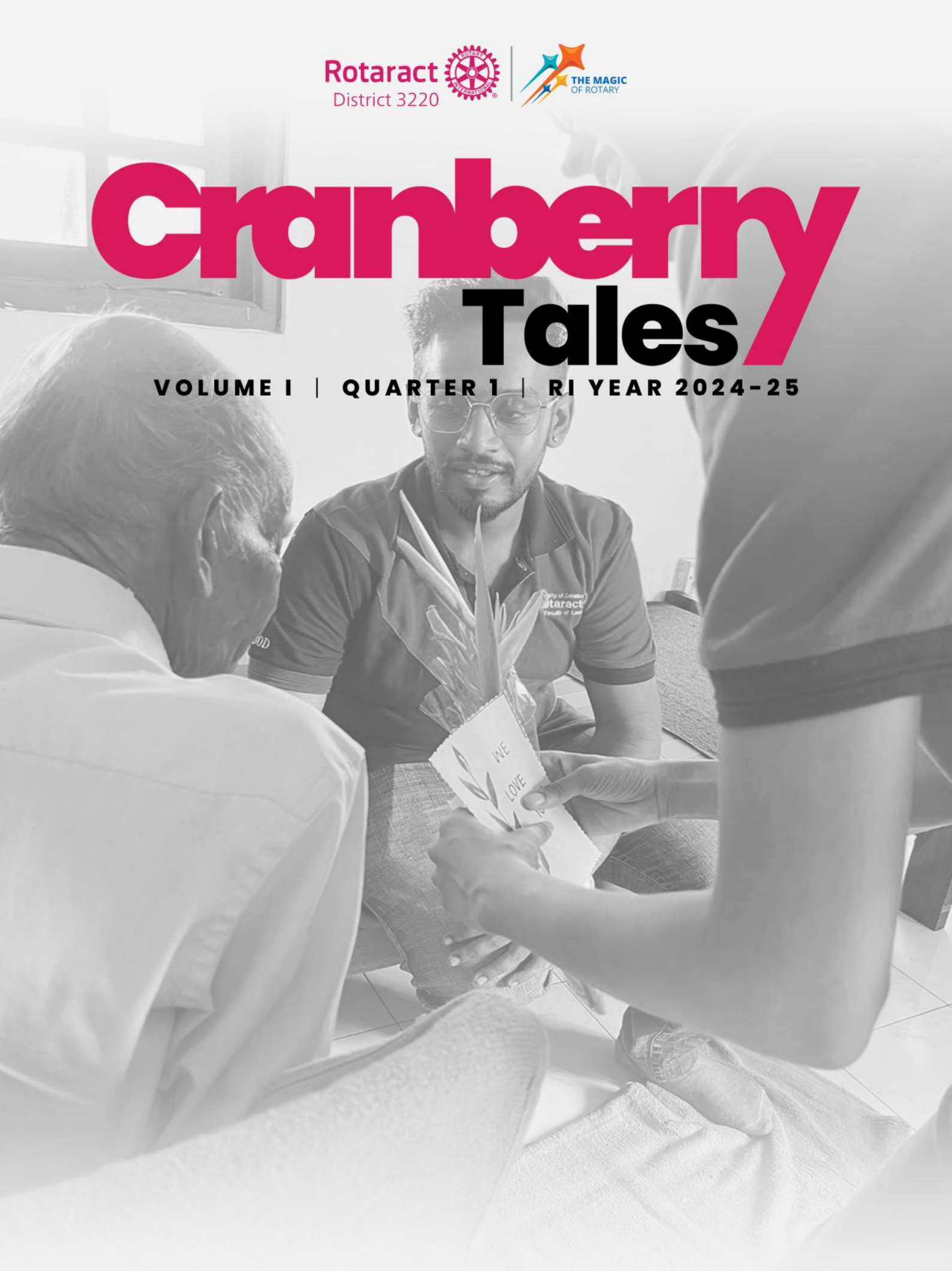
Rotaract
District 3220

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

Cranberry Tales

VOLUME I | QUARTER 1 | RI YEAR 2024-25



ROTARACT IN RID 3220



"Today's Youth Will Be

PHF Rtr. PP Sh
District Rotaract Rep
Rotaract in Rotary Inte
Sri Lanka &

e Tomorrow's Future"

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resentative 2024-25
rnational District 3220
& Maldives

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A WORD FROM THE DRR 2024-25



First off, a huge congratulations to each of you for an incredible start to this Rotaract year! Quarter 1 has been filled with successful projects and inspiring initiatives, all thanks to your dedication and hard work. Watching you bring positive change to our communities is truly uplifting, and I feel deeply honored to lead this movement with such passionate and talented young leaders.

Rotaract has become a powerful force, giving young people the chance to make a real difference. Through your efforts, dreams have turned into action, and impactful, sustainable projects are bringing new hope and strength to our communities.

Looking forward, let's keep our focus on driving meaningful change that supports both our economy and the development of our society. As leaders, each of you has the potential to shape a brighter future, and I believe wholeheartedly in your strength to overcome any challenges that lie ahead.

The Cranberry Tales Newsletter for Quarter 1 of RI Year 2024-25 celebrates the creativity, resilience, and dedication you've shown. Despite the obstacles we face, you've stepped up with unshakable resolve, delivering projects that are impactful, timely, and full of heart. As we continue this journey, I encourage you to support each other, stay true to your mission, and always be willing to share the insights you gain along the way.

As we move forward together, let's keep leading with heart and creating a legacy that empowers today's youth to become tomorrow's leaders. Here's to a year filled with growth, impact, and lasting change!

With warmest regards,
PHF Rtr. PP Shanel Mendis
District Rotaract Representative
RI Year 2024-25
Rotary International District 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives

A WORD FROM THE DG 2024-25



As we reflect on the first quarter of the Rotary International Year 2024-25, it is evident that our Rotaract clubs have achieved tremendous milestones. Your initiatives, whether focused on humanitarian service, professional development, or fostering global understanding, continue to make an indelible mark on our communities. From impactful service projects to leadership development, Rotaractors in District 3220 have consistently set an example of innovation and compassion.

This quarter alone, Rotaractors successfully completed over 374 projects, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to service and leadership. These efforts span various avenues of focus, addressing critical community needs while fostering global understanding and collaboration.

These accomplishments stand as a testament to the unwavering dedication and passion of Rotaractors in District 3220. Together, let us continue to work towards sustainable change, leaving a lasting impact on the world around us.

Rtn. Sushena Ranathunga
District Governor
RI Year 2024-25
Rotary International District 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives

A WORD FROM THE DRC 2024-25



My dear Rotaractors,

It is with tremendous pleasure, that I pen this message as your District Rotaract Chair, with the hope of it reaching every single Rotaractor, during these testing times, for all of you as youth.

Firstly, let me congratulate all of you, the dynamic exemplary youth of this country, for putting that extra effort, energy, time, while managing with your personal, professional, and other commitments. Your extraordinary commitment makes you extraordinary leaders.

Rotaract as a part of Rotary International, brings about a new height of energy, innovativeness, and dynamic leadership for youth volunteerism around the globe. Specially, in Sri Lanka over the years, we have built a legacy of creating youth of impact, purpose and highest professional standards.

I should further express my heartfelt gratitude for your tireless efforts and dedication to Rotaract. Your commitment to serving your communities has resulted in numerous impactful projects that have brought hope and positive change to countless individuals during these difficult times.

I should definitely take a moment to admire your leadership, accountability, and integrity that have been exemplary. You have demonstrated a remarkable capacity to act with responsibility and uphold the highest ethical standards at a club level, showcasing what true leadership is. I am particularly proud of your commitment to financial accountability at the club level.

Accountability & responsibility are two crucial aspects of our Rotaract movement, and your efforts to ensure transparency and responsible use of resources are commendable under such circumstances.

As your District Rotaract Chair, I am committed to strengthening our governance framework to ensure zero tolerance for financial mismanagement and irregularities, both at a club level and at a district level. We will be implementing new measures to enhance oversight and accountability, ensuring that our resources are always used for the benefit of our communities ensuring the highest level of stewardship.

However, in a world where words are often easier to speak than actions to follow, the true measure of a leader lies in their ability to walk the talk. Accountability is the cornerstone of effective leadership. It's about aligning your words with your deeds, demonstrating integrity, and inspiring trust.

Leaders who practice what they preach create a culture of authenticity and credibility. Their actions serve as a beacon, guiding others towards shared goals. When leaders are accountable, they foster a sense of trust, respect, and collaboration within their teams.

As young leaders, you have the power to shape the future. By embracing accountability, you can inspire others to strive for excellence and make a positive impact on your communities. I invite you all to work together to make Rotaract the most respected youth platform for professional development in Sri Lanka, once again.

Together, we can build a legacy of leadership that is grounded in integrity, accountability, and service.

I wish you all the very best in your future endeavors.

May you continue to achieve new heights in your Rotaract careers and professional lives. Your passion and dedication truly inspire us all.

With gratitude and admiration,

Rtn. Kavindra Kasun Sigera
District Rotaract Chair
RI Year 2024-25
Rotary International District 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives

A WORD FROM THE DISCO

PROFESSIONAL DEVEOPMENT TEAM



Dear Rotaract Family,

The first quarter of the Rotary International year has been an incredible journey for the Professional Development (PD) team. We've worked as a closely-knit unit, fueled by our shared passion for developing our fellow Rotaractors. The teamwork within our PD Avenue, coupled with the steadfast support of our DRR & ADRR, has made every challenge an opportunity to grow and flourish.

