

## Poverty stricken considered 'my own family members'

- New DG Deshabandu Hettiarachchi

Deshabandu Lion Diresch Hettiarachchi who returned to Sri Lanka from Bangkok after being appointed the new District Governor for District 306C1 at a distinguished gathering including Lions and Lion Ladies, and conducted to Colombo in a colourful procession.



DG Diresch Hettiarachchi making an offering at the Holy Mass and a section of the distinguished guests who attended the Holy Mass.

"I treat poverty stricken people of my district as members of my own family. I will keep no stone unturned to uplift their standard of living specially at grass roots level Deshabandu Diresch Hettiarachchi said. Both religious ceremonies were attended by a distinguished gathering including Agriculture and Marketing Development Deputy Minister Siripala Gamlath, Lions and Lion

Lion Ladies, and conducted to Colombo in a colourful procession. Deshabandu Diresch began his Lionistic career as District Governor for District 306 C1 at a Holy Mass at Infant Jesus Church, Colombo 2, and at a Bodhi Pooja at D. S. Senanayake "Chaitiya Boomiya", Polonnaruwa to invoke blessings on him and his family, for a very successful Lionistic career as District Governor 306C1, to create miracles through service to the needy.



Welcoming DG Hettiarachchi and First Lady Chandima at the Bandara International Airport.



DG Buddheni, husband Past International Director Lion Asoka Gunasekera and Immediate Past District Governor, Priyanka Baddevithana being welcomed at the BIA by key officials of her district, Lions and Lion Ladies.

## Warm welcome for Lion Buddheni Lanka's only female DG at IC Bangkok

Beverley Jansz

Lion Buddheni de Z. Gunasekera, the only female from Sri Lanka who took oaths as a District Governor, at the International Convention held in Bangkok, was given a warm welcome on her return to Sri Lanka, at the Bandara International Airport. Lion Buddheni, District Governor, District 306C2 was welcomed by key officials of her district, distinguished guests, Lions and Lion Ladies, after which religious ceremonies were held at Naga Viharaya, Kotte to invoke blessings on her and her family.

A unique feature at the International Convention held in Bangkok, was responsible in twinning her District 306C2 with District 105m, of the United Kingdom while in Bangkok,



DG Buddheni with husband Lion Asoka Gunasekera at the Dalada Maligawa.

DG Buddheni was responsible in twinning her District 306C2 with District 105m, of the United Kingdom while in Bangkok, under the guidance of International President, Mahendra Amarasuriya,

An active Lion, Buddheni's husband Lion Asoka de Z. Gunasekera is not only a past International Director, but also the guiding Lion who helps Buddheni "Create miracles" through service to the needy.

## Service Awards for District 306C2

Outstanding Lions of District 306C2 were presented awards in recognition of their services to the district. Awards were presented

by District Governor Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana to some very special clubs and Lions who made his vision for the dawn of a

golden era come true.

The awards of excellence were presented by the Chief Guest Past International President Dr. Tae Sup-Lee, District Governor Dr. Priyanka

and First Lady Lalani Baddevithana and International Director Asoka de Z. Gunasekera.



Lion of the year awarded to Lion Sandaka Lenagoda who was the team leader for 'Gift of Sight' through scientific eye screening. Chief Guest Dr. Tae Sup Lee and District Governor Dr. Priyanka Baddevithana made the presentation. Pictures by Beverley Jansz



Most outstanding Club President awarded to Lion Wirantha Hettiarachchi of LC Homagama Central, which was awarded as Most Outstanding Club, Chief Guest, District Governor and International Director Asoka de Z. Gunasekera made the presentations.

## Millennium Toastmasters Club achieves its goals

"Millennium Toastmasters Club began in the year 2000 (Thus the millennium), by Charter President Darshana Ranathunga.

Ever since the Millennium, the club has maintained its status as one of the most sort-after Toastmasters Clubs in the country, and has now embarked on its 8th year under President elect Ajantha Jayawardene.

The club mainly attracts the corporate heads and young professionals. The club has always strived to

make every member reach his/her potential, every speaker has different strengths and abilities in addition to areas for improvement, it is the club's goal to mutually support each speaker to realise these strengths.

Millennium Toastmasters Club has carried out several speech craft programs over the years, for Corporate and Universities and was also the first club to carry out a speech craft program for a school (St. Benedict's College, Colombo).

Over the years the club has also produced speech champions who have won in both local and international speech contests. The current Sri Lanka Division Governor Darshana Welikala is also a past president of this club and a current member. Other past presidents of the Club include, Ajitha Guneratne, Sudarshan Samarathne, Dev. Wijethunge Manjula Kumarasinghe & Darshana De Silva who have all contributed over the years to the success of this club."



