



Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2021





SLESA Council – 2020/21

Sitting From left to right:

Asanka Nuwanpriya, Irusha Jayawardhana, Darshana Hewage (Treasurer), Ruwan Jayaneththi, Sanath Abeygunasekera

Standing From Left to Right:

Chrishanthi Weerawarna (President), Subash Kodituwakku (Secretary), Ajith Juwan, Ravindra Athukorala (Vice President), Saarathi Perera (Assistant Secretary), Guna Hewa

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is truly hard to believe how quickly a year has passed and I am writing this message to the SLESA annual report 2021 as I prepare the transition to ex- president. It is indeed a great honour for me to serve as the SLESA president for two consecutive years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the SLESA members for allowing me to serve as your president.



2020/21 was certainly a busy year during the pandemic, which is probably why it passed in the blink of an eye. To recount, we had numerous successful social and community events, meetings, and get-togethers. The standout SLESA events in 2021 were the three events in one day which included a professional development session, SGM and our get-together on 13th of March 2021. It was an absolutely a blast. SLESA website launch was another remarkable milestone in SLESA history that we achieved during the past year. Woodhouse spring camp deserves a special mention on here because of the excitement and enthusiasm of the SLESA family members during our campfire. COVID-19 SL food fair which was organized by the consulate for Sri Lanka in Adelaide was another great opportunity for SLESA to participate and contribute towards a worthy cause.

It is also my great pleasure to announce that SLESA was able to join hands with many other Sri Lankan community groups such as ASLA, Sri Lankan Buddhist Vihara, Sri Lankan Uni students' association, Sri Lankan Catholic Association, Adelaide Lion's Cricket club etc. through participating or sponsoring their events during the past year which led SLESA to strengthen its identity in the Sri Lankan community.

If I have not mentioned about the tireless efforts and commitments of the SLESA council members put forward to make the SGM successful, I am failing to fulfill my duty as the president of SLESA 2021. I'm sure SLESA council 2020/21 is leaving great footprints in the SLESA history book and will be remembered for the changes and contributions that you all initiated. I take this opportunity to thank all the SLESA council members and specially their family members for their enormous support towards all SLESA activities during the past year.

I am so glad to announce that SLESA total membership has passed 100 during this year and moving forward very successfully. It has been an honor, a joy, and an experience that I will always cherish. I have met many new, interesting colleagues, made many new friends, and enjoyed it to the fullest. I look forward to seeing you at upcoming SLESA events.

Chrisanthi Weerawarna

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The year 2020/2021 witnessed that Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australis (SLESA) has continuously enhanced its performance in providing strength to Sri Lankan Engineers and the South Australian community in many ways.



Although SLESA has only three and a half years history, now it is a well reputed professional organization among the Sri Lankan community in South Australia. Year 2020/2021 was a dynamic year for us. Even though COVID-19 pandemic has challenged all sectors of the country and our lives, we were able to reach many milestones and organize many successful events. It is my honour to share them with you and highlight some of the important accomplishments.

Amending the constitution to open the entry pathway to SLESA for more professional engineers was one of the giant efforts that we accomplished. Fund raising for COVID-19 affected people in our motherland and launching our website are among many other successes we have had during this year.

Of cause, without your strong commitment and support we cannot achieve these goals. Not only SLESA members but also their family members, sponsors and many volunteers are around us. They are the strength of our organization.

I wish to thank the president and the members of the past council who gave their immense contribution to SLESA. At the same time, I would like to convey my best wishes to the present council and all the members.

Finally, I am truly privileged to serve as your secretary in 2020/2021 and thank you for all the support you have given me. I am confident that SLESA will continue to meet its vision and mission in the field of engineering.

Subash Kodituwakku

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES 2021

SLESA passed many milestones successfully in 2021. One of them was amending its constitution to expand the SLESA family. After much anticipation and hard work from a group of Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia, SLESA was launched on the 01st of September 2018 with the vision and Mission given below.

SLESA VISION:

“To provide a venue for Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia to foster professionalism and Camaraderie”

SLESA MISSION:

“Create a vibrant and conducive environment by providing moral, mentoring and professional development support, facilitating opportunities for networking and sharing success with social gatherings, for the Sri Lankan Engineering community in South Australia”.

After the launch, SLESA action committees and councils established a constitution and registered it as an incorporated body under the South Australian Incorporation Act 1985 in March 2020. Many Sri Lankan engineers, and engineering students expressed their interest to join SLESA. More than 80 engineers got the membership within the first two and half years. When SLESA moves forward, we have realized some constitutional barriers in expanding and engaging it to its fullest potential to achieve its fundamental purpose. Membership criteria have been identified as the major one.

