



**Interact**  
Royal College

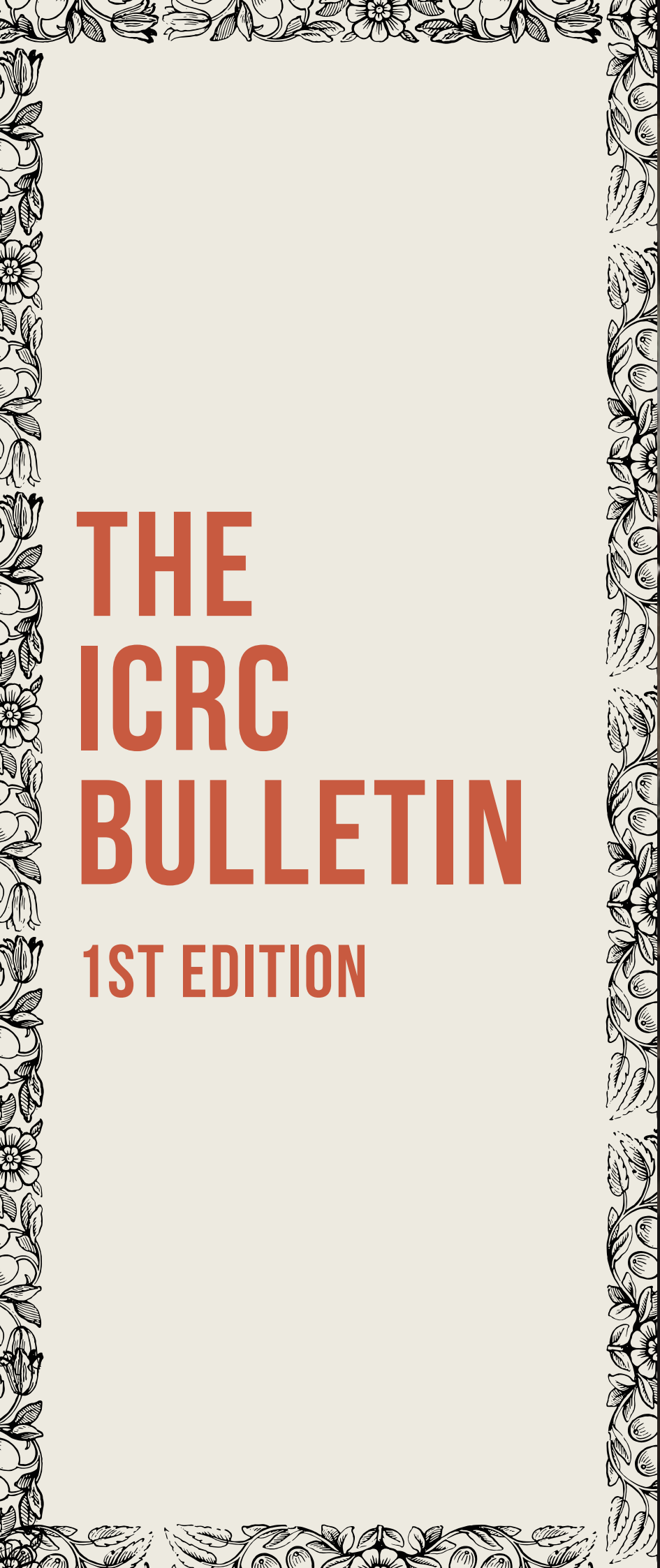


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# EXPRESS

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**AN INITIATIVE BY THE INTERACT  
CLUB OF ROYAL COLLEGE**

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# THE ICRC BULLETIN

1ST EDITION



# INTERACT CLUB OF ROYAL COLLEGE OVERVIEW

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Colombo, The Interact Club of Royal College was chartered on the 18th of November 1965. Our club is the second interact club in the island and third in Asia and is the oldest functioning Interact Club in Sri Lanka. The President of the Club, before receiving the charter was Int. Raj Bar Kumara Kulasinghe. The Interact Club of Royal College is responsible to carry out projects based on the below mentioned avenues under the guidance of the Rotary and Interact District 3220.

1. Community Service
2. Club Service
3. Finance
4. Green Life
5. International Understanding

The annual projects of the club include Drama Comp, Abstract, Bradly Shield Souvenir, Funduhmental, Minor Employees, Surge, Footloose and Spectrum. Apart from organizing projects to benefit the public and Adults and Children with special needs, the ICRC concentrates to on issues inside Royal College as well. The club participated in a variety of different projects during an Interact year.







# VISION OF INTERACT

**“THE VISION OF INTERACT IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER IN A WORLD FELLOWSHIP DEDICATED TO SERVICE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING”.**



# MISSION OF INTERACT

**TO RECOGNIZE AND DEVELOP CONSTRUCTIVE LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL INTEGRITY.**

**TO ENCOURAGE AND PRACTICE THOUGHTFULNESS AND HELPFULNESS TO OTHERS.**

**TO CREATE AN AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME AND FAMILY.**

**TO BUILD RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS BASED ON RECOGNITION OF THE WORTH OF EACH INDIVIDUAL.**

**TO EMPHASIZE ACCEPTANCE OF INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AS THE BASIS OF PERSONAL SUCCESS, COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, AND GROUP ACHIEVEMENT.**

**TO DEVELOP LIFE SKILLS INCLUDING SELF-DEVELOPMENT, TIME MANAGEMENT, AND PERSONAL FINANCES.**

**TO RECOGNIZE THE DIGNITY AND VALUE OF ALL USEFUL OCCUPATIONS AS OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE SOCIETY.**

**TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GAINING INCREASED KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNITY, NATIONAL, AND WORLD AFFAIRS.**

**TO OPEN AVENUES OF PERSONAL AND GROUP ACTION LEADING TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND GOODWILL TOWARDS ALL PEOPLE.**



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is with great pleasure that I pen down this message for the first edition of the Bulletin of the Interact Club of Royal College.

The Interact club of Royal College founded in 1965 has a rich history of over 50 years. The club has shown time after time the efforts it puts into carrying out highly successful projects keeping to its high standards. The Bulletin published by the club is an embodiment of the forward thinking and innovation done by the members of the Interact Club. Even during these trying times amidst a global pandemic the club has initiated an innovative new project expanding its scope and showcasing their talents.

It would be a disservice if I don't recognise the importance of a few significant figures who's contribution made this bulletin possible. I appreciate the work done by the Senior Master of Clubs & Societies and the Assistant Principal of College Mr. T.D.C.P. Amaratunga and the Staff Advisor of the Interact Club Mrs. Iresha Gunathilake for helping the young Interactors transition to the new medium due to the pandemic and always supporting their innovative ventures and guiding them to success.

Finally congratulations must go out to the Organizing Committee for all of their hard work in ensuring the success of the publication.

Mr. P.A.S.P. Jayalath





# MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

It is with great pleasure that I pen down this message to the first edition of ICRC Bulletin Magazine.

The ICRC Bulletin stands as a symbol of the innovativeness and the determination of the club and its members in light of the fact that this publication is being released in midst of a global pandemic with the utilization of online media. The magazine will surely be a landmark of the club year as it reflects upon all the initiative projects that were carried by the Interact Club.

I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the Senior Master of Clubs & Societies and the Assistant Principal of College Mr. T.D.C.P. Amaratunga and the Staff Advisor of the Interact Club Mrs. Iresha Gunathilake for guiding the members of the club. Even in the middle of this pandemic, the Interact Club of Royal College has allowed students to show their talents to even the international community.

Mentioning must go out to the Organizing Committee of this project, for working tirelessly and co-operatively in order to make this project a success. "There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure"

Mr. M.V.S. Gunathilake



# MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR MASTER OF CLUBS & SOCIETIES

First and foremost, I must mention that it is with great pleasure that I pen down this message to the first edition of “ICRC Bulletin”, organized by the Interact Club of Royal College.

The Interact Club of Royal College has proved that they cannot be kept silent just because of a mere pandemic. Among their impressive projects, the ICRC Bulletin stands out. This project provides a great platform for students to display and sharpen their diverse talents and to get away from the monotony of online classes. Through this innovative new initiative the club is able to better showcase the wide variety of impressive projects carried out during the year.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude towards the Principal of Royal College, Mr. P.A.S.P. Jayalath for his guidance and support towards this project. I would like to thank the Staff Advisor of the Interact Club of Royal College Mrs. Iresha Gunathilake for her advice and dedication towards the project.

