



SERVE

Volume June 2023 – Edition 01

The quarterly eNews Bulletin of the Old Royalists fraternity

Published by the **ORGACO** on behalf of the **Royal College Union (RCU)**

Content

About Us	01
Eligibility for ORGACO Membership	04
Message from the Principal Royal College	05
Message from the Secretary, RCU	06
Message from the Deputy Chairman, ORGACO	07
Sponsors	08
Royalty Plus Privileges	09
ICT upgrade by Group of ‘91	11
Projects by the Old Royalists Social Service League	13
Young Royalists welcomed	15
Group of ‘06 welcomes the students to feel right at home	15
Cricketers and ruggerites motivated by the Class of ‘72	18
Sanitizer dispensers installed by Group of 2008	19
Group of ‘96 completes P Nagendran Tennis Complex	21
ROCOHA revives the hostel complex	23
Hostel & Beyond by ROCOHA	24
Sports Complex gets an upgrade by Brandix	25
Table Tennis Arena Renovated	25
Prefects’ Room Perfected	25
EDEX Expo and EDEX funds Teacher Training Center	26
Projects by the Royal College Doctors Association	29
Donation to Apeksha Hospital by the group of 92	30
Donation to Lady Ridgway Hospital by RCOBA	30
Group of 2002 celebrates 20 years	31
Past teachers appreciated by Group of ‘90	31
50th Anniversary celebrations of the Class of ‘72	32
Sihinayaki Re’ TV program organized by Royal Teachers’ Guild	32
RCUAC Challenge Shield	32
Tamarind Tree Treated	33
Group of 2011 website launched	33
Dinner to the School for the Blind by the Class of ‘70	33
Projects by Old Royalist Association Piliyandala	34
Positive Pressure Facility for ECMO unit by Group of ‘89	35
ORCBA hosts ‘The Dinner Under the Stars’	35
Loyalty Pledge turns 20	36
Group of ‘86 supports work and play for young Royalists	36
Group of 92 donation to the Hostel	37
Motivational program for the Royal College Badminton players	37
Hostel Day	38
Health Screening Programs for Academic and non-academic staff and Hostellers	39

Content

Healthy Royal Smile 2022	41
Renovations to the Scout Room	42
Urgent repairs and termite treatment to the Main College Building	43
Win the World with English Program	43
Opening of the Innovation Laboratory	44
Swimming Pool facilities and upgrades	44
Renovation of Roofs of Grade 1 Class Rooms	45
Remembering Brothers CSR Project by Group of 2000	45
Royal Aquatic Academy	45
Tennis Academy	45
Band Room Renovation	46
Bus for the Royal College Cadet Band	46
War Monument and War Heroes Commemoration	47
Exemplary spirit of giving	47
Leadership Development Program for RC Prefects by HR Professionals' Association	48
Sponsor for Royal College Badminton	48
Rajakeeya Sisu Diriya and Rajakeeya Shilpa Yathra by ORAP	49
Cricket Bowling Machine donated by ORA UK	50
Royal College Group of 2013 CSR Initiative	50
The Hostel, nurturing the future	51
Infrastructure projects that require urgent attention	53
SERVE' Quarterly Newsletter	54
ORGACO Office Bearers 2022 / 23	55

About Us

Old Royalist Groups' Associations' and Clubs' Organizers (ORGACO) is a Statutory Committee of the Royal College Union (RCU) and act as the conduit that connects RCU and The Royal College, with all groups, associations, and clubs comprising of Old Royalists.

We serve and collaborate across borders. With the objective of solely and wholeheartedly serving The Royal College and the RCU, we endeavour to add value to our members and derive synergies to achieve the objectives set forth.

Given the diversity and the expansive global presence of our membership we always foster secularism, unity, camaraderie, and the passion to 'repay the debt we owe', as our core values.

We will work steadfastly and with all our might to achieve common goals that will nurture well rounded, value-centric citizenry; create a better place, for present and future Royalists; and will benefit broader communities.



Eligibility for ORGACO Membership:

Any Old Royalists Group, Association, Club, Society or Organisation that has been established and functions as a group of Old Royalists, is eligible to obtain membership of ORGACO.

Membership is subjected to a joining fee and an annually renewal subscription.

For membership inquiries write to us at orgaco@rculk.

‘SERVE’ is a quarterly eNews Bulletin that will be published by the ORGACO on behalf of the Royal College Union (RCU).

Floreat !



Message from the Principal

The Royal College

As the Principal of The Royal College, and the President of the Royal College Union (RCU) I am pleased to pen this message in recognition of the relaunch of the Royal College Union's (RCU) quarterly eNews bulletin, newly branded as "SERVE", which is now published by ORGACO, a vital statutory committee of the RCU.

It is heartening to witness the numerous contributions made by the RCU and its members not only towards the betterment of the College but also towards the society at large. SERVE is an ideal platform to recognise these valuable contributions made by its members.

I take this opportunity to thank all the groups, associations and individual members of the RCU who have contributed immensely towards countless projects of the school, and other voluntary services rendered. There is no doubt The Royal College stands as to what it is today, due to the unstinted support and continuous contributions of old Royalists.

I extend my best wishes for the relaunch of the bulletin and I sincerely wish that the ORGACO will continue with their good work for the betterment of The Royal College and the Union in the years ahead.

Mr. R. M. M. Rathnayake
Principal, Royal College, Colombo



Message from the Secretary

CEO of the Royal College Union

It gives me immense pleasure to send this message to the 1st issue of the 'SERVE' eNews bulletin published by the ORGACO on behalf of the Royal College Union (RCU). Firstly, I would like to thank the executive committee of ORGACO for the initiative taken to revive the official eNews Bulletin of the RCU. Congratulations for a splendid job done!

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the various committees, groups, associations, clubs and individuals for their endless contributions to make The Royal College a better place for the present and future generations of Royalists, not forgetting the constructive impact they bring upon the community at large.