Our major achievement this quarter was the successful completion of PETS & SETS, which laid a solid foundation for leadership development. This flagship project empowered the district presidents and secretaries, ensuring they were well-equipped to lead their clubs to new heights. Following this, DOTS and ADTS gave us further momentum, fostering skills and collaboration at all levels. Together, these initiatives have strengthened not only the council but the entire district, enabling smoother communication and stronger bonds between clubs.

Of course, challenges have been part of the journey. Tight schedules, logistical hurdles, and unexpected delays tested our patience, but we tackled them with persistence, collaboration, and a shared vision. We have emerged stronger as a result, refining our ability to adapt and lead effectively.

A special highlight for our team has been the bond we've built with each other. We're not just a team—we're family. Our tight-knit relationship, bolstered by our incredible DRR & ADRR, has made working together both fun and deeply fulfilling. Whether it's late-night planning sessions or celebrating small victories, every moment has been special.

Looking ahead, we are excited to roll out IRYLA and our upcoming conference. Both projects aim to create transformative experiences, maximizing opportunities for both local and international Rotaractors.

Here's to more milestones, growth, and shared successes!

Warm regards,
Professional Development Avenue
RI Year 2024-25
Rotaract in RID 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives









CLUB SERVICE TEAM



The first quarter of the year for the Club Service Avenue of Rotary International District 3220 has been a dynamic and rewarding experience. Our team has worked together with a shared vision to strengthen the sense of fellowship and collaboration among Rotaractors across the District, and this has driven our key projects and initiatives.

We kicked off the year with the successful 34th Rotaract District Assembly, which brought together leaders and members from across the district to set the tone for the year ahead. Following that, the Kandy Rotaract Fellowship Visit was a standout moment, where we attended the installations of clubs in the Kandy and Kurunegala region, forging stronger connections.

One of the most enjoyable experiences so far has been the DisCo Trip Down South, a getaway for District officials that blended fun, relaxation, and opportunities for informal discussions about the District's future direction. Additionally, we have consistently organised District Council Meetings (DCMs) from July through October, ensuring smooth coordination and communication among the District's clubs.

While we've accomplished a lot this quarter, it hasn't been without its challenges. Juggling multiple schedules and organizing large-scale events has put our organizational skills to the test. However, by working together and maintaining clear communication, we've been able to stay on course. The tight deadlines for event

planning have pushed us to be adaptable and precise, ensuring everything runs smoothly despite the pressure.

A particularly memorable moment from this quarter was the camaraderie felt during the Kandy Fellowship Visit, where the warmth and hospitality of our fellow Rotaractors left a lasting impression on all of us. These interactions have deepened our sense of purpose and reaffirmed the importance of building strong, lasting relationships.

As we look back on this first quarter, we are proud of our collective achievements and excited for the opportunities that lie ahead. We look forward to continuing our journey, fostering fellowship, and making a meaningful impact through the Club Service Avenue.

Warm regards,
Club Service Avenue
RI Year 2024-25
Rotaract in RID 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives









STATISTICS THROUGH THE QUARTER



TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS: 3035



TOTAL INDUCTIONS:
IN QUARTER 1 OF RI YEAR 2024-25
1061

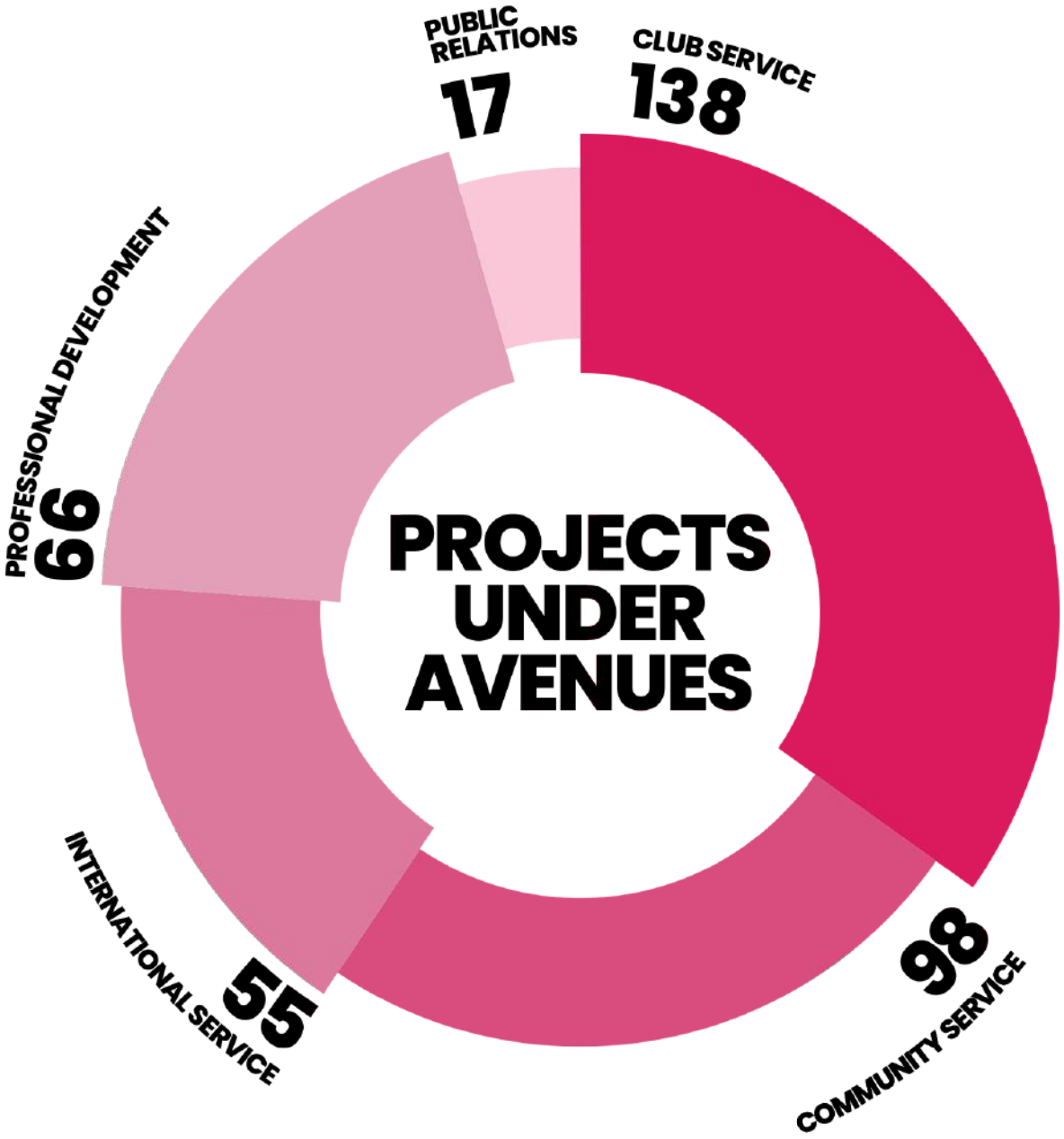


TOTAL ACTIVE CLUBS: 78

COMMUNITY BASED: 44

INSTITUTE BASED: 33

CORPORATE BASED: 01


PUBLIC RELATIONS
17
CLUB SERVICE
138
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
66
PROJECTS UNDER AVENUES
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
55
98
COMMUNITY SERVICE

38

ENVIRONMENT



77

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



55

BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY



PRO
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68
PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION
20
DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT
JECTS
ERING
ARY'S
AS OF
CUS
10
WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE
08
MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH


94
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
39
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
19
15 LIFE ON LAND
06
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
13
13 CLIMATE ACTION
15
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
23
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
32
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
PROJ
COVE
SUSTA
DEVELO
GO


06
1 NO POVERTY
14
2 ZERO HUNGER
39
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
73
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
12
5 GENDER EQUALITY
10
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
–
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
18
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
06
JECTS
ERING
INABLE
OPMENT
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DISTRICT


PROJECTS

DISTRICT OFFICIALS TRAINING SEMINAR



On April 27, 2024, Rotaract in RID 3220 successfully hosted the District Officials Training Seminar (DOTS) at the Ramadia Ranmal Holiday Resort. The event aimed to prepare the incoming district officials with the necessary skills and knowledge for the upcoming Rotaract year.

The day commenced at 9:00 AM with a welcome address by PHF Rtr. PP Shanel Mendis, District Rotaract Representative 2024-25. He outlined the objectives of the seminar, stressing the importance of leadership and effective service within Rotaract.

The first session, titled "Elevate Rotaract and RI Dues," was conducted by Rtr. IPP Vishvi Wijethunga and the District Treasury Team, focusing on the financial responsibilities of clubs and the significance of dues. Following this, the Sergeant-at-Arms led the session "Do It or Get Out," covering important rules and regulations for district officials to follow.





After a short snack break, the Sergeant-at-Arms returned to discuss the Role of Guide Club Coordinators (GCC), followed by a presentation on District finance management by the District Treasury Team.

The afternoon sessions included a series of 15-minute presentations from various District teams. The District Club Services Team started the line-up, followed by the Zonal Rotaract Representatives, Sports & Recreational Activities Team, Community Service Team, International Service Team, Professional Development Team, and the Membership Development Team.



After a tea break, the Treasury and Finance Team delivered further insights on district finances. The day concluded with the Public Relations and Editorial Team, who led a Q&A session before an interactive Kahoot session added some fun to the learning experience. The seminar wrapped up with a fellowship session, allowing officials to connect and unwind.

DOTS proved to be a productive and insightful day, equipping district leaders for a successful Kingdom ahead.



PRESIDENT & SECRETARY ELECTS TRAINING SEMINAR



PETS & SETS 2024-25 (President Elect & Secretary Elect Training Seminar), held on May 18th and 19th 2024, at the Pegasus Reef Hotel, Wattala was a memorable event that brought together future Rotaract leaders for a weekend of learning, bonding, and celebration.