Congratulations to the organizing committee of this project, for their tireless effort and keen co-operation with all parties involved in making this project a success.

Mr. T.D.C.P. Amaratunga





# MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF ADVISOR

As the teacher in charge of the Interact Club of Royal College it is an honor to pen this message for the first edition of the Interact Quaterly Bullentin.

It brings me great pleasure to see the new generation of Interactors being hard at work, finding new and innovative ways of carrying out projects, due to the change in lifestyle caused by the pandemic we have been facing in the recent years. The release of the ICRC Bulletin is another step towards a positive direction. Through this venture the club is able to showcase the depth in quality of the project carried out to a larger audience.

The designing and the publishing of the Bulletin is no easy task. I would like to thank the Principal of College Mr. P.A.S.P. Jayalath for all of his support. A special thank must also go out to Mr. T.D.C.P. Amaratunga, the Senior Master of Clubs & Societies and the Assistant Principal of College for all of his guidance in making the creation of the bulletin a reality.

Finally, I would like to commend the organizing committee for taking up the challenge of creating the first Interact Bulletin and making sure that the Bulletin is up to the high standards that has been maintained by the club. I hope that the first edition of the ICRC Bulletin will be a resounding success.

Mrs. Iresha Gunathilake



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It gives me great pleasure to pen this message for the first edition of the ICRC Bulletin as the 56th president of one of the most esteemed student led organization. Joining the club, a little over 4 years ago it has been a roller-coaster ride of ups and downs. Above all the interact movement has blessed me with lessons that have changed my life in a great number of ways and I am indebted to have obtained this opportunity to service the community through this movement.



The Interact Club of Royal College is a club with rich history and traditions. The situations we have been facing in the recent past have put these important traditions into jeopardy. But through the tireless efforts of not only the current members and office

bearers but importantly due to the dedication of the members and office-bearers of the recent past the club has been able to maintain its high esteem and help the community at large.

The ICRC Bulletin is another step in the right direction. Through this initiative the club can once again showcase talents in organizing of highly successful projects. The creation of the ICRC Bulletin would not have taken place if it was not for the support of a few important people. Firstly, the Principal of College Mr. P.A.S.P. Jayalath who gave his guidance in making it a reality. Thanks, should also be given to the Senior Master of Clubs & Societies and the Assistant Principal of College Mr. T.D.C.P. Amaratunga for all of his support. Finally, our Staff Advisor Mrs. Iresha Gunathilake for always helping us even through the toughest of times.

It brings me great pleasure to see the efforts put in by the organizing committee in making this Bulletin a success.

Int. Suchith Tissera





**DAYS OF YORE**



# WE THREW OUR AWARDS IN THE BEIRA LAKE

Int. Nipuna Ambanpola

Past President

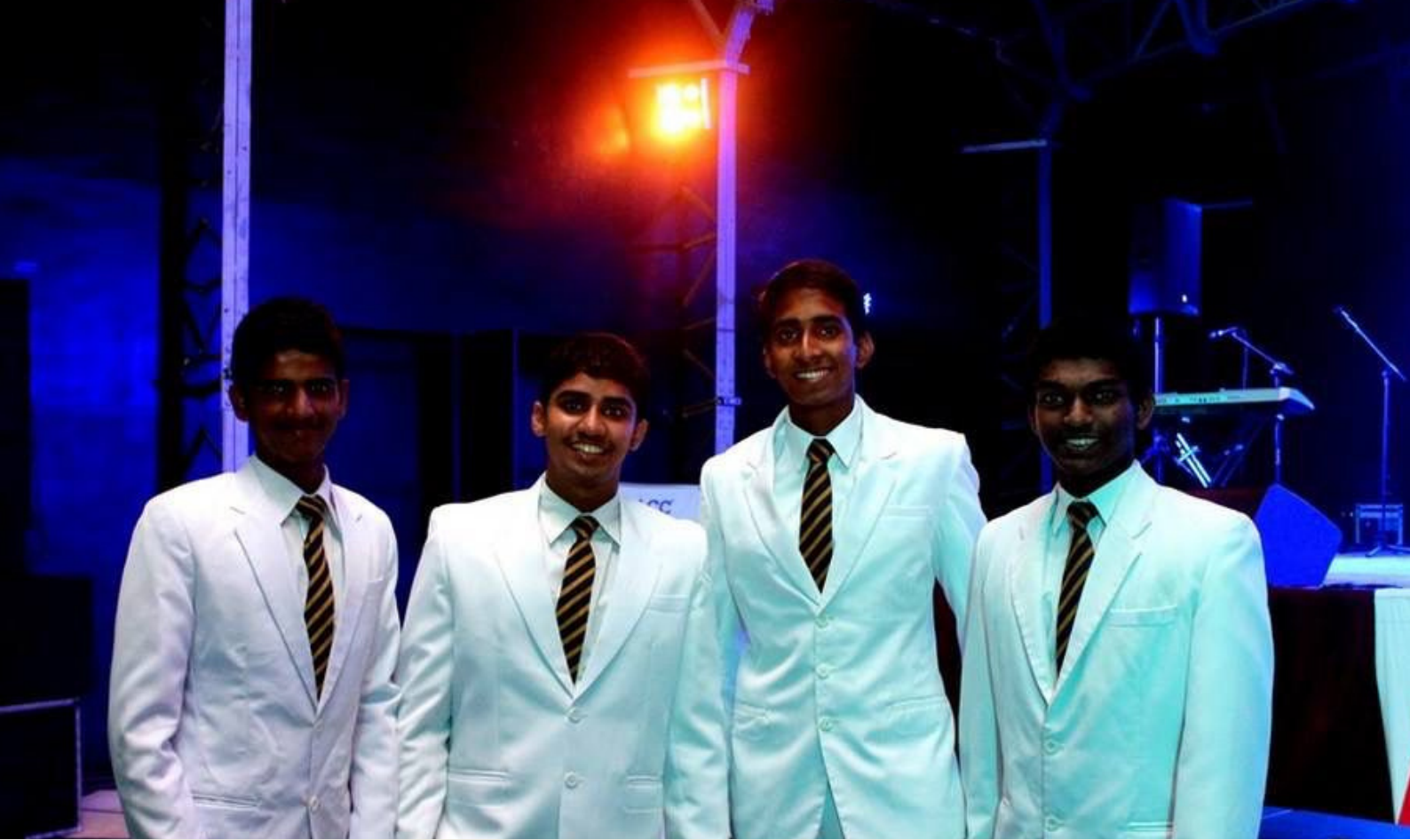
Interact Club of Royal College 2012/2013

We threw our awards in the Beira Lake. Mischievous? Stubborn? Ruthless? – Sure. But it's true. We threw the plastic pieces we earned for doing good in the world straight into the Beira Lake. Then, we loosened our ties and sat around the edge of the road, sharing stories and memories of the year. Memories of mischief, perseverance, loss, victory, learning, regret, and yearning to do better in the year after. Then we walked to Raheema to get a bite. After dinner we gathered around in the main hall and wept. It was the end of Interact for the seniors as they bid adieu to Royal College. Through the night, we exchanged memories of all the years in Interact and the stories of the people we had the opportunity to help and acquaint. We always gathered in a circle or huddle, where beginnings and ends were unclear and hierarchies were intentionally casted aside. Therein lies the true essence of Interact at Royal College – a brotherhood dedicated for service.

When I look back to my time in Interact at Royal, I remember the faces of the children we hosted for Abstract. I vividly remember the overwhelming sense of content and happiness I felt each year as I looked over at our Abstract participants jumping up and down in bounce castles and singing their hearts out during the entertainment show. As they boarded the busses to go back, we promised them that we would visit







them again, and we did – with Abstract Gives back.

The frustrations of losing a venue in the last minute, sponsors backing out, creatively making miracles happen and navigating through ever-lasting red tape and bureaucracy are some of the life-long learnings I've brought away with me. The names of the homeless people we distributed food and clothes to, treating the minor staff at college for their extraordinary work, and the world class projects we put together as friends, colleagues, and family are some of the best moments I recall from those days.

