

# VISAKHA VIDYALAYA OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION



**LIGHT UP  
THE WORLD  
WITH YOUR  
LAMP**

## VISION 20/20

Interestingly the caption above describes a perfect vision in clinical terms. As we approach the new year "2020" it may be a good idea to assess if we possess this vision for our future. Our challenges may be diverse as we bring to the table a complex composition. We belong to many different generations, different age groups, different backgrounds but are yet connected by one common thread that binds us all together. That is being a Visakhian during our formative years.

Therefore a common, perfect vision is not an impossible achievement. What we need to assess is - should the vision be only what we see with our eyes, or what we (see) with all our senses?

Can this perfect 2020 vision create a better place for us to live in harmony and contentment?

Our life is a canvas where we have the luxury to paint amazing stories. But the challenge is, we lack the vision of the future, therefore are unable to create a perfect picture. Not knowing what tomorrow holds will never be an issue if we master the skill to take control of anything that happens in a sensible manner. All you need then, is to live this moment with a perfect vision, and respond to what happens with a perfect vision.

The irony is, unlike in a clinical definition the 2020 ratio may not be fully applicable to every situation in life. What is important is to assess the status and work towards creating a perfect ratio. The human fabric requires a complex weave to be completed. Being aware of the wants and the needs of people around us, ensuring our acts and deeds create an environment that complements them, should be our contribution to creating a perfect 2020 vision.

May 2020 bring you a perfect **2020 VISION!** Compliments of the Season!

*Tusitha Kumarakulasingam  
Gaveshika Abeyratne  
Ranithri Samarawickrama*

## AGM & Sing - Along

The 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 witnessed the Annual General Meeting of the VVOGA at the Jeremias Dias Hall. The year marked a key milestone as the VVOGA celebrated her 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which was attended by a large number of members. The formal activities of the meeting included the celebration of this milestone. A well organized Sing - along followed the AGM which kept the participants actively engaged till late in the evening. The sentiments shared by the members endorsed and appreciated the opportunity to meet with friends of yesteryear.



## Pulimood Memorial Oration

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Susan George Pulimood Memorial Oration was held on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> July at the Jeremias Dias Hall. The Oration was delivered by the Principal of Sri Lanka Law College Mrs. Indira Samarasinghe (nee Senaratne) PC, LLB (University of Colombo), PG Dip in International Law (Netherlands), LL.M (Monash, Australia), First Visakhian President's Counsel and Former Legal Draftsman, First Lady Principal of Sri Lanka Law College.

The Oration focused on the topic, 'Child Rights in Sri Lanka - The Gap Between Theory and Practice'. A pertinent subject relevant specifically to the current environment was well received by the packed audience.





# VISAKHA VIDYALAYA OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2019/2020



## SEATED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

- ▶ Ms. Priyangani Ratnasekara
- ▶ Ms. Jeevani Pandithage
- ▶ Ms. Harshini Yapa
- ▶ Ms. Kaushalya Mendis (Joint Secretary)
- ▶ Ms. Anoja Fernando (Vice President)
- ▶ Ms. Sandamali Aviruppola (President)
- ▶ Ms. Srimathi Jayasuriya (Vice President)
- ▶ Ms. Eranthi Premaratne (Joint Secretary)
- ▶ Ms. Sarala Kodagoda (Treasurer)
- ▶ Ms. Buddhini Medawatte (Staff Member)
- ▶ Ms. Imojani Marasinghe

## STANDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT

- ▶ Ms. Awanthi Wickramasinghe
- ▶ Ms. Nesali Panapitiya
- ▶ Ms. Kasuni Atapattu
- ▶ Ms. Lumini Amarasinghe
- ▶ Ms. Sewwandi Wijeratne
- ▶ Ms. Malindani Dilanthika
- ▶ Ms. Sanali Senarathna
- ▶ Ms. Nimali Ekanayake
- ▶ Ms. Jayani De Silva
- ▶ Ms. Udari Gallage
- ▶ Ms. Rasadaree Denuwara
- ▶ Ms. Chiranthi Bartholameuz
- ▶ Ms. Asanthi Srimalika
- ▶ Ms. Weranga Karunarathna
- ▶ Ms. Manuja Dayaratne
- ▶ Ms. Harini Mapagunaratne

