

Annual Report

Sri Lankan Engineers
in South Australia

2023



SLESA

SRI LANKAN ENGINEERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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A Brief Story About SLESA

Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia, SLESA in short, was formed and launched on Saturday the 01st September 2018 with the broader vision; **“To provide a venue for Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia to foster professionalism and camaraderie”**

As Sri Lankan immigrants we have all taken challenging steps to seek new opportunities in South Australia, a place that was initially foreign to us. Most of us now call South Australia home, but our roots will always be with our motherland. At SLESA, we are a community with a shared connection to our motherland and a passion for our profession of engineering.

The main emphasis is given to the three significant elements, “Sri Lanka”, “South Australia” and “Engineer” by providing a broader and clear definitions within the context of SLESA to expand the membership base of the association, as such SLESA is the place for all the Sri Lankan Engineers who found South Australia home or transiting for academic or professional commitments.

SLESA has been registered as an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 on 12th March 2020.

Word from the Committee



Standing from left: Wineya Wijesinghe (President), Anuruddha Uswaththa, Saman Paranavithana, Wipula Wasala, Tidasa Tennakoon, Sanath Abegunasekara
Sitting from left: Subashini Wella Hewage, Guna Hewa (President 2021/2022), Dilinee Sellahewa, Singithi De Silva
Absentees: Jagath Pathirana, Anuruddhi Wijesinghe



Wineya Wijesinghe
President



Singithi De Silva
Secretary



Saman Paranavithana
Treasurer

"With the generous support of our members and sponsors, we had another successful year. I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your help and participation in our social activities"

"The more you engage with SLESA the more you gain from it. As the outgoing secretary I was able to expand many valuable skills through this role and at same time It is a great pleasure to be part of the SLESA success journey"

"For the last two years, I believe we set some new benchmarks in the way we operate as a council. Everyone was positive and operated in solution space. This made whatever we did that much fun! As for our finances, we managed our small budget sustainably and set it up well for the future."

Flashback

2022/ 2023

22nd Oct 2022



Annual General Meeting 2022

Social Events

3rd Dec 2022



Hallet Cove Boardwalk

23rd Dec 2022



ASLSA New Year Celebrations

4th Feb 2023



Waite Conservation Reserve Loop

29/30th Apr 2023



Roonka Over Night Camp

5th Mar 2023



ASLA Food Festival

27th May 2023



Curry & Chat

1st Apr 2023



St. Kilda Mangrove Walk & Manioc Lunch

19th Aug 2023



Life Blood Donation Campaign

11th Apr 2023



New Year Hamper Donation

Professional Development Events

31st Mar 2023



Pizza Lunch for New Uni Students

26th Aug 2023



Coding for Kids 2023

SLESA AGM 2022

At Mawson Centre, Mawson Lakes

The AGM 2022 marked the impressive completion of term 2021/22, filled with remarkable events, including our inaugural Engineers Night and awards ceremony, this session also laid the foundation for the upcoming term 2022/23. Commenced with a presentation by the award-winning team for research project from our inaugural award ceremony, it was followed by minor constitutional adjustments and a comprehensive roadmap for beyond 2022.



Social Events

Hallett Cove Boardwalk

The first social gathering of the year took place on December 3rd, 2022, at Hallett Cove Conservation Park. The event was designed to foster cooperation, team unity, networking possibilities, and enhance the well-being of our members. Participants had the chance to explore a captivating clifftop boardwalk that stretches along the rocky shoreline connecting Marino to Hallett Cove. This trek allowed our team to experience the distinctive natural surroundings of this stretch of coastline, featuring dramatic cliffs and rocky reef platforms. In total, the group covered an impressive distance of nearly 8 Kms.



Social Events

Waite Conservation Reserve Loop

The second social event of the year took place on February 4th, featuring a substantial turnout, and consisted of a hike at the Waite Conservation Park Trail. The trail covered approximately 4 km and offered a well-marked path that led hikers up into the foothills, providing breathtaking views of the Adelaide Plains extending to the coastline.



Social Events

ASLA Food Festival

SLESA participated in the cultural show and food festival organized by the Sri Lankan Association this year as well. We had a variety of different exhibits including an augmented reality sandbox that allowed for interactive participation and showcased the talented work of our young kids who are aspired to be engineers.



