



Cranberry Tales

VOLUME II | QUARTER 2 | RI YEAR 2024-25



"Today's Youth Will Be"

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





the Tomorrow's Future"

Manel Mendis
Representative 2024-25
International District 3220
USA & Maldives

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A WORD FROM THE DRR ELECT 2024-25

As we look back on the second quarter of the RI Year 2024-25, I am reminded of the incredible resilience, passion, and dedication that define our Rotaract movement in District 3220. Each initiative, project, and collaboration serves as a testament to the unwavering spirit of service that unites us all.

Rotaract is more than just an organization; it is a thriving ecosystem of young leaders committed to making a tangible impact in communities both near and far. Our collective efforts—whether in service, professional development, or fostering international understanding—demonstrate the boundless potential of youth when given the opportunity to lead and inspire.

This edition of The Cranberry Tales stands as a beacon of the remarkable work being done across our district. It is a platform that not only highlights achievements but also serves as a source of motivation for clubs to push the boundaries of what is possible. Through these pages, we celebrate innovation, leadership, and the power of unity.

As we reflect on the second quarter, it is a time to celebrate the progress we've made and acknowledge the efforts of every Rotaractor who has contributed to our collective success. As Rotaractors, we always plan ahead, and this forward-thinking mindset is what allows us to have smoother transitions compared to many other organizations. Our structured ecosystem is our strength—let us embrace it and give ourselves ample time to redefine service, ensuring a lasting impact for years to come.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the editorial team for their dedication to bringing The Cranberry Tales to life. To all Rotaractors featured in this edition, your efforts are truly inspiring, and I have no doubt that your stories will ignite even greater enthusiasm within our district.

Wishing everyone the best of luck for the rest of the year. Together, we are shaping the future—one project, one initiative, and one act of service at a time.

Yours in Rotaract,
Rtr. PP Nazmi Mahamood
District Rotaract Representative Elect
RI Year 2024-25
Rotaract in Rotary International District 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives



A WORD FROM THE DYSC 2024-25

It gives me great pleasure to send this message for Cranberry Tales – Volume 2

Absolutely energized to be working together with DRR Rtr. Shanel and his team and the JDRC under the theme “Today’s Youth will be Tomorrow’s Future”. We see systems being put into place and the Rotaract Movement being further strengthened. Congratulations on the charter of 5 new clubs thus far bringing the total membership to 3550.

The much-awaited RCL had a record participation of 1500 participants from over 50 clubs.

In terms of membership, we are the 8th largest in the world and the first in the world for the highest average membership in a club.

The Rotaract District Conference was held in mid Feb with the theme of Entrepreneurship and Youth Empowerment with a participation of over 250 Rotaractors and the presence of the District Governor Rtn. Sushena Ranathunga and the DGN Kumar. The line up of speakers was very impressive.

The SEARIC Summit held in Varnasi, India had the largest participation of 22 Rotaractors from Sri Lanka.

The Rotaract elections concluded peacefully with Rtr. Jude Shannon from the Rotaract Club of Kandy Metropolitan emerging as the DRR Nominee. I wish him all the best as he starts planning towards his year of being a DRR.

I urge all clubs to aim to be a club of good standing. This is a must. If a Rotaract Club is to exist, the basics need to be in place. Membership development is a high priority, but adequate attention needs to be paid to the quality of these new members. I urge all members will be active and support their respective clubs and Presidents so that the movement will grow and thrive.

Rtn. Farzana Khan
District Youth Services Chair
RI Year 2024-25
Rotary International District 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives



A WORD FROM THE ADRC 2024-25

As members of Rotary in Sri Lanka, Rotaractors and Rotarians are united by a shared vision to create lasting positive change in our communities. Our work is not only about social work but also about embracing the core values of Rotary: Service Above Self, Integrity, Fellowship, and Diversity. These principles guide our actions and define the way we interact with each other and the world around us. By upholding these values, we foster an environment where individuals from all walks of life can come together, collaborate, and drive change.

Many years ago, I made a life altering decision to join rotaract. I've built achievements, a career, a community around me using what rotaract gave me. I hope you embrace these benefits of rotaract because rotaract provides us with a unique platform to develop leadership skills, build lasting relationships, and engage in meaningful projects that align with Rotary's commitment to making the world a better place. Remember to give back something to the community from all that you gained from Rotaract, because we draw strength from people we work for, striving to improve lives and create opportunities for a brighter, more inclusive future.

Let us continue to embody Rotary's values in everything we do, making a lasting impact on our communities, empowering future generations, and working together for a world of peace, hope, and sustainability.

Thanks & regards,

Rtn. Mindula Perera
Assistant District Rotaract Chair
RI Year 2024-25
Rotary International District 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives



A WORD FROM THE ADRC 2024-25

It is truly inspiring to witness the unwavering dedication and passion that Rotaract clubs across RID 3220 bring to service and leadership. "The Cranberry Tales" stands as a testament to this unwavering commitment, capturing the essence of our movement and celebrating the impactful projects that define Rotaract.

I would like to remind you of how each project you undertake reflects not only your commitment to service but also your ability to inspire and empower those around you. Whether it is through community service, professional development, international service or club service, your contributions shape a brighter future for all.



As we reach the end of the second quarter of the RI Year 2024-25, I encourage each of you to continue striving for excellence, supporting one another and embracing the opportunities Rotaract offers to grow both personally and professionally.

As you navigate the challenges and triumphs of this Rotaract year, remember that every small action contributes to a larger vision of service above self. Keep pushing boundaries, fostering meaningful connections, and making a lasting difference.

Wishing all Rotaractors continued success in your endeavors! I look forward to seeing the remarkable impact you will create in the months ahead.

Rtn. Nimesha Jayamanne
Assistant District Rotaract Chair
RI Year 2024-25
Rotary International District 3220
Sri Lanka & Maldives

A WORD FROM THE DISCO

COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM



Being a part of the community service team for RID 3220 fills us with immense pride and a deep sense of purpose. This year, our aim was to empower clubs to design and implement more sustainable initiatives, while simultaneously enhancing the overall impact of our projects. On the district level, we successfully completed the CleanUp SL project in collaboration with Siyatha TV, garnering participation from 46 clubs across the country. This inaugural initiative of the year was a tremendous success, as more than 20 locations were thoroughly cleaned, setting a high standard for environmental engagement.

Our primary focus this year has been Project Yaluwa, an initiative dedicated to raising Down Syndrome awareness in Sri Lanka. In its first phase, we visited a dedicated home that cares for children with special needs, including those with Down Syndrome. From the outset, the planning process was marked by both excitement and a set of challenges. A well-suited venue was selected, and close coordination with the caregivers ensured that every planned activity was both safe and enjoyable. Interactive sessions, including singing and engaging games, were carefully crafted to

promote communication and spread joy among the children while being sensitive to their unique requirements.

Looking ahead, we are now preparing for the second phase of Project Yaluwa in the final months of the year. This next step is designed to raise further awareness and provide tangible benefits by assisting in the construction of improved facilities at the home. These experiences have reinforced our belief that even small gestures can create lasting, meaningful change in the lives of others. We remain committed to continuous improvement, community empowerment, and building a future where every contribution counts for lasting impact.

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

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE TEAM



We feel incredibly proud to have been part of the SEARIC Summit, organized by District 3120 in Kashi. This year, our district sent the largest delegation we've ever had, with 20 passionate participants, and it was truly a milestone. The summit created a space for meaningful discussions, allowing us to collaborate with others from around the world and exchange innovative ideas. The overwhelming response to our district's presence makes us feel even prouder of our growing leadership and our increased involvement in global initiatives.

It had been our immense pleasure and pride in successful organization of the Inter District Youth Exchange Program in the second quarter. This initiative was a fantastic opportunity to foster international dialogue, where we could exchange ideas and experiences with participants from various regions. Additionally, the letterhead exchange programs played a vital role in encouraging club-to-club communication, strengthening the bonds between clubs within our district. By promoting these collaborative partnerships and networks, we were able to share best practices and enhance our operations and community service. The program was a significant step in youth development, and it felt amazing to see so many young minds come together, all eager to make a real difference.

As International Service Avenue Directors we organized IS Unpacked, the international service workshop held to enlighten rotaractors on the many facets of international service. The workshop gave rotaractors

a deeper understanding of the importance of fostering international understanding and facilitating twin club agreements. It really opened their eyes to the power of global connections and the opportunities available for service on an international scale. It was empowering to learn how, clubs within District 3220, could strengthen our partnerships and expand our international outreach. The experience reinforced the value of cross-cultural cooperation and service, and we are excited to see how we can continue to promote these connections in the future.

We are absolutely thrilled that, for the first time in its history, District 3220 International Service Avenue of Rotaract in RID 3220 is planning a foreign trip to Thailand! This marks such an exciting new chapter in our global outreach. The trip is designed to promote cultural exchange and offer us incredible opportunities to engage in international learning. The planning has been thorough, with a clear focus on broadening our horizons and building international camaraderie. We are looking forward to how this trip will not only be a milestone for our district but also provide us with a chance to create lasting memories. The tour is planned to be thoroughly enjoyable, and we can't wait to experience it to the fullest alongside fellow district members!

