

# Lions District 306C2 honours Melvin Jones

**O**n January 13, 2008, at Waters' Edge, Capital City, District 306C2 led by Lions Club of Pannipitiya Central organized the celebration of the 129th birthday of the founder of Lionism Melvin Jones.

The Chief Guest was District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana accompanied by the First Lady of the District Lion Lalani Baddevithana. Guests of Honour were International Director Lion Asoka de Z. Gunasekera and Vice District Governor Lion Buddheni de Z. Gunasekera. The event was chaired by Lion PremSri

Hewawasam of Pannipitiya Central Lions Club with a five member committee comprising of Club President Lion Uditha Maddumage, Lion Sarathchandra Samaranyaka, Lion Shamal Wijegunawardena and Lion Sanath Planagoda. The District Governor praised the club for organizing this event to prove that the greatest strength of the Association comes from its life-blood, which is the Lions Clubs.

Melvin Jones was born on January 13, 1879, at Fort Thomas in Arizona by 1913, at age 33 he was the sole owner of his own insurance agency in Chicago, Illinois and joined the Business

Circle, and was elected its secretary. This group was one of many at that time devoted solely to promoting the financial interests of their membership. Because of their limited appeal, they were destined to disappear. Melvin Jones, however, had other plans. "What if these men," he asked, "who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities?"

On June 7, 1917, Lions Clubs International was born with 27 clubs from around the United States. It was stipulated that clubs were not to be social in nature nor were members permitted to promote their own business interests.

The Association became international in 1920, when the Lions of Detroit chartered the Windsor Ontario Lions Club in Canada.

In 1950, Melvin Jones was conferred the title of Secretary General of Lions International for life. The association's founder was also recognized as a leader outside the association. In 1945 he represented Lions Clubs International as a consultant in San Francisco, California, at the organization of the United Nations.

Melvin Jones, who became a guiding light for public-spirited people the world over, died on June 1, 1961 at 82 years of age.

His philosophy of life, "you can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else," lives in our motto "We Serve."

In 1961 the International Board of Director proclaimed January 13 as a "Day of Memory" each year throughout the world of Lionism. Founders and Rededication month traditionally observed in January shall thereafter be



District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana and Lion Lady Lalani are received by Project Chairman Lion PremSri Hewawasam.



Cutting the birthday cake in honour of Lion's Founder Melvin Jones by the Chief Guest District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana, Guest of Honour Past International Director Lion Asoka de Z. Gunasekera and Event Chairman Lion PremSri Hewawasam.



District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana addresses Lions and Lion Ladies. Also in the pictures are Lion Sarathchandra Samaranyaka, Guest of Honour Lion Asoka de Z. Gunasekera, Vice District Governor Lion Buddheni de Z. Gunasekera, Chairman of Organizing Committee Lion PremSri Hewawasam, Lion's Club President Uditha Maddumage, Lion Shamal Wijegunawardena and Lion Sanath Planagoda.



Lions Club of Colombo Sommerset, together with their Leos, visited the Cancer Hospital, Maharagama. Toys were presented to all children. In the picture from left Leo President, Dihanara Jayanetti, Lion Dr. Thilaka Liyanage, Lion President, Stalini Senanayaka and Leo Shavidiya.



The "Universal Association for Peace and Love" (UAPL) which had carried out a number of service projects for the benefit of the underprivileged, opened a nursery at Mahiyangana. The UAPL also built a community hall at Kuliyaipitya. In the picture is Director, UAPL, Ms. Ursula Beier at the opening of the nursery at Mahiyangana.

## Health camp held at Sigiri Vidyalaya



At a health camp held at Sigiri Vidyalaya Dambulla six hundred calibrated spectacles were distributed among the needy and 65 cataract operations were also performed at the Base Hospital Dambulla recently.

