

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF UVA WELASSA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

LEO TIMES

VOLUME 18 | EDITION 02 | AUG 2024



Zephyra

LEO CLUB OF **20**
UVA WELASSA UNIVERSITY
HOSTS IT'S 3RD **24**
INSTALLATION CEREMONY



LEO CLUB OF
Uva Wellassa University



Leos of Sri Lanka
& Maldives
INSPIRING LIVES



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MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT LEO DISTRICT 306 C2



It is with immense pride and joy that I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University for the Leo Times magazine. This publication stands as a testament to your creativity, dedication, and commitment to the Leo movement.

Beyond the pages of this magazine, your club's unwavering dedication to social service is truly inspiring. The impact you have made through your projects and initiatives is a shining example of what it means to be a Leo. Your efforts to uplift communities, address pressing issues, and bring positive change reflect the very essence of our mission.

As you continue to share the stories of your service and the voices of your members, I am confident that Leo Times will inspire and motivate others to join us in our cause. Your hard work and passion not only strengthen our Leo community but also make a tangible difference in the lives of those you serve.

Congratulations once again for your Leo new journey, and may your journey of service, leadership, and fellowship continue to thrive.

Warm regards,

Leo Lion Hansathi Imethma FLM
District Vice President
Leo District 306 C2

*Hansathi
Imethma*

MESSAGE FROM CLUB SECRETARY LIONS CLUB OF UVA CAPITAL



Dear Leo's of Uva Wellassa University,

We are truly blessed to have you as a part of our Lions Movement family serving the community along with Lions Club of Uva Capital. I, personally would like to share my sincere gratitude to your Team efforts dedicated to this Momentum since We Chartered your Club in September 2022.

All of your commitments towards the Leadership in the Leo movement propelled to bring your club best & forward within a very short period of time.

As your Sponsoring Club Secretary, I extend my fullest support to you in all of your future endeavors and my best wishes to your Team in succeeding the **LEGACY of UWU LEO's.**

Sincerely in Lionism,
Lion Kajaneesharan Thangasamy MAF
B.Sc IST, Minor in Psych (Missouri University, USA)

*Kajaneesharan
Thangasamy*

MESSAGE FROM 1ST VICE PRESIDENT LEO CLUB OF UWU



Dear Fellow Leos,

It is with great enthusiasm that I serve as the 1st Vice President of the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University for this Leoistic year. Together, we stand at the threshold of a new chapter filled with opportunities to make a significant impact on our community.

As we commence on this journey, let's continue to build on our shared values of leadership, service, and fellowship. Each of you brings unique strengths and ideas that are essential to our club's success.

This year, let's aim to go beyond what we've done before—whether it's through innovative projects, impactful events, or simply by being there for each other. I encourage you all to actively participate in our initiatives, share your thoughts, and support one another in every endeavor.

Thank you for your commitment and for being a part of this remarkable journey. Let's make this year a memorable one for all of us and those we serve.

Warm regards,

LEO Kavinda Chamod
1st Vice President
Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University

*Kavinda
Chamod*

MESSAGE FROM PROJECT SECRETARY LEO CLUB OF UWU

Hello Incredible Leos,
I'm Leo Cherindi Thennakoon, and I'm delighted to take up the responsibility as Project Secretary of Leo Club of Uva Wellssa University for this leoistic year. I believe that by working together, Supporting each other and dedication to our goals, we can achieve something remarkable. Let's make this leoistic year one of creativity, meaningful work, and shared victories. I encourage all of you to join in and make a difference with UWU Leos.

LEO Cherindi Thennakoon
Project Secretary LEO Club of UWU

*Cherindi
Thennakoon*



**LEO CLUB OF
UVA WELASSA UNIVERSITY
HOSTS IT'S 3RD
INSTALLATION CEREMONY**



Zephyra

The Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University held its 3rd Installation Ceremony, highlighting leadership, unity, and vibrant "Under the Sea" themed celebrations.



On August 12, 2024, The Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University proudly hosted its 3rd Installation Ceremony, a remarkable event that showcased leadership, unity, and vision. The imaginative theme of "Under the Sea" transformed the venue into an enchanting underwater landscape, reflecting the vibrant energy and aspirations of the club.

