

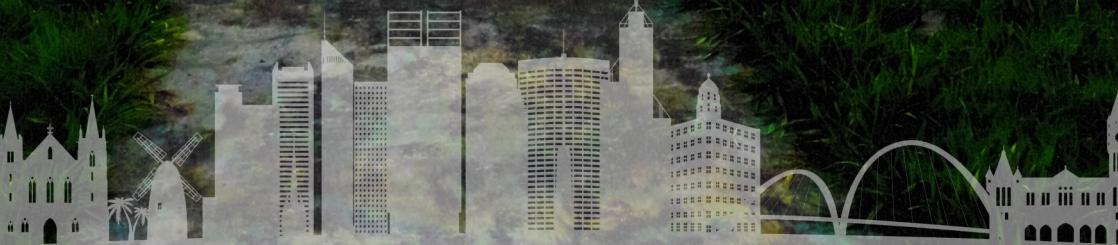
UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA CHAPTER

HANTHANA NIGHT



FUNDRAISER DINNER DANCE
&
GET TOGETHER
2025

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Program

Hanthana Night

13 September 2025

6:30 PM - 6:45 PM Arrival of Guests

6:45 PM - 6:55 PM Opening / House Rules / Welcome of Guests

6:55 PM - 7:05 PM Opening Dance

7:05 PM - 7:10 PM Welcome Address – President of UPAAWA, Mr. Ajith Pandithasekara

7:10 PM - 7:20 PM Celebrate the legacy of Past Presidents

Dialogue with the Chief Guest, Mr. Upali Wijesiri

7:20 PM - 7:25 PM Vote of Thanks – Secretary of UPAAWA, Dr. Hafeel Kalideen

7:25 PM - 8:00 PM Slow Music for Ballroom Dance

8:00 PM - 8:45 PM Music Session

8:45 PM - 9:25 PM Dinner

9:25 PM - 9:35 PM Door Prizes / Raffle Draw

9:35 PM - 11:45 PM Nonstop Music / Dance Floor

This fundraiser dinner dance is conducted under the charitable collections licence CC23527 issued to The University of Peradeniya Alumni Association, Western Australia Chapter.



Message from the President - UPAAWA



On behalf of the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association Western Australia, it is my great pleasure to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to our Annual Fundraiser Dinner Dance 2025. This evening holds special significance, as we not only come together to celebrate our enduring friendships and shared heritage, but also to mark a remarkable milestone the 20th anniversary of our association. Our mission has always been clear: to foster a strong bond between our alma mater and its alumni, and to uplift the teaching and learning experience at the University of Peradeniya. Tonight's event is a powerful reflection of that mission in action.

I am proud to share that, thanks to your generosity, over the past four years we have donated AUD \$43,000 equivalent to LKR 7.5 million to the University's studentship program. These funds have provided vital support to deserving students, directly improving lives and futures. We are deeply grateful for your continued support.

To make this 20th-anniversary celebration truly unforgettable, we are thrilled to present for the first time in the history of our dinner dance two iconic performers from Sri Lanka. We are honoured to welcome Clifford Richards; a proud alumnus of our university whose achievements exemplify the talent nurtured within its halls. He will be joined by the legendary Corrine Almeida, whose artistry and presence promise to make this night one to remember.

In honour of our roots, we will also take a moment tonight to felicitate the founding members of our association visionaries whose dedication and foresight laid the foundation for everything we have achieved. To our valued guests, sponsors, and supporters: thank you. Your commitment is the cornerstone of our success. We hope you enjoy this evening a celebration of 20 years of purpose, connection, and giving back.

Ajith Pandithasekara

MSc. (Newcastle Upon Tyne), PGDipJMgt. (Kelaniya), BSc. Eng. Hons (Peradeniya), CEng. MIESL, MIE Aust. MRINA
President - UPAAWA 2024/25





Seated from left to right:

Senika Gunawardena [Ex-officio President]

Prasanna Hetti Arachchige [Treasurer]

Ajith Pandithasekara [President]

Hafeel Kalideen [Secretary]

Sunil Samaraweera

Nilanthi Jayasundara

Standing from left to right:

Gayan Weerasooriya

Manjula Nanayakkara [Vice President]

Dushantha Dissanayake

Jinendra Bandara

Sampath Priyashantha

Tharindu Weersasinghe [Editor & Webmaster]

