

Annual Report

**Sri Lankan Engineers
in South Australia**



2025



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: Tidasa Tennakoon, Pasindu Sellapperumage, Sandun Diyalagoda, Madhusha Gunawardhana, Wipula Wasala, Subhashini Wella Hewage, Ajith Senevirathne, Chandimal Jayawardena, Inoka Silva, Kalana Withage,
Apology : Bhagya Peduru arachchige



Wipula Wasala
President



Inoka Silva
Secretary



Tidasa Tennakoon
Treasurer

This past year has been both challenging and rewarding, proudly grown as a as SLESA made strong community of Sri Lankan strides in establishing itself engineers in South Australia as a leading Sri Lankan —building strong organization in South connections, welcoming Australia. It's inspiring to see diverse perspectives, and our steady growth year after bridging experience with year. None of this would be innovation. At SLESA, possible without the engineering is about dedication and support of shaping a better future, and our members—the true that progress is driven by foundation of our success. your passion and With this momentum, I'm commitment. Thank you for confident we'll continue to being an essential part of achieve even more in the this journey. years ahead.

Another strong year for SLESA, in large part to the continued support from our members, sponsors, and the wider community. Thanks to your generosity and engagement, we've been able to maintain a healthy financial position while supporting ongoing initiatives that align with our mission.

Flashback

2024/ 2025

Aug 2024



Annual General Meeting 2024

Social Events

Feb 2025



Evening Stroll & BBQ

April 2025



New Year Celebrations

May 2025



SLESA Night

Professional Development Events

April 2025



Pizza Lunch for Uni Students

Feb - July 2025



Future Founder Bootcamp

SLESA AGM 2024

At Mawson Centre, Mawson Lakes



Social Events

BBQ at Thordon Park

As our first social event of the term, we came together on a sunny afternoon at Thordon Park to reconnect and unwind with the SLESA community. It was a warm and relaxed setting, filled with great conversation, delicious food, and a spirit of togetherness. Guests enjoyed a range of shared dishes, including a mouthwatering BBQ, while the younger members of our SLESA family had fun with face painting and outdoor activities. With a perfect mix of food, laughter, and friendly company, the event was a wonderful start to the term and a reminder of the strong bonds within our community.



Social Events

Celebrating traditional new year

SLESA joined hands with Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara to celebrate the traditional new year. The new year festival was loaded with different themed items ranging from stage performances to sports activities. SLESA was proud to organize and sponsor 6 running events which proved to quite exciting to and engaging to everyone involved in.



Social Events

SLESA Night 2025

Our biggest social event of the year, “SLESA Night,” took place on May 24th at the St. Joseph’s School hall. While the evening supported the “Future Founder” program, it also provided an opportunity for the SLESA community to come together and celebrate. With delicious food, drinks, live music, and games, it was a lively and enjoyable night. The strong turnout of 170 attendees was a clear reflection of SLESA’s continued growth and vibrant spirit.



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

“Future Founder”

The SLESA Future Founder Bootcamp, now in its second consecutive year, is a pioneering initiative aimed at empowering young entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka. Organized in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), the program offers a comprehensive platform that includes a technical seminar series conducted in partnership with SLIIT, fostering knowledge and innovation among participants. This year's bootcamp witnessed active engagement, with 55 teams competing in Round 1, 14 teams advancing to Round 2, and 11 outstanding teams making it to the final pitch stage. The initiative also includes the organization of a local awards ceremony to recognize and celebrate entrepreneurial excellence, further cementing its role in nurturing the next generation of Sri Lankan business visionaries.