The ceremony began with the traditional lighting of the oil lamp, symbolizing the dawn of a new chapter for the club. This was followed by the harmonious strains of the university anthem and the national anthem, setting a dignified tone for the evening. Presiding over the ceremony was *Leo Lion Sunera Naveed MAF FLM*, the District President of Leo District 306 C2, who called upon the 43 newly appointed board members, accompanied by esteemed guests. Among the distinguished guests were *Leo Lion Nipuni Wijesekara*, District Secretary of Leo District 306 C2; *Ms. Vinuri Gamlath*, Lecturer and Senior Treasurer of the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University; *Leo Nimana Weerasinghe*, Zone Head for Region 5, Zone A; *Lion Zoeb Bagasrawala MAF*, Club Director and LCIF Coordinator; *Lion Kajaneesharan Thangasamy MAF*, Secretary of Lions Club of Uva Capital; *Lion Shashika Wemulla MAF*, President of Lions Club of Uva Capital; and *Lion Shiraz Khan MAF*, Leo Club Advisor and Head of District Marketing C2.

The formal proceedings began as the District President administered the oath of office to all the board members, inducting them into their roles as Leos and emphasizing their commitment to the ideals and values of the organization. The highlight of the evening was the ceremonial transfer of responsibility from the outgoing President, Leo Kirula Pramod [Immediate Past President of the Leo Club of UWU, Region Head (Region 5, Zone B)], to the incoming President, Leo Sahan Panditharathna. This pivotal moment symbolized the continuity of leadership and the steadfast dedication of the Leo Club to its mission.

As each board member was summoned to the stage, they received badges and certificates corresponding to their positions, presented by the distinguished guests. The District President delineated their roles and responsibilities, underscoring the significance of their contributions to the club's success. Each member took a solemn oath, pledging to uphold the club's principles and strive for excellence in their respective capacities.

The event was further enriched by speeches from the honored guests, who offered invaluable advice and insights, guiding the Leos on their path forward. These addresses served as a beacon, inspiring the new board to navigate the challenges ahead with courage and determination.

Adding a touch of festivity to the formal proceedings, the evening featured vibrant performances by the board members and the university's dance circle, showcasing the diverse talents and camaraderie within the club.

As the ceremony concluded, the Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University stood poised to commence on a new journey, uplifted by the collective spirit of its members and the unwavering support of its patrons. The evening was not merely a celebration of leadership but a testament to the enduring commitment of the Leos to make a meaningful difference in their community.



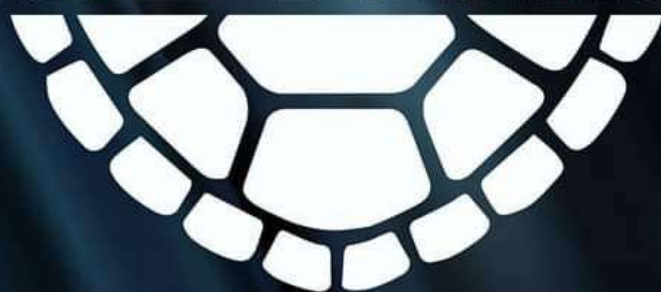


ZEPHYRA



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
**THE LEO MULTIPLE
AWARDS**

2024 YOUNG LEADER'S
UP-AND-COMING
CELEBRATION



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
**THE LEO MULTIPLE
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2024 YOUNG LEADER'S
UP-AND-COMING
CELEBRATION



Leo Multiple Awards is an annual event aimed at paying tribute to Leos which are young leaders being members of Leo Club Program, existing due to sponsorship of Lions Clubs International. These awards are aimed to reward many hours and effort that was given by Leos to make the difference in the community during the current year.

The 2024 ceremony which was scheduled and organized for the 13th of July at the Golden Star Beach Hotel in Negombo was magnificent with the participation of different Leos, Lions and other important personalities. The event started at 8:30 AM with a lot of expectations of the people in attendance to recognize those who have shown leadership, service, and commitment to community responsibilities.

The awards targeted the different achievements that ranged from community service projects to leadership and personal development. For each award, the winner was acknowledged for embracing the Leoism values of Leadership, Experience and Opportunity as well as being an influential facilitator in his/ her community and to the world.