Kapila Katulanda



University of Peradeniya

Alumni Association - Western Australia

Executive Committee 2024/25

President

Ajith Pandithasekara

Vice President

Manjula Nanayakkara

Secretary

Hafeel Kalideen

Treasurer

Prasanna Hetti Arachchige

Ex Officio President

Senika Gunawardena

Editor & Webmaster

Tharindu Weerasinghe

Committee Members

Nilanthi Jayasundera

Sunil Samaraweera

Kapila Katulanda

Gayan Weerasooriya

Dushantha Dissanayake

Jinendra Vijaya Bandara

Sampath Priyashantha

Contacts

 <http://www.upaawa.org.au/>

 <https://www.facebook.com/upaawa/>

President

president@upaawa.org.au
+61 450 676 335

Secretary

secretary@upaawa.org.au
+61 468 513 844



Past Presidents of UPAAWA



Mrs. Dammika Gunasekara
President-2008/09
Faculty of Arts-1978



Mr. Bandula Gunawardene
President-2009/10/11
Faculty of Engineering-1974



Mr. Bandula Samarasinghe
President-2011/12/13
Faculty of Engineering-1978



Dr. Sunil Samaraweera
President-2013/14
Faculty of Science-1974



Mrs. Janaki Chandraratne
President-2014/15
Faculty of Arts-1965



Dr. Bimba Samarasinghe
President-2015/16/17
Faculty of Science-1979



Dr. Manoj Pallegedara
President-2017/18/19/20
Faculty of Dental Science-1997



Mr. Dinu Ekanayake
President-2020/21/22/23
Faculty of Engineering-1996



Mrs. Senika Gunawardena
President-2023/24
Faculty of Science-1993



Message from the Vice Chancellor



Dear members of the Western Australia Chapter,

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association – Western Australia Chapter – as you gather to celebrate your Twentieth Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, 13 September 2025 at the Vasto Club, Perth, Australia.

The enduring bond between the University and its alumni remains a source of great pride for us all. The Western Australia Chapter has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to strengthening this relationship—not only through fellowship and camaraderie but also through your remarkable contributions towards the academic and personal development of our students.

Your generous support over the years has been instrumental in advancing the University's mission by fostering academic excellence and promoting student welfare. I am particularly pleased to acknowledge the invaluable assistance provided by the Australian Alumni Chapters during the recent economic meltdown. Your timely efforts in addressing the psychological well-being of thousands of students significantly helped the University navigate a very challenging period.

On behalf of the University of Peradeniya, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your dedication and generosity. May this milestone celebration be a testament to our shared values and an inspiration for continued collaboration in the years ahead. I wish you all a joyous and memorable evening.

With warm regards and best wishes,
Prof. Terrence Madhujith
Vice-Chancellor
University of Peradeniya



Message from the President - AAUP



Dear members of the Western Australia Chapter,

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association, Western Australia Chapter, on the occasion of your 20th Dinner Dance. This milestone is a testament to your enduring commitment, camaraderie, and generosity towards your alma mater.

Over the years, your Chapter has been a shining example of how alumni across the globe can make a meaningful impact on the lives of students at the University of Peradeniya. Your unwavering support for the Studentship Fund, contributing over AUD 43,500 in recent years, has directly helped many deserving students pursue their studies with dignity and hope. Your additional initiatives—supporting students in times of unexpected hardship and enriching our libraries with invaluable academic resources—speak volumes of your dedication to both student welfare and academic excellence.

On behalf of the Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya and the wider alumni community, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for your generosity, vision, and commitment. You have not only strengthened the bonds among alumni in Western Australia but also brought pride and tangible benefit to our University.

As you gather for this special event, may the evening be filled with joy, friendship, and success. I wish your fundraising efforts every success, and I look forward to continued collaboration in service of our University and its students.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Prof. Deepthi C. Bandara

President

Alumni Association of the University of Peradeniya



Message from the Editor - UPAAWA



As the editor of the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association – Western Australia Chapter for the tenure 2024/25, it is my privilege to unveil this year's souvenir for the Annual Dinner Dance, "Hanthana Night". This publication stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication and collective spirit of our alumni community living all over the world. I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed with generous advertisements, articles and reflections. Your thoughtful words have beautifully captured the essence of our shared journey and the enduring influence of our alma mater. Your commitment to honouring our traditions and enriching this keepsake is deeply valued.

A heartfelt thank you to all our generous advertisers. Your support not only provides vital financial backing but also reflects your deep commitment to our alumni community. Thanks to your contributions, we are able to continue hosting meaningful events and initiatives that bring us together. I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to the organizing committee. Their tireless efforts, meticulous planning, and unwavering dedication have been instrumental in bringing this event and souvenir to life. Their behind-the-scenes work truly deserves recognition. My gratitude also goes to the University of Peradeniya Alumni Association for nurturing this vibrant network. Through its support, we've been able to reconnect, share our journeys, and grow both personally and professionally. Moreover, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to two iconic figures in Sri Lanka's music industry—Clifford Richards and Corrine de Almeida. Their presence and enduring artistry have brought immense joy to our celebration, and their support is deeply cherished.