The weekend kicked off with an inspiring speech from DRR PHF Rtr. PP. Shanel Mendis. The Presidents and Secretaries, already divided into groups, stepped up for their creative and humorous team introductions which made everyone laugh! Following this, the District Steering Committee was introduced, adding to the excitement of the event. They even joined in on the fun, breaking into some lively impromptu dance moves.

The first day was filled with engaging sessions, including team-building activities and detailed presentations on the district's structure and year plan, followed by DRC 2024-25 Rtn. Kasun Sigera on Youth & Stewardships.





The evening turned electric with a DJ party—everyone hit the dance floor, making the night one to remember.



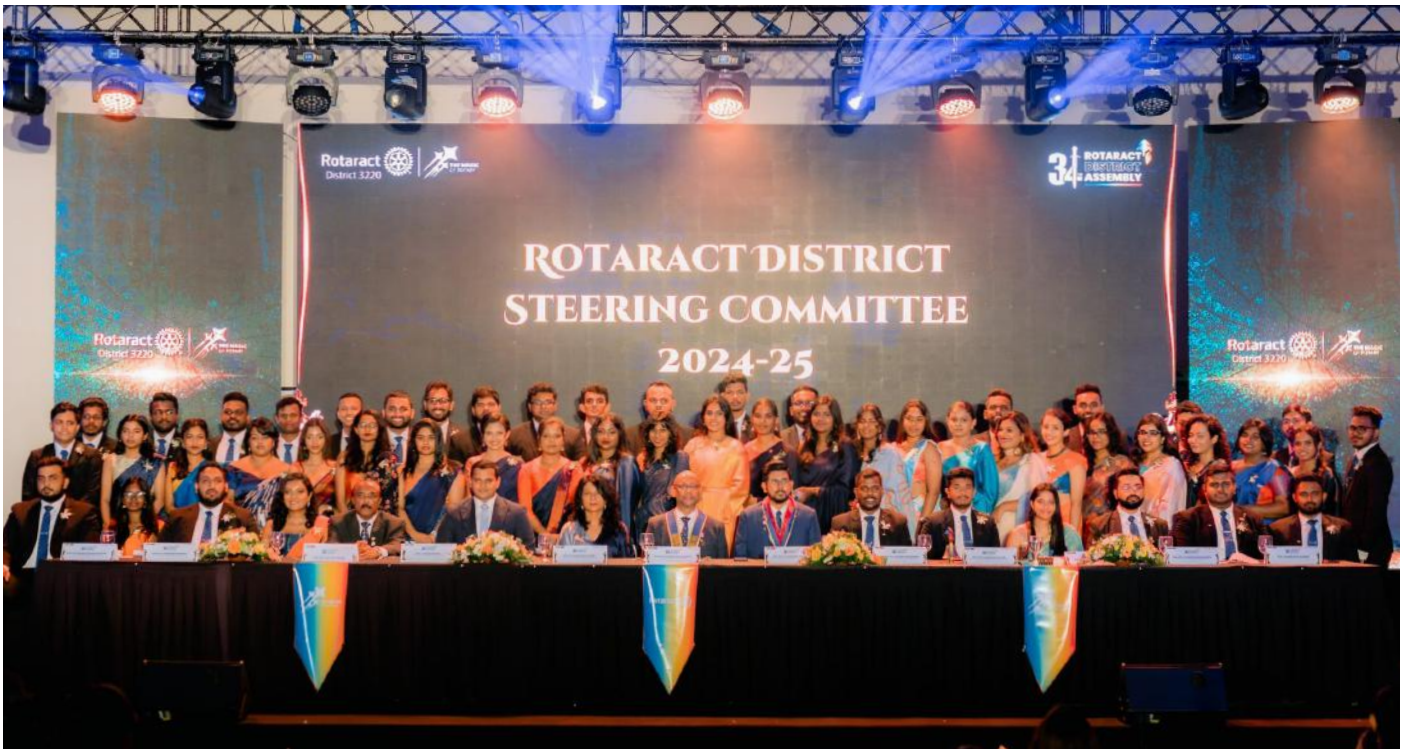
The second day kicked off with impactful sessions on Rotaract Club Administration. The highlight was PDG J Sridhar's session on Rotary Foundation & Rotaract Grants/Scholarships, which sparked new ideas among the attendees. The bidding for district projects kept the atmosphere competitive and fun.



To close out the weekend, DG Rtn. Sushena Ranatunga led a session on Rotaract & Rotary Relations. Certificates were handed out, and a big group photo captured the spirit of the event.

PETS & SETS 2024-25 was a weekend of inspiration, learning, and fun. It left everyone charged up and ready to lead with confidence in the year ahead!

34TH ROTARACT DISTRICT ASSEMBLY



"Lead from Hearts by Shaping the Future of Rotaract in RID 3220, Because Today's Youth Will be Tomorrow's Future."

- PHF Rtr. PP Shanel Mendis
District Rotaract Representative 2024-25

The Rotaract District Assembly serves as the official ceremony for the induction of the newly appointed District Rotaract Representative (DRR). This momentous occasion is traditionally marked by the "collaring" of the DRR by the Immediate Past District Rotaract Representative (IPDRR), and is often celebrated with great fanfare. The Rotaract District Assembly also provides a platform to acknowledge the outstanding work undertaken by Rotaract clubs throughout the preceding year, culminating in a prestigious awards ceremony.





The 34th Rotaract District Assembly, held on the 6th of July at Waters Edge Hotel, proved to be a grand affair, drawing over 700 participants from across the nation. The ceremony witnessed the collaring of PHF Rtr. PP Shanel Mendis, signifying his official assumption of the role of DRR for the years 2024-25.

Beyond the official proceedings, the Rotaract District Assembly offered a valuable networking opportunity for young and aspiring Rotaractors. The event attracted a distinguished gathering, including Rotarians, prominent public figures, fellow Rotaractors and Interactors. This confluence of experience and enthusiasm provided a stimulating environment for collaboration and the exchange of ideas.



The 34th Rotaract District Assembly proved to be a truly unforgettable event, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees. The shared experiences and camaraderie will undoubtedly be cherished for years to come. Inspired by this spirit of unity, let us collectively strive towards a brighter future, fueled by renewed dedication and a commitment to impactful service.

While we extend our sincere gratitude to all our participants at the 34th Rotaract District Assembly, we hope to see all of you at the 35th Rotaract District Assembly next year



AVENUE DIRECTORS TRAINING SEMINAR



The Avenue Directors Training Seminar (ADTS) was held on 27th July and 3rd August 2024 at APIIT Colombo 02 and the National Youth Service Council in Jaffna respectively. This year's event was particularly significant, as it marked a return to an in-person format across two locations after several years of ADTS being conducted virtually, allowing for nationwide in-person participation from members. The session in Jaffna was organised for zones 6A and 6B, while Colombo hosted directors from the remaining zones. With a total attendance exceeding 700 members across the country, the seminar achieved a remarkable impact.

The purpose of ADTS was to gather avenue directors from each Rotaract club within Rotaract in RID 3220, offering them guidance on how to effectively carry out avenue-specific projects, adhere to district guidelines, and apply best practices. Attendees were provided with valuable resources to enhance the quality and impact of their individual club projects.



The event also fostered collaboration, as directors from similar avenues were able to network, share project ideas, and explore opportunities for partnerships on like-minded initiatives. This emphasis on fellowship and networking was one of the key goals of the seminar.

To inspire the new avenue directors, experienced speakers from past award-winning projects were invited to share insights and strategies. These speakers provided an understanding of how exemplary projects were initiated, managed, and executed, offering practical guidance to the new directors. This opportunity allowed attendees to gain valuable lessons from previous successes, with the aim of motivating them to elevate their own projects.





In summary, the Avenue Directors Training Seminar proved to be both an enjoyable and enlightening experience, contributing to the development of Rotaract clubs that strive to shape future leaders. By empowering youth through such initiatives, it is possible to nurture a generation of leaders dedicated to making a positive impact in their communities.



RECLAIMING OF THE KINGDOM: KANDY VOYAGE



The Kandy Voyage on the 16th and 17th of September wasn't just a fellowship visit! it was an experience that brought people together, ignited friendships, and created memories that will last a lifetime. Against the backdrop of Kandy's timeless beauty, Rotaractors from District 3220 came together for a weekend of fellowship and celebration like no other.

The journey began with two remarkable installations hosted by RAC Athugalpura at Kamerel Hotel and RAC Kurunegala at Blue Sky Hotel. These events were filled with energy, camaraderie, and the warmth of shared goals. A vibrant lunch followed, filled with shared stories and meaningful connections. The journey then continued to Kandy, where RAC Kandy Metropolitan hosted its installation at Thilanka Hotel. The evening ended with a lively dinner and fellowship at Queen hotel that strengthened bonds and created lasting memories.



On the day two, District council participated in the District Council Meeting (DCM), engaging in thoughtful discussions and planning for the future, others took the opportunity to explore the cultural richness of Kandy city tour which revealed Kandy's cultural treasures and its unique role as the last royal capital of Sri Lanka.





This incredible journey would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of the District Club Service team who worked tirelessly to bring this vision to life. To every participant—your spirit and enthusiasm turned this event into something extraordinary. We hope you left with full hearts, lasting friendships, and stories to share for years to come.

Here's to more journeys filled with fellowship, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Until next time, Kandy!



SEARIC SUMMIT



As I reflect on my experience at the SEARIC Summit in Varanasi, I am filled with a sense of pride, wonder, and gratitude. The conference was a melting pot of cultures, bringing together Rotaractors from India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, and I was thrilled to be a part of it. The three-day event was a perfect blend of education, entertainment, and cultural exchange, and I was proud to see my team, Rotaract in RID 3220, take home the award for the best cultural performance.

