

Ratnapura Lions sponsor projects at Sripada

District 306C2 is spread across a most interesting geographical landscape that has Sripada as its centre. Traversing the path of sunrise in the Eastern Province to the sunset in the Western Province through Uva, Central and Sabaragamuwa Provinces, District with 98 Lions Clubs, 306C2 is the largest District in Sri Lanka.

The members of Lions Club Ratnapura have the rare distinction and privilege of carrying out many invaluable projects such as the installation of the Gem Crystal on the sacred pagoda above the venerated footprint of the Buddha by present Region Chairperson Lion Gamin Ratnasakera, and maintenance of electricity system and light bulbs that illuminate the path of pilgrimage to the peak of the sacred mountain.

President of Lions Club of Ratnapura Lion A. V. Dassanayake was the organizer of the Nawam Poya observances at Sripada Peak including the provision of alms to the devotees observing Poya precepts of the day.

District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevitthana and Deputy Cabinet Secretary Lion Prabha Dharamaratne had the rare privilege



Worshipping the Sacred Foot Print of the Buddha are (from left) Deputy Cabinet Secretary Lion Prabha Dharamaratne, Club President Ratnapura Lion A. V. Dassanayake, and District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevitthana.

of taking part in this special project to witness the invaluable patronage of this unique mountain of the highest veneration in Sri Lanka. Sripada is situated in the Ratnapura District.

It is about 7500 ft high, and though it is the second highest peak in the land, its position in relation to the topography is so dominant that it stands out above all others as a symbol of perfection.



Club President Ratnapura Lion A. V. Dassanayake's contribution by way of construction examined by District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevitthana.



District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevitthana with the offering to the Sacred Footprint of the Buddha.



Club President Ratnapura Lion A. V. Dassanayake and District Governor Lion Dr. Priyanka Baddevitthana with the offering to the Sacred Footprint of the Buddha.

Wattala Lions Health Camp

The Lions Club of Wattala conducted a Health Camp and seminar on road safety and public security awareness, at Ganemulla last Sunday. It was held at Nadun-Uvama, Ganemulla. Over 125 patients were treated free of charge and medicines given free.

The patients were treated by Dr. Ms. Poojanie Illangasinghe of St. Peter's Hospital, Ragama. Dr. Dharshana Mohotti, Medical Officer-in-Charge of the Leprosy Hospital, Hendala and Dr. Pradeep Weerasinghe of the Ragama Hospital. The road safety seminar was conducted at Kossinna

Lions and Lady Lions of the club took an active part in the project, under the guidance of Lion Mevan Algama.



Patients being treated by Dr. Poojanie Illangasinghe and Dr. Dharshana Mohotti. Standing in the picture from left are Asst. Treasurer and Secretary, Lion Mangala Rodrigo, Second Vice President, Lion Adrian Perumal, Lion A.H.M. Mukthar, President, Wattala Lions Club, Lion Mevan Algama and Project Chairman, Lion Dian Wijesuriya.

Raja Maha Vihayala, Parakandeniya, Imbulgoda, under the patronage of Ven. Udugampola Gunananda Thera, Chief Incumbent of Sri Seelalandam Daham Pasala.

Lions and Lady Lions of the Wattala Lions Club took an active part in the project, under the guidance of President, Wattala Lions Club, Lion Mevan Algama. The Project Chairman was Lion Dian Wijesuriya. The project was a big success with a large number of people par-



OIC Ganemulla Police, Chief Inspector, Vasantha Jayasundera delivering a lecture on road safety and public security awareness. Also present from left are President, Wattala Lions Club, Lion Mevan Algama, Project Chairman, Lion Dian Wijesuriya and Board Member, Lion Hugh Samarasinghe.



Dr. Dharshana Mohotti, Medical Officer in Charge of Leprosy Hospital, delivers a lecture on heart ailments. Pix Beverley Jansz



Rtn. Nirmali Samararatunga President Rotary Club of Colombo, donating books to a child from the Sri Sanghabodi MV. Also present are the Principal, Sri Sanghabodi Maha Vidyalaya and Rotarians from Rotary Club of Matale who joined Colombo Rotarians on this project.