To all our esteemed guests, I hope this souvenir serves as a cherished keepsake—one that evokes fond memories and inspires continued celebration of our alumni community. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this evening so special.

Wishing you a night filled with joy, laughter, and meaningful reunion.

Thank you!

Tharindu Weerasinghe
Editor, UPAAWA 2024/25



UPAAWA Funded Projects and Donations

2002	\$300	Faculty of Medicine
2003	\$620	Books for various faculties
2007	\$1,200	Funds for Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Engineering
2008	\$4,000	Funds for Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Animal Science and Faculty of Science
2010	\$4,500	Funds for Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Dental Sciences, Department of Geology, Faculty of Agriculture and Faculty of Engineering
2011	\$4,500	Funds for Faculty of Arts and Special Needs Resource Centre
2012	\$5,000	Funds for University Medical Centre and Faculty of Engineering
2013	\$5,000	33 studentships for students from Faculties (<i>Agriculture, Arts, Allied Health Sciences, Dental Sciences, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science, Engineering, Medicine, Science and Management</i>); Swimming training aids for the University Sports Council; Notation lights for the Department of Fine Arts
2014	\$2,000	Computers for the Main Library of the University
2015	\$3,000	Studentships for needy students
2016	\$4,000	Dishwashing facility for Ramanathan Hall
2017	\$3,000	Funds donated to AAUP
2018	\$4,035	Installation of an integrated clock system for the University; Donation of equipment to the University Health Centre
2020	\$1,698	Studentships for 1 year
2021	\$6800	Studentships for 7 students, paid during the entire study period
2022	\$7,000	Studentships for 6 students, paid during the entire study period
2023	\$15,319	Invested in a long-term fixed deposit - the interest will be used for studentships
2024	\$13,171	Invested in the above long-term fixed deposit - the interest will be used for studentships