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

STATISTICS THROUGH THE QUARTER



**TOTAL ACTIVE
MEMBERS:**

3372



**TOTAL
INDUCTIONS:**
IN QUARTER 2 OF RI YEAR 2024-25

1661



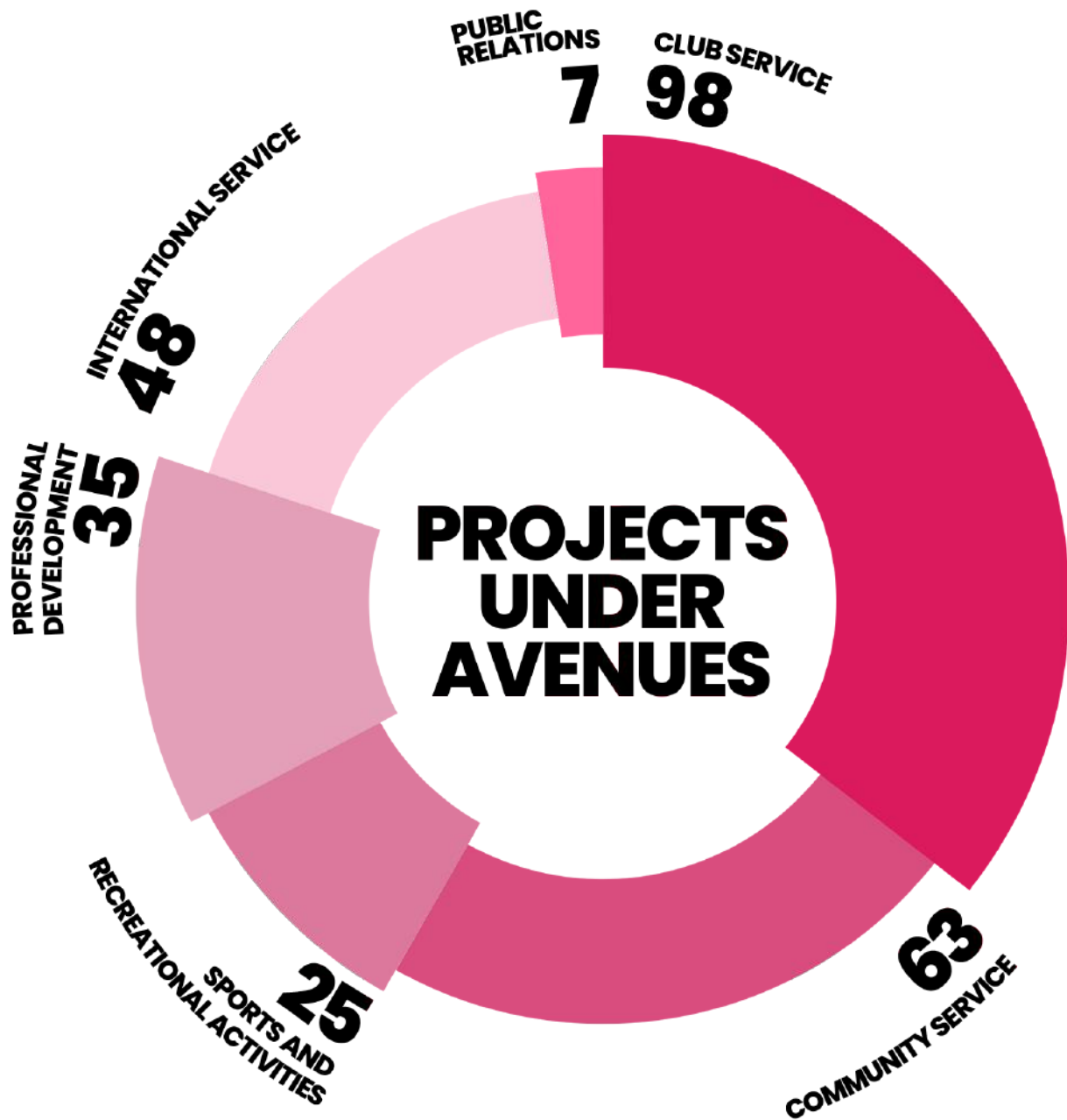
**TOTAL ACTIVE
CLUBS:**

85

**COMMUNITY
BASED: 48**

**INSTITUTE
BASED: 36**

**CORPORATE
BASED: 01**



17
ENVIRONMENT



88
**COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



81
**BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY**



PRO.
COV
ROTA
AREA
FO



73
**PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION**



41
**DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT**

**OBJECTS
COVERING
CRANBERRY'S
AS OF
CUS**



4
**WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE**



13
**MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH**







DISTRICT PROJECT



PROJECT

PROJECTS



SAFETY FIRST



Over 100 participants gathered for Safety First – Master First Aid, Own the Field, a dynamic and hands-on training event organised by Rotaract District 3220, in collaboration with the Rotaract Clubs of NIBM, KDU, and Colombo Fort. The initiative aimed to promote safety awareness, equip participants with essential first aid knowledge, and encourage preparedness in everyday life.



The event commenced with an energising warm-up session before participants were divided into four groups. These groups rotated across a series of practical training stations, each designed to simulate real-life emergency scenarios. Participants gained experience in critical areas such as CPR, managing injuries, and responding to unconscious individuals – all under the guidance of professionals in the field.



Our esteemed panel of speakers and trainers, including experienced emergency responders, shared their knowledge and practical insights, inspiring participants to become safety-conscious individuals in their communities. Through interactive demonstrations and real-world insights, they reinforced the importance of first aid as a fundamental life skill that empowers individuals to act effectively during emergencies.



The event would not have been possible without our generous partners. We extend our heartfelt thanks to APIIT, our venue partner, for their incredible support and hospitality. A special mention goes to our knowledge partners – Strength Camp and the Sri Lanka College of Emergency Physicians (SLCEP) – for their expertise & guidance.

Safety First served as a reminder that preparedness is not optional – it is essential. Participants left the event better informed, more confident, and empowered to make a difference when it matters most.

This initiative was more than just a workshop. It was a comprehensive learning experience that underscored the value of community readiness, individual responsibility, and timely intervention.



RECLAIMING OF THE KINGDOM: HILL COUNTRY VOYAGE



Rotaract in district 3220 embarked on an exhilarating journey with Hill Country Voyage 2024, a two-day adventure that blended leadership, service, and the thrill of the great outdoors. Set against the breathtaking landscapes of Sri Lanka's hill country, this unforgettable experience brought together Rotaractors in a celebration of camaraderie and exploration.

The voyage began with a visit to Uva Wellassa University, where Rotaractors had the honor of witnessing the Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Uva Wellassa University. The event marked a moment of inspiration as new leaders took on their roles, strengthening the Rotaract movement in the region.

From there, the journey took an exciting turn as participants geared up



for the ultimate adventure—a hike to Bambaragala Pathana, leading to the heart of nature. With each step, the crisp mountain air and the breathtaking views fueled their excitement. As they arrived at the campsite, the real magic began.



Next morning, everyone gathered to witness the breathtaking sunrise over the hilltops. The sky transformed into a canvas of golden hues. In that serene moment, surrounded by nature's beauty, Rotaractors were so mesmerized with the scenery and captured the memories.

The following day, the journey continued with another Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Ratnapura. The voyage ended with a moment of reflection over a fellowship lunch, where participants celebrated not just the places they had visited, but the bonds they had built.



With tents set up, the evening unfolded into an unforgettable camping experience. The bonfire crackled to life, casting a warm glow as laughter, music, and storytelling filled the night. Under a sky lit with stars, friendships were strengthened, and memories were made—ones that will be cherished long after the embers faded.

Hill Country Voyage 2024 was more than a trip—it was an adventure of a lifetime, a journey of leadership, and a witness to the unbreakable spirit of Rotaract.



RECLAIMING OF THE KINGDOM: NORTHERN VOYAGE



The “Northern Voyage” of Rotaract in RID 3220, held from the 13th to the 15th of December 2024, brought together Rotaractors from across the island for a vibrant fellowship visit to Jaffna. The journey began on the night of the 13th, as the team departed from Colombo and arrived in Jaffna early in the morning on the 14th.

The day began with the Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Jaffna Midtown, held with much enthusiasm and pride. Following the ceremony, participants enjoyed a hearty lunch, setting the tone for a day of connection and celebration. In the evening, Rotaractors joined in the observance of Karthigai Deepam, immersing themselves in the local culture and spiritual ambiance of Jaffna.



On the morning of the 15th, the group paid a visit to the revered Nallur Kovil, taking part in a spiritually enriching experience. Soon after, they attended the Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Chunnakam, celebrating the beginning of another impactful Rotaract year. To cap off the tour, the team visited the historic

Jaffna Fort, taking in the history with deeper appreciation before commencing their journey back to Colombo.



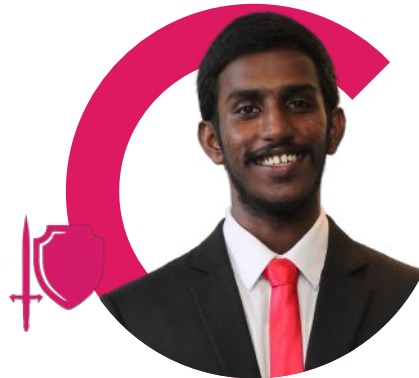
The Northern Voyage was more than just a trip—it was a celebration of fellowship, cultural harmony, and shared leadership. Through meaningful experiences and heartfelt connections, Rotaractors truly reclaimed the kingdom in spirit and service.