The moments of learning, sense of accomplishment, feeling of unity, perseverance to do good, the smiles of all, the thank-yous and good-byes, and the priceless opportunities to share our privilege – they are the timeless “awards” I carry in my heart to this day. These awards, however, never got thrown in the Beira Lake.



# REMINISCING THE ROOTS

Int. Madara Thalduwa

Past President

Interact Club of Royal College 2017/2018

The time we spent as Interactors were vital for our personality development. However, at the end of the day, all that we can recall are the memories we shared. The brotherhood that disseminated through our huddles made us closer. We saw all our friends grow up and mature through the work we were involved in. I am proud to say that many of the bonds I share with my closest friends are the outcome of us working together at the Interact Club. The most important aspect is that, whilst we shared a smile amongst ourselves, we managed to put a smile on others through our community service. This was etched in our hearts since the day we distributed food packets as a part of 'Meals on Wheels' to the day we did 'Abstract' and 'SURGE'.

As an alumnus, I hope that the club will be able to achieve many great things in the future and maybe we will live to see that friendly rivalry between 'Abstract' and 'Drama Comp' in the years to come as well

Floreat!





# CULTURE, OPPORTUNITY & BROTHERHOOD

Int. Nilesch Wijesekara

Past President

Interact Club of Royal College 2018/2019

Culture, opportunity, and brotherhood. Three ideas that I believe underpin everything this institution stands for. As a past pupil at college, I have been fortunate enough to be a part of the process. The friendships, loyalty, and sense of belonging one gains by being a part of this brotherhood is unparalleled. The nature by which traditions are protected and passed down from senior to junior, the bond that's created during this process are quite special. It is something that many of us fondly reminisce.

This culture and brotherhood stems from the opportunities that are open to those who are ambitious enough to get involved

Being involved in sports and clubs, I found that the possibilities for what one can achieve at college are endless. However, I feel that the opportunity to create special moments, to engage in priceless experiences and create your own story, whatever the circumstances are, is what sets this whole experience apart from the rest. It is what moulds boy into man. It is the reason we hold this school so dear. Now, looking in from the outside, the grounding I gained from college has become more valuable and something I appreciate even more.

# **THE BEGINNING**

## **1965-1966**

The Interact Club of Royal College, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Colombo was chartered on the 18th of November 1965. The Interact Club of Royal College was the second Interact club on the island and the third in Asia. The Interact Club of Royal College is the oldest functioning Interact Club in Sri Lanka.

The President of the Interact Club of Royal College before receiving charter was Int. Raj Bar Kumara. The Charter President of the club was Int. Nande Palihakkara. Int. Nande Palihakkara served as the president in both 1965/1966 and 1966/1967. The charter Secretary was Int. P.A. De Silva. The first staff Advisor of the club was Mr. Lenny De Silva.

From this day in November 1965, the Club has grown to become one of the most active club in college, carrying out many innovative projects in all avenues of Service.

# **THE HISTORY**

## **1966-1970**

Made fortunate to form a junior Club of Rotary Interactional called the Interact Club it was the inception of a new era. This newly chartered club was the ideal mode of promoting international understanding which was a great need at that time. The club had the opportunity of welcoming a group study team of 7 Rotarians from district 743 Rotary International, Newtown Pennsylvania, and had very useful discussions with them in the 1967/1968 Interact year. During the same period, the Club set up links with two Canadian high schools, namely, Chatham Kent and Magee High School, and exchanged very useful material and literature.

In 1968 the Club hosted three members of the Interact Club of Quilon who were on a cycle tour of South India and Ceylon. During this period the Club also played host to thirty students from India who were on a goodwill visit to Ceylon. The Club also formed links with the Interact Club of Allahabad, India, and the El Cajon Vally high school in America.



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In 1969 and 1970 the Club maintained a very rewarding corresponded with a large number of Interact Clubs from a multitude of countries including Australia, Argentina, Bolivia, England, Finland, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, and the United States.

Though the Club strived to promote international understanding it also carried out projects in a multitude of other avenues. In the 1967/1968 Interact year, the main project organized by the club the Benefit Show (Beat Show) was held towards the end of the term where two of the best music groups the “Savage” and the Silhouettes” performed. The project from this event was used to help renovate the school canteen. The Club also during this Interact year ran a bookshop in college making it possible for the students to purchase new textbooks at reduced price levels. To fulfill its duty of improving the community the Club helped poor families in Chilaw by sending dry rations.

1966-1970

In the 1968/1969 Interact year the Club held a beat show featuring the 'Spitfires' the 'Flintstone's', the 'Cutlaws' and Mr. C.T. Fernando in the College Hall. The proceeds from this show were utilized to purchase four 25-gallon capacity water bottles for the College. The members of the Club helped to sell flags in aid of the 'Saukyadana' Movement and made a collection for the C.N.A.P.T. at the beat show. During the latter half of that same Interact year, the Club held a benefit show of the film 'doctor in clover'. It was held at the Regal Cinema and the proceeds were used to construct houses for the flood and cyclone victims in the Chilaw District.

The 1969/1970 Interact year started with a party conducted as entertainment to the orphans of St. Margaret's Polwatte. During this year the Club bookshop continued to function very actively with a large volume of second-hand books being sold to students at a cheaper price. The major funding project for this Interact year was the beat show, the "rhythm safari". The show featured the "spitfires", the "moonstones" the "silhouettes", and the "speed jets" The profit was utilized to finance an audio-visual center introduced by the Club.

It was during the 1969/1970 Interact year that the Club accepted the new standard Interact Club Constitution.

This period between 1965 and 1970 established the club as the most promising student-led club service entity in college carrying out many major projects which led to the financing of multiple good causes to help the community at large.



# THE HISTORY 1970-1975

The period between 1970 to 1975 was a very eventful one for the Interact Club of Royal College. The Club living up to its motto of “service before self” contributed immensely to assist the school and community at large.

On the 12th and 13th of February 1970, the Club held a discotheque at the Lionel Wendt Art Gallery. The profit gained through this project was spent on building a new school village community center for the ‘Veddhas’ of ‘Muruthani’.

During the 1970/1971 Interact year the Club was very dynamic in the field of international understanding. The Club hosted the declaration of the international federation for the blind to tea. The Club also corresponded with over 100 other Interact Clubs in the world. The Club also won first place at the far-east Interact photographic competition held in Hong Kong.

In the 1972/1973 Interact year the club’s first service project was setting up a horticultural plot in the west corner of college enabling the training of students in the field of bio-science and horticultural science. Later on, in the same Interact year, the club initiated to repair and restore classrooms in a rural school in Trincomalee which were destroyed in the 1971 cyclone.

The bookshop run by the Club was moved to a new location above the Vice-Principal’s office. The bookshop managed to sell over 100 College ties, as well as many second-hand books and past papers for students.

The main international understanding project carried out in 1972/1973 was the hosting of 16 Indian Interactors from Secunderabad for a week. A tour around Colombo was arranged for them which included visits to places such as the Zoo, Parliament, and the Planetarium.

# 1970-1975

The 1973/1974 Interact year was another successful year in which the Club started the year launching a finance project. This took the form of a discotheque known as "March Mania". It was held on the second night of the Royal-Thomian Big Match. Held in Lionel Wendt theatre the profits were utilized in future community service projects.

During this Interact year, the Club focused on the Greenlife Avenue through its Agriculture project. The Club helped the students to bring all available land within the school premises under cultivation. The club also visited hundreds of homes and distributed planting materials to those interested.

As the years International Understanding venture the club hosted 15 American students from the Floating Campus, Chapman College, and the S.S University.

During the 1974/1975 Interact year the Club's main finance project was the publishing of the souvenir for the 31st Bradby Shield rugby encounter. The Clubs bookshop also functioned smoothly throughout the year with many second-hand books and GCE A/L past papers available for sale.

The Club also carried out many service projects in and around the school which made a great impact in the renovation of the school. Most notably the club numbered the chairs in the school and donated dusters to all classes in the school.

From 1970 to 1975 the club went to greater heights improving on already existing projects and initiating a multiplicity of new highly successful projects as well.