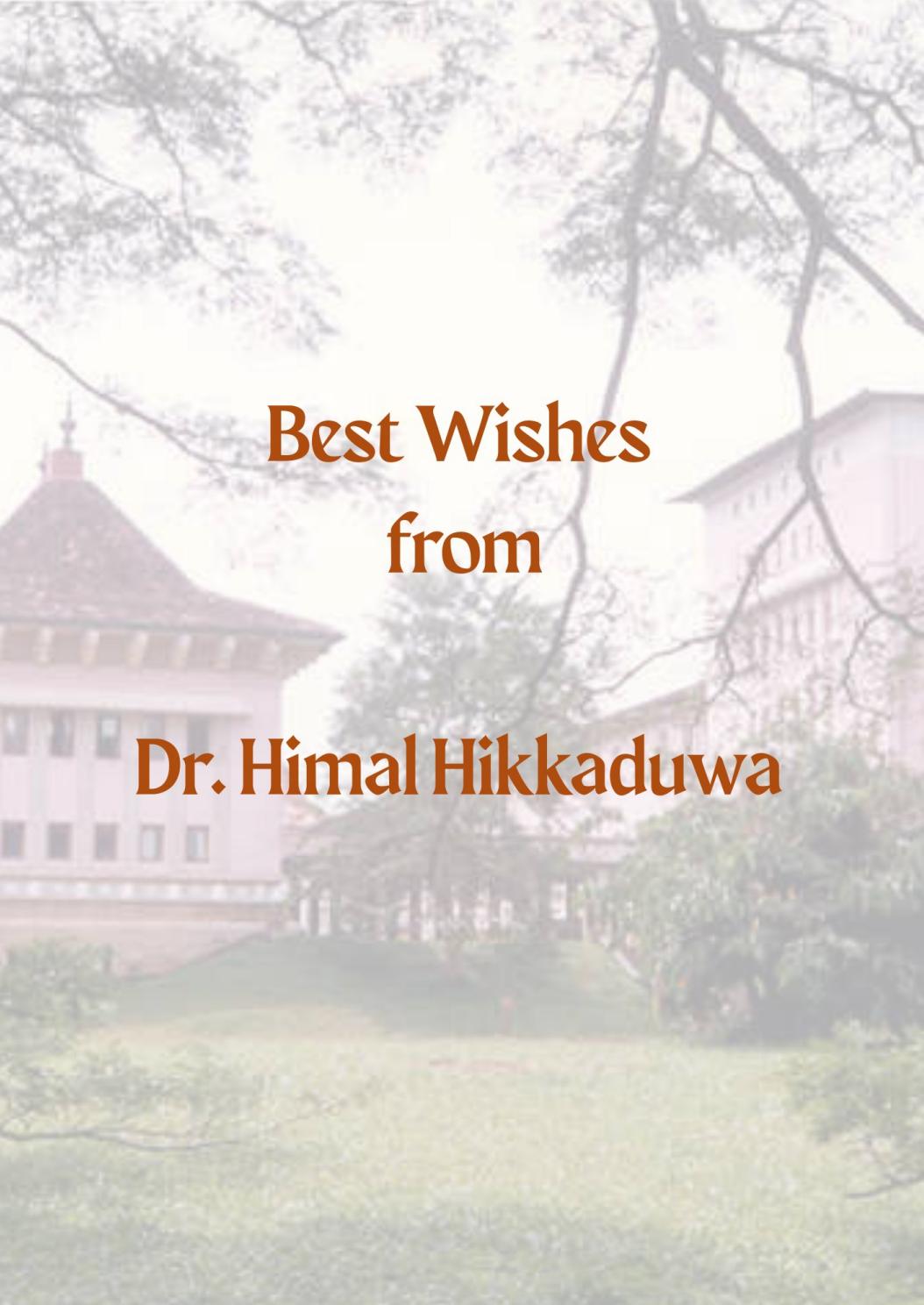
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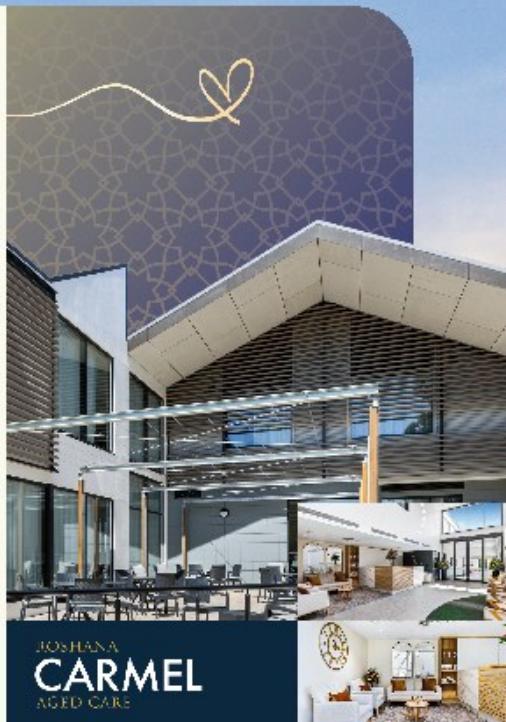
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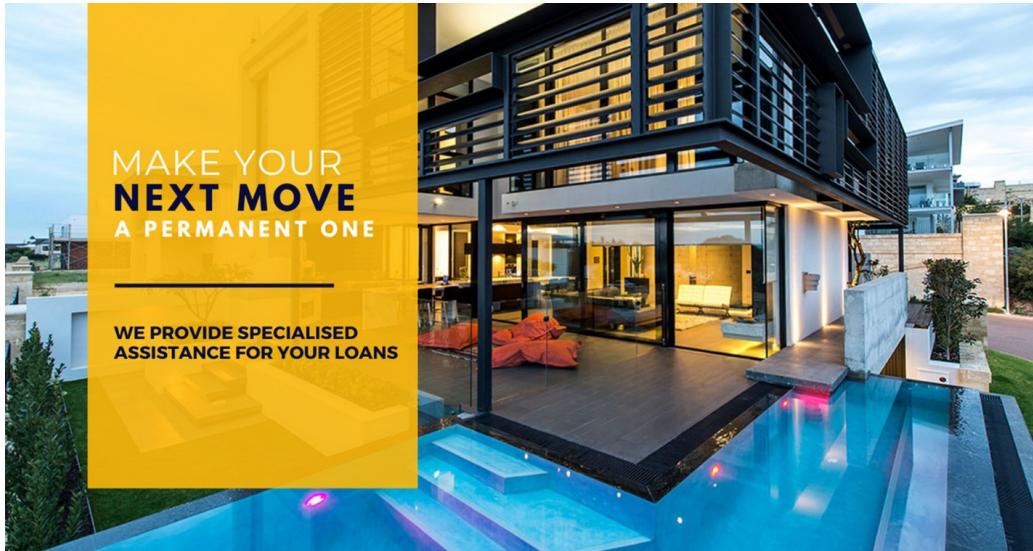