## ABSENT

- ▶ Ms. Manoja Wickramasuriya
- ▶ Ms. Mithrika Ekanayaka
- ▶ Ms. Tusitha Kumarakulasingam
- ▶ Ms. Shanika Jayasena
- ▶ Ms. Rukshanie Vidyaratne
- ▶ Ms. Sachini Mendis
- ▶ Ms. Gaveshika Abeyratne
- ▶ Ms. Ama Wijayawardana
- ▶ Ms. Thilini Samarawickrama
- ▶ Ms. Ranithri Samarawickrama

## CONVENERS & CO-CONVENERS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEES

- ▶ **Archives** - Sachini Mendis (Convener) / Sanali Senarathna <[dhananjamendis@gmail.com](mailto:dhananjamendis@gmail.com)>
- ▶ **Building & Maintenance** - Awanthi Wickramasinghe (Convener) / Ama Wijayawardana <[awanthiwick@gmail.com](mailto:awanthiwick@gmail.com)>
- ▶ **Communications** - Tusitha Kumarakulasingam (Convener) / Gaveshika Abeyratne / Ranithri Samarawickrama <[g2abeyratne@gmail.com](mailto:g2abeyratne@gmail.com)>
- ▶ **Education** - Mithrika Ekanayake (Convener) / Rukshanie Vidyaratne <[mithrikaep@yahoo.com](mailto:mithrikaep@yahoo.com)>
- ▶ **Fund Raising** - Sewwandi Wijeratne (Convener) / Lumini Amarasinghe / Thilini Samarawickrama <[dswije@gmail.com](mailto:dswije@gmail.com)>
- ▶ **Medical** - Weranga Karunarathna (Convener) / Udari Gallage <[werangaa@yahoo.com](mailto:werangaa@yahoo.com)>
- ▶ **Membership** - Chiranthi Bartholameuz (Convener) / Jayani De Silva <[chira.lk@gmail.com](mailto:chira.lk@gmail.com)>
- ▶ **Religious** - Manuja Dayaratne (Convener) / Shanika Jayasena / Asanthi Srimalika <[manuja79@yahoo.com](mailto:manuja79@yahoo.com)>
- ▶ **Secretariat** - Imojani Marasinghe (Convener) / Nimali Ekanayake / Harini Mapagunaratne <[imojani58@yahoo.com](mailto:imojani58@yahoo.com)>
- ▶ **Social Activities** - Kasuni Atapattu (Convener) / Nesali Panapitiya <[kasuni13@yahoo.com](mailto:kasuni13@yahoo.com)>
- ▶ **Sports** - Malindani Dilanthika (Convener) / Rasadaree Denuwara <[dr.malindi@gmail.com](mailto:dr.malindi@gmail.com)>

# SPORTS FIESTA 2019



The "Sports Fiesta 2019" organized by the VVOGA focusing on connecting Visakhians of yesteryear, was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 at the school Grounds. The Chief Guest for the event was Past Principal, Ms. M.N. Edussuriya, while the Guests of Honour were Ms. Chithrangani Kalpage nee Herat and Ms. Visakha Waidyatilleke nee Gunaratne, who had excelled in sports during their time as students of Visakha Vidyalaya. The six houses, comprising past students from all age groups, battled it out in an exciting line-up of activities including a relay and multiple team events. The participation of the large numbers endorsed the fact that events of this nature are appreciated by all age groups. The teams had regular practice sessions as a part of the preparation. Dias, Pulimood and Weerasooriya houses emerged joint winners of the Sports Fiesta 2019.



## BE A PART OF THE VVOGA

Driving membership, encouraging school leavers to become active participants with the OGA is a focused activity. In addition to submitting applications at the OGA Secretariat, we are now creating the facility with membership desks at our events. An OGA Membership Desk at the Sports Fiesta attracted attention enabling convenient enrolment for new members, which was appreciated by many. We plan to make this a regular feature at the forthcoming events to facilitate more school leavers to become OGA members.

### OGA membership card!

Obtain the OGA membership card by simply filling the application at the OGA office and paying Rs.500/= to the treasurer's office on a school day.

### Any issues related to applying for the OGA membership? Reach out to the Executive Committee VVOGA

Past Visakhians who could not get the VVOGA membership due to not having the school leaving certificate, can now apply with the recommendation of two senior members of the Executive Committee.

### Update your contact details to stay tuned!

Please update your contact details using the form available on the Visakha Vidyalaya website -visakhav.org and be informed of the upcoming events and news of the VVOGA.

### Let us know when you are meeting up, so that we can arrange for your batchmates to become members

Please let the conveners of the New Members Sub-committee know of the events organized by your batches, we can arrange a membership drive of VVOGA at your event.

