

Hendala Lions VTC 13 years of successful operations

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The Lions Vocational Training Centre Hendala, a club extended by Lions Club of Wattala along with the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka, celebrated 13 years of continued and successful training of youth in various disciplines.

This training centre is run by the Lions Club of Hendala, a club extended by Lions Club of Wattala. The Vocational Training Centre was the brainchild of the dedicated Lions of Hendala, who in the latter part of the 1980s thought of uplifting the rural youth by training them with modern means of education which was not available to them due to their economic circumstances.

The Club obtained a grant of US\$34,500 from the Lions Clubs International Foundation in December 1992.

Thereafter a request from the then local Member of Parliament John Amararatunga for a release of a government owned land, resulted in a 99 year lease of a suitable block of land on the main Hekitta-Hendala road, for the construction of the training centre.

The Lions of Hendala were immediately on to the task of releasing its own funds collected from individual members and other donors along with the funds from the Lions Club International Fund (LCIF) and commenced work on the building of the VTC. This magnificent two storied edifice constructed by Star Industries under the



Students following the computer training programme.

supervision of consultant architect Deshamanya Prof. Lakshman de Alwis and Eng. M. Amirthanayagam who volunteered their services and valuable time, was formally handed over to the club by the 3rd Vice President of Lions Clubs International, Judge Howard L. Patterson Jr. in February 1995. After equipping the centre for the training in Basic Computer Literacy, Industrial Sewing, English Typewriting and English Language skills, thanks to the efforts of MP and Charter Member of the Lions Club of Hendala, Neil Rupasinghe, the centre was formally commissioned to work with the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka by President Mahinda Rajapaksa who was then Minister of Labour and Vocational Training on the 18th of August 1995. Since that time the center has operated continuously as a non profit making organisation providing facilities for the training of youth with particular emphasis on school dropouts and those who fail to gain admission to universities because of the restricted intakes. Training carried out since its inception are as follows: Basic Computer Skills 588 students Juki Machine Skills (Sewing) 324 Mass Making 362 English Language 1,675 Software Applications 215



Students of the Beauty Culture and dress making section sporting their own creations at a 'Bridal Show' at the VTC.

English Typewriting 186 Beauty Culture 260 Total number of students awarded with certificates are over 1675 to date. The club received a further grant of US\$ 35,000 through the US Aid programme to upgrade the computer section in 2004 which helped the centre to increase the intake for computer training.

The lecturers are provided by the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka and are remunerated by it. The administration of the centre and the running costs are met by the club where the Administrator's and the caretaker's salaries are also met by the club. The club affords the facility of its main hall for other Lions Clubs in the area now

amounting more than ten to conduct their meetings and also the Lions District to conduct their district, Regional and Zonal Meetings. Speaking to the Daily News Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Past District Governor Mohan de Silva said that the Lions Vocational Training Centre is a perfect example of a successful joint venture between the Government of Sri Lanka and a Non Governmental Organisation coming together to provide mid level training skills for the benefit of the underprivileged youth of our country for them to be gainfully employed.

He further said that it was their intention to completely refurbish the centre and upgrade its facilities to meet the current demands of the youth and make the IT Centre of the Vocational Training Centre a state of the art in IT Technology with web development and also double up as an online information resource centre to help the graduates passing out and also help the other students of the area who are deprived of such facilities to use same as an information resource centre. Lion Mohan de Silva remembered with gratitude the support extended initially by Lion Mahendra Amarasinghe who is currently the Immediate Past International President of Lions Clubs International, Past International Director Lion Chuck Wijenathen, all

'Passion for Communication' new TM President Manisha's vision - Braybrooke Toastmasters

The 2nd Presidential Installation of Braybrooke Toastmasters was held at Price WaterhouseCoopers Auditorium, Colombo 2. Arunasalam Balraj, District Governor District 82 was the Chief Guest and Kanishka Jayasinghe, Area Governor, Area 1 for Division A, installed the New Committee.

The following were installed as the new committee. President - Manisha Abeyesundara; Vice President - Education, Imityaz Marikkar, Vice President Membership, Shanaka Fernando; Vice President - Public Relations, Kokila Perera; Secretary - Maheswary Jayadevan; Treasurer - Shakila Perera and Sergeant at arms - Kasun Jayasinghe.

The new president in her acceptance speech stated that this year the club will be working towards the theme "Passion for Communication", with the ultimate objective of producing effective communicators and better leaders. Furthermore special focus will be made towards providing opportunity for its members to enjoy toast mastering, while adding value to each



Standing from left (back row) - Kasun Jayasinghe (Sergeant at arms), Kokila Perera (Vice President - Public Relations), Shanaka Fernando (Vice President Membership), Maheswary Jayadevan (Secretary) and Imityaz Marikkar (Vice President Education). Standing from left (front row) - Manisha Abeyesundara (President) and Shakila Perera (Treasurer)

member. She further stated that their meetings will pay special attention on developing a dedicated and committed set of members who can help take the club to greater success. She strongly

believes that the new committee together with the collective effort of the members can make the club achieve Distinguished Club Status this year. Amongst the other distinguished invitees were, officers of the Area and the District. The ceremony was followed by dinner at Price WaterhouseCoopers, rooftop, where the invitees enjoyed an evening of fellowship under the stars. Braybrooke Toastmasters' Club was chartered in March 2007 as a community club, with 56 charter members. It is the first club of its nature, formed between two corporate entities, Price WaterhouseCoopers and Metropolitan. The regular education meetings of the Club are conducted in a friendly and a supportive manner on the first Wednesday and the third Thursday of every month. These meetings provide the challenge and the opportunity for every member to improve their communication and leadership skills whilst gaining self-confidence.