Leos also got opportune to listen to speeches from leadership, presentations, and most importantly fellowship where they were able to meet and share experiences and be encouraged by the achievements of their counterparts. Leo Multiple Awards 2024 was not only focusing on previous years' achievements but also served as a way to inspire Leos to do more for the society in the following year without any less passion and vigor.





ELEVATE LEOISM LEADERSHIP TALENT

UNLOCKING THE FULL POTENTIAL IN LEO MULTIPLE DISTRICT 306

Leo Multiple District 306, Sri Lanka and Maldives, recently got into its inspiring series of sessions under the program – Elevate Leoism. This endeavour was based on developing leadership qualities, personality and skill map of youths in the region belonging to Leo club. The event was a unique assembly of such invaluable participants indicating a chance for the future little leaders to gain further knowledge on how to enhance own leadership skills.

MyLion Portal Session made a good starting point of the program as it provided Leos with the general and more specific information about the MyLion which can be used as a service management system as well as a tool for tracking various projects. This was succeeded by MyLeo Training to allow the participants to gain expertise with Leo's training platform on the promotion of service activities.

Leadership and personal development sessions also formed the core of the activities as well. When attending the Lead to thrive event Second Vice District Governor of Lions District 306B1 Deshamanya Lion Dr Jeewantha Perera MJF PMAF LCIP JP spoke on leadership and self improvement to encourage the audience to be the best. The Presidents' Session was dedicated on how the Leo Club Presidents can help build the necessary rapport and in turn help their teams prevail.

The said event was especially designed for different leadership positions in the Leo movement. The Treasurers' Session and Secretaries' Session were used as training sessions designed to facilitate the effective running of Leo clubs and the Council Officer's and Orientation Team Sessions were used to equip council officers with tools and knowledge to lead their districts to Leo meaningful service.



ELEVATE LEOISM LEADERSHIP TALENT

UNLOCKING THE FULL POTENTIAL IN LEO MULTIPLE DISTRICT 306

For instance, Know Your Basics led by the PDG Lion Shyana Jayalath PMJF PMAF and Responsibility of a Council Officer conducted by the Past International Advisory Panelist PMDP Lion Tuan Roshan Latiff PFLM gave a lot of knowledge regarding the right ways of governing and responsibility among the Leos.