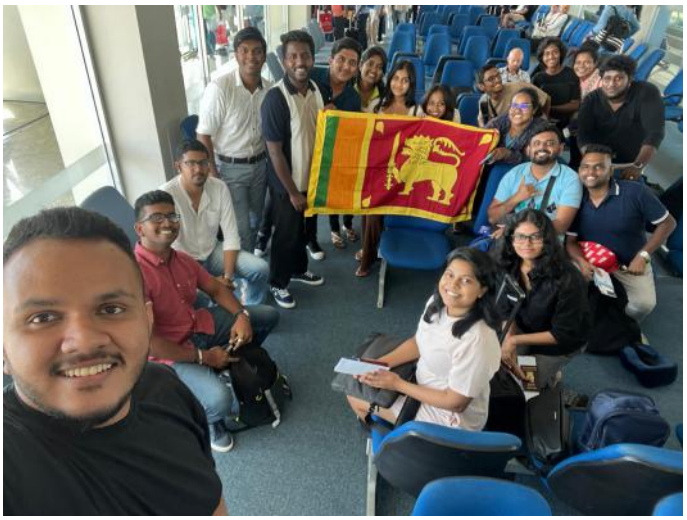
The SEARIC Summit was an opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals from diverse backgrounds and religions. I was struck by the warmth and hospitality of the Indian Rotaractors, who welcomed us with open arms and showed us the true meaning of Indian culture. The food, of course, was a highlight, and I indulged in the delicious Indian cuisine with gusto.



The post-tour to Shimla and Manali was the perfect icing on the cake. We explored the scenic beauty, visited ancient temples, and tried our hand at adventure sports like paragliding. The rush of adrenaline as I soared through the skies was exhilarating, and I felt a sense of personal growth and accomplishment.



Our final stop in Delhi was a whirlwind of shopping, food, and sightseeing, thanks to the warm hospitality of Rotaract in Rotary International Districts 3011 and 3012. Meeting over 50 Rotaractors in one day was a testament to the power of Rotary in bringing people together.



As I look back on my experience, I am reminded of the value of stepping out of our comfort zones. The SEARIC Summit and post-tour were a journey of discovery, not just of new places and experiences, but also of myself. I returned home with a renewed sense of purpose, new friendships, and unforgettable memories.

CLEAN UP SL



On September 28, 2024, most of the cities in Sri Lanka witnessed a remarkable community initiative as the Clean-Up Sri Lanka Project unfolded across the island. This impactful event was organized by Shraddha TV in collaboration with Rotary, Rotaract and Interact in RID 3220 emphasizing the power of collective action in addressing pressing environmental challenges.

The project mobilized an impressive 46 Rotaract Clubs, with 500 Rotaractors joining hands in this significant cause. Volunteers tackled waste and pollution in 24 locations across the country, demonstrating the commitment and unity of the Rotaract movement and its partners.

This initiative aimed not only to clean these areas but also to raise awareness about the importance of maintaining a sustainable and eco-friendly environment. Rotaractors, together with Rotarians and interactors engaged with local





communities, spreading the message of responsible waste management and the need to protect the environment for future generations.

The diversity of the project was noteworthy, with clean-up efforts spanning urban centres, beaches, and rural areas, ensuring widespread impact. Each team brought enthusiasm and a shared vision of making Sri Lanka cleaner, greener, and healthier.



The Clean-Up Sri Lanka showcased the synergy between Shraddha TV, Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact in creating meaningful change. It highlighted how youth-led initiatives, when supported by established organizations, can result in tangible outcomes for society and the environment.

This project served as a reminder of the role every individual can play in creating a cleaner world. The collaboration and dedication of all participants underscore the potential of similar efforts to inspire ongoing environmental stewardship across the nation.

The success of this clean-up initiative has undoubtedly set the stage for more collaborative projects, reinforcing the importance of community-driven action for a sustainable future.

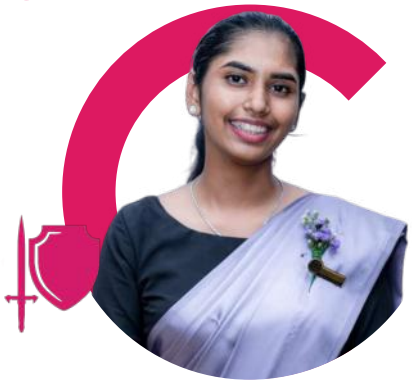
PRESIDENTS OF THE MONTH

JULY



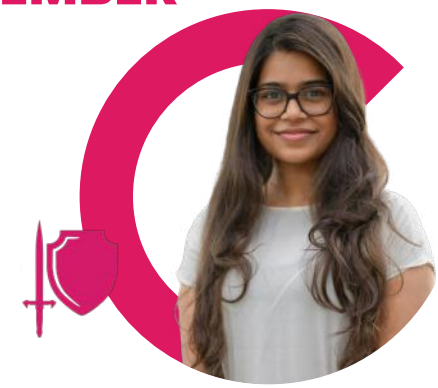
Rtr. Shagaan Thevarajah
RAC APIIT

AUGUST



Rtr. Amrah Zaharan
RAC Informatics Institute of Technology

SEPTEMBER



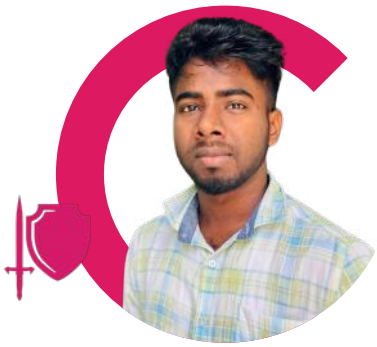
Rtr. Vimasha Weerawansha
RAC Colombo Heritage

SECRETARIES OF THE MONTH

JULY



Rtr. Logini Thillaimany
RAC Chunnakam



Rtr. Vimalaan Vaiszhanavan
RAC Chulipuram

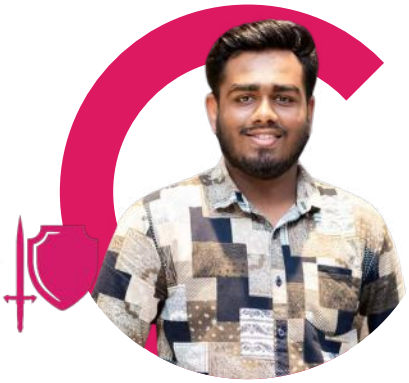


Rtr. Mukunthan Lambotharan
RAC Chulipuram

AUGUST



Rtr. Kalana Peiris
RAC Kandy Metropolitan



Rtr. Ravindu Yapa
RAC Horizon Campus

SEPTEMBER

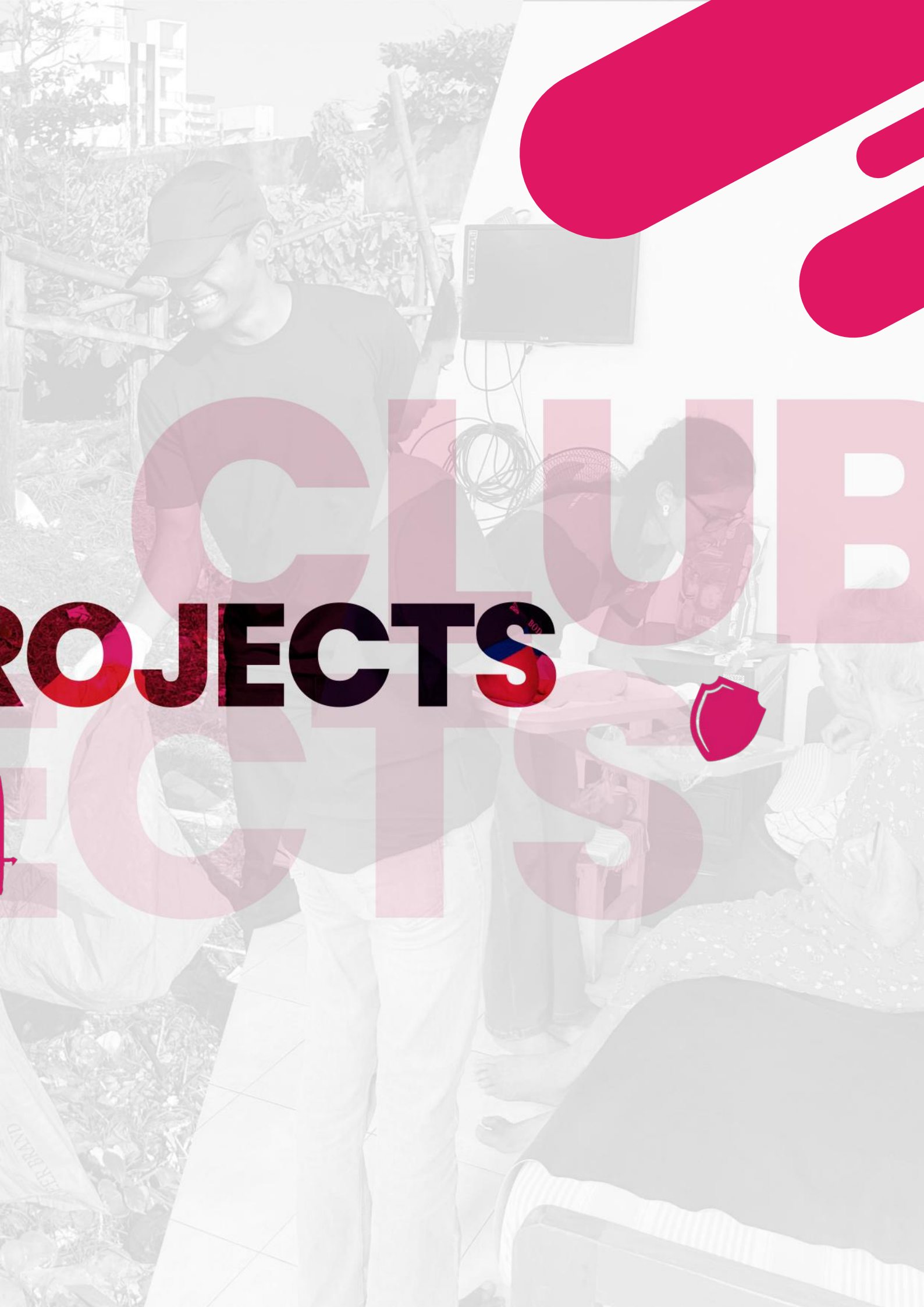


Rtr. Aakil Riyaz
RAC Colombo Mid Town



Rtr. Savitha Krishnakumaran
RAC APIIT


CLUB PR
PROJE



ROJECTS

15TH INSTALLATION CEREMONY

RAC ACHIEVERS LANKA BUSINESS SCHOOL

The 15th Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Achievers Lanka Business School took place on August 31st at the Panibaratha Theatre, starting at 6 PM. This prestigious event marked the official appointment of Rtr. Prithviram and his board of officials for the club's 15th year.