PRESIDENTS OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER



Rtr. Azlan Mahir
RAC Colombo



Rtr. Andrew Dilan Aloysius
RAC NIBM

NOVEMBER



Rtr. Jayaratnam Jayanthan Paul
RAC Jaffna Midtown



Rtr. Vihanga Divyanjana
RAC University of Kelaniya

DECEMBER



Rtr. Mohamed Afzal
RAC ICBT



Rtr. Subhanya Lashini
RAC Faculty of Law,
University of Colombo



Rtr. Akhlaq Gazzali
RAC Colombo North



Rtr. Fathima Raiza
RAC Ratnapura

SECRETARIES OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER



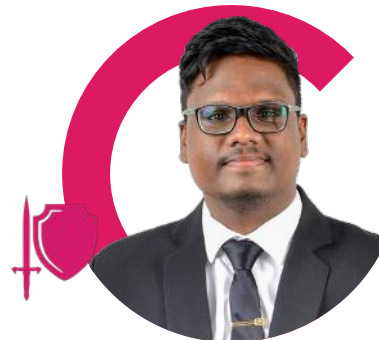
Rtr. Devindi Thathsarani
RAC Ratnapura



Rtr. Tanuli Weerakoon
RAC Ratnapura



Rtr. Bimsara Jeewananda
RAC Ratnapura

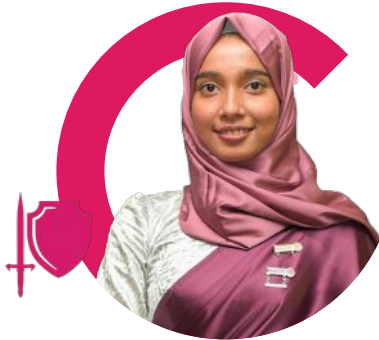


Rtr. Adeesha Abeydheera
RAC University of Kelaniya

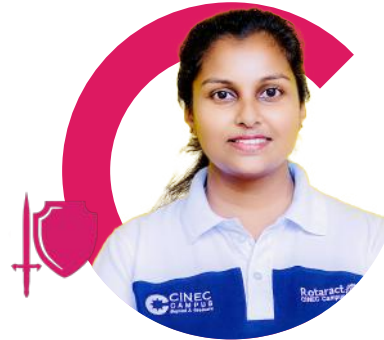


Rtr. Charith Yohan
RAC SLIIT

NOVEMBER



Rtr. Shazmina Jawahir
RAC Kandy



Rtr. Thamali Madushani
RAC CINEC Campus



Rtr. Imasha Kavindi
RAC University of Peradeniya

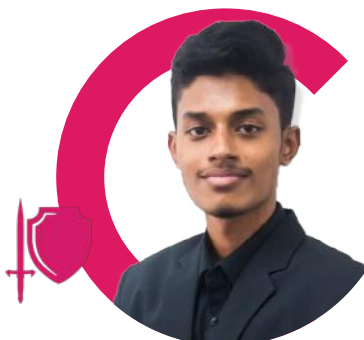


Rtr. Chamuditha Keerthisena
RAC University of Peradeniya

DECEMBER



Rtr. Sathnara Fernando
RAC College of Chemical
Sciences



Rtr. Bilal Salahudeen
RAC College of Chemical
Sciences



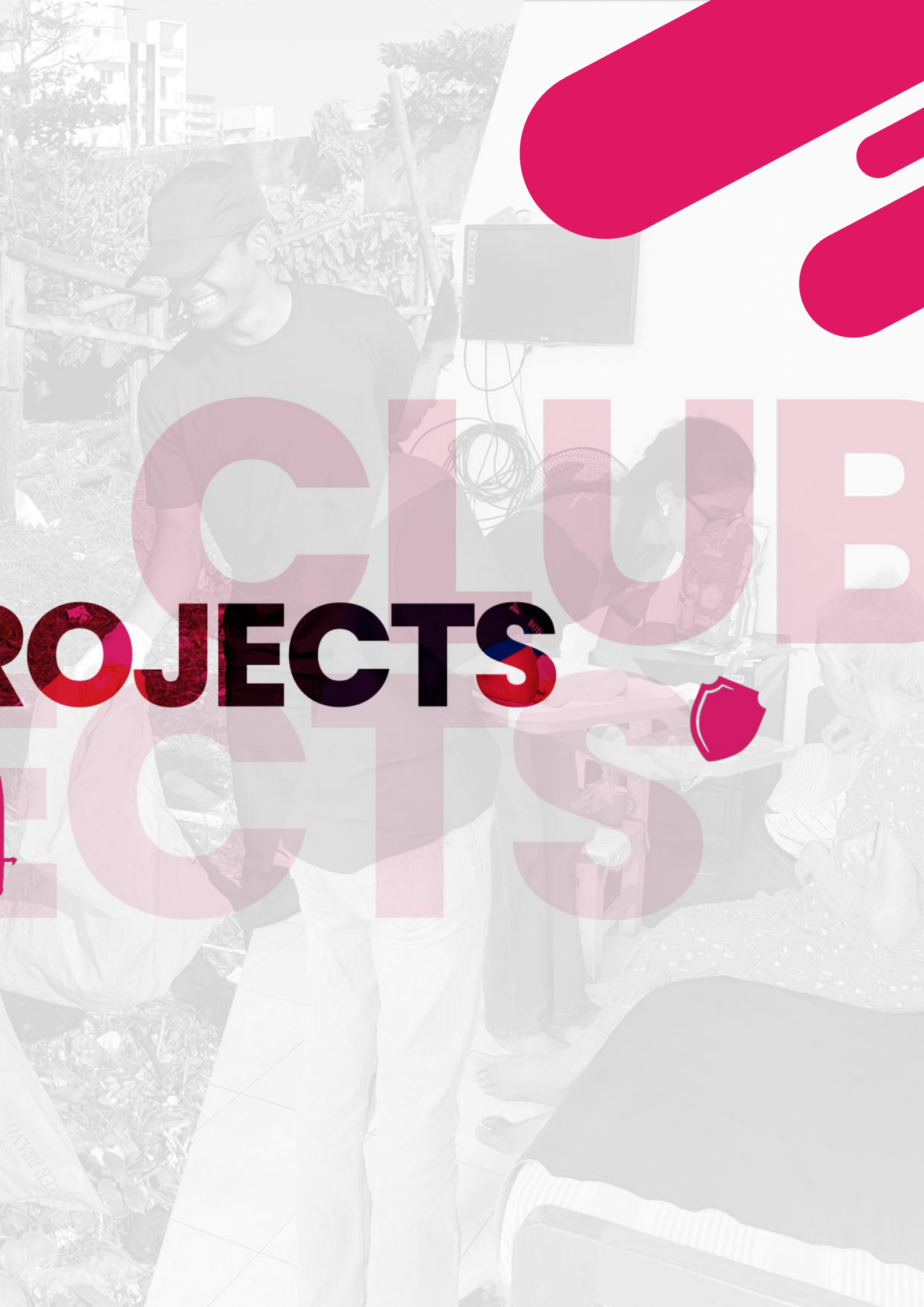
Rtr. Marissa Carson
RAC Edith Cowan
University



CLUB PR

PRO





PROJECTS CLUB

LUSH 7.0: A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CONSERVATION EFFORT

RAC UVA WELLASSA UNIVERSITY – BADULLA

The Lush 7.0 Project is an ambitious and inspiring initiative undertaken by the Environmental Service Avenue of the Rotaract Club of Uva Wellassa University – Badulla, in collaboration with the Forest Ecology Lab of Uva Wellassa University. As the seventh iteration of the club’s annual signature project, Lush 7.0 continues to make remarkable progress in restoring the Lunugala rainforest, which has suffered extensive destruction due to wildfires, human activities, and chena farming.



This year’s project aims to plant an impressive 7,500 plants in the affected area. To date, 4,500 plants have already been planted, making significant progress in this vital conservation effort.

What sets Lush 7.0 apart is its unique community-based conservation model. Local communities are integral to the project’s success, ensuring that conservation efforts are both sustainable and mutually beneficial. Seeds of native tree species are distributed to local families, who plant and nurture them. In

return, they are provided with financial support, promoting their livelihoods while simultaneously contributing to ecological restoration.

This initiative goes beyond reforestation—it is about healing ecosystems and promoting harmony between humans and nature. By involving the local community, the project not only restores degraded lands but also empowers people to become active stewards of the environment.

The project focuses on replanting trees that will ensure the long-term sustainability of the Lunugala rainforest, bringing back biodiversity, stabilizing the climate, and combating the harmful effects of deforestation.

With its vision rooted in environmental sustainability and community collaboration, Lush 7.0 is a symbol of hope for a greener future. As this remarkable journey continues, we invite everyone to join hands and be a part of creating lasting environmental change.



MERRY LITTLE HEARTS

RAC GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

Merry Little Hearts was a heartfelt initiative organized by the Rotaract Club of General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University to spread joy and hope during the festive season. The project focused on the children at Lady Ridgeway Hospital, including young heart patients and others admitted to various wards. Under the leadership of Project Co-Chairs Rtr. Shalomi Fernando and Rtr. Sherai Fonseka, the team planned a memorable Christmas celebration that brightened the lives of these children.



The day was not only significant for the children but also deeply appreciated by the hospital staff and administration, who saw the positive impact on their young patients. For the Rotaractors, it was a fulfilling experience that underscored the importance of service, compassion, and community spirit. The project successfully captured the true essence of Christmas spreading happiness, kindness, and hope to those who need it the most.



The event included a variety of engaging activities, such as "Pin the Nose on the Snowman," "Pass the Santa Hat," and the singing of Christmas carols, creating a joyful and interactive environment. Santa Claus made a special appearance, bringing a sense of wonder and excitement as he distributed gifts to every child. This thoughtful gesture brought smiles to their faces, making them feel loved and cared for during their challenging times.



ABHIMAN AWARDS 2024: CELEBRATING SRI LANKA'S DIGITAL MEDIA EXCELLENCE

RAC UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA

The Rotaract Club of University of Kelaniya made history on November 11th with the Abhiman Awards 2024, Sri Lanka's first-ever university-led media awards ceremony. Held at the Faculty of Computing Technology Auditorium, the event celebrated excellence in the country's digital media landscape, recognizing outstanding contributions across 20 distinct award categories. The event was honored by the presence of Senior Professor Nilanthi de Silva, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kelaniya, as the chief guest, along with prominent personalities like Professor Kolitha Bhanu Dissanayake and veteran actor Douglas Ranasinghe, signifying the event's importance in bridging the gap between academia and the media industry.



The credibility of the awards was ensured through a rigorous six-month research process conducted in



collaboration with the Department of Mass Communication and the Department of Census and Statistics. Utilizing platforms such as Social Blade for detailed analytics and collecting public votes from university students across Sri Lanka, the process highlighted the country's best digital creators. The initiative sought to elevate the standards of digital media while promoting inclusivity, innovation, and quality content creation.



partnerships with organizations like Calico (Pvt) Ltd and Coca-Cola Sri Lanka. By embracing innovation and reimaging conventional approaches, Abhiman inspired a new generation of digital creators. The event not only celebrated media excellence but also set a benchmark for large-scale, youth-led initiatives in Sri Lanka, paving the way for future endeavors.

The night celebrated remarkable achievements in digital media, with key winners including Ada Derana for Most Popular News Coverage on YouTube, TV Derana for Most Popular TV Channel on YouTube, Shaa FM for Most Popular Radio Channel on YouTube, and Chanux Bro for Most Popular Tech Show on YouTube. Other standout winners included Bathiya and Santhush for Most Popular Male Singer on YouTube, and Wild Cookbook for Most Popular Cooking Show on YouTube. Prominent figures in the industry, such as Ms. Shanudrie Priyasad, Mr. Manitha Abeysiriwardana (ManiYa), Ms. Kanchana Anuradhi, and Ms. Dinakshie Priyasad, were also among the winners, adding a touch of brilliance to the event.