Seated from left: Darshana Welikala (Division A - Governor), A. Balraj (District Governor - D82), James Moore (Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the USA), Darshana De Silva (President), Ajantha Jayawardene (President Elect 2008/2009).



Rev. Fr. Prageeth Chamara, Ven. Batagalle Panyakittithero, District Chairperson Lion Daya Wijesinghe Project Chairman, Lion Sarath Fernando from the Lions Club of Kotawalapura, Lion Chitra Perera from Lions Club of Kohuwala, Lion Lady Shanthy Wijesinghe and the officials of Deepaloka Welfare Association were also present. Pic. Nimal Perera Wattala group cor.

## Galkissa Lions conduct Eye Clinic

Lions Club of Galkissa in association with the Lions Clubs of Kohuwala and Kotawalapura held an eye

clinic at Balagala area in Hendala on a request made by the Deepaloka Welfare Association Balagala

## Miracles through Service - DG Nimal Rajapakse



District Governor 306B1, Lion Nimal Rajapakse hands over the sponsorship for the pre-school at Kathaluwa to Lion Sharmini Mathew who will sponsor the project with Club President, Lion Nigel de Lile.

The Lions Clubs International has identified more hands to undertake hands on projects and is promoting formation of new Lions Club and increase membership.

Lions Club of Colombo Oasis joins the Lions Clubs International family to do "Miracles through service and with love look to the needy," said District Governor 306B1, Lion Nimal Rajapakse M.J.F. DG Nimal was taking part as the Chief Guest at the Charter Presentation of the Lions Club of Colombo Oasis held at Holiday Inn Hotel Colombo last week.

DG Nimal said that he was certain that the experienced Lions Rohini, Ajantha and Amitha will steer the club to greater heights and be a very active club in District 306B1. He congratulated the Charter President, Lion Nigel de Lile



Little ones of Kathaluwa Pre-school.



District Governor 306B1, Lion Nimal Rajapakse M.J.F. presents the Charter to the President of the Lions Club of Colombo Oasis, Lion Nigel de Lile. Looking on is Vice District Governor 306B1, Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe. Pictures by Beverley Jansz

and Charter members who have courageously undertaken the challenge to work as a group. "My Lion Lady Geetha joins me wishing the President and members of the Lions Club of Colombo Oasis good future and years of Lionistic activities to live up to "We serve," said DG Nimal Rajapakse.

President, Lions Club of Colombo Oasis, Lion Nigel de Lile thanked the Lions Club of Hendala and Lions Club of Negombo Orient for sponsoring his club and giving them, an opportunity to serve the community through Lionism. "Our motto 'we serve' has never been so more appropriate than is today as people's needs have increased in leaps and bounds due to constant natural disasters and world recession, said Lion Nigel.

I recall with nostalgia our

first meeting where all of us in one voice agreed to make a conscious difference when selecting service projects.

They will not be the usual projects in close proximity to Colombo.

The main criteria will be to select neglected groups in society and stretch ourselves to be of service to them. The projects voted

were Mental Hospital, Angoda, Pre-school Centre Kathaluwa, Medical Camps in remote areas Induction to face the office environment, and guidance lectures for A/L students. "Our membership is yet small, but it is a prelect mix of young and old. Buddhist, Catholics, Hindus and Muslims, Professional and Housewives, experienced Lions and Novices, Immediate Past Governor 306B1, Vice District Governor, M.J.F. JP, Lion S. Raghavan M.J.F. JP, Vice District Governor, 306B1, Lion Lakshman Wijesinghe M.J.F. Guiding Lion Dr. Malcolm Stanislaus M.J.F. Region Chairman Lion S. Kuvavarathna M.J.F. and Zone Chairman Zone 1, Region 1, Lady Lion Nalini Kaneshayogan also addressed the gathering.

## The Rotary Club of Kandy helps them "Walk Again"

The Rotarians of the Rotary club of Kandy have once again completed yet another worthy humanitarian project in funding the cost of Artificial Limbs, Wheel Chairs, Orthosis and other Mobility Aids for poor under privileged and physically handicapped persons who are unable to afford same.

This project was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Graested together with the Rotary Clubs of Lillerod, Helsing, Rotary District 1470, Danish Rotary's Help Foundation in Denmark, Rotary Club of Pune Central in India, and further financial support through Rotary Foundation's Matching Grant Programme in a Project Budget of Rs.6.8 Million. Nearly 500 poor physically handicapped persons will "Walk once again" because of this major Rotary endeavour, initiated by Rtn. PDG Helge Andersen of RC Graested in the Netherlands.

There are well over 100,000 poor physically handicapped persons who desperately need Artificial Limbs.

They are currently hobbling on crutches, moving around on wheelchairs or sitting at home wasting their time. An artificial limb provides an amazing degree of freedom of movement and mobility and most of these limb recipients are able to lead near normal lives. In fact one would be amazed at



Children are able to play again