Social Events

St. Kilda Mangrove Walk & Manioc Lunch

St. Kilda Mangrove Walk was a standout favorite among participants. Organized by the Council, its primary objectives were to facilitate networking, relaxation, and provide children with an enjoyable experience at the adventure playground. The playground boasts an array of attractions, including a colossal castle with slides and a drawbridge, a lively bouncy boomerang, a thrilling flying fox, a pirate ship, a spacious volcano equipped with multiple slides, a basketball court, swings, and more. Despite the relatively short 1.5-kilometer trail, the environment offered a rich and immersive experience. Participants had the opportunity to explore a submerged mangrove forest via an elevated walkway that meandered through tidal salt marshes, mangroves, and sea grass channels, leading to a lookout point with picturesque views overlooking the Barker Inlet.



Social Events

New Year Hamper Donation

SLESA expanding its wings to serve the wider community by providing essential item donations to fellow Sri Lankans. This project helped much-needed families from selected regions in Sri Lanka who are financially struggling to support their own parents, kids etc.



Social Events

ASLSA New Year Celebrations 2023

Representing SLESA, Singithi De Silva and Sanath Abegunasekara participated in the Sinhala & Tamil New Year Celebration organized by Adelaide Sri Lankan Students Association (ASLSA) held on Sunday 23rd of April at Veale Gardens, Adelaide. The event provided a valuable opportunity to connect with current Engineering students and promote SLESA among them. As done in previous years, SLESA donated \$200 toward their future events.



Social Events

Roonka Over Night Camp

SLESA members and their families and friends had a wonderful overnight camping experience at Roonka water activities site. The Bonfire, BBQ, kayaking were highlights of the gathering. We ended our adventurous stay with everyone sharing a story about an unforgettable incident of their life.



Social Events

Curry & Chat

Curry & Chat has been a great success and is believed to pave the way for similar events in the future. Houseful attendance, lower cost base, fantastic array of food and wine, great networking opportunity, some good entertainment, number of useful information sessions were the key attributes and feedback was overwhelmingly positive. It provided casual and easy environment to bond and bringing something to share certainly improved the community spirit and importantly it was free for ALL.



Social Events

Life Blood Donation Campaign

Lifeblood Donation Campaign was another commendable community service initiative orchestrated by the council. In partnership with the Australian Red Cross, SLESA established a platform open to all members, friends, and family for blood donation. The inaugural blood donation drive took place on July 22, 2023, under the banner of "Team Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia."





**1 in 3 people will need blood.
We give it.**

Join Sri Lankan Engineers in South
Australia Lifeblood Team



Contact your lifeblood champion
Anuruddha Uswatte
social@slesa.org.au 0426 258 409



Give life. Give blood.

Professional Development Events

Pizza Lunch for New Uni Students

SLESA organized a pizza lunch to welcome new students at the University of South Australia. The event saw a strong turnout, with both fresh arrivals and current Sri Lankan students in attendance. Some of our council members managed to join the event during their lunch break. This gathering provided an excellent opportunity for new students to connect with their fellow Sri Lankan peers, teaching staff as well as the SLESA council members.



Professional Development Events

Coding for Kids 2023

Coding for Kids 2023' was successfully held in August this year with the participation of 16 students. This initiative was started in 2022 with the aim of helping students understand basics of computer programming. This year, students got the opportunity to learn the basics of C++ coding and then program an Arduino board to control an array of LEDs.