As the Secretary of the RCU, I earnestly request all the groups, associations and other affiliated bodies of ORGACO to render your support towards our beloved alma-mater, by sponsoring development projects to improve the infrastructure of the college. ORGACO gives leadership and guidance in

this endeavor connecting the school administration with its members, and also plays a vital role of ensuring close coordination and efficient mobilisation of resources.

The 'SERVE' eNews bulletin will no doubt become a valuable medium to inform, recognise and appreciate the efforts of all old Royalist Groups, Associations and Clubs, across the world. I request all members to share your stories on numerous projects, events and activities you carry out with ORGACO, and I consider it important for our entire fraternity to be kept informed of such efforts.

Whilst thanking the executive committee of ORGACO for the initiative taken, I wish them continued success with the publication of 'SERVE'

Thank you.
Floreat!

Col. Dr. Hiran Wimalarathne
Secretary, Royal College Union

Message from the Deputy Chairman

We of ORGACO, a statutory committee of the Royal College Union (RCU), are extremely pleased to announce the relaunching of the official quarterly eNews Bulletin of the Royal College Union (RCU).

As the critical conduit between all Old Royalists Organizations, Groups, Associations, Clubs, and the parent Union (RCU), ORGACO and its executive committee is happy to revive and continue the quarterly ‘SERVE’ publication.

‘Repaying the debt we owe’ to our alma-mater is an attribute instilled into every Royalist that has walked the hallowed halls of The Royal College, and the enormity of such efforts and contributions upholding this ethos is immeasurable. The diverse events and activities that are organized world over in order to continue the brotherhood, friendships and the Royal spirit, are also countless. In that light, ‘SERVE’ will be an effort within our mite to recognise, appreciate, and inform our fraternity of all such projects, contributions, activities and events.

‘SERVE’ eNewsletter will be the platform that will disseminate news and information related to the entire Royal community, and will be circulated to the entire membership of the RCU, across the world. We invite all the affiliated groups, associations, clubs or individuals to share your stories with us and we will share them with the entire membership of the union.

On behalf of the RCU, ORGACO and the college administration I appeal to all the members of ORGACO to come forward and sponsor development projects of the school, the



union and contribute with your might, in an effort to ‘Repay the Debt’ we owe.

Whilst I take this opportunity to thank the efforts of our executive committee, I place on record our sincere thanks to our sponsors, who have contributed towards the publication of the first edition of the ‘SERVE’ quarterly eNewsletter.

Floreat!

Mr. Manju Ariyaratne
Deputy Chairman - ORGACO
Past Secretary of the RCU
Trustee of the Royal College Union Trust (RCUT)



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ICT upgrade worth LKR 27 million for Royal funded by the Group of '91

RCG '91 celebrates Golden Jubilee with a bang

In a milestone project, Royal College Group of '91 funded renovations, technology upgrades and installation of new hardware worth LKR 27 million for the ICT laboratory at Royal College. The group celebrated its members turning 50 years this year by funding one of the single, largest projects undertaken by any old boys' group to date.

The IT lab is now fully equipped with 54 Dell i5 11th Gen desktop computers that are fed secondary power via a 20Kv UPS, a local area network, electrical cabling and an interactive SMART board to ensure a smooth and modern digital learning experience. The room was refurbished with brand new furniture, ACs and equipment including CCTV and designed to look sleek and modern while maintaining the grandeur of the building. The lab was ceremoniously handed over on July 11, 2022.



Projects by the Old Royalists Social Service League

Old Royalists Social Services League funded several projects run by the Royal College School Social Services League in September 2022.





1. All teachers received greeting cards to celebrate the Teachers' Day
2. Road safety jackets were given to all stewards who maintain safety at college
3. O/L students in Design and Mechanical Technology received necessary material to pursue the subject
4. A children's home in Piliyandala was painted in time for Children's Day in October
5. Conducted 'Dahamata Saviya' project that included painting of a local church, followed by a religious ceremony to offer blessings, and provide meals for low-income families in the Piliyandala area .
6. Donated dry rations, fruits, and vegetables to an Elders' Home in the Piliyandala area .
7. Organized their 37th Annual Dansela Project at Maharagama Apeksha Hospital on November 7, 2022. Along with the Dansela, they donated tables, fans, bulbs, ration packets, fruits for patients and the visitors as well as medicine to the patients. They also painted ward No. 21.
8. The League arranged a lunch buffet for 100 members of the school staff and students.





Young Royalists welcomed with open arms by the Old Boys

ORGACO greets Grade 6 scholars with best wishes from several groups and individuals

The grade 6 students who were admitted to Royal College based on the highest results at the grade 5 scholarship examination were welcomed at a ceremony held on March 10, 2022. They received school uniforms and stationary packs that were funded by individual members and old boys' groups affiliated to the RCU. The total value of the donation was LKR 681,200. This was an initiative coordinated and concluded by the ORGACO.

Grade 6 entrants receive tools to excel in their new chapter with Royal

RC Group of '06 welcomes the students to feel right at home

The group donated 260 stationary packs worth LKR 900,000 to the Grade 6 students who were admitted to Royal College based on the highest results at the grade 5 scholarship examination. A further LKR 105,000 worth of scholarships were awarded to the Grade 6 scholars who scored highest in the 2021 Scholarship Examination. Students who ranked island first and second received cash prizes along with students who ranked district first from Anuradhapura, Galle, Trincomalee, Kaluthara and Matara.





Cricketers and ruggerites motivated by the Class of '72

Royal athletes are nurtured; their skills enhanced, and attitudes grounded. The alumni play a critical and an impactful role in guiding, supporting and motivating the young sportsmen of Royal. Two members of the Class of '72, Mr. Amal Nanayakkara, a specialist in HR Development and Dr. Anil Priyanka Beddavithana, a PhD holder from the University of Kelaniya carried out the programme that was designed to fuel the young men to stand their ground and face any challenges on the field as well as within themselves. The session took place on June 9, 2022 at the RCU Skills Center.

230 sanitizer dispensers installed across the school by Group of 2008

With the aim of combatting COVID-19 and safeguarding the students who have returned to onsite learning, the Group of 2008 installed hand sanitizer dispensers in 230 locations throughout the college. The project was completed at a cost of LKR 546,000 and included all classrooms, academic and non-academic staff rooms as well as the hostel.