New SLESA Membership Criteria:

Clause 7.3.1-Education qualification for Associate Member – New Constitution (Similar to previous membership eligibility criteria)

- 7.3.1.1 A four-year full-time degree in Engineering recognized by the Institution of Engineers Sri Lanka (IESL) or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the council or
- 7.3.1.2 A four-year (or more) full-time degree in Engineering recognized by Engineers Australia under Professional Engineer category or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the council or
- 7.3.1.3 An Associate or a Superior membership from IESL or
- 7.3.1.4 A graduate or superior membership in Professional Engineer category from Engineers Australia or
- 7.3.1.5 A four-year (or more) full-time degree in Engineering from any international university which is equivalent to Professional Engineer category in Engineers Australia or Associate member category in IESL.

Clause 7.3.2-Education qualification for Affiliate Member -New Constitution

- 7.3.2.1 A three-year full-time degree in Engineering recognized by the IESL under affiliate member category or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the Council or
- 7.3.2.2 A three-year full-time degree in Engineering recognized by Engineers Australia under Engineering Technologist category or an equivalent qualification acceptable to the council or
- 7.3.2.3 A three-year full-time degree in Engineering from any international university which is equivalent to Engineering Technologist category in Engineers Australia or Affiliate member category in IESL.

Special general meeting (SGM) on 13th March 2021:

A Special General Meeting (SGM) must be held when taking any decision that affects all the members. There were 83 members in the organization when the SGM was called. Therefore, preference of 63 (75% of members) or more of the members needed to pass the special resolution at SGM. We organized the SGM on the same day of the annual family get-together on the 13th of March 2021. All SLESA members were advised of the constitutional changes and were given a chance to clarify any doubts from the SLESA council before the SGM. A secret ballot was called during the SGM, and 71 members (85%) voted for the special resolution. That was a notable respond from the members to pass the special resolution.

Approval from the SA Government, Consumer & Business Services:

The Council informed the result of the votes cast and the constitution amendments to SA Government, Consumer & Business Services. In July 2021, we received approval for the constitutional amendments from the SA Government. This was a great effort by all SLESA members to open the door for more professional engineers.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2021

SRI LANKAN ENGINEERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC. (SLESA)**Income & Expenditure Statement for the Period 20/10/2020 to 27/09/2021****Income**

Membership Fees	2,320.00
C-19 Donation	1,600.00
Family Get Together 2021	7,425.00
Other Income - EFTPOS Fees	2.00
Sale of T-Shirts	990.00
Total Income	12,337.00

Expenses

Annual General Meeting 2020	475.35
Donation to ASBV C-19 Fund	1,600.00
Purchase of T-Shirts	1,056.00
Donation - SL Uni Student Association	150.00
Family Get Together 2021	6,847.53
Fee for Changing Constitution	74.50
SL Food Fair	237.33
Temple New Year Festival - April 2021	107.60
Total Expenses	10,548.31

Net Surplus for the period**1,788.69****Balance Sheet as at 27/09/2021****Assets**

Cash at Bank	2,095.86
SLESA Banners	132.83
Gazebo	193.00
Total Assets	2,421.69

Equity

Retained Surplus	2,421.69
Total Equity	2,421.69

*C Weerawarna***President**

Chrisanthi Weerawarna

Date of report: 29th Sep 2021

*Skodi***Secretary**

Subash Kodithuwakku

*Darshana***Treasurer**

Darshana Hewage

Auditor's opinion:

Above financial statements have been prepared on cash basis and my audit on the association's income, expenditures, assets and liabilities was limited to the amounts recorded in the above financial statements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the professional ethical pronouncements.

In my opinion, based on the financial report, the bank statements and the supporting evidence provided, in all material respects, the financial position of Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia Inc. as at 27th September 2021 and its financial performance for the period from 20/10/2020 to 27/09/2021 provide a true and fair view of transactions.

Indika Udugampola

Indika Udugampola, CPA (Australia)

29th September 2021

FLASH BACK 2020/21 *Professional Development*

- **Confidence Fitness – Stand Up, Speak Up and Persuade –St. Joseph’s School, Hectorville - 13th March 2021,**

SLESA Council surveyed members’ interest in attending workshops/trainings in October 2020. One of the overwhelming topics they were interested in was “effective communications and presentation skills”.

Therefore, as an initial step towards a series of events, SLESA organized a 1-hour seminar on “Confidence Fitness – Stand Up, Speak Up and Persuade” conducted by Ms. Sharon Ferrier, a renowned corporate educator, facilitator, coach, and speaker. She is also the Director of Persuasive Presentations. This seminar was opened to the non-engineering Sri Lankan community in Adelaide as well, as a part of a broader community engagement by SLESA.