Financial Report 2023

| Income & Expenditure Statement | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| | 2022/2023 | 2021/2022 |
| | Note 2 | Note 1 |
| Income | | |
| Membership Fees | 2,725.00 | 2,801.00 |
| Donations Received | | |
| - UniSA-STEM Sponsorship for SLESA Activities | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| - Square Machine | - | 329.00 |
| Family Get Together 2021 | - | 16,647.52 |
| Other Income - EFTPOS Fees | - | 0.99 |
| Food Stall (Oxygen Project) | - | 1,350.00 |
| Coding Session | - | 512.32 |
| New Year Hampers | 4,378.53 | 4,165.00 |
| Roonka Camp | - | 507.00 |
| SL Food Fair | - | 194.20 |
| Total Income | 10,103.53 | 29,507.03 |
| Expenses | | |
| Donations Paid | | |
| - ASLSA NY Donation | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Engineers Night | - | 15,341.57 |
| Food Stall (Oxygen Project) | - | 1,256.01 |
| Coding Session | - | 1,252.01 |
| New Year Hampers | 4,378.53 | 4,165.00 |
| Roonka camp | 78.00 | 500.00 |
| Temple New Year Festival - April 2021 | - | 124.50 |
| PD 1 Session | - | 60.00 |
| Curry & Chat 2023 | 2,356.76 | - |
| SL Food Fair | - | 194.20 |
| Other Expenses | 628.21 | - |
| Bank Charges | 31.51 | 160.26 |
| Annual General Meeting Expenses | 1,142.50 | 1,238.70 |
| UniSA Room Hire | - | 50.00 |
| Total Expenses | 8,815.51 | 24,542.25 |
| Net Surplus for the Period | 1,288.02 | 4,964.78 |
| Balance Sheet | | |
| Assets | | |
| | 30/06/2023 | 30/09/2022 |
| Cash at Bank | 6,986.76 | 6,398.74 |
| Square Machine | 329.00 | 329.00 |
| Fabric Red Carpet Banners | 1,032.90 | 1,032.90 |
| SLESA Banners | 132.83 | 132.83 |
| Gazebo | 193.00 | 193.00 |
| Total Assets | 8,674.49 | 8,086.47 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Payables for Engineers Night | - | 700.00 |
| Total Liabilities | - | 700.00 |
| Net Assets | 8,674.49 | 7,386.47 |
| Equity | | |
| Retained Surplus - Opening Balance | 7,386.47 | 2,421.69 |
| Net Surplus for the Period | 1,288.02 | 4,964.78 |
| Retained Surplus - Closing Balance | 8,674.49 | 7,386.47 |
| Total Equity | 8,674.49 | 7,386.47 |
| Note 1 : 2021/2022 covers the period from 28/09/2021 to 30/09/2022 | | |
| Note 2 : 2022/2023 covers the period from 01/10/2022 to 30/06/2023 | | |
| Statement by the Committee Members 2022/2023 | | |
| In the opinion of the committee members, the above Income & Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial results of the Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia Inc. for the period ending 30 June 2023, and the committee has in respect of the period from 01/10/2022 to 30/06/2023, kept such accounting records as correctly recorded and explained the transactions & the financial position of the Sri Lankan Engineers in South Australia Inc. | | |
| On behalf of the committee, | | |
|  |  | |
| President Wineya Wijesinghe | Treasurer Saman Paranavithana | |
| Date of report: | 21/09/2023 | |
| 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 30 June 2023 and its financial performance for the period from 01/10/2022 to 30/06/2023 provide a true and fair view of transactions. | | |
|  | | |
| Indika Udugampola, CPA (Australia) | | |
| 21/09/2023 | | |

Special Acknowledgement

University of South Australia

UniSA continues to be our main sponsor. SLESA acknowledges this contribution and continuously fosters partnership and engagement through various activities to promote and support UniSA and its student community. In particular, SLESA has facilitated UniSA student engagement sessions, providing engineering students networking opportunities and supporting and guiding potential engineering students to come to South Australia. SLESA also organises various professional development activities thanks to the sponsorship from UniSA.



Beyond 2023

The past five years have undeniably been a challenging yet rewarding period which inspired us with the resilience to not only persevere but to flourish. As our reputation continues to ascend, solidifying our status as a pre-eminent organization dedicated to serving the Sri Lankan expatriate community in South Australia, the forthcoming three years loom as a defining chapter in our ongoing journey. Our roadmap is based on the concept of fostering a deeper sense of unity within the SLESA family and empowering our cherished members with a robust platform to make profound contributions to our community.

Our path to success rests upon five crucial pillars:

Member Engagement Excellence: We are committed to creating a close-knit and active community by organizing social events that cater to everyone, whether they've recently arrived from Sri Lanka or have grown up in Australia.

Purpose-Driven Events: Our strategy entails the curation of goal-oriented events, designed to resonate with both Sri Lankan and Australian communities.

Promoting Self-Challenge: We encourage our members to embrace challenges, as it is through such experiences that we foster personal and collective growth.

Student Assistance Program: It is inherent in our DNA to support members in need, particularly newly arrived university students. We are steadfast in our commitment to ensuring their comfort and stability during their settling-in period.

Intent based partnerships: Collaborating with institutions like UniSA, especially as an engineering-based organization, can bring valuable resources and programs to our community. We recognize the importance of such partnerships and aim to leverage them further.

These pillars not only underpin our vision but also illuminate the path forward toward realizing our shared aspirations. Together, we are poised to embark on this exciting new chapter, confident in our collective ability to shape a brighter future.





Thank You