Royal celebrates 100 years of Tennis; Group of '96 completes P Nagendran Tennis Complex Construction

A massive US\$260,128 donation from old boy Dr. Sukumar Nagendran

Coinciding with Royal College celebrating a century of playing Tennis, the Group of '96 completed the construction of a state-of-the-art tennis court complex and handed it over to the college.

This monumental feat was a possibility on account of the Royal College Old Boys of East Coast Foundation (RCOBECA) in the USA stepping forward to fund the project through one of its active and eminent members, Dr. Sukumar Nagendran who graciously sponsored the entire project at a cost of USD 260,128. The complex includes two all-weather, hard tennis courts. The project is a collaborative effort of the RCOBECA and the Royal College Tennis Advisory and Management Committee.

Dr Nagendran, or Dr Suku as the Group fondly calls him, was a former Tennis player and coloursman of Royal College. Today he is an accomplished physician, pharmaceutical developer and biotech executive, pioneering breakthroughs in gene therapy as President, R&D and Chief Medical Officer at Jaguar Gene therapy.

Members of the '96 Group are also celebrating their milestone silver jubilee, 25 years from passing out from their second home and venturing out to the world to achieve incredible



feats.





ROCOHA revives the hostel complex

Hostelers made to feel at home within the nurturing gates of our alma mater

As the young hostellers returned to college after revival of onsite classes, the old boys got together to extend a warm and homely welcome to them.

Royal College Old Hostellers Association (ROCOHA) in coordination with the Hostel Advisory and Management Committee of the RCU launched a project to redo the hostel complex, its interiors as well as its surrounding to be conducive to the students who have yearned to be back at Royal among friends, books, and everything in between that makes Royal their home away from home.

Alumni who were themselves hostellers back in their day from groups of 1973, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1997, and 2004 as well as past hostellers in Australia and USA collected funds to support this project.



Hostel & Beyond: a celebration by ROCOHA

Hostelers made to feel at home within the nurturing gates of our alma mater

A fellowship dinner was organised by ROCOHA as a sign of comradery for all their members and to acknowledge their contribution towards multiple projects at college. It was a year of activity and camaraderie for ROCOHA. The celebratory ceremony was held on August 6, 2022 to formally mark the handover of all projects undertaken by ROCOHA at the Royal College Hostel.



Royal College Sports Complex gets an upgrade worth LKR 30 million

Brandix steps in to give it a fresh look

Brandix, a long serving benefactor of Royal, extends a philanthropic sponsorship of LKR 30 million to repair the Royal College Sports Complex after being unused since the pandemic.

Brandix has, throughout the years, extended patronage to Royal College in terms of numerous infrastructure projects such as the Brandix Sky Pavilion at the Sports Complex itself and continues to collaborate with the RCU to develop and promote sports and extra-curricular activities at Royal College to enrich the lives of young Royalists.



Table Tennis Arena Renovated at LKR 2 million

Brandix steps in to give it a fresh look

The Table Tennis Advisory & Management Committee of the RCU, with the financial support of Brandix, renovated and handed it over to the college.



Prefects' Room Refurbished

The Prefects Advisory Committee of the RCU renovated the Prefects' Room at the college at a cost of LKR 3.2 million.

EDEX Expo held as a hybrid event

EDEX Expo, Sri Lanka's Premier and Largest Education Exhibition and Job Fair, returned after a break due to the pandemic, in a new and contemporary format, as a Hybrid Expo, on the March 26-27, 2022 at the Royal MAS Arena, Colombo 07 and online, as a Virtual Expo.

Originating in the year 2004, the EDEX Expo has transformed from being a school career fair to a renowned global name in the education sector. The EDEX Hybrid Expo takes it one step further, incorporating the latest technology, to adapt to the times and prevalent social requirements.

Leveraging on cutting edge technology, the virtual expo offered a futuristic experience for students to explore their educational and career choices from the comfort and safety of their homes.

The EDEX Hybrid Expo 2022 comprised of over 47 education exhibition booths, representing a mix of local and foreign universities and institutes. International presence was enhanced with the participation of several reputed institutes from countries such as Canada, France, Japan, and Pakistan. The Expo continued to feature the Job Fair, Careers, Entrepreneur Zone, as well as its community-based projects under the banners of EDEX Nenapahana and EDEX Sithuwam.

The event was endorsed by the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Labour. The Strategic Partners of the event are The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and the Employers Federation of Ceylon (EFC).

EDEX Expo 2023 was on February 24 to 26 at SLECC, Colombo and on March 4-5 at the KCC, Kandy and the committee welcomed thousands of aspiring youth who would be the next generation of leaders to take this country forward, to visit the EDEX Expo and make the most of the vast array of opportunities available to them, for their personal and professional development.





EDEX funds Teacher Training Center

EDEX that has been at the helm of nurturing Sri Lanka's future leaders to pursue rewarding education and fulfilling employment, is directing energy towards the 'shepherds' of education i.e., teachers.

At the request of the school administration EDEX is initiating and funding a project for a Teacher Training Center at Royal College at a cost of LKR 8 million. With the guidance of the Principal, the EDEX management committee of the RCU, hopes to facilitate the training of teachers in modern practices and tactics over traditional teaching practices such as memorising and theoretical learning so that students everywhere can benefit from educational excellence.





RCDA heals and restores the body and spirit of Royal

Each year, the members of the Royal College Doctors' Association (RCDA) volunteer their time and energy to diagnose, treat and heal those who call Royal home.

While the doctors of the RCDA work tirelessly to promote health in their respective healthcare institutes, they give back to their alma mater by doing it with a lot of love and care towards the younger generations of Royalists so that they can thrive in their fullest capacity at school.

Not only are the young Royalists looked after, the past and present teachers receive kind care through the annual Teachers' Health Screening Programme carried out by the doctors of the RCDA on March 6, 2022.