From the participants’ feedback, it was evident that the participants appreciated and were grateful to have such an excellent session. The participants valued the seminar as it covered the practical issues that professionals face day-by-day, and it was offered free of charge.



FLASH BACK 2020/21 *SLESA AGM/2020 & SGM/2021*

- **SLESA AGM 2020 at ARC, Campbelltown– 24th of October 2020**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SLESA held its annual general meeting under the strict covid rules.

It was a glamorous and simple event with the participation of the majority of SLESA members.



SLESA Members at the AGM 2020

- **SLESA SGM 2021 at St Joseph's College, Hectorville, 13th of March 2020**

SGM 2021 was a milestone event in SLESA history. 85% of the SLESA members voted for the constitutional changes put forward by the SLESA council.



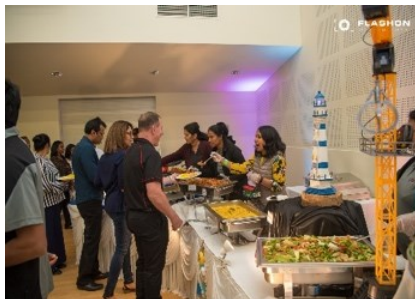
FLASH BACK 2020/21 *SLESA Social Events*

- **SLESA 2 days Spring Camp at Woodhouse Activity Center**
14th-15th November 2020



Fun-filled 2 days with numerous activities and excitement. BBQ and the campfire were the highlight of the weekend.

- **SLESA Annual Family Get together at St. Joseph's School, Hectoville**
13th March 2021



- Mount Lofty Botanic Garden Hike – 1st May 2021**



FLASH BACK 2020/21 *Community Engagement*

- Adelaide Lions Cricket Club Quiz Night at Klemzig Community Hall 29th January 2021**

SLESA always try to strengthen our relationship with other Sri Lankan community organizations through participation.



- Adelaide Sri Lankan Student Association New Year Festival at Rymill Park – 18th April 2021**



- **ASLA Food Festival – SLESA Exhibition Stall at Fullarton Park Community Centre – 21st March 2021**

Another successful community engagement project by SLESA. With the help of University of South Australia SLESA has showcased few civil engineering models. Parallel to this, there were several mind teasing games which both adults and kids enjoyed a lot.



SELESA Team with South Australian MP - Vincent Tarzia



- **New Year Festival Prince Alfred College, Adelaide – 11th April 2021**

SLESA members sponsored two events for the Sinhala and Tamil new year festival 2021 which is organized by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara.



- **COVID_19 Sri Lankan Food Fair at Hectorville Sports & Community Club– 14th June 2021**

SLESA has been fortunate to take part in the COVID-19 SL food fair which is organized by the consulate for Sri Lanka in Adelaide. SLESA has joined with Sri Lankan Catholic Association and organized the hoppers stall which was one of the main attractions of the food fair and successfully collected the \$3185 towards the COVID fund.



FLASH BACK 2020/21 *Communication, Promotion & Policy Development*

We were able to achieve significant milestones during the last year amidst the pandemic restrictions. We launched the SLESA web page (<https://www.slesa.org.au>) and SLESA Public Facebook page in March 2021 to expand our digital presence. SLESA constitutional changes to accommodate three-year Engineering graduates and remove some of the restrictions on becoming office bearers in the SLESA council were significant achievements. Designing a Membership Certificate, SLESA Letterhead, SLESA banner and SLESA Invoice format are some of the other contributions we made during this period.

SLESA BEYOND 2021

SLESA council successfully held several activities in 2020/2021. While the feedback was encouraging for all of the activities, the SLESA council regrettably could not pursue all of the professional, social or technical activities due to the challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hoping that we have passed the most challenging period of the restrictions, the SLESA council is looking forward to the future to bring out exciting new events that will give our members both social and educational benefits.

Professional development is a vital aspect of successful career growth. Having identified that this is a key area for member's development, the SLESA council hopes to organise workshops and seminars on the back of the success of the previous seminar. Some of the planned activities include:

1. A series of workshops (or a multi-day workshop) on the topics such as motivation, career growth, dealing with stressful situations, presentation skills, effective communications, and structured public speaking, as per the feedback from the participants of the initial seminar.
2. Support for members on the pathways to becoming chartered engineers in Australia. This is being initiated by Dr D.C. Bandara's presentation at the AGM 2021.
3. Technical workshops on topics of interest to members such as micro-controller coding based on an Arduino platform etc.

On the social events and community engagement area, the SLESA council plans to organise the annual get-together of the SLESA members and their families. SLESA hopes to continue the well-received family activities such as camping and hiking. SLESA also plans to engage the wider Sri Lankan community by facilitating and assisting in various community events such as the Traditional New Year Festival, and fund raising activities for worthy causes. Furthermore, SLESA hopes to engage with the broader engineering community in Adelaide. The initial activity pursued is a one-day cricket festival organised together with the Bangladesh engineers in Adelaide.