The evening was filled with energy and enthusiasm as members, guests, and alumni gathered to celebrate this significant milestone. The ceremony featured inspiring speeches highlighting the club's achievements over the past year and outlining the vision and goals for the year ahead under Rtr. Prithviram's leadership.



Guests were treated to a range of engaging performances and presentations, showcasing the talents of club members. The atmosphere was vibrant, fostering camaraderie and a sense of purpose among attendees.

Rtr. Prithviram took the stage to express his gratitude for the trust placed in him and his team. He outlined their commitment to community service, leadership development, and fostering a spirit of fellowship. The board members were formally introduced, each sharing their specific roles and aspirations for the year, which added a personal touch to the proceedings.



The event concluded with a networking session, allowing attendees to connect and discuss future projects and initiatives. Overall, the installation ceremony was a resounding success, setting the tone for an impactful year ahead for the Rotaract Club of Achievers Lanka Business School.

BIDS OF GRACE: SMALL BIDS, BIG LOVE!

RAC COLOMBO HERITAGE

On August 31st, the Rotaract Club of Colombo Heritage hosted a heartwarming event called Bids of Grace at Central Perk Cafe. The event was organised with a singular mission, which was to raise funds for the Little Hearts initiative, a charity auction dedicated to helping children with heart diseases in Sri Lanka. This heartfelt fundraiser, which kicked off at noon, was the culmination of months of preparation and dedication, during which our members tirelessly collected donations from generous supporters.



Bids of Grace was an auction-style fundraiser where participants were encouraged to place bids on a variety of donated items. The spirit of generosity was palpable as people competed for their favourite items, knowing that every rupee raised would go toward saving a child's life. Thanks to the enthusiastic support of attendees and the wider community, the event was a resounding success, raising over 50,000 LKR!

Embracing our journey of "Service as One," Bids of Grace vividly demonstrated the power of unity. From the seamless teamwork in gathering donations to the collective enthusiasm of our community, the event showcased how, when we come together with a shared vision, we can create waves of positive change.

Every penny raised from this auction is being donated to ROTARY4LITTLEHEARTS.ORG, reinforcing our commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of these children. We are immensely grateful to everyone who attended, bid, or donated, and for their unwavering support in making Bids of Grace a memorable event.

The success of this event reflects our club's dedication to service and compassion. As we continue our journey, we hope to inspire others to join us in making meaningful changes in our community. Thank you to all who helped make Bids of Grace a celebration of generosity and goodwill!



EmpowerED

RAC AMERICAN NATIONAL COLLEGE

The Rotaract Club of American National College has embarked on an inspiring initiativeknown as Project EmpowerED, aimed at enhancing leadership and career development for three distinct groups, which are rural school students, university students, and corporate employees. This visionary project is structured in three phases, each tailored to meet the unique needs and contexts of these diverse environments.

The first phase of Project EmpowerED focused on university students, with the goal of fostering leadership, career development, and personal growth. On September 27th, we successfully conducted a dynamic event designed specifically for this audience. The event featured an impressive lineup of guest speakers, including Ms. Nadeesha Kumarasinghe, Dr. Angelo Karunarathne, Mr. Aniston Leo, and our dedicated counselor Mr. Dhanushan Karuppiah. Each speaker brought valuable insights into leadership, career development, and professional growth, offering students a wealth of knowledge to draw upon as they navigate their academic and career paths.

In addition to the speaker sessions, a career fair was held, showcasing numerous businesses such as AIA, John Keells, Virtusa, Delmege, Careers360, Naturals, and Job Envoy. This fair provided students with numerous opportunities for career guidance and facilitated job interviews with prospective employers. Participants benefited significantly from networking opportunities, gaining professional advice that will aid them in their career planning and decision-making.With the successful completion of the first phase, we are excited to move forward with the next stages of Project EmpowerED.



Phase Two will focus on rural school studentsin grades 9 to 12. This phase is designed to introduce essential leadership skills and career guidance at an early age, empowering these students to envision and pursue their futures with confidence. Phase Three will target corporate employees, offering training on leadership capabilities, team management, and continuous professional development. By equipping individuals with the tools for effective leadership, this phase aims to foster a culture of growth and innovation within the corporate environment.





Overall, Project EmpowerED aspires to create a sustainable framework for leadership and career development across diverse contexts. By ensuring that individuals at various stages of their professional journey are equipped for success, we aim to make a lasting impact on the communities we serve. This initiative not only prepares participants for future challenges but also cultivates a spirit of leadership that can drive positive change in society. As we continue to implement the remaining phases of Project EmpowerED, we look forward to witnessing the growth and success of the individuals we serve, fostering a brighter future for all.

O IS FOR ORANGE AND OPPORTUNITY

RAC COLOMBO FORT

A lot of us may have mindlessly thrown a food wrapper on the road callously when there is no bin in sight. No serious harm, right? After all, celebrities using a parade of vehicles and industries emitting fumes into the atmosphere are the problem. However, unbeknownst, one might make someone else's life more difficult and unpleasant than it has to be. Who are we talking about?

One man's trash is another's treasure. But what if it's the basis of a livelihood? You may have already seen these workers out and about in Colombo wearing the signature orange vest, but none give a second thought on how difficult it is to do this job.

The Rotaract Club of Colombo Fort had a chat with 10 urban street workers from the vicinity of Colombo Floating Market to better understand their plight.

A typical day of an "Orange Friend," a term the club uses to refer to the urban street workers, starts at 5 a.m. and ends around 5:30 p.m. That's about 12 hours on the clock regardless of rain or shine for a 1,200 rupee (LKR) wage. A 36,000 rupee (LKR) salary for a month is too little to run a household, not to mention to cover rent, children's education, or medical treatments. It is also difficult, when passersby often throw food waste and openly urinate and defecate, making this demanding job even more unpleasant. The urban street workers are given a specific area, usually a section of a road or path, to keep clean throughout the day. Some Orange Friends are senior citizens and are in much need of care and rest but have gotten accustomed to the demands of the work. They sweep on with their carts in tow, and a smile on their face, giving no indication of the harshness of the work due to the even harsher circumstances they have been placed in life. They do not complain, nor do they hold any resentment against those who openly discriminate, the nature of their work, or even the unfortunate hand life has dealt them.



Identifying the support they need, the Fortaractors (Rotaractors of Colombo Fort) took on the challenge of redoing a unique project by the Rotaract Club of Colombo Fort in July and August 2024 for the third year in a row. While the project has been called "Orange People" since its inception, the club felt the need to change the name to foster inclusivity and promote respect for their line of work, adopting the more encouraging title, "Orange Friends." This project aims to alleviate the burden they face in managing their financial challenges by providing essential food supplies sufficient for a month's nourishment. Thanks to the effective communications plan of the club, the project was able to attract twice the amount of money needed within three weeks. The additional money collected beyond the set target has been set to be given to the ten identified Orange Friends as a monthly stipend in October/ November 2024. The club also aims to complete the next phase of Orange Friends, which involves conducting a "Do Not Litter" campaign so that residents of Colombo can understand the gravitas of the work undertaken by the street heroes and attempt to address the root cause of the problem.

Through the Orange Friends project, the Fortaractors hope not only to ease the financial burdens of these hardworking individuals but also to inspire a greater sense of respect towards the workers, and responsibility among the community, to create a cleaner, more compassionate Colombo, with each passing year.





STELLATA 2.0

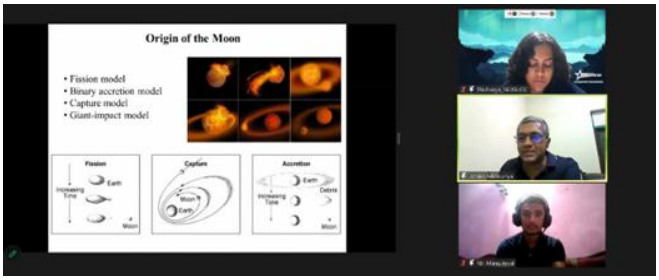
RAC FACULTY OF SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

The International Service Avenue of the Rotaract Club of Faculty of Science, University of Colombo (RACFOSUOC), kicked off their Rotaract Year 24/25 with Stellata 2.0, a journey of three intriguing phases for space enthusiasts and aspiring explorers of the cosmos.