Activities by the RCDA during 2022 includes:

- Screening of athletes from the annual road race
- On-site medical coverage during the inter-house athletics meets
- Health camp at Puhudivula, Medawachchiya
- Medical Screening of Grade 6 Students
- Medical inspection and vaccination for all students



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Group of ‘92 donates LKR 1 million worth medicine to Apeksha Hospital

Members of the Group of ‘92 around the world joined hands to collect LKR 1 million to fulfil a request made by the Royal College Doctors' Association (RCDA). The medicine stock, that was valued at LKR 1,000,000.00 was handed over to Dr. Aruna Jayasekara, Director, Apeksha Hospital and Dr. Naamal Jayawardena, Consultant Microbiologist by Mr. Shiran Dias, Vice President of the Royal College Group of ‘92.

RCOBA donates LKR 2.1 m worth of medical supplies

The members of the Royal College Old Boys Association (RCOBA) gathered in numbers to collect and donate medical supplies and equipment worth LKR 2.1 million to Lady Ridgway Hospital.





Group of 2002 celebrates 20 years

Marking their 20th anniversary, members of the Group 2002 held a multi-religious blessing ceremony. This event also marked the memorial for members in the group who passed away. The group also held their 20th anniversary dinner dance at the Cinnamon Lakeside recently.

Past teachers commemorated and appreciated by Group of '90

The Past Teachers Association attended a lunch and fellowship organised by the members of the Group of '90 at the Water's Edge, Battaramulla on January 15, 2022. The fellowship preceded the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Group and created an atmosphere of merriment among the group and allowed them to reconnect with their teachers, appreciate them and pay homage to them for all that they have bestowed upon the young and old Royalists.





50th Anniversary Gala Dinner of the Class of '72

Royal College Class of '72 was the largest batch of 850 students, who entered College in 1972. RC Class of '72 celebrated the 50th Anniversary with a golden jubilee gala dinner on the March 12, 2022 at the Monarch Imperial Hotel & Convention Centre, Thalawathugoda that was attended by over 350 guests.

Sihinayaki Re' TV program organized by Royal Teachers' Guild

The Teachers' Guild of Royal College organized 'Sihinayaki Re' Television Programme on January 30, 2022 to raise funds and ORGACO heeded this request by collecting LKR 250,000 from the alumni to facilitate the programme.

RCUAC Challenge Shield organized by the RCUAC

The Royal College Union Aquatic Club held the The RCUAC Challenge Shield Water Polo tourney for the second year running at the Royal College Pool. This year's event features players from the under 11 to under 18; 25 team from 11 leading schools, including S. Thomas' College, Nalanda College, Royal College, Colombo International School, Bishop's College, Visakha Vidyalaya and Ladies' College took part in the tournament. The RCUAC's objective is to provide opportunity for the students to start the game of Water Polo at the grassroots level, the under 11s. It also provides the under 15 and 18 players to participate in competition after two years. An over 30 masters' age group category was also introduced, making this meet inclusive to a wider community. This will mark the first masters' category in a meet from RCUAC, OTSC or TAAS to ever take place in Sri Lanka. All matches were monitored by the Sri Lanka Aquatic and Sports Union (SLASU) and will be refereed by SLASU registered referees.

Tamarind Tree Treated

“I’ll meet you under the Tamarind tree” was a term used by the Royalists during the 1950s’ to challenge each other to fight, at this location. Many hundreds of others who have frequented these playgrounds over the years to play cricket, athletics, baseball, and football, remember this as their ‘pavilion’. This unique location continues to provide shade and a meeting place for Royalists of all ages.

May these two special creations of mother nature, continue to stand as landmarks of our alma mater, providing shade, shelter, and precious memories of schooldays, to many more generations of Royalists. The Group of ‘98 treated two tamarind trees for fungal diseases according to the instructions of the scientists of the Peradeniya Botanical Garden. The project was funded by the Group of ‘98 under the guidance of the School Development Society.

Group of 2011 website launched

Celebrating their tenth anniversary, the Group of 2011 launched their official website. To commemorate the occasion, they donated essentials to 50 students of Al Hikma College, St Mary’s Tamil Maha Vidyalaya and Nayakakanda Primary Girls School.

Dinner to the Children at Ratmalana School for the Blind by the Class of ‘70

Class of 70 got together to provide a scrumptious meal to the children at Ratmalana School of blind along with entertainment with a three-piece band. The children too participated in singing and dancing showcasing their talents and made themselves merry. They provided gifts to the children and the project was funded by the voluntary contributions from the members of the Royal College Class of 70.



Projects

by Old Royalist Association Piliyandala

1. Rajakeeya Shilpa Yarthra 2022

The annual Rajakeeya Shilpa Yathra (RSY), GCE O/L Science Seminar was organized by Old Royalist Association Piliyandala (ORAP) on April 24, 2022 at Piliyandala Municipal Auditorium for the ninth successive year.

Endorsed by the Zonal Educational Department of Ministry of Education, this programme benefited 400 students from 20 schools in the Piliyandala Educational Zone. An entire day of knowledge exchange was carried out by two distinguished members of ORAP, who are senior teachers from leading schools in Colombo. The sessions were recorded and posted on the ORAP YouTube channel so that the students could later refresh what they learnt too. In addition, they received meals and refreshments as well.

As an annual custom, ORAP also made a donation to Royal College Past Teachers Association.

2. Sisudiriya Scholarship Programme

ORAP carried out a scholarship programme for the students in the Piliyandala Educational Zone who were selected based on their merits. ORAP also contributed Rs 42,000 to the Loyalty Pledge Membership Committee (LPMC) scholarship through the Sisudiriya Programme to benefit young Royalists.

3. Connecting in Covid-19; data packages for LPMC Online Classes

During the pandemic, ORAP teamed up with Loyalty Pledge Management Committee (LPMC) to enable young Royalists to connect to their online classes via data packages worth LKR 60,000.

4. Renovation of Piliyandala Hospital OPD Dispensary

Heeding a request by the hospital authority, ORAP carried out renovations worth LKR 300,000 to benefit the community in the area.