SLESA council intends to develop the SLESA website to provide more online services to our members in the future. The social media handles of SLESA will also be streamlined to better connect with the members.

SLESA council hopes that these activities planned beyond 2021 will bring countless benefits to not only SLESA members but also their families and also to the wider Sri Lankan and South Australian community.

JOURNEY WITH SLESA Council Member's Thoughts



It has been a privilege to serve in the SLESA council for two years and as the Vice President this year. During these two years, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute to several community engagement activities to aid Sri Lanka. Although challenging at times, the experience of being a council member was highly rewarding and enriching. It has been a pleasure working with like-minded fellow engineers and I will cherish these memories and experiences in the years to come.

Ravi Athukorala

It has been a pleasure to be part of SLESA this year and to get to know so many fellow engineers. Hope we can make a difference to young engineers in achieving their career aspirations. Looking forward for another exciting year ahead.

Sanath Abeygunasekara



JOURNEY WITH SLESA Council Member's Thoughts



It's a great pleasure to make this note when our SLESA celebrates three years of the remarkable journey since the launch in September 2018. I was lucky and happy to be part of the council since its inception. It has been a steep learning curve for all of us, but I enjoyed so much serving the community with this like-minded group of engineers. In lifting the spirits of our Sri Lankan community in South Australia, SLESA is making a commendable contribution, and I will always be part of it.

Guna Hewa

It's an honour to serve as a SLESA council member and progressed for three years and last worked as Assistant Secretary. It was a great deal of achievements and knowledge gathered on statutory and regulatory requirements of a council. It was a pleasure to deliver wonderful community driven events for Sri Lankan Engineers and acknowledged countless feedbacks. I have enjoyed a happy relationship with all sectors of our community and wonderful set of engineers who added values in many ways.

Saarathi Perera



Being an Engineer living away from motherland looking for ways to help and support my own community; found this awesome bunch of Sri Lankan Engineers living in this small Adelaide but having big hearts; building up this great platform SLESA exactly with the same goal that I have. No second thought needed for joining and I'm wishing SLESA to achieve its goals in its long trip which started only a few steps before.

Ruwan Jayaneththi

JOURNEY WITH SLESA Council Member's Thoughts



I consider it a privilege to have been in the SLESA council together with such a professional and friendly team. It was another challenging year for everyone, and it was a great effort to organise some activities despite the difficulties. However, there are lots of things to do. Hopefully, the future will bring more favourable conditions for all of us to look forward to.

Asanka Nuwanpriya

As a person fascinated with Engineering Technologies, I had a great time in working with a group of Engineers who have excelled in different specialisations. At the same time, the social and professional events made the involvement more meaningful and enjoyable. Thanks everyone in SLESA for making my time in SLESA office a memorable one.

Darshana Hewage



The initiation of SLESA has been a memorable journey since the first day I found myself desiring for a society for Sri Lankan Engineers who are living in South Australia. I must commend the hard work and unstinting efforts of all past and present council members for their contribution in bringing my initial desire to life and bringing SLESA to where it is today. I have enjoyed watching SLESA grow and become a common ground for more and more Engineers. I hope our members will continue to assist in fulfilling the key objectives of SLESA.

Ajith Juwan

JOURNEY WITH SLESA Council Member's Thoughts

It was a great experience to work with such a passionate group of Engineers for the past 12 months at the SLESA council. I would like to thank all the SLESA members for their support during these challenging times and look forward for an exciting year ahead.

Irusha Jayawardena



SLESA NEW MEMBERS JOINED DURING THE YEAR 2020/21

No.	Name	No.	Name
EM0079	Udara Wijethunga	EM0090	Nayantha Abesiri
EM0080	Shamitha Pathirannehelage	EM0091	Nishantha Dissanayake
EM0081	Yasasa Tennakoon	EM0092	Shohan Fernando
EM0082	Chanaka Arachchilage	EM0093	Sameera Abeysekara
EM0083	Nuwan Mudalilage	EM0094	Inoka Gintota
EM0084	Nilan Maddumage	AFM0095	Madushanka Kumarage
EM0085	Jagath Pathirana	AFM0096	Mariampulle
EM0086	Kavinga Karunasekara	EM0097	Tamarasi Dias
EM0087	Anuradha Wickramasooriya	EM0098	Krish Widanarachchige
EM0088	Madhawa Rupasinghe	EM0099	Sonal De Silva
EM0089	Chandana Samarasinghe	EM0100	Thilina Ranathunga



Contact Us:



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SLESA WEB PAGE (<https://www.slesa.org.au>)



Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia
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