The event also underscored the power of collaboration, bringing together academia and industry through

VENTURE VOICE (V2)

RAC UNIVERSITY OF SRI JAYEWARDENEPURA

Venture Voice (V2) was a project initiated by the Professional Development Avenue of the Rotaract Club of University of Sri Jayewardenepura, designed to equip individuals with the tools to thrive in life and work. This impactful project unfolded across three empowering phases: Skill Up, Style Up, and Speak Up. Let's dive in!



Phase 1: Skill Up

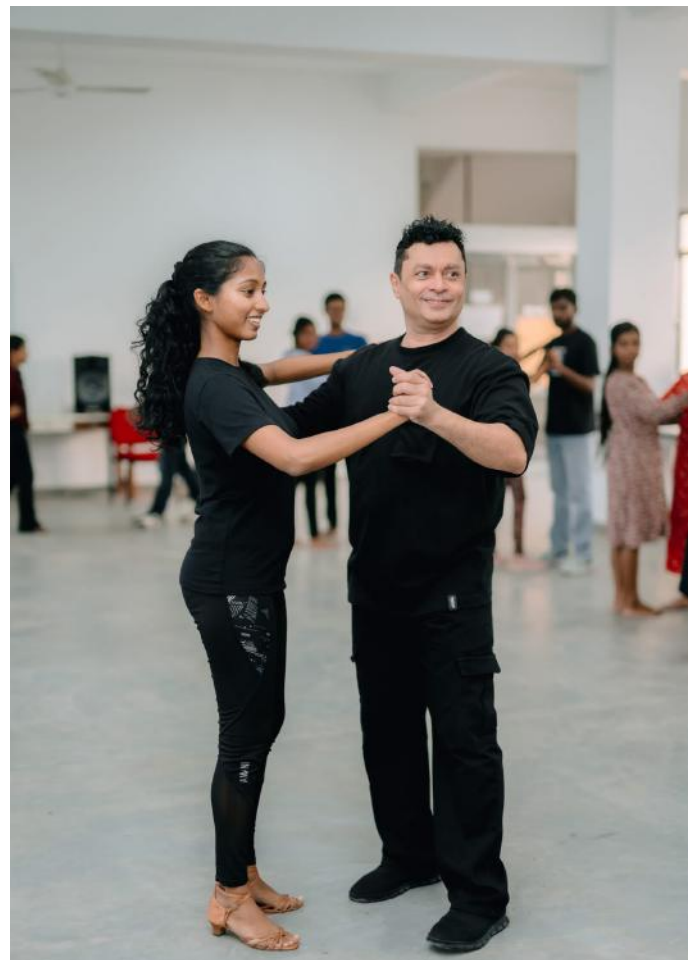
Skill Up focused on enhancing professional expertise through two workshops: firstly, the CV Writing Workshop led by Ms. Binuri Yoshika, a lecturer in English Language Teaching in USJ and secondly, the LinkedIn Optimization Workshop led by Ms. Chathurika Gunewardhene - Head of Global HR, teaching participants the importance of a "good CV" & how they can utilize LinkedIn for their benefit.

Phase 2: Style Up

Style Up was all about building confidence and charisma through the art of social dancing. Held on 7th of November 2024, this Social Dancing

Workshop was conducted by the renowned choreographer, Mr. Kevin Nugara. Participants learned not only the rhythm of dance but also the rhythm of self-assurance and elegance.

Additionally, a Professional Grooming & Dining Etiquette Video was posted across social media to spread knowledge about the importance of professional grooming.



Phase 3: Speak Up

The grand finale of Venture Voice was the Speak Up Model United Nations (MUN) Conference, held on 23rd of November 2024, organized with the endorsement of Sri Lanka Model United Nations (SLMUN). This phase allowed the 55+ participants to step into the shoes of global diplomats, debate critical issues, and present innovative solutions. Speak Up brought together individuals from around the country who valued the power of communication, collaboration, and leadership, who demonstrated the value of voicing ideas effectively to inspire change and address global challenges.



Venture Voice was more than a project; it was a transformative experience that empowered individuals to unlock their true potential. RACUSJ has once again proven its dedication to fostering the leaders of tomorrow. As Venture Voice continues to resonate in the hearts of its participants, it serves as a shining example of how community-driven projects can transform lives and inspire futures.



HAXMAS 2024

RAC INFORMATICS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Haxmas 2024, marking seven successful years as a flagship initiative, was a groundbreaking hackathon that aimed to foster innovation and professional growth among undergraduate students. Organized by the Rotaract Club of Informatics Institute of Technology (IIT), the event was supported by Ascentic (Pvt) Ltd as the title sponsor. This year's edition followed a three-phase structure—Ideathon, Designathon, and Startup Pitch—ensuring a comprehensive approach to developing technological solutions.



The event saw record-breaking participation with 214 registrations for the main hackathon, comprising 53 diverse teams from universities nationwide. It began with an awareness session on October 22nd, followed by the Ideathon at IIT on October 26th, where participants pitched innovative ideas to a distinguished judging panel from Ascentic. Fourteen teams advanced to the Designathon phase, which spanned from November 3rd till November 12th, where they transformed their concepts into detailed prototypes. Two webinars enriched these phases: a “Rapid Wireframe” session led by Ascentic’s Hiran Karunananda and

a “Solution Architecture” workshop by Ashanka Randeniya and Gihan Liyanage. Both sessions provided critical insights into design principles and technical solutions.

The Code Golf competition added further excitement, with 89 registrations engaging in a six-hour challenge on HackerRank. Hosted at IIT, the event created an open, collaborative environment and offered a Rs. 30,000 prize pool, emphasizing practical coding skills.

The grand finale on December 8th at Ascentic Pvt Ltd brought together eight finalist teams in a day-long event featuring presentations, networking opportunities, and an exhibition of non-competing innovations. Judges awarded Rs. 60,000, Rs. 40,000, and Rs. 30,000 to the top teams.

Haxmas 2024’s short-term impact included professional growth, technical skill development, and valuable industry exposure for over 200 participants. Its long-term legacy lies in strengthening academia-industry ties and establishing a framework for future collaborations. As a flagship event, Haxmas continues to push boundaries, solidifying its reputation as a leader in fostering technological excellence.



LITTLE MOMENTS

RAC NIBM KANDY

The Rotaract Club of NIBM Kandy recently spread joy and cheer at the pediatric ward of Kandy General Hospital with their heartwarming project, “Little Moments.” In celebration of Children’s Day, the club members organized a day filled with fun activities, thoughtful interactions, and generous gifts for the young patients.



The project aimed to uplift the spirits of the children, providing them with a day of happiness and engagement amidst their medical challenges. The Rotaractors engaged the children in singing, games, and other entertaining activities, bringing smiles to their faces and creating a lively atmosphere in the ward. The club also donated toys to the hospital, which can be enjoyed by the children during their stay.

“Little Moments” was not just about providing entertainment; it was also about fostering a sense of care and compassion among the volunteers. The Rotaractors spent time interacting with the children,

listening to their stories, and offering them emotional support. This experience helped the volunteers develop empathy and a deeper understanding of the importance of community service.

The project was a resounding success, leaving a positive impact on both the children and the volunteers. The children were delighted to have a day filled with fun and laughter, while the volunteers were inspired by the children’s resilience and their ability to find joy in difficult circumstances.

The Rotaract Club of NIBM Kandy hopes that “Little Moments” will serve as an inspiration for similar projects in the future. The club believes that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in the lives of others. By bringing moments of joy and happiness to those in need, the Rotaract Club of NIBM Kandy is making a positive contribution to the community and creating a better world for all.



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

RAC ROYAL INSTITUTE OF COLOMBO

The festive season is often a time of joy, togetherness, and giving, but for many underprivileged communities, it can also be a reminder of their struggles. Understanding this, the Rotaract Club of Royal Institute of Colombo took a proactive approach to spread the holiday spirit through their flagship initiative, '12 Days of Christmas.' More than just a series of projects, this initiative was a testament to the club's dedication to creating meaningful societal change through compassion and action.

Each of the 12 projects carried a unique message, such as compassion, hope, resilience, kindness, empowerment, gratitude, love, inclusivity, dignity, sustainability, care, and joy. One of the most impactful projects within this initiative was the free medical camp conducted in collaboration with HEMAS Hospital, providing essential healthcare services for elderly residents. This initiative ensured



that their medical needs were addressed, offering them comfort and care during the holiday season.

Another significant project focused on sustainability and environmental impact. Volunteers planted plants and donated paint to rejuvenate spaces, creating a long-lasting impact on the community. These efforts emphasized the importance of environmental consciousness while simultaneously enhancing the living conditions of those in need.



Additionally, a project conducted for elderly residents in care homes became even more special as we gifted the residents portraits of themselves, making them feel cherished and remembered.

Beyond this, '12 Days of Christmas' addressed various societal needs, including support for teenage mothers, individuals struggling with mental health, and even stray animals. Each project was designed to create a lasting and meaningful impact, reinforcing the club's commitment to service.

As the bells of the season rang, the Rotaract Club of Royal Institute of Colombo had successfully ignited the spirit of giving, for the 5th consecutive year. '12 Days of Christmas' was more than just a project; it was a movement that touched hearts and left a lasting impact, proving that kindness, when spread, has the power to transform lives.



GREEN REWIND: TURNING WASTE INTO HOPE

RAC MANNAR TOWN

The Rotaract Club of Mannar Town has always been at the forefront of impactful community service, and this year, we are proud to introduce one of our signature initiatives, "Green Rewind." This project is a unique fusion of two previously successful efforts "Trash Busters" and "Meals of Hope" both of which were launched in the Rotary International Year 2023-24.