# THE HISTORY 1975 1980

Living up to its motto “service before self” has been a great assistance to college through the carrying out of many major projects from the years 1975 to 1980.

During the 1976/1977 Interact year the club undertook several maintenance projects like organizing the cleanup programs of the school toilets, school hall, and its environment. The Club also inaugurated a school milk booth.

During this Interact year, the club organized a visit to a school for Children with Mental Disorders and helped them financially and emotionally. The club also organized a sport meet for them. The main fundraising projects for the year were a Cyclotron, a Fun Parlor, the Royal Beat Fiesta, and the publication of the traditional Bradby Shield Souvenir.

The Club also organized its 12th-anniversary celebrations on a grand scale. Many special activities were organized to celebrate this special occasion. In the field of international understanding, the club organized and corresponded many events with foreign Interact Clubs.

The Interact Club of Royal College start the 1978/1979 Interact year with the exhibition “Walk through this World” which was the major international understanding project for the year. In this exhibition, the cultural activities of a majority of the countries around the world were depicted. An International Cultural Pageant was staged by the Embassies and High Commissions who were involved in the exhibition itself.

Amongst the projects, during this Interact year the monthly bulletin, the “Interactor” carrying information of the activities of the club was published. The Club also carried out various projects such as taking children of the mentally sub-normal school to the part, “Inter cracks” a variety show, and “Inter Olympia” a sport meet for the children of the various diplomatic missions.

The major finance project for the 1978/1979 Interact year was the sponsoring of the well-known theatrical “Waiting for Godot” the proceeds of which were utilized to organize the Rotary International Youth activities week from October 8th to the 14th.

The 1979/1980 Interact year was a special year for the club as it was the Club’s 15th year as an active Interact Club after its charter back in November 1965. The first major finance project carried out was a violin recital by college students in which part of the proceeds was donated to those with mental disabilities. The Club also carried out a monthly Shramadana Program. The Club also published its monthly new letter.

In the avenue of international understanding, the Club corresponded with Clubs in other countries through the international Pen Friend Association. The Club also organized the Rotary International Youth activities week alongside Rotary.

Finally, the main finance project that took place during this Club year was the 3rd successive Inter-School Band Competition which brought together bands from many different schools for a night of brilliant music.

The Interact Club of Royal College made further strides to achieving its goal of bettering the community throughout the period from 1975 to 1980 carrying out many projects helping the community at large greatly.



# **PAST OFFICE BEARERS OF THE CLUB**

## **2010/2011 OFFICE BEARERS**

President -Int. Rajika Aluvihare

Secretary -Int. Shehan Gomez

Treasurer-Int. Hemaka Perera

Vice President- Int. Minura Ahangama

Director Finance – Int. Aneeq Hashim

Director Community Service-Int. Ameen Mohamed

Director Club Service- Int. Banuka Thambawita

Director International Understanding/Sergeant at Arms-Int. Kaushika Jayalath

Director Green Life/Editor- Int. Rashmin Thirimanne

## **2011/2012 OFFICE BEARERS**

President -Int. Rashmin Thirimanne

Secretary -Int. Banuka Thambawita

Treasurer Int. Aneeq Hashim

Vice President- Int. Shimry Nazier

Director Finance – Int. Infaaz Ahamed

Director Community Service-Int. Shuaib Jabbar

Director Club Service- Int.Nipuna Ambanpola

Director International Understanding/Sergeant at Arms- Int. Kushil Gomes

Director Green Life/Editor- Int. Chanaka Tennakoon

## **2012/2013 OFFICE BEARERS**

President - Int.Nipuna Ambanpola

Secretary -Int. Shuaib Jabbar

Treasurer Int. Shakir Zavahir

Vice President- Int.Rushil Pasqual

Director Finance – Int. Viren Ratwatte

Director Community Service- Int.Dinuka Ahangama

Director Club Service- Int.Anuka Aluwihare

Director International Understanding/Sergeant at Arms- Int. Kanchana Ranasinghe

Director Green Life/Editor- Int.Lasanth Nadaraja

## **2013/2014 OFFICE BEARERS**

President- Int. Anuka Aluvihare

Secretary- Int. Viren Ratwatte

Treasurer- Int. Ifram Ismath

Vice President- Int. Senith Abeyanayake

Director Finance- Int. Naveed Hashim

Director Community Service- Int. Kanchana Ranasinghe

Director Club Service- Int. Imaadh Dole

Director International Understanding/ Sergeant at Arms- Int. Nikila Weerakone

Director Green Life/ Editor- Int. Druuvi De Silva

## **2014/2015 OFFICE BEARERS**

President- Int. Senith Abeyanayake

Secretary- Int. Imaadh Dole

Treasurer- Int. Ifram Ismath

Vice President- Int. Naveed Hashim

Director Finance- Int. Druuvi De Silva

Director Community Service- Int. Dinuka De Zoysa

Director Club Service- Int. Suran Weerasekara

Director International Understanding/ Sergant at Arms- Int. Shavinda Herath

Director Green Life/ Editor- Int. Arjun Ratwatte



## **2015/2016 OFFICE BEARERS**

President- Int. Dinuka De Zoysa  
Secretary- Int. Arjun Ratwatte  
Treasurer- Int. Suran Weerasekara  
Vice President- Int. Shavinda Herath  
Director Finance- Int. Shezan Feroze  
Director Community Service- Int. Mithsuka Tillakaratne  
Director Club Service- Int. Mindula Suriyabandara  
Director International Understanding/ Sergeant at Arms- Int. Faheem Hameed  
Director Green Life/ Editor- Int. Ruweesha Jayawardena

## **2016/2017 OFFICE BEARERS**

President- Int. Mindula Suriyabandara  
Secretary- Int. Mithsuka Tilakaratne  
Treasurer- Int. Sajad Irshad  
Vice President- Int. Dylan Wijesuriya  
Director Finance- Int. Hashen Hettigoda  
Director Community Service- Int. Madara Thalduwa  
Director Club Service- Int. Vinsara Jayalath  
Director International Understanding/Sargent at Arms- Int. Kalinda Abeyanayake  
Director Green Life/Editor- Int. Fayyad Hameed

## **2017/2018 OFFICE BEARERS**

President- Int. Madara Thalduwa  
Secretary- Int. Kalinda Abeyanayake  
Treasurer- Int. Vinsara Jayalath  
Vice President- Int. Fayyad Hameed  
Director Finance- Int. Yashanka De Zoysa  
Director Community Service- Int. Nilesh Wijesekara  
Director Club Service- Int. Shalem Sumanthiran  
Director International Understanding/ Sergeant at Arms- Int. Dulana Weligepolage  
Director Green Life/ Editor- Int. Shashendra Sumanatillake

## **2018/2019 OFFICE BEARERS**

President- Int. Nilesch Wijesekara  
Secretary- Int. Shalem Sumanthiran  
Treasurer- Int. Yugenthira Puviharan  
Vice President- Int. Abdullah Thahir  
Director Finance- Int. Yasiru Sandaruwan  
Director Community Service- Int. Rusira Peiris  
Director Club Service- Int. Jithnuka Samaraweera  
Director International Understanding/ Sergeant at Arms- Int. Binula Karunaratne  
Director Green Life/ Editor- Int. Heshan Balasuriya

## **2019/2020 OFFICE BEARERS**

President- Int. Jithnuka Samaraweera  
Secretary- Int. Rusira Peiris  
Treasurer- Int. Binula Karunaratne  
Vice President- Int. Bilal Sabry  
Director Finance- Int. Ruchith Ranasinghe  
Director Community Service- Int. Dinal Aluthgama  
Director Club Service- Int. Ishva Ranasinghe  
Director International Understanding/ Sergeant at Arms- Int. Kavisha Ratnayaka  
Director Green Life/ Editor- Int. Manish De Silva

## **2020/2021 OFFICE BEARERS**

President- Int. Dinal Aluthgama  
Secretary- Int. Ishva Ranasinghe  
Treasurer- Int. Manish De Silva  
Vice President- Int. Kavisha Ratnayaka  
Director Finance-Int. Shaakir Hameed  
Director Community Service- Int. Nisal Hemakumara  
Director Club Service- Int. Suchith Tissera  
Director International Understanding/ Sergeant at Arms- Int. Thehan Wijemanna  
Director Green Life/ Editor- Int. Muazzam Awn





