor of Ceylon restaurant. We were pleased to see attendance by young Alumni, the youngest graduating in 2008. At the well attended brainstorming meeting on Sunday morning, we discussed the need for more members to attend our functions, improve arrangements for engaging children and for speakers to cover the periods after the fifties and sixties. Those present were of the opinion that we may continue to use the same venue for future weekend outings in view of the facilities offered, flexibility of the management and the value for money. The President stressed the need for members to respond to emails, especially to resolve matters concerning arrangements for events.

The President thanked the Committee members, some ex committee members and other volunteers and all their spouses for the work done to make the occasion a success.



Fund raising for Post Conflict Sri Lanka



The NSW Alumni group participated in a Sri Lankan Food Fair, organized by the ASF under the "Assist Rebuild Sri Lanka" program, held at the Roselea Community Centre in September 2009. It was well attended and a sum of about \$ 11,700.00 was collected from the Fair. This money is to be released in stages for building of a community centre for disabled soldiers through the Ranaviru Sevana Authority, a semi government organization. Alumni also supported a fund raising project for assisting the IDPs in northern part of Sri Lanka under the "Lifeline to North" program.

Annual General Meeting 2010 and Hantana Night 2010

The next AGM has been fixed for Saturday, 28 August 2010.

This will be followed by our annual family get together *Hantana Night 2010*.

This time we have decided to make the event more colorful and glamorous. The venue is the Greyhound Social Club, 140 Rookwood Road, Yagoona. Various items of entertainment, a Sri Lankan buffet dinner with all beverages included and live music for dancing are some of the attractions on offer. All Alumni and families and their friends are welcome. More details will follow.

All net-proceeds from the event will be directed towards the **Library Books Fund** of the University.



Assistance to Peradeniya University

The committee also discussed ways of providing support to Peradeniya University in general and in particular to needy undergraduates. Following proposals were accepted for providing assistance:

- 1) Two cash prizes of Rs 12000/- each annually to the two most outstanding students of the Arts faculty judged on the results of the first year examination.
- 2) Unspecified amount of funding for the purchase of library books. Alumni members have been requested to contribute to this worthy cause.

PUAAN has obtained 100 custom made T shirts from Sri Lanka with the Peradeniya colours and logo. These are available to members at a cost of \$15.00 each until sold out.

From the Editor

Any constructive suggestions to improve the layout and quality of the newsletter will be appreciated.

Please keep the Secretary informed of change of contact details, in particular the email address. All correspondence for this purpose may be directed to puaan07@yahoo.com.au.

Srikantha Nadarajah
Editor
Email: vsnadarajah@dodo.com.au

Forthcoming Events

Other events planned for the current year before the AGM in August 2010 include:

- a) Bondi beach to Coogee family walk on 18 April 2010. This is a six kilometer walk which is suitable for the entire family and will take about two hours. After the walk we will get together for lunch. Details to follow soon.
- b) A guest speaker with discussion on nutrition (use of oils and fats in food) followed by dinner is planned for 18 June 2010. Venue and other details will follow.