Trash Busters is an ongoing environmental project dedicated to collecting plastic waste across Mannar Town on a large scale, twice a month. On the other hand, Meals of Hope focuses on addressing malnutrition among preschool children in remote areas by providing them with nutritious, grain-based meals. Recognizing the potential for synergy, we decided to merge these two projects into

a sustainable initiative where the funds generated from recycling plastic waste are directly used to support children in need.

Under Green Rewind, for every 1kg of plastic collected, we receive Rs. 40. Given that our volunteers gather approximately 100kg of plastic per month, this initiative generates Rs. 4,000 monthly. These funds are then utilized to purchase Grainii meal, a highly nutritious food mix, which is prepared with the help of the preschool students' parents. Every Wednesday, the children receive a wholesome meal, ensuring both their nutritional well-being and community involvement in the process.

The first phase of Green Rewind commenced on January 4, 2025, with the plastic collection drive, and by January 8, the food distribution program was successfully launched. This initiative not only addresses environmental concerns but also creates a lasting social impact by providing sustainable nutrition to young children.

Through Green Rewind, the Rotaract Club of Mannar Town is paving the way for a cleaner environment and a healthier future.



STROKES OF TUSCANY

RAC COLOMBO UPTOWN

As life moves at an ever-accelerating pace, humanity often forsakes the innate drive to imagine, think, and create. Understanding the importance of artistry for the growth of an individual; within the personal sphere, and beyond, the Professional Development Avenue of the Rotaract Club of Colombo Uptown organized "Strokes of Tuscany", as an occasion of escape from the bustling ordinary.



Transpiring on the 1st of December 2024, at the Coffee Break, Bambalapitiya, the evening brought together an array of personalities; each bound to the Rotaract Club of Colombo Uptown through a unique tale. With the scenery of the fading sun painting the surroundings in tones of lilac and silhouettes of amber, the occasion commenced as a thoughtful selection of patterns to be given life on a canvas fused with the essence of a conversation among

friends.

Becoming an atmosphere for the discussion of dreams, and hope, while reflecting on the times gone by, the members of the Rotaract Club of Colombo Uptown in attendance – whether former, contemporary, or prospective – fabricated unparalleled bonds between each and all through the unconventional pursuit.

With each smear of vibrance giving life to sketches on a canvas, the occasion which discovered the charm of the famed Italian tiles, while at the heart of Colombo, accomplished the intended aims of the initiative. Consequently, laying the groundwork for the encouragement of a composed manner of living; through the strategic utilization of human creativity, and imagination as a medium.

As the occasion came to a conclusion with the passage of time, and memories, accompanied by the contrasting shades of colour, the members in attendance bid farewell to Strokes of Tuscany with a newfound appreciation for life which reached beyond customary routines; with the simple vow to continue the exploration artistry which lies within all.



නෙත්සරය: දියවැඩියාවයි ඔබේ ඇසයි

RAC WAYAMBA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

The Rotaract Club of Wayamba University of Sri Lanka successfully completed the first session of its “නෙත්සරය: දියවැඩියාවයි ඔබේ ඇසයි” project on January 19, 2025, at the Badalgama Temple. This impactful initiative aimed to educate the public on the growing threat of diabetes and diabetic retinopathy, ensuring better awareness and preventive care in the North-Western Province of Sri Lanka.



The project was conducted in collaboration with Dr. Mapa Prabhath Piyasena, Deputy Director of the Vision and Eye Research Institute (VERI) at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. With his 15 years of experience in Sri Lankan healthcare, Dr. Mapa provided expert

guidance and scientific insights, helping to make the project a great success.

With nearly 150,000 people at risk of diabetic complications in the North-Western Province, projects like “Nethsaraya” play a crucial role in reducing preventable blindness and improving overall public health. By educating and empowering local communities, this initiative has made a lasting impact on diabetes awareness and eye care.

The Rotaract Club of Wayamba University extends its gratitude to Dr. Mapa Prabhath Piyasena, the volunteers, and the participants who contributed to the success of this project. With continuous efforts, the club remains committed to serving the community through impactful health initiatives in the future.



CYBER SURAKSHA

RAC RATNAPURA

In today's digital age, cybersecurity is more critical than ever. Recognizing the growing risks associated with cyber threats, the Rotaract Club of Ratnapura in collaboration with the Leo Club of the University of Colombo took the initiative to launch Project 'Cyber Suraksha', a cybersecurity awareness campaign aimed at educating youth on safe digital practices. With the rise of cybercrime, online fraud, and digital vulnerabilities, many individuals, especially students and young professionals, remain unaware of the potential threats they face online. Cyber Suraksha was designed to bridge this knowledge gap by providing participants with essential insights into cybersecurity, data protection, and responsible online behavior.



Phase 1: Cyber Shield – The Awareness Session

The first phase of the project, titled 'Cyber Shield', was successfully conducted at the University of Colombo's East Wing Jayarathne Hall on the 6th of November from 3 PM to 5 PM. The session featured Mr. Nisal Dulmith, an Attorney-at-Law, and Mr. Ayeshmantha Gayan, an esteemed Assistant Lecturer in Law

at the University of Colombo specializing in private and comparative law. As an Attorney-at-Law and a visiting lecturer, he provided expert insights into the legal aspects of cybersecurity, online rights, and digital safety measures. More than 100 Rotaractors, Leos and students participated in the project to gain knowledge and help spread awareness. To acknowledge their engagement, physical certificates were distributed among the participants.

In a world where cyber threats are constantly evolving, initiatives like Project Cyber Suraksha play a crucial role in safeguarding individuals against digital risks. Cyber Suraksha was more than just an awareness program; it was a step towards building a safer, more respectful digital environment for everyone. In a world where cyber threats are constantly evolving, initiatives like Project Cyber Suraksha play a crucial role in safeguarding individuals against digital risks. The Rotaract Club of Ratnapura remains committed to empowering youth with the knowledge and tools needed to navigate the online world safely. Stay tuned for Phase 2, because digital security is not just an option; it's a necessity!



MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

RAC KATUGASTOTA REGION

The children at the Surasa Girls' Child Development Centre in Wattegama, Kandy, ranging in age from 8 to 18, have faced countless challenges and hardships in their young lives. With no family to turn to, they find solace & care in the kind hands of Ms. M.R.W. Pinnawala, the Centre's Chief Warden, & her dedicated staff. But despite the love & support they receive at the Centre, these young girls were in need of the basic necessities that many of us take for granted—simple things like innerwear, stationery, and clothing.



It broke our hearts to know that these girls, who deserve nothing less than joy, are struggling to live with dignity, lacking the essential items that so many of us often overlook. Imagine a young girl starting her day with nothing but hope in her heart, yet no new clothes to wear, no pens to write with, or no warm food to eat. Which is why Merry Little Christmas was a heartwarming initiative organized by the Rotaract Club of Katugastota Region in collaboration with the Interact Clubs of Hemamali Girls' College and St. Anthony's

Girls' College, Kandy to bring festive joy and essential support to these young girls.

One of the most pressing issues identified was the lack of basic necessities, particularly undergarments, which are fundamental for a child's well-being. Through generous donations, the project provided innerwear, clothing, stationery, and groceries worth over LKR 50,000, ensuring comfort and dignity for the children. Additionally, snacks were arranged and a series of fun activities, including musical chairs and charades, allowing the children to enjoy a carefree day filled with laughter and love.

Merry Little Christmas 2024 emphasized meaningful engagement with the children. Rather than just handing over donations, Rotaractors and Interactors spent quality time with them, listening to their stories, offering words of encouragement, and fostering a sense of belonging.



Merry Little Christmas proved that even small acts of kindness can change lives. "No one has ever become poor by giving."
– Anne Frank.

SYMPHONIES 2.0

RAC NIBM

For the second consecutive year, Project Symphonies brought the magic of Christmas to the young patients of Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Borella. Organized by the Rotaract Club of NIBM, the project aimed to spread joy, uplift spirits, and provide a momentary escape from pain through the power of music. The RACNIBM Choir filled the hospital with festive melodies, creating an atmosphere of warmth and happiness, reminding everyone of the true spirit of giving.



On December 21, 2024, from 10:00 AM onwards, Rotaractors from RACNIBM visited five pediatric wards filling it with laughter and cheer as the young patients sang along to Christmas carols, momentarily forgetting their struggles. Rotaractors spent time getting to know them, offering companionship, comfort, and heartfelt conversations that brightened their day.

A special highlight was a surprise visit from RACNIBM's very own Santa Claus,

who walked into the wards carrying a sack full of festive cheer. His arrival brought excitement and joy as he warmly greeted the children, shared smiles, and distributed beautifully designed Christmas cards filled with messages of love and hope. The happiness on the children's faces was undeniable as they embraced the festive spirit.

The event was further graced by the presence of Rotaractors from other clubs and members of the District Steering Committee (DISCO), who witnessed the heartwarming spectacle. More than just a celebration, Symphonies 2.0 reaffirmed Rotaract Club NIBM's commitment to making a lasting impact.

The project concluded with a meaningful donation of over 100 cannulas and a wheelchair to the hospital, ensuring that the spirit of giving extended beyond the festivities. Symphonies 2.0 emphasized the power of community driven efforts to comfort those in need, showcasing how music and kindness can transform even the toughest moments into a celebration of hope and love.



iGenius

RAC COLOMBO MID TOWN

The Rotaract Club of Colombo Mid Town's iGenius quiz competition has returned with a bang after a brief hiatus. More than just a competition, iGenius is an experience, a testament to intellectual stimulation and fellowship. This year's



edition, "iGenius Infinity," marked a grand relaunch, amplified by collaborations with the Rotaract Clubs of APIIT and Edith Cowan University.

What sets iGenius apart is its unique structure and custom-designed quiz software, a groundbreaking innovation rarely seen outside corporate settings. This sophisticated platform elevates the competition beyond conventional quizzes, providing a truly unmatched experience.



Despite the break, iGenius's appeal remained strong, attracting 28 teams (112 participants) from Interact, Rotaract, School, and the corporate sector.

Focusing on international affairs, iGenius offered a LKR 100,000 prize pool and seven intellectually challenging rounds. The competition aimed to broaden global awareness, foster international understanding, and encourage fellowship. Rounds like "World Around You," "Audio-Visual," and the strategic "Bid or Die" round tested participants' knowledge of current events, global trends, and international relations. Beyond the competition, iGenius promoted inclusivity and mutual respect, incorporating diverse cultures and histories.