URBAN ADVENTURES YOUTH CAMP

INSIDE LOOK AT THE LIFE OF THE PIRATES

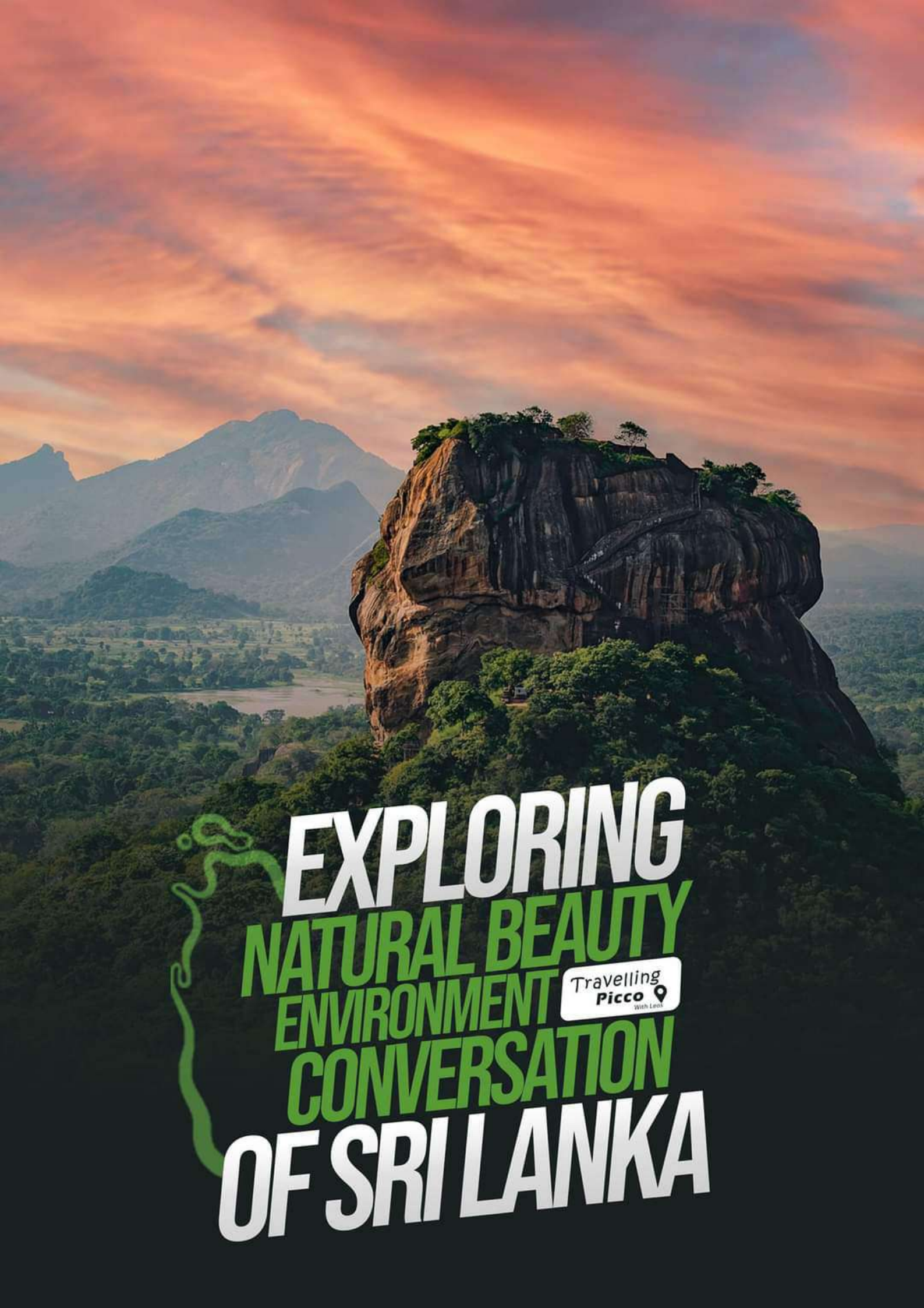
THE "URBAN ADVENTURES YOUTH CAMP" WAS CONDUCTED ON 3RD AND 4TH OF AUGUST 2024 IN BANDARAGAMA WHICH CREATED A GREAT FUN AND MEMORIES. THIS TWO DAY EVENT WAS LED BY LEO DISTRICT 306C2 AND HAD CHILDREN ALL OVER COME TOGETHER TO EXPLORE, COMPETE AND COMMUNALLY HAVE FUN WHILE INDULGING THEMSELVES IN THE ADVENTUROUS THEME OF PIRATES AND BEING PIRATES IN THE PIRATES OF LEO DISTRICT 306 C2.

THE CAMP TOOK PLACE AT A LOCATION OF SLV ADVENTURES WHERE PARTICIPANTS EMBRACED NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES AIMED AT LEADERSHIP, TEAMWORK AND CREATIVITY. STARTING FROM THE TREASURE HUNT AND ENDING WITH PIRATE CHALLENGES, THE CHEERFUL, INTENSIVELY-SPONSORED DAY WAS A FULL OF SURPRISE AND EVEN GENERALLY ENIGMATIC.

WHILE CARRYING OUT THE DIFFERENT TASKS IN THE CAMP, THE CAMPERS NOT ONLY GOT TO UNDERSTAND SO MUCH ABOUT TEAMWORK BUT ALSO GOT TO BOND WITH FRIENDS AND ACQUAINT NEW FRIENDS. INSTEAD, THIS EVENT WAS MORE COMPETITION THAN FRIENDSHIP, ALTHOUGH ONE COULD FIND TRUE FRIENDSHIP FROM WITHIN AND FOR A LIFETIME.

THE FINAL OF THE CAMP INVOLVED EVERY PARTICIPANT SPORTING THEIR PIRATE LOOKS IN A FINAL CEREMONY BEFORE THEY ARE READY FOR THEIR OWN PIRATE EXPEDITIONS IN LIFE. THE "URBAN ADVENTURES YOUTH" WAS AN IDEAL DEPICTION OF LIVE, ADVENTUROUS AND LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN AND PROBABLY EVERY INDIVIDUAL IN WAIT FOR THE NEXT SUCH JOURNEY





EXPLORING
NATURAL BEAUTY
ENVIRONMENT
CONVERSATION
OF SRI LANKA

Travelling
Picco
WITH LEOS

Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University is engaging with a project titled "Travelling Picco". The main objective of the project is to explore the natural beauty that Sri Lanka has and, promoting nature tourism and, to emphasise the importance of teamwork and friendship amongst its members.