## Junior Chamber General Meeting

Amidst the grandeur of the Cinnamon Grand hotel the National Board of the JCISL was sworn in by the National President JCI Senator Niroshan Silva. The past world president, senate chairman, past national presidents and many other distinguished personalities gathered for the ceremony and added much importance to the event. Junior Chamber International (Jaycees or JCISL) being a worldwide federation of young professionals and entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 40, was established in Sri Lanka in the year 1954. Ever since JCISL has given many thousands of youth the opportunity to develop themselves into responsible citizens. Our customized & demand driven training programmes provide members and the general public with the highest standards of training and personal development opportunities. This year the National Presidents theme is "Making your Dreams come

True". National president Niroshan says "...Every one of us have dreams...things we have wanted to do...places we have wanted to be...feelings we have wanted to experience. They remain dreams unless we have the tenacity and persistence to make it a reality. The youth of our nation, who's dreams are tormented on a daily basis, needs a guiding star to realize their potential in life. We as JCI need to create the climate for that transformation and also create the opportunity for this integration in our projects and activities. Through the ambitious program set forth together with the team this year, the chapters have rallied around give of their best to achieve the targets of perfection. E.g. 100% membership increase and the like. JCISL will continue to be a leading force in this millennium having a major positive impact on the lives of young people, and shaping the country to be a better place to live in peace and harmony.

## Rotarians in Kandy improve Bahirawakanda school

The Rotary Club of Kandy Metropolitan recently undertook a project to improve the facilities of the Madhama Bandara Vidyalaya, Bahirawakanda, Kandy.

This is a small school which has only 90 students mostly from underprivileged families in the area. The Club renovated the school with the help of the Rotary Club of Taipei, Taiwan.

The Club provided library facilities, science equipment, uniforms, shoes, computers, home science facilities, better toilets, chairs and tables, steel cupboards etc. Sports equipment and facilities were also provided. Moreover, the Club sponsored the school's first-ever prize giving. The Club's activities have motivated both teachers and students, four of



Here a school's staff member at the newly renovated staff room.

whom passed the Year 5 scholarship with excellent marks this year. The President of the Rotary Club of Kandy Metropolitan Paul Harris, Rotarians Joe Paiva, Timothy Paldano, Ruveni Wijeyatilake and Sunil Wickramanayake are taking a keen interest in the ongoing project.



Lions Clubs of Mirigama Metro presented two wheelchairs to needy persons of Pallewela. The wheelchairs were donated by American Lions. In the picture from left Lion Lady Sugandika Darmayanthi, Lion Sirikumara Kassthiraratchchi, President, Mirigama Lions Club, Lion Chula Fernando, District Coordinator, District Governor, 306 B2 Lion Mahesh Pasqual and Vice District Governor, Lion P. Jeyarajan.

## Lion Siri Liyanage Departure of another Great Lion

24 years of Lionistic services of founder member of Lions Club of Polgasowita came to an end with the demise of Lion Siri Liyanage popularly known as 'Siri'. It is with great sorrow the Lions of entire district pay last respect to this great lion today January 19, at the funeral to be held at Siyambalagoda, Polgasowita.



Lion Siri Liyanage

Lion Siri was a very active Lion who founded Lions Club of Polgasowita in 1984 and did a dedicated service to Lionism over last 24 years of his Lionistic career. He extended his great services to the mankind with utmost passion and dedication. It is our duty as Lions to make an appreciation of and give our honour to this humane leader.

- Among many credentials he has on to his credit we may recollect a few as follows;
- He was the Lion who did the transition of Lions constitution to Sinhala language in 1990/91 and dedicated efforts to promote Lionism in Sinhala speaking Lions clubs.
- Became the best Lions Clubs president District 306A-1990/91
- Built two Lions villages - 'Sinha Gama' and 'Jayaliya Gama'
- The creator of very first club news bulletin - 'Sinha Handa' of the district.

- Editor of Sinhala Dictionary Department.
- Author of a Sinhala Dictionary
- Author of a Buddhist Dictionary
- Author of many other books, Novels, and Short stories
- 'Jana Vidya' - 1996
- 'Jana Shruiti' - 2000 which won presidential award in 2001
- Creator of Farmers' Pension Scheme while he was working as the Working Director of Agricultural Insurance Board.
- Lecturer at Ruhuna University Honored citizen of the country with recognition 'Maadya Kala Keerthi, Sahithiya Soori, Desha Banda'.
- Lions will pay their last respect to this dedicated lion. The funeral will take place today Saturday 19 at Siyambalagoda, Polgasowita.