RACFOSUOC along with the Students for the Exploration and Development of Space, University of Colombo (SEDSUOC), spearheaded this initiative in collaboration with several local and international clubs. These include the Rotaract clubs of Durbarmarg (RID-3292), Hindustan University (RID 3233), Kantipur (RID 3292), M.O.P Vaishnav College for Women (RID 3234), as well as the Interact clubs of Royal Institute and S. Thomas' Preparatory School.

Stellata 2.0 unfolded across three phases:

Phase I: An insightful webinar was held on the 21st of June under the theme Illuminating the Shadows, featuring guest speakers Er. Manu Aryal, a mechanical engineer from Nepal, and Dr. Janaka Adassuriya, a distinguished physicist from the University of Colombo. The event was a stellar success, with over 200 international participants from countries including Nepal and India, attending the session.



Phase II: This phase comprised an e-poster and article competition, inviting both local and international participants from schools and universities. Contestants submitted thought-provoking articles on the topic "The Solar System and Its Wonders" and creative posters themed "Black Holes; Cosmic Monsters, and Their Mysteries."

Phase III: The project concluded with an exciting trip to the Planetarium for school and university students. Dubbed Visendus, this visit was an amazing opportunity to experience the wonders of the galaxy up close.



From an enlightening webinar of northern lights and space exploration, a vibrant competition of black holes and the solar system, and with the culmination of the project through an immersive visit to the Planetarium, Stellata 2.0 left participants with a deeper appreciation for the marvels of space.

SURAKIMU NUWARA

RAC KATUGASTOTA REGION

Surakimu Nuwara, a 10-day community service initiative, was held from 10th to 20th of August, 2024, by the Rotaract Club of Katugastota Region, in collaboration with the Interact Clubs of Dharmaraja College, St. Anthony's College, Mahamaya Girls' College, Kingswood College and Vidyartha College Kandy.

Surakimu Nuwara was first launched in 2019 during the Kandy Esala Perahera as a street-cleaning project and it has since evolved to address a wider array of community needs. The initiative now includes the distribution of water bottles to spectators, who often endure over 15 hours under the scorching sun to secure viewing spots.



The inaugural year's successful impact made Surakimu Nuwara a yearly initiative. It has evolved into a collaborative initiative with the Interact Clubs of St. Anthony's College and Dharmaraja College Kandy in recent years. The effort reached incredible heights in 2023, collecting 180 kg of garbage and distributing 5,000 water bottles.

This year, the initiative further expanded, with new partnerships from the Interact Clubs of Kingswood College, Mahamaya Girls' College and Vidyartha College Kandy. This expansion with 05 Interact clubs made the 2024 initiative the largest joint effort in the project's history. Together, the teams distributed over 6,000 water bottles and removed more than 250 kg of waste from the Perahera route, significantly enhancing both the environmental cleanliness and spectator experience.

The initiative thrived with the support of generous sponsors like Café Koi, Nagalingam Bawan, Café Mantra, and SL CHOP SHOP, as well as public donations. Over 60 Interactors, 35 Rotaractors, and countless volunteers dedicated their time and energy to the project, while the Kandy Municipal Council ensured efficient waste disposal and the Kandy Police Department played a vital role in facilitating security and logistics.

Surakimu Nuwara 2024 not only improved the Perahera but also instilled a sense of environmental stewardship and unity among the participants, leaving an enduring positive impact on the city of Kandy.



THE BLUE CARBON TALE

RAC HORIZON CAMPUS

On August 22, 2024, the Rotaract Club of Horizon Campus unveiled an inspiring chapter in environmental stewardship with the workshop "Nil Kāban Katandarē – The Blue Carbon Tale". Held in collaboration with graduate preparatory students of the 15th batch (Affiliated with Nilai University) of the Faculty of Science at Horizon Campus, and the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society (WNPS), the event launched the "Pana Gœhena Parisara – Where Life Springs" initiative at the KCM Auditorium.

Graced by the presence of Horizon Campus's Vice Chancellor, Prof. S.J.B.A. Jayasekara, and keynote speaker Prof. Sevvandy Jayakodi, this workshop highlighted the critical role of Blue Carbon ecosystems in mitigating climate change. Participants from 16 leading schools across Colombo, such as Ananda College and Sirimavo Bandaranaike Vidyalaya, enthusiastically engaged in sessions emphasizing marine biodiversity and conservation. The hands-on activity, held at the campus pond area "Pokuna," brought lessons to life as students identified species within simulated Blue Carbon habitats. This experiential approach fostered a deep understanding of mangroves, seagrasses, and salt marshes.



The workshop delivered immediate results: participants left with heightened awareness of climate action and a commitment to conserving these unseen ecosystems. Certificates recognized the contribution of students and schools, empowering educators to incorporate insights into curricula. The presence of media, including Sirasa TV, brought widespread attention to this vital cause.







More than an event, “Nil Kāban Katandarē” was a call to action. By advocating for endangered ecosystems and inspiring young environmental stewards, this initiative set the stage for expanded projects under the “Pana Gæhena Parisara” umbrella.



With strengthened collaborations among Rotaract Club of Horizon Campus and leading schools, the project promised long-term impact through sustained conservation, community education, and tangible environmental restoration efforts. This tale of Blue Carbon ecosystems is only a beginning, but it is already making waves in the fight against climate change.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP

RAC MATALE

The Rotaract Club of Matale, in collaboration with ESOFT Metro Campus, organized a blood donation camp to address the growing need for blood in hospitals. Held on the 25th of July 2024 at the ESOFT Metro Campus in Matale, the event attracted students, faculty members, and members of the public. The club ensured a safe and comfortable environment for donors, with trained medical professionals overseeing the process.



Throughout the day, eager donors lined up to give blood, arriving early with a strong desire to contribute. Each donor was guided step by step through the process by medical staff and Rotaract members, from registration to post-donation care. The Rotaract Club of Matale's members worked tirelessly to ensure the event ran smoothly, providing assistance and support throughout the day. The atmosphere was filled with positive energy, as donors shared personal stories, creating a sense of unity. First-time donors, though initially nervous, found comfort in the supportive environment. By



the end of the day, a significant amount of blood was collected and sent to the local blood bank, ensuring it would be available for hospitals in times of critical need.

This successful event was made possible by the collaboration with ESOFT Metro Campus, whose support helped create a well-organized and impactful initiative. The Rotaract Club of Matale expressed gratitude to the medical team and volunteers for their tireless efforts throughout the day.

Looking ahead, the Rotaract Club of Matale is committed to continuing its mission of serving the community and organizing similar events. The club encourages everyone to get involved, whether by donating blood, volunteering, or supporting future initiatives. Together, small efforts can lead to a significant positive impact on the community.



NADUN 3.0

RAC COLOMBO MID TOWN

For the third consecutive year, Project Nadun 3.0 made a remarkable impact on Esala Perahera 2024 by distributing refreshments to enthusiastic spectators. Organized by the Rotaract Club of Colombo Mid Town, the initiative successfully distributed 380 packs of refreshments.



This year's success lay not only in the efficient distribution but also in the unity it fostered across different zones. The project highlighted how regional teamwork can enhance community involvement and significantly impact a major cultural event.



By addressing both the practical needs of providing refreshments and the broader goal of promoting unity, Project Nadun 3.0 showcased the powerful effects of collective action. The initiative enriched the Esala Perahera experience and underscored the Rotaract Club of Colombo Mid Town's commitment to community service, leaving a lasting impression on the celebration.



ECO-SUSTAIN:
EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

RAC NIBM

In the face of escalating environmental challenges, Eco-Sustain emerges as a vital initiative dedicated to biodiversity conservation and climate change awareness. At the core of its mission is a transformative workshop led by Ms. Pavi Attanayake, Senior Executive at the Wildlife and Nature Protection Society of Sri Lanka. This engaging session underscores the link between human activities and biodiversity loss, while providing actionable strategies to mitigate these impacts.

Through interactive activities, Ms. Attanayake assessed participants' existing knowledge on biodiversity and climate change with pre- and post-session feedback, showcasing the workshop's effectiveness. Participants were then divided into groups to create educational





posters, encouraging peer engagement and creativity. This collaborative approach not only reinforced learning but also fostered a sense of community among attendees.

The workshop culminated in a lively A-Z Relay game, where participants, divided into teams, raced to recall terms related to biodiversity and climate change corresponding to each letter of the alphabet. This engaging activity emphasised teamwork and solidified their understanding of critical environmental concepts.

Eco-Sustains vision extends beyond the workshop itself; it aims to cultivate a culture of environmental responsibility within local communities. By promoting sustainable living practices and encouraging active participation

in ecosystem protection, the initiative initiative empowers individuals to become proactive stewards of the planet.



Ultimately, Eco-Sustain envisions a future where human activities coexist harmoniously with nature, ensuring a healthy and thriving planet for future generations. Through education and community outreach, Eco-Sustain is not only raising awareness but also inspiring individuals to take meaningful action toward environmental conservation. In a world where biodiversity is increasingly threatened, initiatives like Eco-Sustain are essential for nurturing a sustainable and resilient future.



PAINTING DREAMS

RAC PANCOLOMBO

The Rotaract Club of PanColombo has been privileged to conduct "Painting Dreams," a heartwarming initiative aimed at uplifting and entertaining the visually impaired children at the School for the Blind in Rathmalana. Our mission is simple: to create moments of joy and connection through meaningful interactions.

Every visit to the school reaffirms our belief that true connection transcends physical limitations. The children at the school are filled with vibrant energy and an eagerness to engage. Through storytelling, games, and music, we aim to provide an immersive experience where each child can feel valued and included.



"Painting Dreams" is more than just an afternoon of entertainment; it's an opportunity for us to learn from these incredible kids. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and warmth inspire us to see the world through a different lens. As volunteers, we come away with a deeper understanding of the power of empathy and human connection.