# **PROJECTS COMPLETED**

**JULY- DECEMBER 2021**

# BEYOND THE CURTAINS 2021



## BEYOND THE CURTAINS

"THEATRE IS A MIRROR  
A SHARP REFLECTION OF SOCIETY"

ENGLISH MONOLOGUE  
COMPETITION

IMPROMPTU MONOLOGUE  
ACTING COMPETITION

ENGLISH SCRIPT WRITING  
COMPETITION

DRAMA QUIZ  
COMPETITION

A PROJECT BY THE INTERACT CLUB OF ROYAL COLLEGE

It goes without saying that the Covid pandemic has been incredibly detrimental to the progress of our youth, not only in academics and sports but it has taken a huge toll on the arts as well. With Covid shutting down all physical activities, we were unable to hold Drama Comp, an annual drama competition which is one of the main events in the club calendar. But as we adapt to having everything done online, more and more projects like workshops, lectures and competitions are being organized now more than ever. Turns out holding an online Thespian competition would be a brilliant and fun way for people to reconnect and try out some acting, developing skills in that area after being used to a lockdown life. Seeing this as an opportunity, we planned to organize a competition that will inherently foster and develop young talent that exist within the arts, throughout the country giving the project a much wider reach than before. This was the perfect substitute for Drama Comp.



Now, having the opportunity to engage as many youngsters as possible, “Beyond the Curtains” was held under 4 main categories.

1. English monologue competition
2. English original script writing competition
3. English impromptu acting competition
4. English drama quiz competition

The project took place from the 22nd of September till the 21st of October virtually. The submissions and performances were judged by four esteemed judges, namely, Dinesh Marionehswaran, Ruvin De Silva, Sashane Perera and Lihan Mendis. Even though this was a newly initiated project and we expected only a small crowd to participate, we ended up getting way more submissions than we expected, thanks to the publicity on social media and the 18 dedicated committee members who went out of their way to plan this.

event and spread the word. At the end of the day Beyond the curtains was a massive success and is definitely a highlight of the club year.

# ABSTRACT 2021



One of the most common things to man that binds all of us together is pain. Whether we live a sheltered life, Most of us expect it to be full of nothing but joy and happiness. Bueach and every person everywhere in some way faces pain and suffering. Unfortunately, this is some more than most. Losing a parent is considered and is one of the most hurtful experiences one could possibly go through in life. Losing them as a child more so than adults. Therefore, the Interact club of Royal College as well as Bishop's College in aim to help aid as many children as possible, initiated "Abstract" a community service project organized by both clubs.

Despite the disappointment of both clubs Abstract, failed to happen in 2020 due to the ongoing pandemic but with much organizing and effort on both parties, we managed to conduct the project without failure.

On the 2nd of November 2021 we managed to help over 75 orphans with the help of a courier service. We helped many children's homes mainly being,

Sri Jinananda Children's Home  
Sri Sangamitta Girl's Child Development Centre  
Boy's Industrial Home  
Salvation Army Child Development Centre



We donated gift packs to each child which included dry rations and stationary items. By doing this we were able to uplift their well-being to help get them through these tough times.

While organizing and finding ways of donating the items to the orphanages proved to be difficult, we were able to achieve not only that, but to also allow the members of the project to learn through it. We were able to give interactors the opportunity to understand how a community service project operates, as well as understanding the value of giving back. Interactors were also able to understand the plight and gratefulness of the less privileged through providing gifts.

In the end of it all the thoughts that lingered amongst the members of the project weren't that it was finally over, but moreover they recollected the experience they received and the joy they had doing it. Abstract "2021" was a successful and heartwarming project that will not be forgotten in the coming years.





# 56TH INSTALLATION CEREMONY



Interact  
Royal College

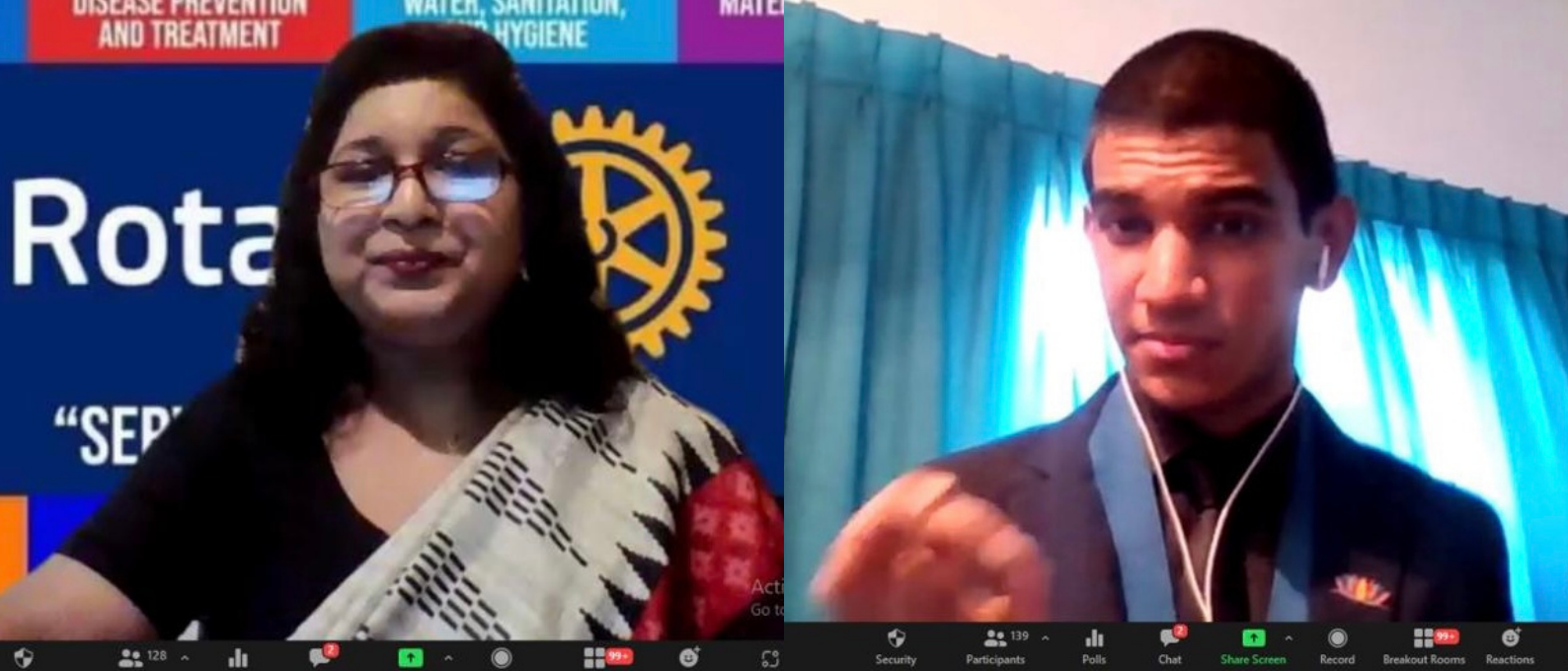


## 56<sup>th</sup> Installation Ceremony

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a gift and not giving it. When it comes to Installation, appreciation comes in big. This project organised every year by the fresh batch of interactors from grade 10, is a felicitation ceremony for the outgoing Interact board and a welcoming ceremony for the incoming board. Having installing the upcoming board and starting the new club year on a high note as the main motive, this plan also gives a chance for the club to show their heartfelt gratitude and respect to the previous members of the board who in no doubt, had gone out of their way, facing an immeasurable amount of challenges to get the club to where it is today. Installation is also a great opportunity for the new batch of grade 10s to experience organising a project together, by improving time management and leadership qualities.

Due to the rise of what we now call our 'new normal', the COVID pandemic, this year we had to change courses. With the smart organising and immense effort put in by the grade 10s, we managed to conduct this annual event virtually, on the 15th of October through the online platform Zoom. A total of 150 participants took part in the 56th Installation ceremony of the Interact Club of Royal College including the Principal, Senior Master in charge of Clubs and societies, Senior Games Master, Staff Advisor, Interact District Officials, Rotary Advisors, the incoming Interact Board, the outgoing Interact Board, the Project Committee and Interactors from other schools.