Up until now, we have been able to visit different places like Katusukonda Mountain Range in Ella, Matara Beaches along the southern coastlines, and Bambarakanda Waterfall - one of Asia's highest waterfalls located near Haputale.

Journeys like these have incorporated challenges that provided opportunities to teach the members how to overcome obstacles with the help of each other and through teamwork. We hope to visit more exciting places in the future.

Situated amidst lush greenery in the Ella region lies Katusukonda – a mountain range renowned for its panoramic views. Katusukonda is a mountain overlooking panoramic views upon green landscapes. We were lucky to get breathtaking views at this place submerged in misty clouds during sunrise or sunset time with Travelling Picco project participants. The serenity of that scenery brought on the message of how everyone should be responsible for saving our environment by preserving such untouched beauty.

The further south our tour took us, the more beautiful beaches we met along the coastline of the district of Matara. Those beaches are known for their pristine shores, with coconut trees gently swaying against the blue waterscape. Apart from leisurely moments and the relaxation at the beaches in such picture-postcard locations, participating students were also encouraged about the marine ecosystem preservation efforts like avoiding littering or polluting coastal areas, to support a host of diverse aquatic life-forms, including coral reefs.

Undoubtedly, one of the many visit-highlights was a visit to the Bambarakanda waterfall lying in Horton Plains National Park itself, located quite close to the town of Haputale. It is a very idyllic place with gentle slopes covered with tea plantations. Standing right in front of this great fall, cascading to great depths into the crystal-clear pools below, having lush forests that are teeming with wildlife, it went a long way in driving home the point as to just how important it is to preserve wonders with fragile ecosystems around them so they remain intact for future generations to also be able to enjoy them.

Other than obtaining the excellent views of these visited areas, it was compulsory to all of us, the participants of the Travelling Picco Project, that each one of us had to actively help take good care of these beautiful environments without littering or supporting bad waste management. By simply keeping the protection of the environment at the forefront of all measures and embracing sustainable practices, the future is sure to go green. We may continue to do such initiatives that influence others to love and care for our world.



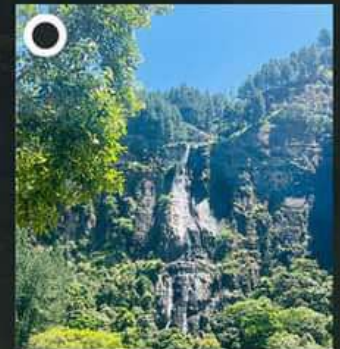
**EXPLORING
NATURAL BEAUTY
ENVIRONMENT
CONVERSATION
OF SRI LANKA**

Travelling Picco

This dominated the spirit of brotherhood in each and every journey taken up under the aegis of the Travelling Pico Project, team members were there to help one another against all types of challenges faced. Besides watching amazing views and making new friends, one learns to value helping and pulling together over the rough moments. Everyone who went through this process was part of the realisation of ensuring the safety and well-being of fellow travellers, which was consummated with a strong bond and oneness founded upon shared experiences.

The Travelling Picco project remains ongoing, with more exciting destinations planned for the future. Participants continue to embrace the responsibility of protecting Sri Lanka's natural environment while enjoying the stunning views and rich experiences along the way. By keeping sustainability at the forefront, the project is not only fostering a love for nature but also encouraging others to join in the mission to conserve and protect the beauty of our world.

With enthusiasm and dedication, the Travelling Picco project will be carried forward in several phases, with each phase aiming to explore new destinations and introduce fresh ideas for promoting eco-friendly tourism. We hope to reach even more breathtaking locations while continuing to inspire our members and others to cherish and protect the environment. These journeys will not only serve as opportunities for adventure and learning but will also strengthen our commitment to ensuring that the natural wonders of Sri Lanka are preserved for generations to come.