The team-based structure emphasized collaboration, reflecting Rotaract's commitment to team spirit. This year, iGenius expanded its reach beyond Rotaract, welcoming corporate teams and schools. A comprehensive public relations campaign, including social

media engagement and event-day PR, further amplified the project's impact. The nail-biting finale, featuring multiple tiebreakers, showcased the high level of competition.



iGenius Infinity was a resounding success, a testament to the host clubs' dedication. It embodies the true spirit of Rotaract: an intellectually stimulating and collaborative environment where individuals unite to achieve extraordinary things. The competition reignited a passion for fellowship, reminding participants of the power of collaboration and shared intellectual pursuits.

CHERISH THE CHILD: A GIFT OF HOPE

RAC ACHIEVERS LANKA BUSINESS SCHOOL

Giving back to the community is at the heart of our Rotaract journey. “Cherish The Child” was an initiative that exemplified this spirit. On November 6th, 2024, our club organized a memorable visit to the Chithra Lane School for Differently Abled students with the goal of bringing joy and support to 50 low-income students.



Chithra Lane School is home to over 120 children, each with unique talents and dreams. Recognizing the importance of both emotional and material support, we spent the day doing things that encouraged their creativity and enjoyment. From singing songs together to playing interactive games, we created an environment filled with laughter, inclusion, and encouragement.

Beyond entertainment, we wanted to provide something that would help these children express themselves beyond words. As part of our contribution, each child received a chalk box, colored pencils, and drawing books, simple yet meaningful tools to unlock their creativity. Seeing their eyes light up as they eagerly flipped

through the pages and tested their new colors was a moment of pure joy.

This project was more than just a donation; it was about building connections, understanding their world, and celebrating their abilities. Through Cherish the Child, we aimed to show that a small act of kindness can have a profound effect. The experience not only brought smiles to their faces but also left us motivated to continue making a difference in the lives of those who need it the most.

As Rotaractors, we believe that meaningful service extends beyond donating. It is about cherishing the people we serve, inspiring them to reach their full potential, and motivating them to build a better future. Service is about making relationships, encouraging others, and instilling a sense of belonging. We hope to inspire confidence to leave a lasting impact by emphasizing their talents and unique qualities via kindness, understanding, and a shared commitment to the community.



TWILIGHT RAVE '24

RAC AMERICAN NATIONAL COLLEGE

The Rotaract Club of American National College proudly hosted its signature year-end celebration, Twilight Rave 2024, marking the third consecutive edition of this highly anticipated event. Held at the prestigious Kingsbury Hotel on the 29th of December, the night was a grand affair, bringing together elegance, entertainment, and unforgettable memories. With a vibrant atmosphere and an exclusive guest list of 100 attendees, Twilight Rave once again proved to be the pinnacle of year-end festivities. The event was designed to provide an immersive experience, featuring a seamless blend of music, dance, and entertainment.



One of the highlights of Twilight Rave 2024 was the live music segment, which provided a platform for a young and enthusiastic band to showcase their talent. This initiative not only entertained the attendees but also upheld the club's commitment to supporting emerging artists by giving them a prestigious stage to perform. Following the band's performance, a dynamic DJ took over, ensuring the dance floor remained lively

throughout the night with an electrifying mix of tracks that kept the crowd engaged and entertained.

The event also featured an indulgent buffet, offering a diverse array of gourmet dishes that catered to the varied tastes of the attendees. The culinary experience was a key element of the night, further enhancing the overall grandeur of the celebration.

As the night unfolded, the atmosphere was filled with joy, laughter, and a sense of togetherness. Attendees had the opportunity to socialize, make new connections, and celebrate the year's achievements in a glamorous setting. The seamless execution, engaging performances, and lively ambiance created an event that will be cherished for years to come.

As the night came to a close, Twilight Rave 2024 was celebrated as a resounding success, reinforcing its status as a hallmark event of the Rotaract Club of American National College. With another successful edition in the books, Twilight Rave continues to set the benchmark for high-class celebrations, leaving attendees eagerly awaiting the next chapter in its legacy.



RElevate

RAC APIIT

"Leadership is an action, not a position."

The Rotaract Club of APIIT was recently motivated by the principle embodied in the above quote and this blossomed an initiative that has empowered the active members in our youth-led Club. Hence, RElevate came into being with the sole purpose of empowering the active members to design and execute projects under any one of the main avenues of their choice – Club Service, Community Service, Professional Development, International Service, Sports and Recreational Activities or Public Relations. RElevate was all about providing a platform for our members to develop crucial leadership skills while making a tangible contribution to the overall success of the Club.



As a result, three distinct teams, comprised entirely of active general



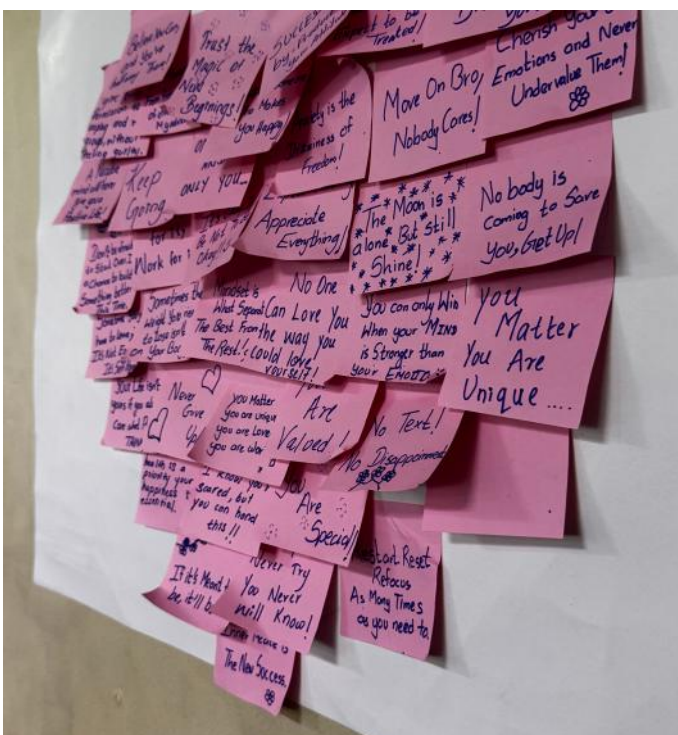
members, emerged – Green, Yellow, and Red. Having given complete freedom to develop the idea and objective for each initiative, the teams subsequently came up with three unique projects, each focusing on a unique community need. Team Green organized an awareness session on suicide prevention, addressing a pressing and critical societal issue whilst respecting the sensitivity surrounding the topic. Team Yellow developed a Treasure Hunt through APIIT, and aimed to foster teamwork, problem-solving, and community engagement. Team Red chose to commemorate International Men's Day with a workshop that highlighted men's well-being and promoted positive masculinity.



Over a period of one-month, each team was responsible for all aspects of their project from role assigning to initial planning to budget development to execution and promotion. This allowed them a chance to create detailed project plans with the assistance of the Director of Membership Development and Retention and the Executive Team. This process provided them invaluable experience in learning to LEAD – Learn, Evolve, Adapt, and Deliver.

The overarching objective of RElevate was to cultivate leaders among the general members and to strengthen the Club's presence in the movement in the future by placing them in roles of responsibility and enhancing their abilities in teamwork, communication, and time management. Ultimately, RElevate underscores the Club's commitment to develop well-rounded individuals who are skilled leaders.

This is leadership in action, and the resulting benefits are far-reaching.



CHRISTMAS GIFT BOX

RAC KANDY

“The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.”
– Oscar Wilde

The spirit of giving and the joy of making a difference came alive on the 21st of December 2024, as the Rotaract Club of Kandy successfully carried out Project Christmas Gift Box—an annual initiative that has been executed by the club for 10+ years, dedicated to spreading warmth and hope among children in need. This year, the project reached the hearts of young students at a rural school in Hulunganga, ensuring they step into the new year with essential school supplies and a new sense of motivation.



Understanding that education is a powerful tool for change, the club planned this initiative to provide the children with stationery and school essentials, equipping them for a brighter academic journey. The sight of their eager hands unwrapping their gift boxes, eyes lighting up with excitement, was a heartwarming reminder of why such efforts matter.

Beyond just supplies, the project aimed to inspire these young minds to dream big, knowing that there are people who believe in their potential.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible generosity of our donors and well-wishers. Their contributions turned this initiative into a reality, making a tangible impact on the lives of these children. Every pencil, notebook, and colour set gift carried with it the hope for a better tomorrow and a future filled with opportunities.

As Project Christmas Gift Box continues to be an annual tradition, the Rotaract Club of Kandy remains committed to making meaningful contributions to society. With each passing year, we strive to extend our reach, ensuring that more children experience the magic of giving and receiving.

Looking forward to many more impactful projects that bring hope, happiness, and change!



MOONLIGHT & MISTLETOE '24

RAC EXCELLENCE

Moonlight & Mistletoe is a heartfelt initiative by the Rotaract Club of Excellence, dedicated to celebrating Christmas in a meaningful way. Since its inception in 2016, this annual project has grown into a cherished tradition, spreading love, laughter, and care to the elderly. Over the years, it has touched countless hearts, ensuring that no one feels forgotten during the most festive season of the year.

The 7th edition, held on December 28, 2024, brought together volunteers, corporate sponsors, and generous donors to make a meaningful impact. Planning began on December 1st, with the committee working tirelessly to ensure every detail was perfect.



A Day of Smiles, Music, and Compassion

On a bright December morning, volunteers arrived at Sri Lankadhara Elders Home in Wellawatte, greeted by warm smiles. The day started with a hearty breakfast, generously sponsored by Caravan Fresh Bakers. Among the volunteers, the young daughter of Ms. Rahunuma quickly became a favorite among the grandmothers, adding a special touch to the morning.

Health and well-being was a key

focus of the day. With the support of Dr. Thanuja and aspiring nurse Rtr. Dumini, a medical checkup was conducted, providing essential health screenings and consultations. The compassionate care offered reinforced the club's dedication to holistic well-being.