Positive Pressure Facility for ECMO unit at NHSL by Group of ‘89

The Group of ‘89 funded a project that enabled the public to use the ECMO unit at NHSL with a total cost of LKR 6.3 million. An ECMO unit was previously only available in the Karapitiya Hospital and limited the public access to it. The former positive pressure room is now being used by at-risk patients that shouldn’t be exposed to bacteria and viruses after operations.

ORCBA hosts ‘The Dinner Under the Stars’

Cadet Band Bus and 25 music instruments worth Rs. 11 million donated to school

Old Royalists’ Cadet Band Association (ORCBA) hosted their annual dinner themed ‘The Dinner Under the Stars’ on August 28, 2022 at the college premises.

The Cadet Band Bus worth LKR 8 million and 25 music instruments worth LKR 3 million were also donated to the College during this event.

In line with the War Heroes Commemoration falling on the May 19 ORCBA and its members held the War Heroes Commemoration at College’s War Monument. This ceremony celebrated 49 Royalists who sacrificed their lives in safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our motherland.



Loyalty Pledge turns 20

The Loyalty Pledge, that has provided over 2488 scholarships celebrates its 20th anniversary. Throughout these years, around 600 donors have pledged financial support while at present, there are 70 individuals, five RC groups and 23 perpetual scholarship donors donating actively for scholarships.

Not only do young Royalists benefit from the scholarships, but students also following tertiary education institutes such as the University of Colombo and the University of Peradeniya have been able to pursue their studies and gain meaningful employment in the medical & healthcare field, IT & software field as well as science & engineering. These students are also encouraged to contribute their skills and time back to Royal College.

However, its twentieth year has been one of its hardest years for the Loyalty Pledge as donors face financial challenges due to the prevailing economic crisis while students need for financial support have skyrocketed.

The Loyalty Pledge is seeking generous support from the alumni residing across the world to join hands in strengthening the efforts to fund a student's education while being able to give back to their alma mater.

Email lpmc@rcu.lk, call +94 114 327 070, chat on +94 773 180 365 or visit www.lpmc.lk to learn more about how you can contribute to Loyalty Pledge.



Group of '86 supports work and play for young Royalists

Group of '86 offered ten scholarships to students via the Loyalty Pledge this year too. The group also sponsored a couple of player dugouts to Royal College Football.





Group of 92 donation to the Hostel

On the 23rd of January 2022, the Royal College Hostel received a donation from the Old Hostellers of the Group of 92. The donation included a water pump, a 2000L water tank, a computer, and a printer.

The water pump and the 2000L water tank were provided to address the water shortage issues faced by the hostel. With the installation of the water pump and the water tank, the hostel will now have a reliable source of water that will cater to the needs of the residents.

In addition to the water pump and the water tank, the Group of 92 also donated a computer and a printer to the hostel.

Motivational program for the Royal College Badminton players

A motivational program for the Royal College Badminton players was held on 18th August 2022 at the RCU skills center. The event was organized by the Badminton Advisory and Management Committee of Royal College Union. Old Royalists Mr. Amal Nanayakkara and Mr. Sumith Guruge were the keynote speakers.

The event was attended by a large number of badminton players from Royal College, who were inspired by the words of the keynote speakers. Mementos of appreciation were awarded to Mr. Riyaz Aluher (SGM), Mr. Penideniya (MIC Badminton) and to the Badminton coach and Assistant Coach by the Badminton Advisory and Management Committee





Hostel Day

The biggest event of the hostel calendar, 'The Hostel Day 2022,' was held at the College Hall on the 11th of August in front of an audience of 500 after a long lapse of 7 years. The event was organized by the Prefects Council of Royal College Hostel, with support and guidance from the Principal – Mr. Sanath Jayalath and Warden - Mr. Janaka Jayasinghe.

The event was a grand celebration of the hostel's achievements and the bond shared by its residents. The occasion was made even more special by the presence of past hosteller Dr. L.A.W Sirisena, a consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist, and the Head Prefect in 1962, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Sirisena shared his experiences and memories of his time at the hostel, inspiring the current residents to make the most of their time there. Mr. Ranjith Senanayake, a past Warden of the Hostel, was the Guest of Honor. Mr. Senanayake shared his experiences and insights with the current hostellers





Health Screening Programs for Academic and non-academic staff and Hostellers

Annual Teachers' Medical Screening Programme

The Royal College Doctors' Association and the Royal College Past Teachers' Association jointly organized the Annual Teachers' Medical Screening Programme on March 6th, 2022, for the 22nd consecutive year at Nawarangahala premises. The clinic aimed to promote the health and well-being of both present and past teachers, as well as their spouses. A total of 400 teachers from both past and present were able to benefit from this program.

The screening included comprehensive medical evaluations, as well as tests for various diseases and conditions such as blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol levels. Teachers who were identified to have any medical conditions were referred to the relevant specialists for further evaluation and treatment.

Health Screening Program for Hostellers

The annual Health Screening Program for Hostellers was organized by the Royal College Doctors' Association in collaboration with the Hostel staff and under the guidance of the school administration. The program was held on 9th of October 2022 at the hostel premises. More than 250 hostellers were screened by the team of 42 doctors and 17 medical students who were present at the event.

During the screening, the doctors identified thirty-four students who were found to have malnutrition. In addition, over 90 students received treatment for dental problems, while vision testing and eye examinations were conducted for those in need.

The program was a huge success, and the students were grateful for the opportunity to receive such comprehensive healthcare services.



Annual Health Screening Program for Non-Academic staff

The Royal College Doctors' Association also carried out the annual Health Screening Program for Non-Academic staff, in collaboration with the Interact club. The screening was conducted on the 22nd of September 2022, at the Western Lobby of the college.

More than 75 staff members participated in the screening process. The health screening included basic health assessments, such as blood pressure, blood sugar, and body mass index measurements, as well as medical and surgical assessments. The staff members who were found to have medical and surgical conditions were referred to the relevant specialists for further management and follow-up.

“I’ll meet you under the Tamarind tree” was a term used by the Royalists during the 1950s’ to challenge each other to fight, at this location. Many hundreds of others who have frequented these playgrounds over the years to play cricket, athletics, baseball, and football, remember this as their ‘pavilion’. This unique location continues to provide shade and a meeting place for Royalists of all ages.