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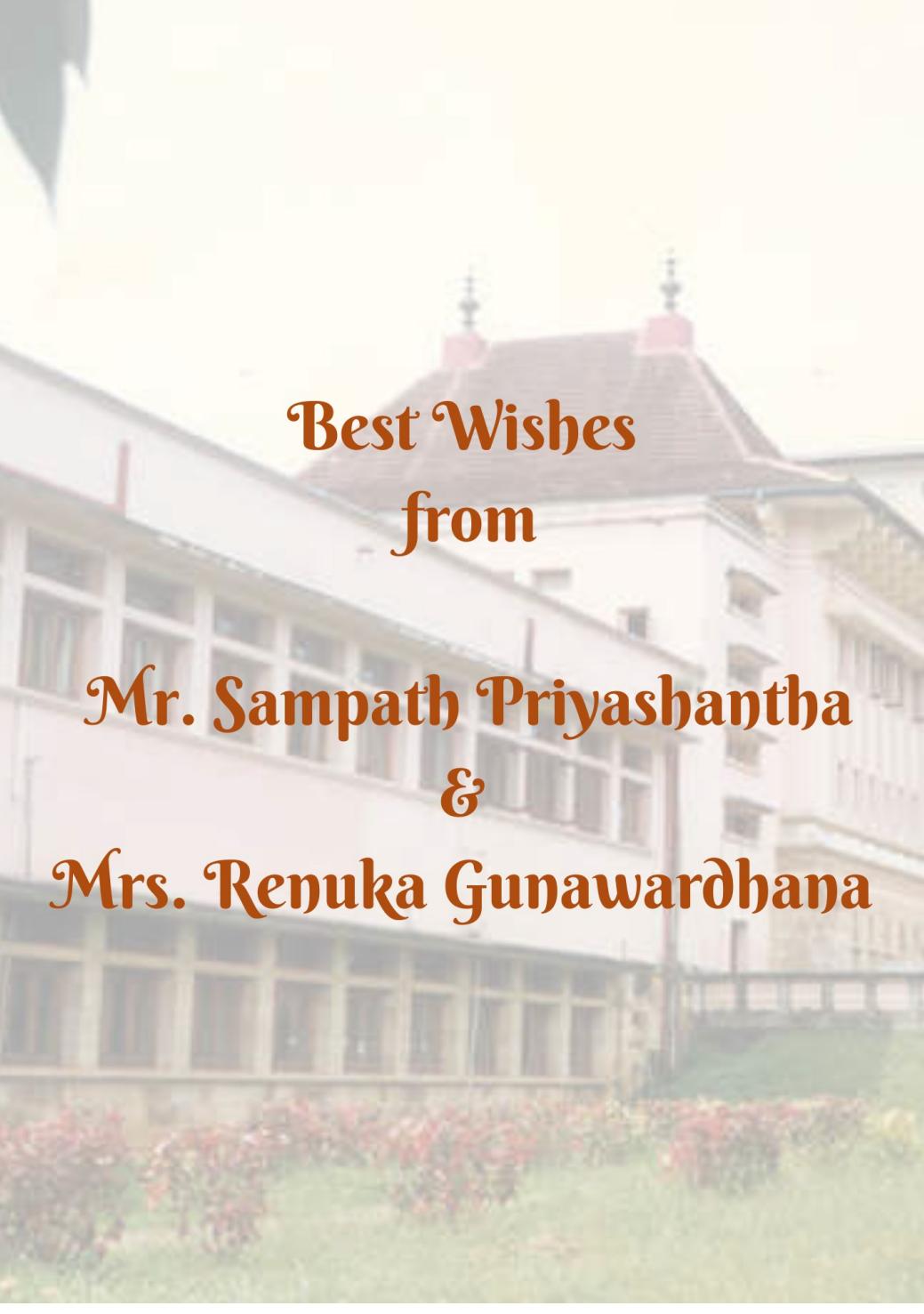
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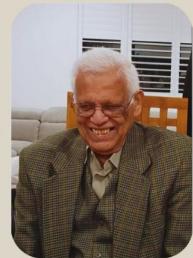
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Appreciation