### Help us expand VVOGA to make it stronger

We would also like to have voluntary representatives from each batch to work with us to promote membership within the batches. Please let the conveners know if you would like to support.

 Chiranthi - 077 9 108 365

 Jayani - 077 5 698 818

# VESAK PROJECT



Celebrating Vesak, the VVOGA traditionally conducts several projects to fulfill needs of children & the community. This year the beneficiaries of this project were the school hostel, the Elpitiya Base Hospital & the surrounding community.

As the first phase of the project, improvements to the hostel dining hall were made. In the second phase equipment & stationery were donated to the Medical

Education programme, conducted by the Child and Adolescent Clinic of Elpitiya Base Hospital. In addition ten wheel chairs were donated to the hospital and damaged surgical trolleys were repaired for the use at the hospital. Dry rations, toys and stationery were donated to children of needy families attending the clinics. Generous contributions from old girls facilitated the VVOGA to deliver this project successfully.

# ESALA SIL PROGRAMME

The annual Esala Sil programme, facilitated by the Religious Sub-committee of the VVOGA, as a regular calendar activity was held on 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 at the Visakha Bo Maluwa amidst a large gathering of past and present Principals, teachers and past Visakhians.

The importance of being connected to one's religion, practising the fundamental philosophy of Buddhism and Mindfulness in daily life were the essence of the programme.





# COLOURS NIGHT 2018



Visakha Vidyalaya Colours Night 2018 was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 at the Jeremias Dias Hall. Mr. M.R. Latiff, Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police Crimes, Organized Crimes, Narcotics & Commandant - Special Task Force graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Mr. Rangana Herath, Sri Lanka Test Cricket Captain - 2016/17 attended the event as the Guest of Honour. Young sportswomen Lakithma Dulvanya Jayatissa and Lithara Dilhansa Perera were awarded the title of 'Most Talented Sports Personality', while the International level Badminton Champion Hasini Nusaka Ambalangodage was recognized and appreciated for making her alma mater and motherland proud with her achievements in the international platform. It was indeed a sparkling night for young Visakhians as they were recognized and rewarded for their achievements in the field of sports.

# PRIZE GIVING 2018

The Annual Prize Giving of Visakha Vidyalaya was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2019, at the Jeremias Dias Hall. Prof. Surangi Yasawardana, the Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Consultant Chemical Pathologist, Dr. Saroja Siriwardana was the Guest of Honour. The annual prize giving recognizes the students who display academic excellence. Nilakna Warushawithana was awarded the "Best Student" title for the Junior Secondary section while Anuki Pasquel was awarded the "Best All-rounder for the Year 2018" title.



## EDUCATION

### DONOR - SCHOLAR PROGRAMME PHASE II

This ongoing project was initiated in 2010 to help students from Grade 7 and above who needed financial assistance to pursue their studies. Past Visakhians have generously come forward to support students with financial needs who are performing well in their studies and extra curricular activities.

The VVOGA branch in Melbourne, Australia is funding 6 scholarships for students sitting for their A/L examinations in 2020. Geetha Jasinghe a representative from the branch met the recipients during a visit to Sri Lanka. The VVOGA appreciates all donors who have come forward to fund this programme. If you wish to extend your generosity towards this worthy cause by funding a student please reach out to the Secretariat to help. For inquires: [Secretariat.VVOGA@gmail.com](mailto:Secretariat.VVOGA@gmail.com)



## Dengue Shramadana

The Dengue prevention campaign was initiated in the year 2016 by the Medical Sub-committee of the VOGA with the aim of eradicating and preventing the occurrence of mosquito breeding sites in the school premises.

A 'Shramadana Campaign' was executed under this initiative on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2019, with the help of the National Dengue Prevention Campaign and The Colombo Municipal

Council. A team of experts including Public Health Inspectors, Entomologists and Medical Officers of Health examined the school premises to identify the mosquito breeding sites and advised the relevant authorities to take necessary action. The Shramadana Campaign was carried out to eradicate the mosquito breeding sites, which was a timely measure to create a healthy and safe environment for our young Visakhians.

## Annual Medical Camp

The Annual Medical Camp for the Teachers, organized by the VVOGA, was held on 27<sup>th</sup> October at the school premises. Prof. Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne, Vice Chancellor at the University of Colombo graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Prof. Anoja Fernando, former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at University of Ruhuna was the Guest of Honour. The Medical Camp offered a comprehensive health package comprising over 20 specialties for past & present teachers and their families and members of the VVOGA. The concept was appreciated by everyone who participated where personal attention was provided to each and every one during the time of the screening in a homely and comfortable environment.