**CELEBRATING
FRIENDSHIP
WITH
MANGOMATES**



The Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University in Sri Lanka

initiated a beautiful and innovative idea for Friendship Day on 2024 as Mangomates campaign to encourage friendship among students. This initiative has the goal of share the friendship today's on videos, TikToks and photographic capturing friends and allow the participants to show their relations in creative forms.

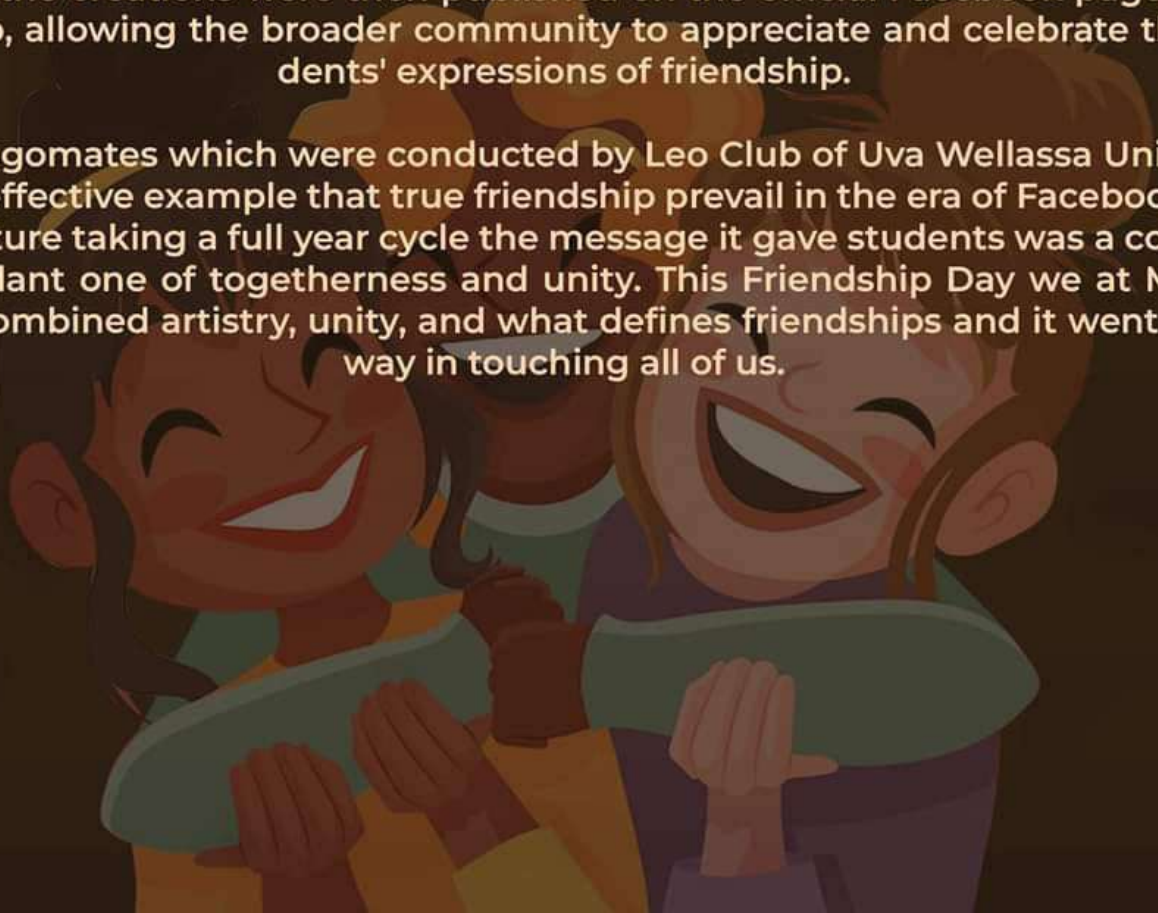
In keeping true with the spirit of Friendship Day being celebrated, Mangomates thus urged students to share their uniqueness, perceptions about Friendship Day in the various forms of expression available through new age digital platforms. The campaign ensured that the students could also practice in coming up with artworks that depicted what friendship means so as to bring harmony within the society of the university.