Dayananda (Daya) Patabendige

(1940 – 2024)



It was with great sorrow that I learnt the sad news of the passing away of Daya Patabendige. He was a product of Richmond College, Galle and an outstanding sportsman.

I first met Daya in the mid-1980s when he approached me and asked whether I could help him by analysing the nutrient content of the soil and plant tissues samples collected from his field experiments. During that time, I was the Agricultural Chemist of the Rubber Research Institute (RRI), Agalawatta. Two of my colleagues of the RRI had highly recommended Daya and I had no hesitation in helping out Daya. Daya and I continued our friendship till his death.

During his schooldays, in the late 1950s, he had excelled at the national level in a wide range of sports such as High Jump, Pole Vault, Swimming and Soccer. Daya was the best swimmer of Richmond College during 1958-60 and held all Free Style records in several events.

As a result of a sports related injury, Daya couldn't fulfil his ambition of entering the University. Instead, in October 1960 he joined the Hardy Advanced Technological Institute and completed a two-year Diploma in Soil Science. While at Hardy, Daya underwent a rehabilitation programme, joined the Ceylonese Track and Field Club (CT&FC) and represented Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) at several International Athletics Championships. Daya's achievements as an athlete are many. He was one of the few people to clear 6' 1" in High Jump and 11' 10" in Pole Vault. It is at the CT&FC that Daya met Ramani Weerarathne, fell in love and married her in 1971. Ramani held Sri Lankan records for Shot Put and was the second in Discuss at National Level. She represented Sri Lanka at several International Athletics Championships. They have three sons. After successfully completing his Diploma in Soil Science, Daya worked for the Gal Oya Development Board (GODB) at Hingurana (from 1963 to 1968) and for the River Valley Development Board (RVDB) at Uda Walawe (from 1969 to 1974). Despite holding responsible managerial positions, Daya found time to continue his interest in Athletics by participating at the national level.

In 1974, Daya entered the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya as a mature-aged student and completed his agriculture degree (BSc) in 1977. While at the University, Daya got back into Athletics in a big way and held Peradeniya University records for High Jump and Pole Vault. After graduation from the University of Peradeniya, Daya joined the Department of Agriculture as a Research Officer at the Angunukolapelessa Research Station. In 1982 he was awarded a Colombo Plan Scholarship and completed a Master of Science degree at the University of Aberdeen, UK. On his return, he continued working at Angunukolapelessa until the end of 1988.

Daya, Ramani and their three boys migrated to Western Australia in January 1989. From 1989 to 2005, Daya had worked at the Western Australian Department of Agriculture, first as a Project Manager and then as a Research Officer. All through his life, Daya kept up his physical fitness by regularly going to a gymnasium. Daya had enjoyed his life; and Daya and Ramani, never missed a Hanthana Night organised by the West Australia Chapter.

May he attain Nibbana.

Dr. Sunil Samaraweera



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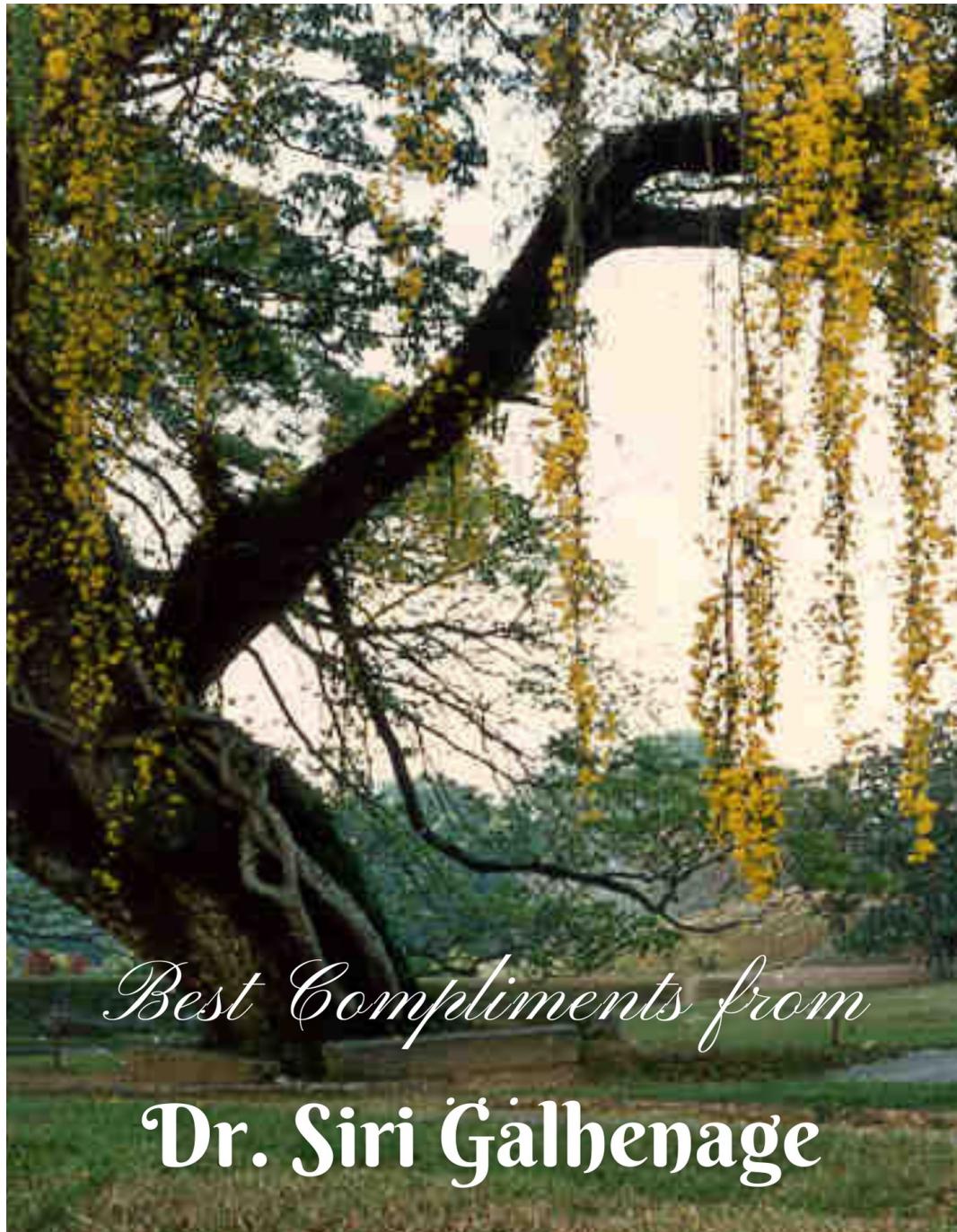