Financial Report 2024/25

SRI LANKAN ENGINEERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

Income & Expenditure Statement

	2024/2025	2023/2024
Income		
Membership Fees	1,800.00	3,842.00
<u>Donations Received</u>		
- SELSA Future Founder Bootcamp	3,600.00	-
- Other donations	-	2,550.00
SLESA Dinner	8,612.04	6,102.02
Coding Session	-	360.00
Elle Event	-	180.00
Total Income	14,012.04	13,034.02
Expenses		
Donations Paid	-	200.00
SLESA Dinner	10,383.05	5,746.48
Coding Session	-	138.65
Elle Event	-	200.00
Misc Gifts	49.00	220.50
SLESA Pizza Lunch	157.50	118.30
ASBV New Year Event	208.00	167.00
Subscription Payments	-	239.77
SELSA Future Founder Bootcamp	3,137.11	1,000.00
Other Expenses	51.72	-
Bank Charges	29.04	36.56
Annual General Meeting Expenses	935.60	529.16
Total Expenses	14,951.02	8,596.42
Net (Deficit)/Surplus for the Financial Year	(938.98)	4,437.60

Special Acknowledgement

University of South Australia

UniSA continues to support us by providing facilities, such as venues, that enhance our ability to serve the community. SLESA acknowledges this contribution and actively fosters partnerships and engagement through various activities to promote and support UniSA and its student community. In particular, SLESA has offered engineering students valuable networking opportunities while enhancing our STEM support for the broader community.



Special Acknowledgement

Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT)

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) for their invaluable contribution to the success of our "Future Founder" program—SLESA's most ambitious initiative to date. Through their generous technical and administrative support, SLIIT played a vital role in bringing this vision to life.

Spearheaded by our council member Kalana, the "Future Founder" program aimed to empower the next generation of Sri Lankan entrepreneurs by guiding ten school teams in developing practical, market-ready solutions. This initiative was further enriched by a dedicated seminar series and, due to its overwhelming success, expanded to include a parallel program at the university level.

SLIIT's commitment to innovation and education was instrumental in delivering this impactful program. We are deeply grateful for their partnership in nurturing young talent and driving meaningful change.



2025 FUTURE FOUNDER YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS BOOTCAMP

IN COLLABORATION WITH **25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE SLIIT UNI**

SLESA

- ✓ In school year 10 to 13 student?
- ✓ Innovative in technology?
- ✓ Want to be an entrepreneur in the future?
- ✓ Can form a high energy team of 3 to 6 members?

Rewards

- First place - Rs 150,000
- Second place - Rs 100,000
- Third place - Rs 75,000
- All other teams - Rs 10,000

Upto Rs. 30,000 for each team's project costs

Register your team here by 1st of March 2025

For more details:

Dr. Kapila 071 419 2745
Mr. Rathnayake 071 467 2084

<https://slesa.org.au/future-founder-2025/>

futurefounder@slesa.org.au

Introduction to Coding with Python
Samadhi Rathnayaka
Lecturer at SLIIT

Introduction to AI

Introduction to 3D printing

Introduction to Web Development

Jenny Kishara
Senior Lecturer, SLIIT

Poorna Panduwawala
Assistant Lecturer, SLIIT

Osuri Dunuwila (Assistant Lecturer, SLIIT)

Low Code / No Code Programming

Mathishi Adya Dissanayake
Assistant Lecturer at SLIIT

Basic Electronics and Arduino

Amila Alexander
Lecturer at SLIIT

Introduction to Robotics

Dinith Primal
Assistant Lecturer at SLIIT

Delivered to Sri Lankan high school children as a part of "Future Founder" young entrepreneurs bootcamp 2025.

SLESA

In Collaboration with **25 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE SLIIT UNI**

SLESA Future Outlook

Our current term started with the identification of 5 key pillars as the main success criteria for the continuous growth of SLESA. They are being;

- Member Engagement Excellence
- Purpose-Driven Events
- Promoting Self-Challenge
- Student Assistance Program
- Intent based partnerships

Based on these overarching guidelines, we derived specific goals for the current year. Biggest initiative for this year was the “Future Founder” entrepreneurs bootcamp with touched many of the pillars above such as member engagement, promoting self challenge and partnerships. From the social events front, the participation from our members was well above satisfactory level.

It has been wonderful to see our members stayed with us all throughout the year.



While we are optimistic about our future as being one of the prominent Sri Lankan based organization in south Australia, we have to consider challenges that we continually face to keep the momentum. Biggest challenge we see is attracting and retaining members who are capable and willing to commit their time for SLESA initiatives specially taking up on council memberships. We continue to adopt our ways of working to making it is simpler for the members to continue to engage with us to keep SLESA thriving.



Thank You