The organising committee was able to successfully achieve their objectives while everyone had a good time celebrating the club and each other. Even though things were a bit different and difficult around this year, this was indeed an event to remember.

## **OFFICE BEARERS OF THE YEARS 2020/2021**

President- Int. Dinal Aluthgama  
Secretary- Int. Ishva Ranasinghe  
Treasurer- Int. Manish De Silva  
Vice President- Int. Kavisha Ratnayaka  
Director Finance-Int. Shaakir Hameed  
Director Community Service- Int. Nisal Hemakumara  
Director Club Service- Int. Suchith Tissera  
Director International Understanding/ Sergeant at Arms- Int. Thehan Wijemanna  
Director Green Life/ Editor- Int. Muazzam Awn

## **OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEARS 2021/2022**

President- Int. Suchith Tissera  
Secretary- Int. Nisal Hemakumara  
Treasurer- Int. Thehan Wijemanna  
Vice President- Int. Janith Munasinghe  
Director Finance-Int. Ashane Munasinghe  
Director Community Service- Int. Niven Dorabawila  
Director Club Service- Int. Talal Sabry  
Director International Understanding/ Sergeant at Arms- Int. Sasindu Perera  
Director Green Life/ Editor- Int. Tehan Liyanage

# HOSTEL PROJECT 2021



The coronavirus is a disease, better yet a pandemic that has caused unearthly harm to people inconsequential of their race or age. Therefore when the virus caused our country lockdowns and quarantines for those exposed, it was a new normal for us all. However, for the children of a younger age, despite not having to face the financial burden of it, they were affected by having to adjust to the new way our society was forced to abide by. This is exactly why the Interact club decided against canceling the Hostel Project, instead going in an entirely different direction while having it in a way accessible to most. We decided to conduct the workshop online. With the help of our committee members and fellow club members we achieved success.

With a four-day program for hostellers of grades 6-9, the project committee conducted workshops to teach the students some basic knowledge of the English language. With the school being closed, most of the hostellers were devoid of an education of English as a subject. By having fun interactive sessions the project proved to be a success in the eyes of all those involved.



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With the conclusion of this project, it became aware to us that in the midst of it all we were also able to achieve the various objectives we had in mind while conducting it. We were able to improve the English language of the hostellers, help them adapt to an online education system despite having no prior knowledge of the subject, whilst teaching them how to use an online medium for education and we were also able to re-inculcate the social skills lost while at home by allowing them to interact with each other in the English Language.

The Hostel project was a great success despite having to be done online for the first time in the project's history.

# DECEMBER TO REMEMBER 2021

COVID-19, a virus well-known to humankind has surprised the world in a way that we never expected. As we all are aware, with the beginning of the pandemic, this has affected both physically & mentally. And with new variants such as “Delta” on the charge, we never expected the situation to be this complex.

Nevertheless, we, Sri Lankans are also the same like any other human being in the world. In order to fight this pandemic & control the situation, the Interact Club of Royal College conducted “December to Remember”. The project was a donation campaign where the club donated materials to fight the pandemic on the 28th of December 2021 to the Grace Perera Home for Elders situated in Kalubowila.

The club was able to donate;

- Hand Sanitizers
- Hand Wash
- Face Masks
- Gloves
- Face Shields

to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus within the elderly community of the country.





# **ARTICLES**

## **THEME- TOURISM**

**THE GALLE FORT  
TEMPLE OF THE SACRED TOOTH RELIC  
SINHARAJA FOREST  
YALA NATIONAL PARK  
THE GOLDEN ROCK TEMPLE  
SIGIRIYA: THE ROCK FORTRESS  
ARUGAMBAY BEACH**



# THE GALLE FORT

The Galle Fort is a 438 year old stone fortress at the southeastern edge of Sri Lanka, overlooking the calm, blue ocean & standing out against the saffron sky, having witnessed many deadly battles, becoming the epicenter of Indian Ocean Trade, and, in the end, becoming a well-preserved ruin of great archeological value.

Galle existed as a port since antiquity and was even mentioned in Ptolemy's map, but it was in 1584 AD that the Portuguese arrived at the place where cattle were kept, or 'Gaala', which they interpreted as Galle. They built a fortress there out of earth, and named it, 'Santa Cruz de Gale'

But in 1640 AD, the Kandyan King Rajasingha the Second, aided by the Dutch besieged the fortress and took it but the Dutch swindled the King & captured the city. They built the fortifications & buildings inside the fortress that we see today. Galle fell to the British in 1796, but they neglected it and the fort fell to disrepute & obscurity.





Stretching throughout the entire Galle peninsula, guarding the Bay of Galle & the Harbor in the east, the fort spans over 130 acres. The Old Fortress Gate was built by the Dutch and the Main Gate, was built by the British in 1873. There are 14 bastions, with the ‘sun’, ‘moon’ & ‘triton’ bastions taking a prominent place. The Old Hospital, the Gothic-style Groote Kerk Church, the Anthonisz Memorial Clock Tower & the nation’s oldest lighthouse are important landmarks in the fortress.

The Galle Fort is one of the 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Sri Lanka. It is of cultural importance not only to Sri Lanka but the entire world, for it is one of the best-preserved fortresses in the world. It gives an insight on the lives of those who lived in the Colonial Era, their technology & architecture. The Galle Fort has helped shape not only the history of Sri Lanka, but also the history of the world.

Methindu Malawaraarachchi



# TEMPLE OF THE SACRED TOOTH RELIC

Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic or Sri Dalada Maligawa is a Buddhist temple in Kandy, Sri Lanka. Inside it the tooth relic of the Gautama Buddha is enshrined. It is located in the heart of Kandy town surrounded by the lake. The temple which is venerated by thousands of local & foreign devotees and tourists daily was named as a world heritage by UNESCO in 1988.





The Sacred relic was brought to Sri Lanka by Princess Hemamala & Prince Dantha from the city of Kalinga in ancient India, during the reign of King Keerthi Sri Meghavarna (Kithsirimevan 301 -328). Hemmamali hid the relic in her hair on the way to the Island. They landed on the Island in Lankapattana and handed over the tooth relic. It became a symbol of Sri Lankan kings and was preciously guarded in a special shrine.

The first “Dalada Madura” in Kandy, which housed the Sacred Tooth Relic was built by King Wimaladharmasuriya the first during his reign from year 1592 – 1604. History reveals that this was destroyed by the Portuguese during their invasions. The second temple was built in the same location by King Rajasinghe the Second during his reign from 1635 – 1687, which was burnt by the Dutch. The Dalada history says in year 1687 King Wimaladharmasuriya the Second built a 3 storeyed Dalada Madura and performed Dalada rituals with great devotion but with time the building was decayed and destroyed. Later his son King Sri Veera Parakrama Narendrasinghe who reigned from 1707 – 1739 built the 2 storeyed Dalada Madura which we can see today.