Individual mangomates were based on such ideas as friendship duet, creative, companionship, and being-there. This means that through using such an approach which encouraged participants to reinvent details of their friendships, the culture of appreciation and collaboration was fostered among students. In particular, participants formed different groups and this enabled them to see each other's creativity hence uniting the university.

Among the activities carried out under Mangomates there was filming and sharing real-life episodes or personal impressions of friendship in the format of a short video clip with a specific focus on TikTok videos that could not exceed one minute, following the rules of TikTok community. Participants were also asked to submit their pictures in JPEG or PNG format and the spirit of friendship should be depicted on the pictures submitted.

The submissions were reviewed by Leo Club members and faculty advisors, who selected the best entries based on creativity, novelty, and the portrayal of friendship. All the creations were then published on the official Facebook page of the Leo Club, allowing the broader community to appreciate and celebrate the students' expressions of friendship.

The Mangomates which were conducted by Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University was an effective example that true friendship prevail in the era of Facebook. Due to its nature taking a full year cycle the message it gave students was a constant and jubilant one of togetherness and unity. This Friendship Day we at Mangomates combined artistry, unity, and what defines friendships and it went a long way in touching all of us.





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Leo Kaveesha Nimmani
Industrial Information
Technology Degree
Program



WHAT IS EVENT TOURISM?

Event tourism is essentially any tourism that relates to events. Events come in all shapes and sizes- they can be large scale events or small events, private events or public events. Event tourism can bring a lot of money into the host community, making it a valuable contributor to the tourism economy.

There are different types of events that happen around the world

- Business events
- Sporting events
- Celebrations
- Conferences
- Promotional events
- Exhibitions

Event tourism is hugely beneficial to the tourism industry because it brings money to countries. Events attract people and people spend money- people need a place to stay and somewhere to eat. Events also create jobs

Event Tourism in Sri Lanka

The Word "Event Tourism" is not familiar to Sri Lankan Context, instead of that we use the term of MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions)Tourism. This Word is more popular in Sri Lanka.The island is a country with wide diversity of events those were originated in non-tourism context and some events initiated in tourism context. These events with their own unique appeal.In broader sense, event tourism in Sri Lanka can be divided in to two main categories as international and domestic event tourism with number of



The international event tourism mainly comprises from four subsets including MICE tourism, wedding tourism, heritage event tourism and sport event tourism. And conference tourism is an important sub category of the MICE tourism.

Sri Lanka has focused special attention on development of MICE tourism with facilities suitable for staging small and medium size conferences. Sri Lanka Convention Bureau is the government entity that responsible for promoting the country as a MICE destination. Sri Lanka was ranked in 71st place in the world and 17th place in Asia Pacific based on number of meetings organized in 2018

But the MICE Arrivals were decrease because of Ester Bomb Attack in 2019

Event TOURISM

The island was receiving popularity as a wedding destination in heritage festivals, only few of those events like Kandy Esala festival attract considerable number of international event tourists. Sport event tourism has not developed as a prominent contributor for the tourism industry, most probably, due to non-existence of major internationally recognized recurring sport events in the island. Conducting events at hotels like gala dinners, small heritage events and beach parties at tourism zones specially, during tourist season has become a norm in the hospitality industry.

- Kandy Esala festival
- Kataragama festival
- Madu festival
- Jasmine flower festival at Anuradhapura



N.R.R Thilakarathna
Hospitality Tourism &
Events Management
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SHAHMEE SAHEED

AN INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCE OF CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE COASTAL REGION OF SRI LANKA



This has been a record in the history of Sri Lanka where Shahmee Saheed has walked around the country along the beautiful coastal line. Stretching for 1500 kilometers and completed in 45 days, this epic journey is not only a triumph of the human spirit but also a tribute to the stunning landscapes of Sri Lanka.

Shahmee's journey started from Beruwala and passed through the coastal roads from Galle to Mirissa, from Hambantota to Trincomalee and up to Mannar. Every stage led him through different terrains, from the shores of the sea to the cities of the coast, giving him a different view of the coastal gems of Sri Lanka. His route passed through some of the famous places like Nilaveli, Pottuvil, Mullaitivu and interacted with the locals and depicted the cultural values of the country.