The laughter and smiles we share with these children are the essence of this project. For them, it's a break from the routine; for us, it's a chance to give back and make a small but significant difference in their lives. As we continue this journey, we are committed to nurturing these connections and enriching the lives of these wonderful children.



"Painting Dreams" is a testament to how a little time, compassion, and creativity can go a long way in making the world a brighter place—one dream at a time.

BIKEATHON

RAC PANADURA

Project Bikeathon, an incredible initiative focused on suicide prevention, stands as a beacon of hope and life-saving awareness. Now in its 11th consecutive year, this event is organized by the CCC Foundation in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Colombo Regency and the Rotaract Club of Panadura. Cyclists from all over Sri Lanka ride a remarkable 1333 km, spreading awareness about mental health and the importance of suicide prevention.



The significance of 1333 km stems from the CCC Foundation's suicide prevention hotline, 1333—a free, 24/7 service providing immediate support to those in distress. By riding this distance, the cyclists shine a spotlight on the hotline, urging anyone experiencing mental health challenges to reach out for help.

The Bikeathon extends beyond a test of physical endurance. It's a journey of advocacy, traversing numerous towns and cities to spread the message of hope and solidarity. Along the route, cyclists engage with communities to raise awareness about mental health, dismantling the stigma around seeking help and supporting those at risk of suicide.

In Rotaract year 2023–24, the impact of Project Bikeathon reached new heights, earning the gold award for the best community service project at the 34th Rotaract District Assembly. The initiative's influence is profound, as it has saved countless lives by increasing public awareness of the 1333 hotline and sharing essential mental health resources. With every kilometer ridden and every conversation sparked, we move closer to creating a compassionate society where no one faces mental health struggles alone.



SHORELINE SANCTUARY: CLEAN AND AWARE '24

RAC ROYAL INSTITUTE OF COLOMBO

On July 21st, 2024, we hosted the Shoreline Sanctuary: Clean and Aware '24 at Wellawatte Beach (near Kinross), an event that turned out to be a huge success. In collaboration with The Pearl Protectors and the Islamic Society of the Royal Institute of Colombo, we united over 45 passionate volunteers to clean up the beach and raise awareness about environmental conservation.



The event kicked off at 3 PM with volunteers eager to make a positive change. Armed with gloves and bags, they got to work, meticulously clearing litter from the beach. The Pearl Protectors led an insightful awareness session, teaching participants the importance of keeping our coastlines clean and the devastating impact of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems.

The waste collected during the event was responsibly handed over to the Clean Tech Pvt Ltd for recycling, ensuring that our efforts not only beautified the beach but also promoted sustainable waste management.

Beyond the physical cleanup, we captured the essence of the day through an awareness video, highlighting key moments and featuring volunteer feedback. Participants shared their reflections on the significance of environmental activism and the collective power of small actions.

By 5 PM, the beach was visibly transformed, and volunteers left with a profound sense of achievement, knowing they had contributed to a meaningful cause. Shoreline Sanctuary: Clean and Aware '24 was more than just an event—it was a step toward a cleaner, greener future.

We extend our gratitude to all the volunteers, partners, and the Pearl Protectors for making Shoreline Sanctuary: Clean and Aware 24' such a memorable and impactful event. Together, we are one step closer to preserving our beautiful beaches for future generations



ROTAVERSE: A MARVELOUS JOURNEY OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

RAC SLIIT

"We may not be able to save the world, but we'll damn sure avenge it!" — Tony Stark, Iron Man. This spirit ignited Day 1 of Rotaverse on September 7th at SLIIT, led by our fearless chairpersons, Rtr. Ranuka Perera and Rtr. Tehan Nimsitha. Kicking off with an introduction to Rotaract, participants were treated to a history of our club and its impactful projects.

The day truly came alive with an icebreaker session, where chaos ensued as participants engaged in bonding activities like the hilariously complex human knot. Avenue directors showcased their creative presentations of the projects planned for the year, and team challenges had everyone dancing, proving we might just be training the next generation of superheroes.



An exhilarating scavenger hunt followed, themed around Marvel, leading participants through riddles and adventures to find six infinity stones. By day's end, with laughter and joy resonating, we knew friendships had formed and excitement loomed for the next day.

Day 2, held on September 14th, amplified the excitement. The Marvel season was in full swing with a creative icebreaker, followed by humorous team introductions showcasing each group's unique vibe. The day's games escalated with a tangled hands challenge, and a guest speech from Rtr. IPP Manisha Alwis inspired all present.



What began as a quiz for new members quickly turned into trivia warfare between the Board of Directors. The day also included a General Meeting led by Rtr. Jayod, paving the way for an impactful month ahead. Project presentations from teams showcased their community initiatives with superhero-like passion.

In the end, the title of Rotaverse Champions was claimed, prompting cheers and celebrations. The journey through Rotaverse was a thrilling blend of camaraderie, creativity, and commitment to making a difference. Stay tuned for more adventures



SOWING SEEDS OF CHANGE: THE JOURNEY OF PROJECT “සවහාසමුද්‍ර 2.0”

RAC UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

The Community Service Avenue of the Rotaract Club of University of Kelaniya, embarked on the journey of Project “සවහාසමුද්‍ර 2.0” with a vision to foster sustainable environmental practices. Building upon last year’s success, this second iteration of the project aims to maximize its impact through a series of diverse conservation initiatives.

Project සවහාසමුද්‍ර 2.0 commenced with a Herbal Garden competition in five schools located around Kelaniya. On the 15th of August, 2024, the first phase culminated, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of students and teachers alike in cultivating a green environment within their school premises. In addition, four schools have embarked on inspiring sustainable projects to educate and empower their students such as an art competition focused on the Sustainable Development Goals, a herbal plantation, a creation of herbal oil and mosquito-repellent powder using five different herbal plants and an essay competition on sustainability topics. At the end of these projects, an award ceremony will be held to honor the participants.

The next phase is set to witness a mangrove plantation initiative, highlighting the significance of coastal



conservation and biodiversity preservation in mitigating climate change effects. The project envisions a third phase dedicated to e-waste management that aims to address the pressing environmental challenge posed by electronic waste accumulation. Moreover, the fourth phase of the project aims to promote sustainable eco-tourism practices that benefit both nature and local communities.





This initiative serves as a beacon of hope, inspiring a path towards a more resilient and harmonious coexistence between humans and nature. In the wake of receiving Gold Awards for the Most Outstanding Supporting the Environment Initiative and the Most Outstanding Project Focused on District's Areas of Focus at the 34th Rotaract District Assembly for its inaugural edition, project **සීවහාසමුද්‍ර** 2.0 emerges as a testament to the commitment of RACUOK towards sustainable conservation initiatives. Together, let us join hands in nurturing a greener and more sustainable future for generations to come.





CELEBRATING ELDERS' DAY: A TRIBUTE TO THE WISDOM OF THE AGES

RAC UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO FACULTY OF LAW

As part of the ongoing project, "Senehase Nagam," the Rotaract Club of the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, recently visited the Karuna Elderly Care Home. This visit, filled with emotion and connection, left a lasting impact on both the residents and the participants, serving as a reminder of the deep importance of honoring the elderly.

Elders' Day, observed annually on October 1st, highlights the need to express gratitude to the older generation, who carry with them a wealth of wisdom, experience, and life lessons. These individuals have contributed immensely to society in various ways, whether through their professions, families, or their role in preserving cultural heritage. Their stories are a living history that must be cherished, and by honoring them, the bond between generations is strengthened. This celebration encourages society to recognise the value of the elderly, combat ageism, and ensure that they are treated with dignity and respect.

For the Rotaractors, participating in such events goes beyond organising activities. It embodies the core values of empathy, compassion, and service. Through projects like this, the club aims to give back to the community, particularly to those who are often forgotten or neglected. Rotaract is not just about developing future leaders but about serving the society in which they live.

In marking World Elders' Day, the club sought to make this visit more than just an ordinary outreach. They aimed to create a moment that would not only celebrate the elderly but also leave a lasting impression. Each resident received a handmade card and a small bouquet of flowers, simple yet meaningful gestures of love and respect. However, the true value lay in the time spent together, the shared smiles, and the memories created. As these tokens of appreciation were handed over, the residents' eyes lit up with joy, showing how much the gesture meant to them.





The day itself was simple yet profoundly meaningful. The elders warmly welcomed the visitors and were clearly excited to have guests. After introductions, the group sat with the residents, engaging in heartfelt conversations. Some elders shared stories of their youth, while others spoke of their families and the world as they had seen it change over the decades. These conversations not only brought smiles but also gave the young students a glimpse into lives fully lived, despite challenges and changes.

One of the day's highlights was the afternoon tea organized for the residents. As the Rotaractors served tea and snacks, more light-hearted moments were shared, with the elders expressing their appreciation through laughter and smiles. It was evident that this small gesture of kindness went a long way in brightening their day.

Spending time with the residents reminded everyone of the simple joys in life, such as a cup of tea, a conversation, and a sense of belonging. It reinforced the idea that sometimes, what people need most is not material assistance but time, attention, and companionship.

The visit to the Karuna Elderly Care Home was a success and left a lasting impact on both the elders and the students involved. It served as a reminder of the value of community service and the importance of honoring the older generation. Moving forward, our club aims to organize more such initiatives, ensuring continued connection to the community while fostering growth as individuals and future leaders.

By celebrating Elders' Day and spending time with those who have witnessed the world change over the years, the Rotaract Club acknowledges the significance of the older generation in society. The club takes pride in giving back to the community and recognizes the role it plays in fostering a more compassionate and inclusive society.