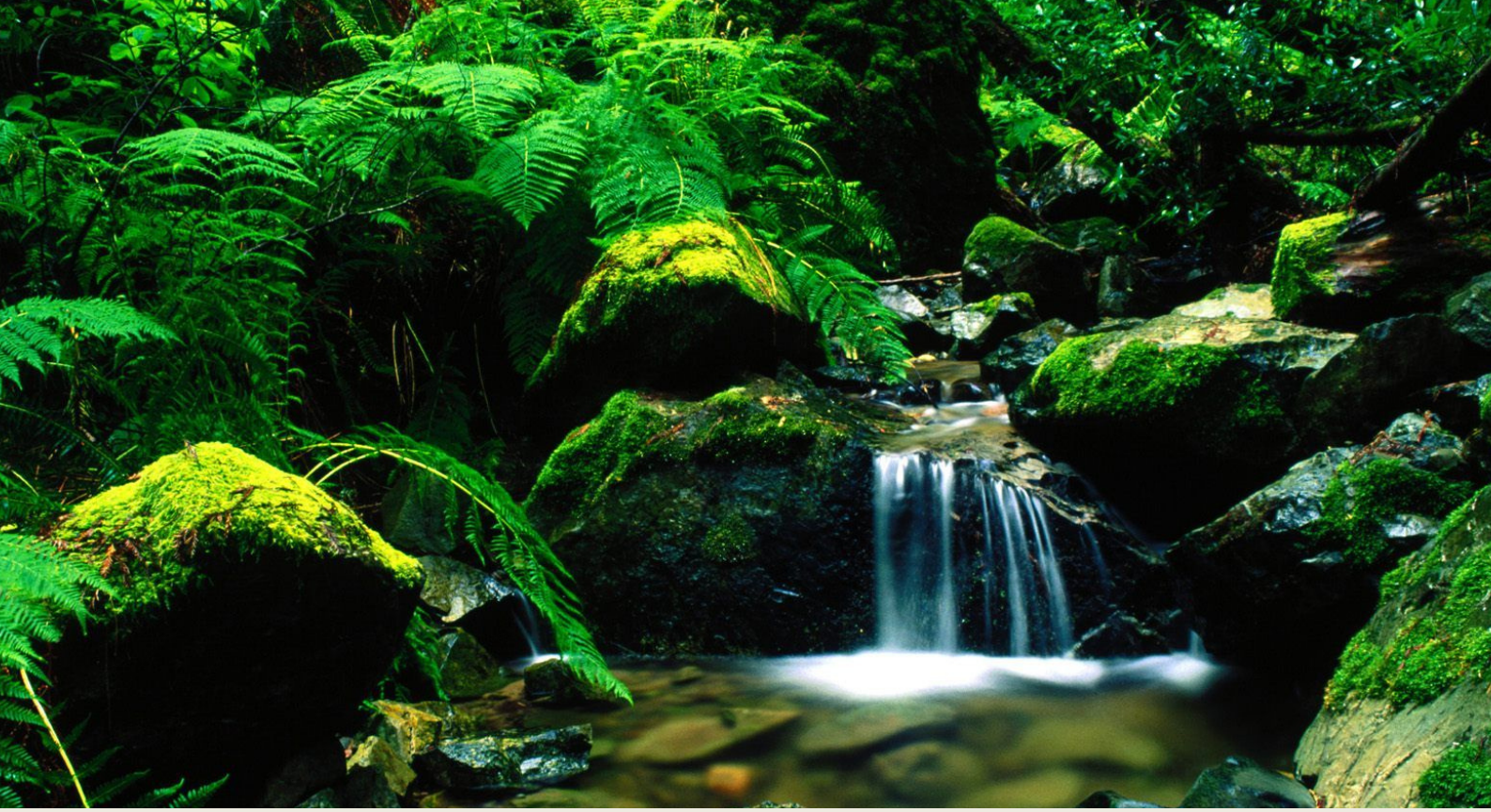
The temple was finely renovated and beautified by King Keerthi Sri Rajasinghe to its present appearance. Since ancient times, the relic has played an important role in local politics because it is believed that whoever holds the relic holds the governance of the country.

The brick wall which runs along the moat and the Bogambara, lake is known as water wave's wall. Holes in this wall are built to light coconut oil lamps. The main entrance gate which lies over the moat is called Mahawahalkada. At the foot of Mahawahalkada steps, there is a Sandakada pahana (moonstone) which is carved in Kandyan architectural style. Mahawahalkada was totally destroyed in a 1998 bomb blast and rebuilt afterward along with Sandakada pahana other stone carvings. Elephants are depicted in stone on either side of the entrance. A Makara Torana and two guardian stones are placed on top of the staircase. The doors of the Weda Hitana Maligawa are Ivory carvings. The actual chamber in which the tooth relic is kept is known as the "Handun kunama". The golden canopy over the main shrine and the golden fence which encircles the temple complex, was built in 1987 by then Prime Minister, Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Tharuka Dias







# SINHARAJA FOREST

Encompassing the last patch of primary low land rainforest in Sri Lanka, Sinharaja Forest Reserve is situated in the south -west low land wet zone of Sri Lanka. Covering an area of 8864ha and ranging from an altitude of 300 to 1170 meters. Annual rainfall over the last 60 years has ranged from 3614-5006mm.

Sinharaja is home to 139 endemic species, including 16 rare species. Faunal endemism is high for birds with 20 species are endemic. Endemism among mammals and butterflies is high at 50%. More than 60% of the trees are endemic and rare too.

This is the last remaining relatively undisturbed remnant of tropical humid evergreen forest in Sri Lanka. It's an outstanding site for biological evolution. Surrounded by 13 other adjacent natural forest areas that provide an added layer of protection to the property. This was designated as World Biosphere Reserve in 1978.





Because of the dense vegetation, wildlife is not easily seen. The most common large mammal is the endemic purple faced langur. Birds tend to move in misfeeding flocks. There are large variety of amphibians. Invertebrates include the endemic Sri Lankan birdwing butterflies and leeches.

Efforts are made to enhance the conservation status of the reserve through regulation of land which hopes to further reduce the impact of intensive land use. Illicit timber felling, gemming and poaching are main concerns to the impact of value and integrity of the property. Everyone should stand to protect our hilly virgin hotspot at any cost.

Vihass Weerasena





# YALA NATIONAL PARK

The Yala national park is the second largest national park in Sri Lanka. It is of utmost importance and cultural significance to all Sri Lankans.

With a rich history and a diverse ecological background, the Yala national park tops all other wildlife sanctuaries in Sri Lanka in terms of popularity and diversity.

Bordered by the Manik and Kumbukkan rivers in the south east region of the island, the park consists of a wide variety of flora and fauna. It is most known for its conservation of Sri Lankan elephants, leopards and a vast variety of aquatic birds.

The Yala national park is also home to 44 species of mammals, 70 different species of birds, 47 species of reptiles, 18 species of amphibians as well as 21 species of fresh water fish. Each of these creatures are well cared for and conserved by the park authority and occasionally by trackers.

Yala is also of utmost cultural importance, as it is believed to have been home to many past civilizations. The mythical king Ravana is believed to have established his





kingdom here with Ravana Kotte. Not only this, ancient landmarks such as Sithulpawwa and Akasa Chatiya too is situated in the midst of this vast property.

Despite the hard times for most during COVID, people have managed to keep in touch with the wild by visiting whenever possible. Yala is a place where we find not only local but also foreign nationals visiting yearly due to its wide range of biodiversity. It has been able to attract close to 150,000 tourists annually as well as a significant number of local wild life enthusiasts as well.

Yala is a 979 square kilometers large forest.. It is the second largest national park in Sri Lanka second only to Sinharaja forest. Since being designated in 1938 many hotels and camping sites have been set aside for visiting. The park has also provided hundreds job opportunities for people such as trackers and wild life researches to do work they enjoy engaging in.

Despite boarding hundreds of species of animals Yala is most popular for it's leopard population. With a large population, poachers tend to kill or attack such animals for financial gain. Despite the government's best efforts to avoid such horrific acts there is only so much they as an institution with many other responsibilities as well, can do. That is why we as the public





must try our best not only to keep the animals safe but to also safeguard the jungle as a whole.

Landmarks with such cultural and environmental importance should be protected using our best efforts. We as Sri Lankans should make it our duty to protect the parks flora and fauna unconditionally. Without only reaping the joys of our countries beauty, we must try to save it from it's impending doom. Keeping our wildlife safe is a responsibility we all bare therefore I hope you do so in an enthusiastic and wanting manner.

Varun Irriyagolla



# THE GOLDEN ROCK TEMPLE

Rangiri Dambulu Viharaya or the Golden Rock Temple is a world Heritage site. It is situated approximately 150 km from Colombo 16 km West of Sigiriya, (the stupendous 5th century A.D Rock fortress citadel of a fugitive king) and 72 km from Kandy.

It is believed to be used by ascetic monks in the ancient period. When King Valagamba was fleeing from his enemies in the first century B.C., he sought shelter in the Dambulla rock caves. These were later extended/enlarged by subsequent kings such as King Nissankamalla in the 12th century.