By noon, a delicious homemade lunch, lovingly prepared by Rtr. Divine's mother was served. Volunteers fed the elderly with warmth and care, creating a deeply moving moment that highlighted the power of human connection.

A Festive Grand Finale

As the afternoon unfolded, Christmas carols filled the air, setting the stage for a special visit from Santa Claus, who arrived with gifts for every resident. The elders' faces lit up with pure joy as they unwrapped their presents, embodying the true spirit of the season.

Before concluding, Rtr. Yehan Rathnayake delivered a heartfelt thank-you speech, expressing gratitude to all donors, sponsors, and volunteers, with special recognition for Caravan Fresh Bakers, Pelwatte Dairy Industries Limited, and everyone who contributed to making the day unforgettable.



ENDOMETRIOSIS

RAC COLOMBO NORTH

Endometriosis is a silent battle fought by millions of women; chronic, painful, and often overlooked. Project Endometriosis is set out to change that.

A partnership between the Rotaract Club of Colombo North and the Endometriosis Support and Advocacy Foundation (ESAF), this initiative was more than a fundraiser. It was a movement to raise awareness, break stigma, and spark conversations.



A Fundraising Success with Real Impact

Numbers have a story to tell, and this one speaks volumes. The initiative raised an impressive LKR 1,219,416—a result of generous donations (LKR 919,500) and participant registration fees (LKR 295,000). After covering essential event costs, including T-shirts (LKR 33,180), event management (LKR 65,000), and many other expenditures, the project ended with a net profit of LKR 1,013,398—a significant sum that will directly fund research

efforts and provide crucial support for women affected by endometriosis.

A Journey of Awareness and Empowerment

More than a run, it was a statement. Over 200 participants, including Miss Universe Sri Lanka 2024, united at Independence Square for a 5 km route, amplifying the cause. Digital campaigns reached thousands, encouraging women to seek medical advice without hesitation. The message was clear: You are not alone. It's okay to ask for help.

Partners, Sponsors, and a Unified Effort

Major sponsors like Nestomalt, Muve, Ninewells Hospital, Bours, and Lovikta ensured the event's success. The World Endometriosis Organization provided guidance, and medical professionals advocated for better diagnostics and treatments.



The Impact – More Than Just Awareness

Project Endometriosis catalyzed change. Families now openly discuss women's health, workplaces offer support, and Rotaract clubs amplify the message. Funds raised will support research and services, ensuring lasting impact.



The Future of Women's Health Advocacy

The funds raised, the awareness created, and the partnerships forged are just the beginning of a long-term mission to elevate women's health issues to the forefront of healthcare policy and practice.

This project aligns directly with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—specifically SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality)—and demonstrates the power of local action in contributing to global change. Through these, Project Endometriosis became a catalyst for long-term transformation.

ASKING FOR IT?: ADVOCACY BEYOND BLAME

RAC HORIZON CAMPUS

The Rotaract Club of Horizon Campus, in collaboration with the Leo Club of Horizon Campus, spearheaded a powerful initiative titled “Asking for It”, addressing the critical issues of sexual assault and victim-blaming. Held at the KCM Auditorium on November 3, 2024, this event served as a platform for advocacy, awareness, and action, bringing together experts from legal, medical, and social sectors to engage in meaningful discourse.



A compelling panel discussion, moderated by Ms. Chiranthi Senanayake, Attorney-at-Law, featured distinguished speakers: Mr. Hans Billimoria, who provided key insights on consent and victim support; Ms. Kanishka Balapatabendi, who examined legal protections and justice mechanisms; and Dr. Ashinka Dunuthilaka, who explored the medical and psychological consequences of sexual violence. Their collective expertise offered a comprehensive perspective on the systemic challenges faced by survivors.

The event also featured the exclusive premiere of the music video ‘අයෙහි වැරදි’ (Transl. – ‘Is It her fault?’) by Mr. Saswiru Sahaswin, a poignant artistic expression

that underscored the damaging impact of victim-blaming. Additionally, a self-defense workshop conducted by Mr. Wasantha Bandara and his team provided participants with practical skills to enhance personal safety and empowerment.

The interactive session that followed encouraged over 50 engaged participants to critically analyze real-life case studies, fostering a deeper understanding of sexual assault dynamics. Through open discussions and scenario-based learning, attendees were urged to challenge societal misconceptions and advocate for survivor-centric approaches.

By facilitating such an impactful initiative, the Rotaract Club of Horizon Campus reaffirmed its commitment to social responsibility and justice. The workshop element of “Asking for It” concluded with a strong call to action, urging attendees to champion a culture of awareness, accountability, and respect, ultimately working towards a safer and more equitable society.



සෙනෙසේ පියවර

RAC KANDY METROPOLITAN

A step taken with love can change a life forever. A wheel that moves forward can bring new hope. “සෙනෙසේ පියවර” (Steps of Compassion) is more than just a project—it’s a promise, a movement, and a heartfelt journey led by the Rotaract Club of Kandy Metropolitan.



Imagine a life where every small movement is a struggle. For those with limited mobility, a wheelchair is not just a chair—it’s a second chance, a newfound independence, and a doorway to endless possibilities. This is why, as the first phase of this initiative, over 80 wheelchairs valued at over LKR 4.5 Million were donated to the Rehabilitation Hospital in Digana—one of only two specialized rehabilitation hospitals in Sri Lanka. With each wheelchair, the club offered not just mobility; they gifted freedom, dignity, and the ability to embrace life anew.

But the journey doesn’t end here. “සෙනෙසේ පියවර” is not just about giving; it’s about transforming lives. The next

phases will take this mission even further by renovating hospital wards in another facility that desperately needs support. These hospitals serve as lifelines for those recovering from injuries, disabilities, and life-altering conditions. By improving their facilities, we don’t just build walls and beds; we rebuild hope, restore comfort, and remind these patients that they are not alone.

This is a call to action—an invitation to be part of something bigger than ourselves. Whether by lending a hand, spreading the word, or contributing to the cause, each one of us has the power to turn compassion into action. The wheels are in motion, and the journey has begun. Let’s take more steps together, one act of kindness at a time, because true impact starts with a single step, and sometimes, a single wheel.



GROVE GREEN 24

RAC UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA

Mangrove forests, which act as natural green barriers along the coasts of Sri Lanka, are essential for safeguarding against erosion, storm surges, and coastal winds. Despite their significant ecological and economic importance, over half of these essential ecosystems have undergone considerable degradation. In response to this issue, the Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa launched "Grove Green 24," an extensive mangrove restoration initiative aimed at conserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and empowering local communities. Based in Kalutara, the project thoughtfully planted more than 100 vulnerable "*Bruguiera gymnorhiza*" mangrove species, known for their resilience to coastal environments and ability to mitigate eutrophication.



In addition to restoration efforts, "Grove Green 24" tackled socio-environmental challenges by integrating conservation with community involvement. Mangroves function not just as ecosystems; they are vital sources of food, wood, and tourism for coastal populations. By collaborating with the Rotary "One Million Trees" initiative and Clean Ocean Force Lanka, the project broadened its scope, addressing global biodiversity issues and fostering environmental stewardship. The initiative promoted awareness through public relations campaigns, highlighting the crucial function of mangroves in climate resilience and coastal defense. These activities established a



balanced approach to ecological preservation while enhancing economic opportunities.

The societal advantages of “Grove Green 24” will have lasting impacts. In the near term, it raised awareness regarding the importance of mangrove conservation, while solidifying the Rotaract Club’s position as a leader in innovative environmental initiatives. In the long run, the project aids in the restoration of Sri Lanka’s mangrove ecosystems, reinforces natural coastal defenses, and helps alleviate the effects of climate change. It also encourages collaboration among communities, volunteers, and environmental agencies, laying the groundwork for sustainable conservation efforts. As mangroves, known as the “blue lungs” of the world, regain their strength, “Grove Green 24” paves the way for a greener, more resilient future where humanity and nature coexist in harmony.



FINANCE 360°

RAC UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

The financial industry is evolving at an incredible pace and staying ahead requires both knowledge and adaptability. To prepare students for this dynamic field, the Professional Development Avenue of the Rotaract Club of University of Colombo Faculty of Management and Finance in collaboration with Asia Securities (Pvt.) Ltd., organized Finance 360°, a workshop that combined real-world financial expertise with academic learning.



Targeting second year undergraduates, the event attracted over 500 participants, offering a platform to explore emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in the financial world. What made Finance 360° truly unique was its ability to empower students with practical skills while sparking their interest in continuous learning, ensuring they are well-prepared for their careers.

The workshop brought together a stellar lineup of speakers from Asia

Securities, each covering critical aspects of the financial industry. Ms. Sonella Dasanayake, Vice President of Equity Sales introduced participants to the fundamentals of equity markets, trading mechanisms and practical investment strategies. Participants then delved deeper into the technical aspects of finance, with Mr. Hilal Zainudeen and Mr. Shadir Jannath, Co-Heads of Research, guiding them through financial modelling and valuation techniques—essential tools for any aspiring finance professional. The session on wealth management, led by Mr. Avancka Herat, CEO of Wealth Management captivated participants with insights on risk management, portfolio diversification and the workings of bonds and unit trusts. Following this, Ms. Nadika Ranasinghe, CEO of Investment Banking provided an insider's perspective on the world of investment banking, while Mr. Sanjeeva Fernando, Chief Strategist shed light on the evolving banking sector, covering everything from regulations to technological innovations.



Finance 360° was more than a workshop—it was a transformative experience that connected students with industry experts, fostering relationships to shape their careers. By bridging academic knowledge with practical applications, the event set a benchmark for professional development, inspiring participants to embrace lifelong learning, adapt to industry changes and confidently navigate the evolving financial landscape as future leaders.



DANABHIWANDANA: PHASE 2

RAC CINEC CAMPUS

The Rotaract Club of CINEC Campus conducted Danabhiwandana Phase 2 through a launch event on November 24, 2024, within the National Bhikkhu Centre for Health Care located in Galaha, Kandy. Through this project, the club maintained its dedication to performing community service and supporting environmental preservation functions and cultural heritage preservation activities.