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memories

let's wander through the echoes of previous gatherings





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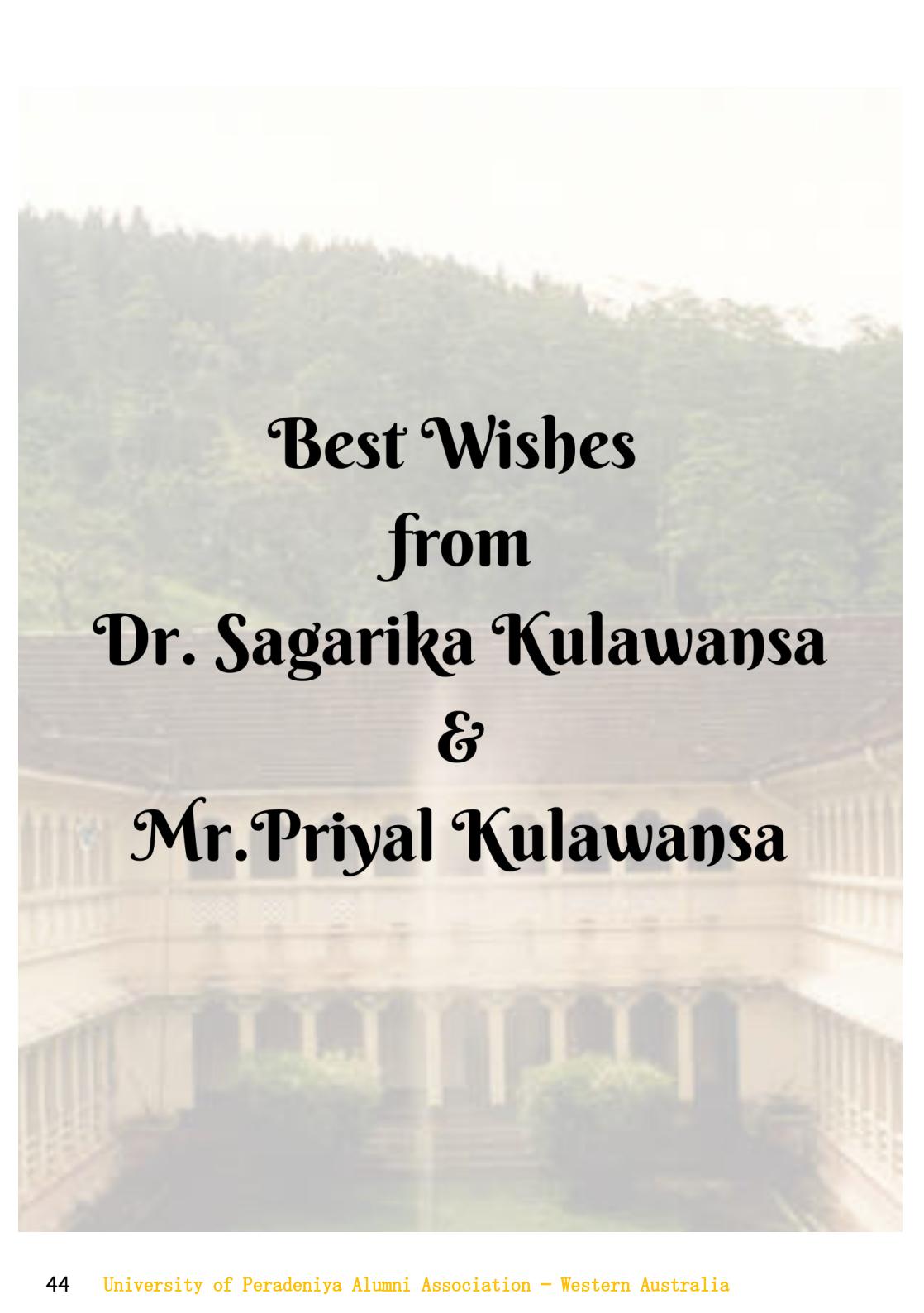
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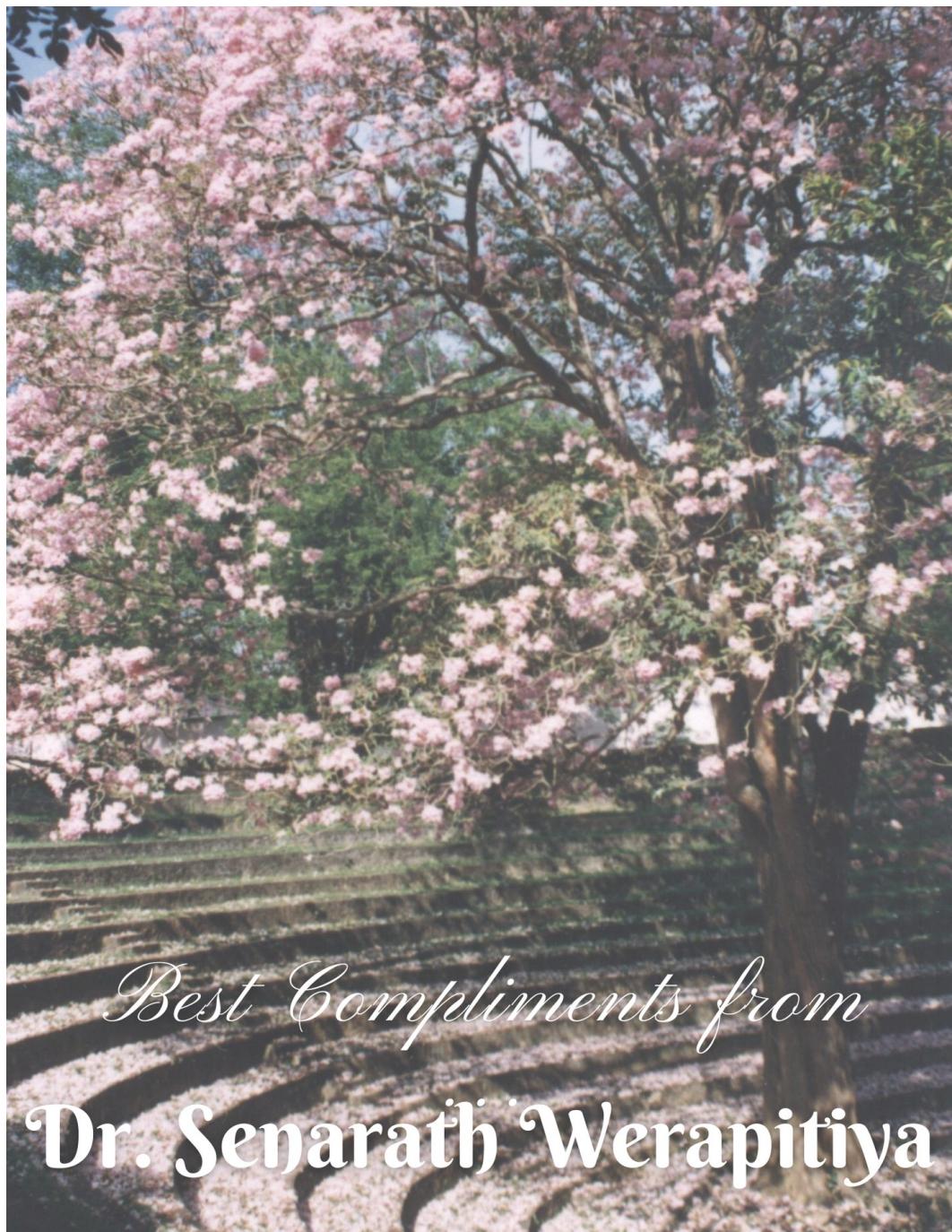
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- Mr. Tharindu Weerasinghe for being our MC
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- Mr. Clifford Richards and Ms. Corrine de Almeida together with The Synth Band for their wonderful entertainment
- Prajna Dance Studio for their scintillating performance
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