May these two special creations of mother nature, continue to stand as landmarks of our alma mater, providing shade, shelter, and precious memories of schooldays, to many more generations of Royalists. The Group of ‘98 treated two tamarind trees for fungal diseases according to the instructions of the scientists of the Peradeniya Botanical Garden. The project was funded by the Group of ‘98 under the guidance of the School Development Society.





Healthy Royal Smile 2022

The "Healthy Royal Smile" project was initiated in 2014 in line with the "save molar project" launched by the Ministry of Health. The project aims to provide dental care for Royal College students who are at a high risk for dental caries.

In 2022, the project was organized for the seventh consecutive year by the Royal College Doctors' Association. A large focus was on grade 2 where 305 students of the grade were screened, and 82 students in high risk for dental caries were enrolled for further treatment in phase 2. Around 100 students receive treatment annually under this program approximately valued at around Rs. 2 million.





Renovations to the Scout Room

The fire that engulfed the Scout Room on the 10th of October 2022, caused significant damage. Sri Lanka Navy and the Royal College Old Boys of East Coast Foundation USA (ROCOBECF) came forward to renovate the Scout Room.

With the support extended by the Chief of Staff, Rear Admiral Priyantha Perera, Royal College was able to obtain the services of Navy electrical engineers and civil engineers to estimate the budget for the renovation. Mr. Senaka Seneviratne, an old scout from ROCOBECF, along with its membership and the generous contribution from Dr. Suku Nagendran, came forward and donated Rs. 2 million for the renovation.

In addition to the financial contribution by ROCOBECF, ACL Cables and Robbialac donated cables and paint while the renovations were carried out free of charge by the Sri Lanka Navy. The renovation work was completed and the renovated room was ceremoniously handed back to the Scouts on the 12th of November 2022.

The ceremony was graced by Vice Admiral Nishantha Ulugetenna, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Suku Nagendran was the Guest of Honour. Rear Admiral Priyantha Perera and four past presidents of ROCOBECF were also present at the ceremony.

Urgent repairs and termite treatment to the Main College Building

The main college building of Royal College, which will celebrate its centenary in 2024, was in need of urgent repairs. The Ministry of Education approved a budget of Rs. 19 million for the repairs, and the Sri Lanka Navy contributed manpower with a team of experienced engineers, technicians, and construction personnel to carry out the repairs, the value of which was estimated at over Rs. 15 million.

The building was also faced the issue of termite infestation causing much damage to the woodwork in the college hall. Considering the urgency of the situation, the RCU Trust decided to fund the entire cost of the anti-termite treatment, which amounted to Rs. 4.5 million.

The treatment was carried out by a leading pest control, and the work was completed successfully within the scheduled time frame.

The main college building is a historic landmark and a symbol of pride for all Royalists, and the urgent repairs will ensure its preservation for future generations.

Win the World with English Program

The Royal College Union Skills Centre (RCU Skills Centre) partnered with the Royal College Old Boys' Association in North America (RCOBANA) to conduct the "Win the World with English" program for the seventh consecutive year. The program has been a success in the past, with many students benefiting from it and improving their communication skills along with personality development.

The program kicked off in January 2023, with dignitaries from RCOBANA and school authorities gracing the occasion. The program is expected to help over a hundred students each year

Opening of the Innovation Laboratory

A fully equipped Innovation Laboratory for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education at Royal College, Colombo was developed through a collaborative effort between the Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT) and the ICT Advisory and Management Committee. The laboratory was inaugurated on December 5th, 2022, in a special ceremony graced by Prof. Nimal Rajapakse, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of SLIIT.

The laboratory is expected to enhance the learning experience of Royal College students helping them to develop a range of skills and competencies necessary to excel in the rapidly evolving global job market.

Swimming Pool facilities and upgrades

Lane Roles and spools

The group of 2007 donated six anti-wave lane ropes worth over Rs.700,000 to the swimming pool in October 2022, greatly enhancing the quality of swimming training for the students. These lane ropes are essential for competitive swimming and provide a better swimming experience by reducing water turbulence and providing clear lane separation.

New stainless-steel spools necessary to store these lane ropes were also delivered and fitted in December. Biomed International fabricated the stainless-steel spools at cost. The addition of these spools not only provided a safe and convenient way to store the lane ropes but also helped to preserve the longevity of the ropes, ensuring that they can be used by future generations of swimmers.

Baby pool renovation

The renovation of the baby pool was a much-needed project to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the young swimmers at the pool. The pool had suffered significant wear and tear, with damaged tiles and unsightly grouting, which not only posed a risk to the children but also detracted from the overall aesthetic appeal of the pool.

Thanks to the generous support of Blue Water Systems, the renovation was completed at a fraction of the estimated cost thanks to free manpower and equipment to carry out the necessary work.

Renovation of Roofs of Grade 1 Class Rooms

The Group of 2004 repaired the Grade One at a total cost of Rs 2.0 million. The project was made possible with the generous contributions of several benefactors. The rectification work was carried out to ensure the safety and comfort of the Grade One students while preventing water leaks during the rainy season. Coordinating members of the group supervised the work closely to ensure that the rectification work was carried out according to the required standards.

Remembering Brothers CSR Project by Group of 2000

School necessities, which included books, stationeries, school bags, shoes, clothes, and sports equipment worth Rs 1.3 million was donated to the Ihala Kolaeliya Primary School in the Puttalam District. Additionally, doctors from the Group of 2000, and Royal College Doctors Association and Sri Lanka Saukyadana Movement, held a comprehensive medical camp. The Royal College Merchandise Shop also contributed to the project with a donation of several apparel items for the students.

The Australian brotherhood of the Group of 2000 also presented a scholarship worth Rs 250,000 was also presented to the children of their batchmates who had recently departed. Principal of Royal College, and the Puttalam Zonal Education Office Deputy Director also participated at the event.