A Shramadana initiative served as the main focus of the project, which allowed volunteers to clean and maintain the temple facilities to create an appropriate setting for bhikkhus and temple guests. Through this initiative, club members developed both teamwork skills and a sense of social duty. A significant achievement involved the distribution along with the planting of 50 herbal and flowering plants. The temple gained enhanced surroundings through the selected plants that served medicinal purposes and had aesthetic value while teaching visitors about environmental responsibility. The temple residents used

white flowers as a symbol of purity along with natural herbal remedies for medicinal purposes.

The club also contributed essential food items together with dry rations and walking sticks to ensure the well-being of resident bhikkhus. The daily necessities the project provided allowed the temple community to endure and maintain its cultural heritage and functions. Through its alignment with SDGs, the initiative achieved natural waste management and tree plantation for environmental protection alongside offering herbal



resources for health benefits and fostering both community service and religious coexistence. The initiative built up Rotaract member unity by promoting teamwork together with compassion and leadership development.



Danabhiwandana Phase 2 went beyond offering service because it showcased the strength of teamwork along with sustainability practices and cultural awareness. The Rotaract Club of CINEC Campus dedicated themselves to establishing an enduring effect that will guarantee the preservation of compassion and fellowship principles. Future community projects will benefit from this initiative, which proves that individual acts of service provide meaningful, sustainable transformations in local communities.

අපේ කෙනෙක්: FINDING LIGHT IN UNEXPECTED PLACES

RAC UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA

October 5th, 2024 was not an ordinary Saturday for us Pera Rotaractors – it was the day of our project, “අපේ කෙනෙක්”, which took us to the Psychiatry Unit of Peradeniya Teaching Hospital. There, we shared a meaningful day of creativity and connection with the patients receiving mental health treatment. Rather than emphasizing differences, we aimed at igniting the thought that they were not separate from us, but rather one of us, with unique and diverse inner worlds.

The goal of අපේ කෙනෙක් was to create a safe space where these patients could express themselves freely, with guidance of love and support. In a world where initiatives like this are rare, we ventured forward, to offer these individuals a chance to heal not just physically, but emotionally.

remained hopeful about their lives and seemed at peace with their challenges, which was inspiring to us as well.



The female patients showed childlike honesty, openly sharing their life experiences with us. While some of them were direct with their words, some expressed their worlds through art and poetry. Despite their struggles, they

The male ward was equally memorable. Some patients struggled with frustration, yet there was kindness in their eyes. We met one patient who was passionate about geography and shared his knowledge with us so eagerly that it revealed how much he loved it. These patients, too, longed to connect and share their thoughts through art, each one holding a different story.

Before leaving, we held a music session, singing both Sinhala and Tamil songs with the female patients. They sang without hesitation, reminding us how freeing music can be. Their joy filled the room, and in that moment, we were all connected. Each one of them was truly one of us!

As we bid farewell, the patients offered us their blessings full of warmth, their gratitude evident in their smiles. This experience reminded us of how powerful simple companionship can be and how sometimes a visit can be a source of light for those who often feel forgotten, and for us as well, who are exhausted by our day-to-day lives.



AKHANKARA

RAC FACULTY OF SCIENCE UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO

Imagine a ripple effect, one act of dedication expanding to transform entire communities. For twelve years, the Community Service Avenue of Rotaract Club of the Faculty of Science, University of Colombo, has been creating such ripples through Akhankara standing true to its meaning "Aspirations". Akhankara is a project dedicated to empowering underprivileged students in Sri Lanka through academic support in key subjects, enhancing school facilities, and offering guidance and mentorship to help students reach their full potential. This multi-faceted approach addresses both immediate educational needs and long-term career prospects.



wrapped up, with over 50 volunteers dedicating more than 500 hours across 15 weekends to support students preparing for their G.C.E Ordinary Level exams. Interactive revision sessions covered Science, Mathematics, and English, complemented by English teaching sessions led by the Gavel Club of the University of Colombo and hands-on science practical workshops facilitated by the Chemical Society of the University of Colombo. With Phase II underway, Akhankara now focuses on exam preparation through a specialized paper seminar series. Looking ahead, Phase III will provide career guidance and a leadership camp, empowering students to navigate their future academic and professional journey.



Now in its 12th edition, Akhankara is currently underway at Illukovita Kanishta Vidyalaya, Avissawella, continuing its commitment to holistic student development. The project is structured into three phases, each designed to support students at different stages of their academic journey.

Phase I of Akhankara recently





Akhankara's impact on Illukovita Kanishta Vidyalaya is undeniable. Improved exam results have boosted higher education enrollment, which is fueling local economic growth. The project has also attracted resources, resulting in new buildings, a laboratory, and equipment. Akhankara advances SDGs like Quality Education and Decent Work, aligning with Rotary's focus on Basic Education and Community Economic Development. More than just a project, Akhankara is an investment in the future – igniting aspirations and empowering the next generation to achieve their full potential.

REIDSHADOWS: DRACULA'S 199TH BIRTHDAY BASH

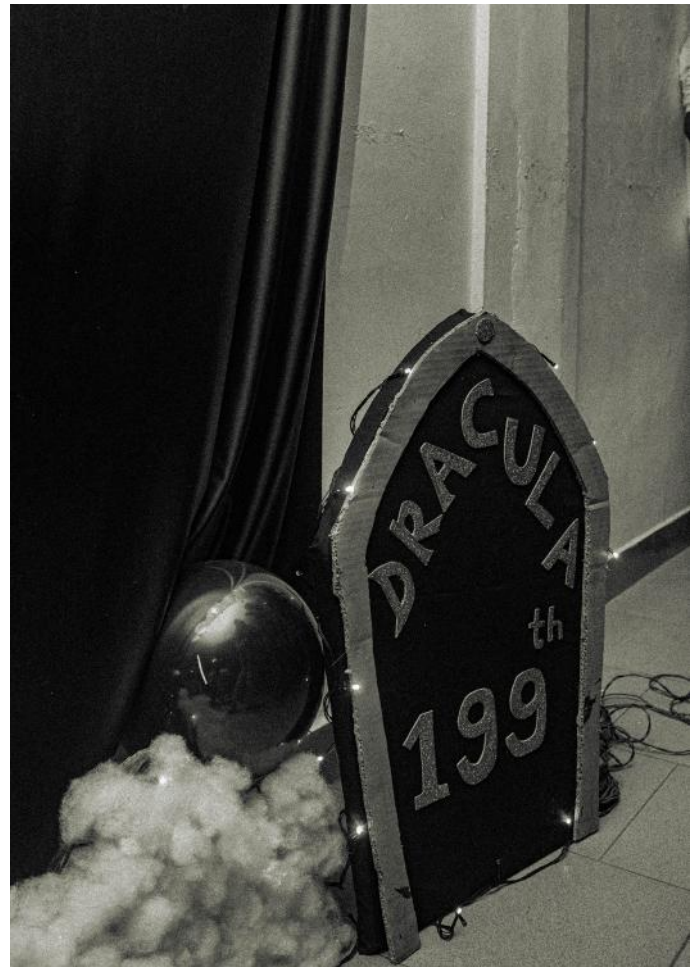
RAC UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

The J.R. Jayawardhana Centre was transformed into a gothic wonderland when the Rotaract Club of the University of Colombo, School of Computing hosted ReidShadows: Dracula's 199th Birthday Bash on December 18, 2024. It perfectly merged the eerie charm of Halloween with Christmas cheer, hence promising an unforgettable evening full of creativity, fun, and laughter.



From the moment the guests stepped in, they were introduced into Dracula's world. Red and black dominated the decoration, with dark drapes, spooky props, and dim lighting creating the perfect gothic atmosphere. Adding some festive elements gave it a twist by merging horror with holiday cheer. From the red-and-black dress code, everyone looked like they'd stepped into Dracula's castle, and guests indeed embraced the theme, donning everything from classic vampires and witches to gothic Santa twists and spooky elves.

Other events that wowed the night included the King and Queen of Shadows competition, whereby people were dressed in elaborately designed costumes, props, and bold makeup. The crowd cheered for the winners because of their ingenuity and adherence to the theme. Game shows, face painting, and a themed photo booth also formed part of the activities. Equipped with gothic backdrops and props, the photo booth ensured that everyone went home with spooky yet stunning snapshots.



The night continued with the haunting beats of DJ Dilan, who mixed them with energetic tunes. The dance floor was never empty. The guests enjoyed the festivity and spookiness to the fullest, which made it unforgettable. Again, the effort of the Club Services Avenue of the Rotaract Club was reflected in every minute detail, from decor to entertainment.



The night came to an end at 10:00 PM, and guests left with smiles and memories. It was a perfect merge of Halloween and Christmas—proof that even two completely different holidays could create magic. With Dracula turning 200 next year, excitement has already grown for an even bigger, spookier, and more spectacular celebration. If this year's event is anything to go by, the next bash is going to be truly legendary—a bash nobody will want to miss!



A WORD FROM THE EDITORS



It is with great pleasure that the District Public Relations and Editorial Team of Rotaract Tales, detailing all things Rotaract in Quarter 2 of the RI Year 2024-25. The Cranberry Tale achievements of our movement. We proudly aim to share the message of Rotaract with a exposure for their impactful initiatives.

This edition will focus on all activities initiated and executed between October and D “Magic of Rotary” to life.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the team who worked tirelessly to bring this news its content.

To all Rotaract clubs in RID 3220, we kindly invite you to write to us! Share your project story of Rotaract is vast and inspiring; let us add your chapter to it!

District Editorial Team 2024-25
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Sri Lanka & Maldives



ct in RID 3220 for the RI Year 2024-25 present the Rotaract District Newsletter, the Cranberry
s is an initiative by The Rotaract District Steering Committee to showcase the remarkable
a wider audience, providing Rotaract clubs within RID 3220 the opportunity to gain greater

December 2024, celebrating the dedication and commitment of Rotaractors in bringing the

etter to fruition, and to the clubs and Rotaractors whose creativity and efforts have enriched

cts, your achievements, and the stories of how you have transformed your community. The

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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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