Health Minister joins Health Club



Walkers International Colombo Walkers Health Club, Sri Lanka conferred Honorary Membership on Health Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva, for the distinguished service rendered to the Health Sector in Sri Lanka. Here President Colombo Walkers Health Club, M. Ashroff Hussain pins the "Lapel Pin" on the Minister, at a ceremony held at the Health Ministry Secretariat. Looking on is President Lions Club of Colombo West, Lion Pradeep Edirisooriya.



Immediate Past District Governor District 306 B1 Lion S. Raghavan wishes Judy Wickremasinghe who was adjudged as the "Queen of the Night" of the First Charter Anniversary Celebrations of Lions Club of Mabola held at the Pradeshiya Sabha Hall Hendala recently, Judy serves SriLankan Airlines. Pic by Nimal Perera, Wattala group coord



Multiple President Leo Ricky Simms presenting a lamp to a member of the Sangha



District President Leo Asitha Pinnaduwa handing over a lamp to a resident

Leo District 306A-1 gifts bottle lamps

A very deserving and meaningful service project was conducted on September 7, at Palindanuwara, a rural area passing Mathugama and Badureliya, located about 110km away from Colombo City limits.

The Leo District Council 306 A1 distributed 800 safety Bottle Lamps among villages in eight different Grama Seva Divisions. The life standard of the people is very poor and the per capita income is very less as most of the villagers depend on agricultural oriented employment. Few

months back this area was devastated by floods. Electricity is not available in this area, and in some instances accidents have occurred to people and houses due to unsafe bottle lamps being used. Therefore the District Council decided to carry out

this project for these less fortunate people. Multiple President, Leo Ricky Simms said.

The project was coordinated by the Palindanuwara Wadhihiti Balamandalya, which made all necessary arrangements and informed the village people in advance about the distribution of lamps. Two lamps per household were distributed with approximately 400 families taking home the lamps. Adding purpose to the project was when a new lamp was given, the old unsafe lamp was taken from the

people, and therefore they are unable to use the old unsafe lamps again. District President, Leo Asitha Pinnaduwa said. The people and the Buddhist clergy in the village were very happy that the Leos took notice of their electricity problem and came to help them in a thoughtful way. Twenty three Leos of District 306 A1, including the Multiple President Leo Ricky Simms participated at the project.

The Project was headed by District President Leo Asitha Pinnaduwa who funded the project as he was

Y's Mens Club Moratuwa Evening of Choral singing

An evening of Choral singing will be held at Holy Emmanuel Church parish hall, Idema, Moratuwa today at 6.30 p.m. featuring Lylie Godridge Singers (I.G Singers) and Moratuwa Choral Society.

The programme will include both old and contemporary songs varying from spiritual to secular. It will also include a stint of community singing and instrumental harmony.

The LG Singers, founded by the late Lylie Godridge in 1962 is an all male group well accepted locally and abroad. They are purely a non-professional group who sing for sheer love of singing to bring joy to others. Since Lylie's demise, his place in the group has been taken by his elder son Willie Godridge.

The programme is jointly organised by the Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa and the Y's Mens Club of Young Moratuwa. Total proceeds generated will be utilised, towards the proposed extension of the Holy Emmanuel Church Sunday School, which has an estimated cost of Rs. 24 million, and for funding community projects undertaken by the Y's Mens Club. You are assured of a joyful evening of harmony. Tickets available at the HEC Parish

Lions conduct pre and post natal care seminars

Lions Club of Nawalapitiya, Kotmale conducted a seminar on pre and post natal care for over 200 breast-feeding and pre-

nant women, at the Samagi Hall, Samagi Gama, Nawalapitiya last week. The seminar was headed by chairperson, Lion Lady

Leela Jeevasayan. A team headed by Dr. Senarath Bandara, Deputy Director, Public Health Services, Nawalapitiya.



At left a section of mothers who attended the seminar. At right registration in progress.

Bentota-Gonagalapura Lions Club office-bearers

Richmond Wijesekera, Bentota Group correspondent

Secretary: Lion Dhammika Watawala, Treasurer: Lion Buddhika Silva, Vice President: Lion Viraj Gunatillake, Secretary: Lion Muditha Wijesinghe, Asst. Treasurer: Lion Viraj Gami-ni Wijesundara. Directors:

Lion Viraj Gunatillake, Lion Raj Gami-ni Wijesundara, Lion T. Wijitha Kumara, Lion Pathman Hemachandra, Lion Sanath Rupasinghe, Lion Ruwantha Samaranyake, Lion Atula Wijesinghe.