Royal Aquatic Academy

The Royal Aquatic Academy was inaugurated with the focus on building a strong foundation for swimmers to enter the College swimming team in the future. An under 13 water polo coaching program was also conducted. The aim is to continue the program in the upcoming months. The revenue generated by the academy will be utilized towards the development of all three aquatic sports in the future.

Tennis Academy

The Royal College Union Tennis Club launched the Tennis 10s Programme in December 2022. at the P. Nagendran Tennis Complex free of charge in three age categories as Orange Ball, Red Ball and Green Ball; for students between Grades 1 to 5.

The Tennis 10s Programme is conducted by Synergy Tennis headed by National Tennis Coach Renouk Wijemanne with the aim of identifying talented students at an early age and preparing them to join the College Tennis Team.

Band Room Renovation

The Old Royalists' Cadet Band Association undertook the project to renovate and improve the band room and Cadets' Square in 2022. The project involved spray painting all store racks, wooden cupboards, staircases, and the entire iron mesh covers in the Cadets' Square. Two new iron cupboards were also built to store all extra instruments. The walls inside the band room and the Cadets' Square were colour washed to give them a fresh look.

To further enhance the beauty of the Cadets' Square, the old plants were uprooted and replaced with new ones in the concrete flower troughs. The lawn around the war monument was mowed, bushes were trimmed, and the entire monument garden was cleaned. All white bricks around the garden and walking path to the monument were colour washed to give a brand new look. The hostellers now have a brand-new music room after 10 years.

Bus for the Royal College Cadet Band

On the 28th of August 2022, the Old Royalists' Cadet Band Association donated a custom-made exclusive bus worth Rs 8 million to the Royal College Cadet Band.

The bus was designed specifically to cater to the needs of the Royal College Cadet Band. It features 25 comfortable seats, air conditioning, fans, a TV, and a state-of-the-art 4-way speaker system. The bus also has a modern lighting system that will provide a comfortable and well-lit environment for the band members. Additionally, the bus has built-in storage space to store band equipment, ensuring that everything is kept safe and secure during transport.

The bus was fully modified to meet the specific needs of the Royal College Cadet Band. Apart from the Cadet band, the bus will also help address the growing transportation needs of various student groups, clubs, societies, and teams. The bus is expected to provide students with comfortable and safe transportation for various events and competitions. The bus will be maintained by "Auto Miraj" to ensure that it remains in top condition and can be used for years to come.





War Monument and War Heroes Commemoration

A solemn ceremony was organized for the War Heroes Commemoration on the 19th of May. The event was held to pay tribute to the brave 49 Royalists who had made the supreme sacrifice in safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our motherland. The commemoration ceremony was attended by a large number of Royalists, including past and present members of the cadet band. The ceremony began with the lighting of the traditional oil lamp, followed by a two-minute silence to pay respects to the fallen heroes. A special wreath-laying ceremony was also held, and members of the cadet band played the Last Post to honour the fallen heroes. The event concluded with a moving rendition of the national anthem by the cadet band, leaving everyone present with a sense of pride and patriotism.

Exemplary spirit of giving

Several projects, both one-off as well as ongoing have been undertaken and completed by Mr. Chandimal Fernando, an exemplary benefactor and Old Royalist. He is also the Patron and Founder President of the Old Royalists' Cadet Band Association. He has made significant contributions to some of the projects mentioned herein including:

The Band room renovation project which he personally supervised and funded almost the entire project which was estimated to cost Rs. 550,000/-.

The bus the Royal College Cadets, was also fully funded by Mr. Fernando. He also renovated the music room of the Royal College Hostel and restored the musical instruments to working order and replaced new ones for the unserviceable ones at an expense of Rs.600,000/=. Instruments which the hostel did not have were bought and a sound set up was also fixed.

In addition to the above, Mr. Fernando has also been maintaining the war Monument, the garden around it, the Cadet's Square and the west wing lobby at his own expense on an ongoing basis. He has been incurring an expense of about Rs.50,000/- monthly, which includes salaries for 3 workers, plants, fertilizer, repairs, replacing of blubs and painting. His unwavering support has resulted in the monument and the garden around it becoming a symbol of pride for the college, and a testament to the sacrifices made by those who laid down their lives for the country.





Leadership Development Program for RC Prefects by HR Professionals' Association

A Leadership development program for Royal College Senior Prefects organized by the Brandix Corporate campus was conducted in collaboration with old royalists' HR Professionals Association.

Sponsor for Royal College Badminton

The Royal College Badminton Advisory & Management Committee has partnered with IMC AIC Campus, a premier higher education Institute in the country, to sponsor Royal College Badminton for the year 2023.

This is the first time that Badminton at Royal College is being supported in this manner. The sponsorship was officially announced by the CEO of IMC AIC at a press conference held at the Kingsbury Hotel on 9th of May 2023, in the presence of the Principal, Senior Staff members, the Advisory Committee as well as the Senior Team.

The sponsorship and official playing attire were handed over by the Executive Director who had also represented Royal College Badminton





Rajakeeya Sisu Diriya and Rajakeeya Shilpa Yathra by ORAP

“Rajakeeya Sisu Diriya”, a CSR project to help school children in Piliyandala Education Zone was organized by The Old Royalists Association of Piliyandala (ORAP). An event was held on 12 March 2023 at the Piliyandala Municipal auditorium where exercise books, school bags and shoes worth over Rs 1.5 million were distributed to 160 deserving students.

ORAP also successfully conducted the “Rajakeeya Shilpa Yathra” for the 10th consecutive year on 30 April 2023 at the Piliyandala Municipal Auditorium. This seminar was held to enhance the knowledge and prepare students who are sitting the G C E O/L examination. As in previous years study material and meals were provided to over 400 participants. Program was conducted by 2 of the Old Royalists who are members of the tutorial staff of two leading schools.





Cricket Bowling Machine donated by ORA UK

Old Royalis' Association UK donated a "BOLA" 'Professional' Cricket Bowling Machine for the benefit of Royal cricketers. The machine is worth over Rs.800,000.