## Development of the "Sick Room"

The Sickroom acts as the medical centre within Visakha Vidyalaya, providing medical care to students, teachers and other school staff in a timely manner. Therefore maintaining the standards of the sick room is of paramount importance. Sick room development project was initiated to meet the above need in year 2018 and was completed in the year 2019 by the Medical Sub-committee of the VVOGA. The team refurbished and upgraded the sickroom with new equipment, enabling the provision of better medical care for students and the school staff.

# VV ACHIEVEMENTS

Visakha Vidyalaya emerged Champions at the 46<sup>th</sup> Sri Lanka Schools' Swimming Championships, held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 at the Sugathadasa Indoor Swimming Complex. This was a landmark win for Visakha Vidyalaya, beating the 20 year record of Mahamaya Girls' College, Kandy.

The Visakhians emerged champs with a total score of 509 points with Mahamaya team trailing with 398 points. Visakha Vidyalaya also secured the 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Diving category.



- ▶ Inter-School Under-19 Badminton Team Championships  
*Girls' Super - A Division title*
- ▶ 6 Visakhians represented the National Women's Team in the Asian Water Polo Championships
- ▶ All Island National Tennis Championships 2019  
*Under 17 Girls' Champions*
- ▶ National Schools Tennis Tournament  
*Under 17 & Under 20 Champions*
- ▶ The Papare Basketball Championships 2019  
*Under 19 Girls B Division Champions*

## The Senior Choir at the CANTATA MACAU 2019



The Senior Choir of Visakha Vidyalaya conducted by Mr. Rohan De Lanerolle, won 3 Silver awards at the Macau International Choir Festival 'CANTATA MACAU 2019' held from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2019. The Visakha choir received Silver awards in the Sacred Song Category, Folkore Category and Open Category.

## VISAKHA VIDYALAYA WON THE BRONZE AWARD at the National Environmental Awards Ceremony held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2019





# SHINING STARS



*Visakhian, Senior Professor* **Chandrika N. Wijeyaratne**

Was appointed as the new Vice Chancellor of University of Colombo on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2019. Prior to this appointment, she was the Senior Professor in Reproductive Medicine in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Colombo, and the Honorary Consultant Physician & Endocrinologist at the De Soysa Hospital for Women. She was the 1st Endocrinologist to be appointed to an academic position in Sri Lanka and her work including extensive research and development in the field of Endocrinology with regard to public health in South Asia, led to receiving the 2017 Endocrine Society Laureate - International Excellence in Endocrinology Award. She also served as the 123<sup>rd</sup> President of the Sri Lanka Medical Association during 2017.



*Visakhian* **Kalhari Bandara Goonewardana**

Received the "Bio One Ambassador" award for 2018 for her research in poultry industry. This award recognizes early-career researchers who excel at communicating the importance and impact of their research beyond their discipline. Her research focused on raising healthy chicken by using alternative methods to Antibiotics, and thereby protecting the public health by preventing the growth of Antibiotic resistant bacteria in the environment. She was nominated for this award by the American Association of Avian Pathologists. A student of Visakha Vidyalaya from 1995 to 2004, Kalhari obtained Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree from the University of Peradeniya in 2018. She did internship training in Veterinary Clinical Medicine and Surgery and Poultry Disease Investigation and Diagnostic Pathology. She is currently attached to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada and completing her PhD.



*Visakhian* **Jayathma Wickramanayake**

The UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth was named as one of the rising stars in the TIME magazine's 'Time100 Next'. She was our 1<sup>st</sup> ever youth delegate to the UN and was appointed as the Envoy on Youth in 2017 & the UN announced Youth 2030. Her work involves getting the youth actively involved in the UN initiatives and strengthening the organization's focus on their needs.

## INVOKE BLESSINGS

*Former Principal* **Mrs. M.N. Edussuriya**

A Bodhi Pooja to bless the Former Principal, Mrs. M.N. Edussuriya on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday was held at the Visakha Bo Maluwa on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Serving as the Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya from January 1988 to October 1999, Mrs. Edussuriya's vision paved the way for Visakha to reach a high standard it enjoys now.