Shahmee's journey was not just a personal struggle but a story that inspired many people. His achievement has brought awareness to the possibilities of eco-tourism and adventure travel in Sri Lanka as the first person to do so. His achievement is a testament to the human spirit, determination, and the desire to explore the unknown.

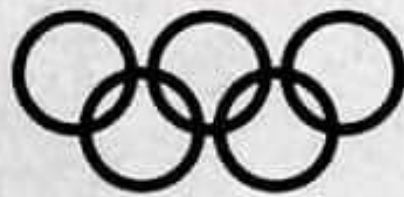
Shahmee's walk around the country will be remembered as not only a physical feat but also as an inspiration for those who dare to dream and embark on an adventure. It shows that no matter how long the distance is, one can always achieve the goal if he or she is determined and passionate.

It is high time that we pay tribute to Shahmee Saheed and his achievement which has placed his name in the history of Sri Lanka and has been a source of pride to the nation.



PARIS

2024



Leo Oushadhi
Wickramaratne
Hospitality, Tourism &
Events Management
Degree Program



SPORTS

SPORTS SUSTAINABILITY CELEBRATED



The games at the Paris Olympics concluded recently and the event was hosted really well, showcasing talent from worldwide. Sri Lankan athletes also competed excellently in this competition, bringing a lot of joy to people.

Sri Lanka has a rich history at the Olympic Games, with its athletes consistently demonstrating remarkable skill and determination. Some of the disciplines in which our competitors have done quite well in the last few years are athletics, swimming, and weightlifting. Their performance was not only a pride to our nation but also acted as a guideline to the aspiring young athletes across the country.

Representing our respective island without any hesitations, the Sri Lankan athletes showed their great performance among the different disciplines offered during the Paris Olympics. These competitions stood against the best athletes all around the world, where their dedication to excellence was obvious. They actually showed good speed, endurance, skill, and sportsmanship in the competitions. A notable achievement was reaching the semifinals stages in Men's 400m event, where Aruna Darshana gave his all to achieve his personal best.

On the other hand, there were other sports like swimming, with some talented individuals pushing beyond their limits to edge their personal bests amidst stiff competition amongst other nations.

Apart from the moments of our own glory, there were some fine moments from the athletes representing other countries. We witnessed new world record setting in various events which is just incredible to see that humans can show such amazing feats through dedication and hard work.

Another prime highlight of these Olympics was the sustainability aspect of the Olympic Games. To reduce the carbon emissions organisers took some critical actions in the event. Use of renewable energy to power the venues is one example. They encouraged people to use public transportation instead of personal vehicles which helped minimise the pollution caused by traffic congestion. They also made some attempts to minimise waste, as recycling programs were available in all stadiums, while responsible disposal has been applied as much as possible, and the source of the construction materials has been ethical.

Paris 2024 did not only aim on the success of the athletes but saw it as entrusting an environmental legacy which should be one that promotes harmony between nature and human activities. These remind us of how much responsibility there is for large international events so the environment will be preserved, allowing future generations to enjoy clean and healthy surroundings as we do now.



EDITORIAL CREW



EDITOR
THARUL JAYASUNDARA



CHIEF EDITOR
CHALITHA ALUWIHARE



CONTENT EDITOR
VIHINI WATHSILUNI



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PASINDU MIHIKALPA



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KUSNADI WICKRAMARATNE

Editor's MESSAGE



Dear Esteemed Readers,

As we unveil this edition of Leo Times, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we've embarked on together. This newsletter is not just a collection of articles, it's a chronicle of our shared experiences, filled with stories of overcoming challenges and daring to dream.

Within these pages, you'll discover the extraordinary efforts and achievements of our members. From the launch of new initiatives to personal triumphs and collective milestones, this edition is a celebration of the unwavering spirit and excellence that define our Leo community.

My hope is that as you read through this publication, you find more than just information. May the stories within inspire you to persevere, to support one another, and to make a meaningful and lasting impact in the world.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey.

It's your contributions that make Leo Times truly exceptional.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Tharal Jayasundara

Editor
Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University



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-  Leo Club of Uva Wellassa University
-  leoclubofuwu@gmail.com

A stylized, symmetrical graphic of a turtle shell, rendered in shades of blue and grey, forming a semi-circle above and below the text.

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