Royal College Group of 2013 CSR Initiative

Royal College Group of 2013 organized "Akura", a project aiming to help Grade 10 and 11 students of St. Rita's College, Dummaladeniya in line with the group's 10th anniversary. The project entailed a series of lectures designed to assist students with their O/L and was held on the 25th of March.



The Hostel, nurturing the future

Hostel & Beyond - A Journey of an Entrepreneur

“Hostel & Beyond – A Journey of an Entrepreneur” event was held at Royal College Skills Centre

on 27th January 2022. The event was focused on the entrepreneurial journey of Mr. Nalin Pathikirikorale, a current Vice President of Royal College Union and past president of ROCOHA. The event was held with the presence of many distinguished participants including former Principal of Royal College Mr. M.V.S. Gunathilake, Secretary of Royal College Union, Col. Dr. Hiran Wimalarathne and Secretary of School Development Society Mr. Asanga Peiris. The event was attended by the members of the ROCOHA, past wardens, current hostellers of Royal College, media representatives and individuals who were interested in the event.

Hostel Fee Sponsorship Program

ROCOHA has collected funds from its membership to award 10 hostel fee sponsorship for current students for a period of one year. The program is a continuation from the earlier year and the selections are to be completed soon in coordination with hostel warden.

Post Pandemic Revival (PPR) Projects

ROCOHA in coordination with Hostel Advisory & Management Board has embarked on projects to make the hostel physical environment which has been neglected during the pandemic period more conducive to student

1) Repair of tables in the Hostel Study Room (1982 A/L Batch)s.

Repair of the table-tops of the hostel study room is completed. This project is sponsored by RCH 1982 Group led by Mr. Nandana Gamlath and Mr. Lohitha Wijethunga.

2) Separate Toilet and Washroom Facilities for the Employees of the Hostel

Drawings and quotation received, discussed with Warden and the project is planned to commence soon. The monetary support for this project is from past hostellers is Australia, led by past president of ROCOHA Mr. Nishantha Sugunapala.

3) Repair of LP Gas Supply System of the Kitchen and Repairing of the Roof (83 A/L batch)

Complete repairing of the LP Gas supply system of the hostel kitchen. Roof repair and the painting of Kitchen entrance also have been completed. This project was led by Group Capt. (Rtd.)/Pilot Ranil Senaka Dharmawardena supported by Dr. Priyantha Ranaweera of USA and Rushan Sumanaweera (ROCOHA Founder member) along with the support of RCH 1983 batch mates.





4) Repairing the Ceiling of Dining Hall (Group of 2004 A/L)

The ceiling of the dining hall required some mandatory repairs, as a preparation for reopening of the hostel, after COVID-19 pandemic. This was completed with the sponsorship of the RC Group of 2004 A/L batch.

5) Modern Discussion Room at the Hostel Warden's Office.

A modern discussion room facility has been established inside the Warden's Office. The table arrangements and chairs required have been donated by 'One Billion Technology' (Pvt) Ltd/ Mr.Prasath Nanayakkara the Chairman/CEO(RCH 1986), in coordination with President ROCOHA, Janaka Kumarasinghe.

6) Repair of the Roof and the Boundary Wall of Grade 10/11 Dormitory and Painting of the Dormitory Wall and Toilet Complex (Group of 1997 A/L)

Roof of Grade 10/11 Dormitory and the dilapidated boundary wall behind Grade 10/11 Dormitory(in front of the school teachers' car park) is repaired by Group of 97 Old Hostellers. Total cost of the project is LKR 500,000/-.

7) Cleaning and Beautifying the Hostel Premises

This is an on-going project for more than four months with the financial support from past ROCOHA. Warden Mr. Janaka Jayasinghe is coordinating the project with ROCOHA and employee from the Hostel staff.

8) Renovation of the Hostel Music Room by the sponsorship of Mr.Chandimal Fernando





Infrastructure projects that require urgent attention

The Infrastructure Management Committee of the Royal College Union (RCU) has been working diligently to address the infrastructure needs of the college. The committee has finalized the architectural drawings, Bill of Quantities (BOQs), and costing for several infrastructure projects that require urgent attention. These projects are critical to maintaining the safety and functionality of the college's facilities and ensuring a conducive environment for learning.

The RCU is now seeking the financial and logistical support of its affiliated groups, associations, and clubs in implementing these projects. The support of these groups is crucial in ensuring that the projects are completed on time and within budget. The RCU recognizes the important role that these groups play in the college community and is confident that they will rise to the occasion to support this vital initiative.

The RCU requests the Groups, Associations, and Clubs affiliated to the RCU, both here and overseas, to volunteer their commitments via ORGACO, the coordinating body of the Groups, Associations, and Clubs affiliated to the RCU.





‘SERVE’

Quarterly Newsletter

This newsletter is the relaunched eNews of the Royal College Union (RCU) and will be published by the ORGACO in the future.

We aim to connect all Royal alumni living and working across the world with news from the Royal College Union as well as what the old boys are up to in their respective groups, clubs, and associations.

We are proud of our alumni and are humbled by the energy and effort all of us channel towards our alma mater, our home away from home. It is this synergy that binds us together.

Two advertising spaces are allocated per each issue of the ‘SERVE’ eNews Bulletin. It is circulated to all the members of the Royal College Union (RCU) and have registered their email addresses with the RCU administrative office. Currently the database consist of 7000+ emails of members located across the world.

For advertising opportunities please contact us on orgaco@rcu.lk or call any of the office bearers of ORGACO.

ORGACO Office Bearers 2022 / 23

Deputy Chairman

Manju Ariyaratne
Tel : +94 773 263 613
Email : manjuariyaratne@gmail.com

Secretary

Dilshan De Silva
Tel : +94 777 261 034
Email : dilshan@dilaks.lk

Treasurer

Pasan Wanigasekara
Tel : +94 773 399 433
Email : ptwaniga@gmail.com

Asst. Secretary

Lakshika Attygalle
Tel : +94 773 715 958
Email : lakshika.prr@gmail.com

E-News Coordinator

Waruna Haegoda
Tel : +94 773 403 667
Email : hwaruna3@gmail.com

General e-mail:

orgaco@rcu.lk

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