Her dedication and loyalty to our alma mater is well known to the Visakhians. Past teachers who were present during Mrs. Edussuriya's time at Visakha Vidyalaya and the Executive Committee of the VVOGA - 2019/2020 gathered to bless her, and a tea party was held thereafter.



## CELEBRATING THE CHILDREN'S DAY

The Social Activities Sub-committee of the VVOGA organized an interactive activity for the Hostellers to celebrate the Children's day with an outbound training programme at the Action park - Hanwella on 18<sup>th</sup> of October. Team work, handling challenges, supporting each other were some of the themes included.




## ACROSS THE SEAS - VISAKHA RETRO NIGHT 2019 IN UAE

Visakhians in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) organized a glamorous get together under a Retro Theme of 70's, 80's and 90's music and dance, at the prestigious Radisson Blu Deira Creek Hotel in Dubai on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The party, full of glitz and fun, was well attended by many generations of Visakhians.



# MESSAGES AND NOTICES



## Sports Sub Committee

The Sports Sub-committee was formed to upgrade Sports at Visakha. Sports Advisory Committees have been formed consisting of past Visakhians who have excelled in sports. The Swimming, Water polo, Synchronized Swimming and Diving Advisory committees have been briefed about the respective status. The same will be done for the other twenty two identified sports soon.

## IN NEED OF HELP!

Past Visakhian Mrs. Hasitha Katugampala (A/L batch of 1981) needs our help.

Her 24 years old son, Kavindu Wijesinghe met with an accident in October 2018 which caused extensive brain damage resulting in him needing physiotherapy, special diet & medicine for his rehabilitation.

**Tel : 071 4292673**  
**Bank Account details:**  
**H.H. Katugampala**  
**Account No: 8209003617,**  
**Commercial Bank, Maharagama.**



## CHERISH AND PRESERVE MEMORABLE MOMENTS AT VISAKHA VIDYALAYA

Hand over any important landmark memories of yesteryears, that is worthy of preserving.

Could be souvenirs, records, old photographs, moments of glory, concert programmes etc from 1917 to 2017.

Hand over at the Archives room, any school day from 8 am to 12 noon.

*Contact:*  
Sachini - 077 2 245 949  
Sanali - 077 7 331 969

## Visakha Avurudu Pola 2020

The upcoming Avurudu Pola will be bigger and better! To accommodate the growing crowd and the demand for stalls it will be held at Sri Lanka Exhibition and Convention Centre (SLECC), on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020, from 8.00am onwards. Await a wide range of products at unbelievable discounts, and entertainment for the whole family.

*For event inquiries:*  
**Navodya - 077 2 295 873**  
**Dhanurda - 071 8 514 086**

## "Musical Extravaganza" with Bathiya and Santhush

A "Musical Extravaganza" featuring Bathiya and Santhush is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) from 7pm onwards. This show will be a crowd puller. We seek your assistance with sponsorships & donations to make it successful.

*Contact:*  
**Sewwandi - 077 3 571 303**  
**Lumini - 077 2 533 229**  
**Thilini - 077 0 292 360**

## OBITUARIES

We announce with sadness the demise of  
**Mrs. Kamala Karunaratne**  
(Nee Dewapura)  
former Ex-Co member of the VVOGA

## VACANCY

Secretariat sub-committee is looking for a permanent employee for the secretariat.

**Contact: E-mail: [Secretariat.VVOGA@gmail.com](mailto:Secretariat.VVOGA@gmail.com)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2020

JANUARY

16<sup>th</sup>

Bodhi Pooja for 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday of VV

FEBRUARY

16<sup>th</sup>

Musical Extravaganza with B&S

MARCH

25<sup>th</sup>

&

26<sup>th</sup>

Founder's Day Pirith & Almsgiving

27<sup>th</sup>

&

28<sup>th</sup>

Avurudu Pola

### DONATIONS AND SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED

VVOGA contributes to various activities of the school and students. The Funds in Support of Student Activities and the Teacher Motivation are dedicated to meet expenses of this nature upon requests made by the school. We welcome past pupils to make donations to these funds to support the school.

*Donations can be made to the VVOGA Treasurer's Office during school hours.*

### CENTENARY PUBLICATION

**The Centenary Publication will be launched in 2020!**

- ▶ Pre-Publication Price - Rs.3,500/-
- 200 copies only, offer open till 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Pre payment is mandatory.
- Payment to be made at the Treasurer's office during school hours.



Registered at the Department of Posts of Sri Lanka

Under No: QD/100/NEWS/2019

Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association

133, Vajira Road, Colombo 5.