Rotary Club of Colombo reaches out to little ones

Beverley Jansz

The Rotary Club of Colombo the first and oldest Club in Sri Lanka (District 3220) has focused their service activities for the '07/08 Rotary Year, particularly towards children, recognizing the vital importance of nurturing and developing children in our country, who are our future generation.

With this in view, several projects have been undertaken in key areas over the last several months. Education has taken a key place, with emphasis on literacy, where a functional literacy project to set up and upgrade libraries in 20 rural schools has been launched. The books given, will place emphasis on English reading material, with a view to strengthening English amongst these children. Side by side, it is planned to train the English teachers and librarians of these schools in the use of these books, so the books will have greater value to the children. Similarly, focus has been placed on strengthening IT Literacy amongst schoolchildren and a Computer Laboratory was recently set up at an tsunami affected school in Matara, the Welihara Muslim Maha Vidyalaya, with a donation of computers, furniture and equipment. Furthermore, IT Centres for school leavers to obtain basic IT training, have been launched in the law and Kurungala. Career guidance plays an important part in shaping a child's

future, and the Club organized a Career Guidance Seminar at Navaragahala on selected careers, for less privileged schools in and around Colombo. This was addressed by leading experts in these sectors and was well received. A follow up Seminar is planned, based on the enthusiastic response of the participants. Whilst strengthening these areas to support academic and career prospects for children, the Club has also addressed the need to develop their talents and skills. A Chess Tournament for schools in the Galle District, was organized by the Club together with the Rotary Club of Teddington UK. Giving less fortunate children an opportunity to have fun and enjoyment is also a regular annual activity of the Club, and this year too, a group of schoolchildren from the Vakara conflict area, were brought into Colombo and given a fun filled day including a visit to the zoo, amusement park as well as gifts of school shoes donated by DSI.

This is a much look forward event for the children in these areas. One of the major projects for the year involve rehabilitating street children, and the Club is supporting the "Rainbow Centre" Bentota which was set up after the tsunami, to rehabilitate and nurture the large number of children who were affected by the tsunami, but not entitled to assistance. The Centre currently provides daily education, medi-



District Governor Thariq Thulba hands over the Bus to Rainbow Centre Director Alison Nagel in the presence of Colombo Club Rotarians, President Elect Rtn. Col. Harindran and District Governor Elect Rtn. Nalin Fernando.



Children from the "Rainbow Centre" with the new Bus



Winners of Galle District Schools Chess Tournament Back Row - Rtns Rohan Karunaratne, Rtn. Nihal Wadugodapitiya Anil De Silva, President Galle District Chess Federation and other officials of participating schools.

cal care and welfare to over 1110 UK and 9450 W. Australia donated a bus to the Centre, to enable the Centre to better service needs of the children. Other very valuable Projects have also been undertaken by the Club in the areas of healthcare and

"Empowering Women" District 306 A-2 Governor Kamal Seneviratne's Program

To mark the International Women's Day, Lions Clubs of District 306A2 conducted a special project for inmates of Welikada Prison. The day's program included awareness of good habits, welfare program for inmates and their little children, distribution of gift parcels etc.

District Governor, 306A-2, Lion Kamal Seneviratne and his First Lady, Lion Delrusa, Special Delegate from Germany, Leo Amette Van Hoeff and Achala Siyambalapatiya, wife of Deputy Finance Minister, Ranjith Siyambalapatiya graced the occasion.

The Project Chairperson was Lion Chandra Dassanayake, President, Lions



Achala Siyambalapatiya, Leo Annette Van Hoeff, District Governor, 306A2, Lion Kamal Seneviratne, and First Lady Lion Delrusa are greeted by officials of the Welikada Prison.



Guests being entertained by kids of inmates of the women's Section, Welikada Prison



District Governor - Lion Kamal Seneviratne, lights the oil lamp to commence the project. Achala Siyambalapatiya, Lion Delrusa Seneviratne, Lion Chandra Dassanayake, Prison Commissioner R. Ratnayake, Prisons Superintendent Shelton Botenje and Chief Jailor of the Women's Section, Kumari Ratnaweera were also present.