The Golden Rock Temple is a unique complex of five cave shrines. The highlights of the temple are,

- The Brahmin inscriptions which date as far back as the 2nd century B.C
- The 47 feet long rock cut reclining Buddha statue.
- The Buddhist murals which cover more than 20,000 sq ft. of cave walls and ceilings This is the longest antique painted surface in the world!
- The Drip ledges - Drip ledge draining is used to prevent water seepage inside the caves





The paintings belong to the 18th century school of the Kandyan "Siiltara" art. There are the lower levels which indicate traces of earlier murals at the site. Dambulla cave temple has 153 Buddhist statues. Some of the Buddha images apparently seem to be executed as far back as the 12th and 13th centuries, while some are products of the 19th century.

Murals portray Buddhist themes. Some are on the themes of life incidents of the Buddha; some on past births of the Bodhisattva while some are based on historical themes such as the Battle of Dutugemunu and Elara, Bringing of the Sapling by Ven Bhikkuni Sangamiththa, the scene of Enlightenment, the defeat of the Maara. It constitutes a rich play of figures presented in the most exuberant and dramatic manner.

The cave shrines display the combined worshipping of Buddhist and Hindu faiths.

Four (4) statues of Hindu gods Vishnu and Ganesh and three (3) statues of kings who ruled Sri Lanka are found in Dambulla.

In the Eastern sector, from the rocky ceiling drops of water drop ceaselessly from a still unknown source within the Rocky ceiling. This water is believed to have healing properties. It is collected in a large pot and is used exclusively for daily temple offerings.

Buda Cumaratunga





# SIGIRIYA: THE ROCK FORTRESS

Sigiriya is the most spectacular sight in Sri Lanka. This magnificent rock rises 600 feet (183m) from the lush jungle and was one of the most beautiful royal cities that ever graced the earth.

Today, the 'Lion Rock' is one of the best-preserved and most elaborate surviving historical sites in South Asia and is frequently referred to as The Eighth Wonder of the World.

This rock received its name after it became the seat of an ancient Sinhalese King Kashyapa.

Kashyapa was the elder of the two sons of 'King Dhatusena'. Kashyapa was born of a consort of lesser degree, while his brother 'Mugalan' was the Son of the Queen. Kashyapa killed his father & seized the throne in AD 477. Prince Mugalan fled to India, vowing to take revenge. Haunted by the threat of invasion by his brother, Kashyapa spent 7 years building an impregnable citadel and beautiful palace on the huge rock of Sigiriya, which was not easily accessible, but situated in the middle of very flat land, that any invaders approaching could be seen for miles.





Massive boulder catapults, wedged with stone supports were strategically positioned high around the rock, ready to be sent tumbling down on any invaders. A wall was built around the rock & encircled it with a crocodile-filled moat.

Near the entrance, The Water Gardens with symmetrically planned pavilions, fountains & ponds seen. Water is scarce in this dry zone but amazingly these skilled early engineers were able to channel & conserve water and even utilize it for ornamental fountains.

To reach the steps, the path will take you via the 'Preaching Rock' which has tiered platforms for preaching monks & rows of notches to hold oil lamps.

The spiral staircase ascends to the 'Fresco Gallery', housing the exquisite paintings of the Sigiriya Maidens, painted in brilliant colours around the rock. Only 21 well-preserved frescoes remain of the original 500 or so.

Beyond this, the path is protected on one side by a highly polished plaster 'Mirror Wall' which was coated with egg white, lime & honey, and is still very reflective. From the 7th to the 10th centuries, Sightseers wrote verses on these walls, inspired by the Sigiriya Maidens. The pathway and steps lead onto a plateau.



The final stage of the climb to the summit takes you up through a series of metal staircases. The summit covers nearly 3 acres and once accommodated the Royal Summer Palace. The fountains of the palace, a granite throne, dancing terraces, a pool, drinking water tanks, sleeping quarters for the concubines and a flower garden, are all that remain of this marvel.

Kashyapa spent 18 glorious years at Sigiriya, and committed suicide on the field of battle after his troops deserted him in an encounter with the army of his brother, Mugalan.

In 1982, the ancient city of Sigiriya was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Anuda Pasandhul Gunaratne





# ARUGAM BAY BEACH

Arugam Bay is a bay situated on the Indian Ocean in the dry zone of Sri Lanka's southeast coast. The bay is located 320 kilometres due east of Colombo, and approximately 4 kilometres south of the market town of Pottuvil. The main settlement in the area, known locally as Ullae, is predominantly Muslim, however there is a significant Tamil and Sinhala population to the south of the village, as well as a number of international migrants, largely from Europe and Australia. While traditionally fishing has dominated the local economy, tourism has grown rapidly in the area in recent years. Tourism in Arugam Bay is dominated by surf tourism, thanks to several quality breaks in the area, however tourists are also attracted by the local beaches, lagoons, historic temples and the nearby Kumana National Park.

Lovely Arugam Bay, a moon-shaped curl of soft sand, is home to a famed point break that many regard as the best surf spot in the country. It's a tiny place, with a population of a few hundred, and everything is dotted along a single road which parallels the coast. So in other words, the epitome of the laid-back beach scene that first drew surfers and sun-seekers to Sri Lanka.



If you're not a surfer, there are plenty of other draws: beachfront guesthouses, oceanside restaurants and a mellow, swing-another-day-in-a-hammock kind of vibe that's totally removed from the brash west-coast beach resorts. Arugam Bay also makes a great base for several adventures in the surrounding hinterland. During the low season (November to April) things get extremely quiet and many places close altogether, but it can also be a serene time to visit, with few tourists and verdant landscapes.

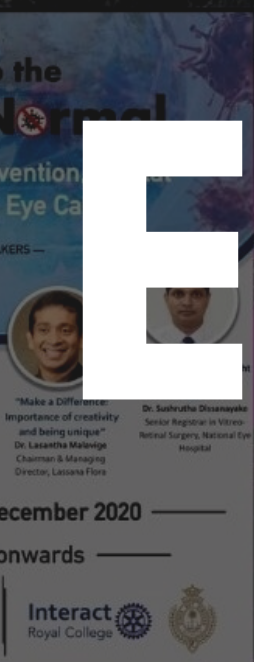
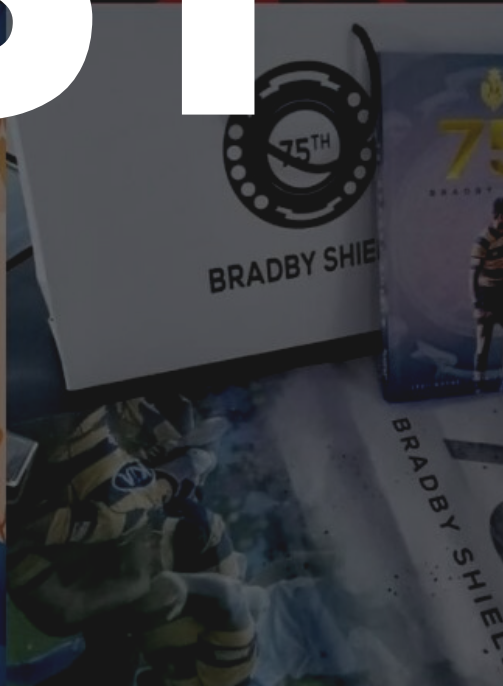
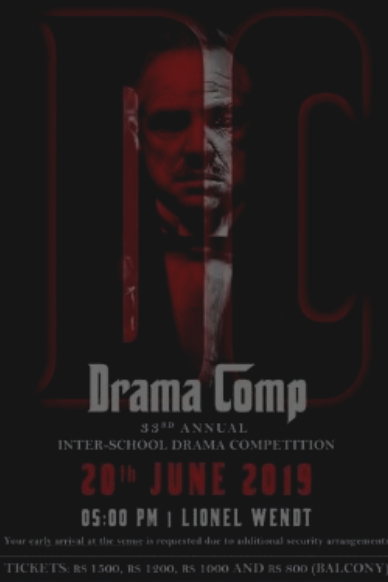
Navindu Perera



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Mrs. Iresha Gunathilake & the other members of the academic staff for their immense support and guidance extended to the club.
- Students of Royal College for writing such astonishing articles.
- Our parents for all their support & patience throughout these hectic months of co-curricular activities.
- Last but not least, the Organizing Committee, without their support this publication would not have been a success.
- All those who contributed, yet to stay anonymous.



INTERACT CLUB  
OF ROYAL COLLEGE 2021/2022