ARAMBHAYAK 2024

RAC UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

The Rotaract Club of the University of Colombo Faculty of Management and Finance commenced the Rotaract year 2024/2025 with its annual tradition, Project Arambhayak. This significant initiative, organized under the club's Community Service avenue, unites the new executive and board members in visits to four religious sites to seek blessings for the forthcoming year. The project team meticulously selected the religious sites and coordinated with each to ensure a warm welcome. This year's chosen places of worship included St. Mary's Church in Bambalapitiya, Old Katiresan Vijay Pillaiar Kovil, Vajiraramaya Buddhist Temple, and Wellawatte Jumma Masjid. Essential items for the visits were distributed among the executive and board members, who were briefed on the event's key details.



On July 22nd, the journey commenced at St. Mary's Church, where the team lit candles and received blessings. The next destination was the kovil, where they performed the pooja rituals. At Vajiraramaya Buddhist Temple, they offered flowers and lit oil lamps, receiving blessings from Seela Wimala Thero. The final visit was to Wellawatte Jumma Masjid, where Irfan Maulavi blessed the new Rotaract year. In addition to seeking blessings, the club members highlighted their commitment to service by distributing 25 lunch packets to underprivileged individuals on the streets. This act of kindness underscored the club's dedication to beginning the new year on a positive and compassionate note.



The initiative was not only a spiritual journey but also a powerful reminder of the club's values and dedication to community service. Overall, Project Arambhayak was a fulfilling and meaningful experience, setting a strong and auspicious tone for the Rotaract year ahead.

BINARA PADURA: A NIGHT OF MUSIC AND CELEBRATION

RAC UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

The Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa hosted one of its most anticipated events, Binara Padura on 25th of September at the university premises. It was a night that gave undergraduates the platform to showcase their creativity and talents.



After a series of auditions, 40 singers and a 10-member band were carefully selected, representing some of the best musical talent at the university. The band included guitarists, keyboardist, drummers, and even players of unique instruments like the flute and tabla, adding a rich, authentic Sri Lankan musical sound to the event. The performers spent many hours in practice studios perfecting their acts, and the club's promotional efforts created a buzz across the university creating a great sense of anticipation for the big day.

When the night finally arrived, Binara Padura did not disappoint. 1,000+ undergraduates filled the venue, eager to watch 100+ performers take the stage. The event was packed with various musical and dance acts, including solo, group performances and even duets. The night's entertainment featured popular Sinhala, Hindi and Tamil songs adding diversity and giving the audience a wide range of music to enjoy.

One of the standout moments of the night was the non-stop music segment towards the end of the event. The energy in the room reached new heights as participants danced and sang along, unwilling to let the night come to an end.

Beyond just the music, Binara Padura was an event that strengthened the bonds between undergraduates. It allowed them to connect over their shared love for music, and it gave performers the confidence to pursue their passions. The night also gave newer members of the Rotaract Club the opportunity to step into leadership roles and work on a large-scale event, sharpening their project management and teamwork skills.



I'M A ROTARACTOR PHASE 1: NEWBIES ORIENTATION Q1

RAC UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA

The Rotaract Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura recently entered its 14th year of service with a dedicated president and a brand new board of officials, who all had one goal in mind; which was to Inspire Change, and Ignite hope - as was our theme for the year.



The term began with spirits high, and with a large crowd showing interest in joining our movement, the newbie intake of RACUSJ for the first quarter of the year was perfectly timed. After a thorough interview process, a significant number of new members were recruited. Their orientation program was then organized by the Club Service Avenue in collaboration with the Membership Development Committee, which educated our members on what RACUSJ embodies, and showed them the beauty of Rotaract.



The orientation programme was two-tiered, with phase one being an online programme familiarising our newbies with RACUSJ & the second and final phase being a colorful Holi festival, aptly titled RACUSJ HoliFest.

Phase one was held online which drew in a large number of newbies, all eager to learn about who we are, what we do and more. All newbies were excited and were enthusiastically partaking until the end.

The second phase was RACUSJ HoliFest, which was an amalgamation of laughter, colors, music and community all over! With beautiful decorations, a number of stalls from each avenue/committee and endless colors to splash each other with, HoliFest was an incredible experience



for all attendees, which was indeed a large number. Photographs being snapped capturing the beauty of the day, sweet treats being shared, and with a number of people entering our club on that day itself through our "Mini-Intake", one could say with assurance that our orientation programme was a massive success indeed.

A GREENER TOMORROW!

RAC WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

The Rotaract Club of Wayamba University, in collaboration with the Tree for Life Society and the Plantation Society of the Faculty of Agriculture and Plantation Management, successfully completed the Red Listed Trees Planting Project on August 1st, 2024. This initiative was generously supported by Mr. Dheesh Banneheka of Welpalla Herbal Garden, and together, we planted endangered species such as Acanthus ilicifolius, Andrographis macrobotrys, and Avicennia marina.



Our goal was to contribute to the restoration of endangered species and promote sustainability. The planting of these red-listed trees is not only a step towards preserving biodiversity but also a promise for a better tomorrow. Each tree planted symbolises hope for the future and reinforces our commitment to nurturing nature.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of our collaborators, patrons, and participants who made this project a resounding success. With every tree, we move closer to creating a greener, healthier world for future generations.



HILL SPREE LEGACY EXPANDS WITH ‘RATA WATE 2.0’

RAC UVA WELLASSA UNIVERSITY - BADULLA

Rotaract Club of Uva Wellassa University – Badulla has set the bar high with the fourth edition of its signature project, Hill Spree, through the much-anticipated ‘Rata Wate 2.0’. This initiative unites Rotaractors nationwide, featuring multi-location fellowship events that blend cultural exploration with community service.

Since its inception, Rata Wate 2.0 has successfully covered six of Sri Lanka’s nine provinces: North Central, Southern, North Western, Western, Central, and Uva. Each destination, celebrated for its historical and natural significance, has enriched participants’ appreciation of Sri Lanka’s diverse heritage. From the ancient ruins of Anuradhapura to the serene cities of Galle and Matara, this journey has been a blend of fellowship, learning, and service.

Beyond the scenic landscapes, Rata Wate 2.0 has a greater purpose. At its core is the spirit of service, with a strong emphasis on environmental sustainability and community care. Rotaractors have organized plant distribution campaigns to promote sustainable planting practices and conducted clean-up drives at Jungle Beach, Browns Beach, and Pigeon Island, targeting pollution and reinforcing the club’s commitment to environmental stewardship.





The Colombo segment was particularly impactful, as participants visited Maharagama Apeksha Hospital, where they spent meaningful time with patients, cleaned the premises, and distributed educational supplies, addressing long-standing requests for essentials such as books, pens, and past papers.



In Anuradhapura, Rotaractors organized a Dansela, showcasing the power of giving back to the community even amidst fellowship activities.

As the project continues to touch lives, strengthening communities across Sri Lanka, it represents a journey of growth, unity, and service. With many more fellowship programs planned, Rata Wate 2.0 continues to strengthen the bonds among Rotaractors, promoting a sense of unity while reinforcing the spirit of service.



IT'S MY VIEW

RAC COLOMBO WEST

The Rotaract Club of Colombo West launched the International Service Project 'It's My View,' uniting Rotaractors globally to capture and share the beauty of their surroundings through mobile photography. This project celebrates diversity, creativity, and connection, allowing participants to share the unique perspectives of their environments.

Rotaractors were invited to submit photographs based on four themes: Nature's Wonder, Urban Life, Cultural Diversity, and Moments of Joy. These themes aimed to capture not only the beauty of landscapes and cities but also the emotional and cultural moments that define communities.



Each photo told a distinct story, from the untouched beauty of nature and vibrant urban life to rich cultural traditions and moments of happiness that transcend borders. What started as a collection of images quickly became a global anthology of experiences and emotions, showcasing the world through diverse perspectives.

The project received an overwhelming number of submissions, each capturing the diversity and unity of life on Earth. As it concludes, the top 3 winners in each theme have been selected for their outstanding ability to reflect the essence of the world around them through photography.



Winners will receive e-certificates and have their work featured in a global anthology, celebrating the beauty and diversity shared throughout the project. 'It's My View' has become a symbol of creativity, unity, and the power of art to connect people across the globe, leaving a lasting legacy for future Rotaract initiatives.

This initiative stands as a testament to how creativity and photography can bring Rotaractors together to appreciate the extraordinary beauty of our planet.

A WORD FROM THE EDITORS



It is with great pleasure that the District Public Relations and Editorial Team of Rotaract in RID 3220 for the RI Year 2024-25 presents the Rotaract District Newsletter, the Cranberry Tales, detailing all things Rotaract in Quarter 1 of the RI Year 2024-25. The Cranberry Tales is an initiative by the District Steering Committee to showcase the remarkable achievements of our movement. We proudly aim to share the message of Rotaract with a wider audience, providing Rotaract clubs within RID 3220 the opportunity to gain greater exposure for their impactful initiatives.

This edition will focus on all activities initiated and executed between July and September 2024, celebrating the dedication and commitment of Rotaractors in bringing the “Magic of Rotary” to life.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the team who worked tirelessly to bring this newsletter to fruition, and to the clubs and Rotaractors whose creativity and efforts have enriched its content.

To all Rotaract clubs in RID 3220, we kindly invite you to write to us! Share your projects, your achievements, and the stories of how you have transformed your community. The story of Rotaract is vast and inspiring; let us add your chapter to it!

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Rotaract in Rotary International District 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives

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WRITE TO US!

The Cranberry Tales will be published at the end of each Quarter, detailing the initiatives completed by Rotaract in RID 3220, and major achievements made by the movement. You can write to us about the projects and achievements of your club and have them included in the next issue of The Cranberry Tales. So, get in touch! We will be delighted to read your stories.

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Cranberry Tales

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