



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2017/2018

PATRONESS

Rev. Sr. Rohini Mendis

PRESIDENT

Dulanganie. R. Jayatilleke

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Suzette de Alwis

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Sherine Alles Fernandopulle

JOINT SECRETARIES

Varuni Jayasekara

Netaji Silva Weeramanthri

JOINT TREASURERS

Nilakshi Samaranayake

Manaal Mowlana

COMMITTEE

Buddhika Karandana

Chamindri Ratwatte

Charm W. Nanayakkara

Dinali Karunaratne

Hafiya Azim

Lakshi Ranasinghe

Natasha Fernandopulle

Niranthi Boteju Ratnayake

Nuwanthi Kahandaliyanage

Padmarani De Silva

Michelle Herft

Pumi Meewakkala

Sasheen Arsecularatne

Tharindri Rupesinghe

Ziyana Salie

Time Flies but memories last forever. How quickly our term of office is drawing to a close. As we compile this final edition of the Shamrock we do so with bitter sweet feelings. Like all good things that must come to an end, so our term of office too is nearing its completion. We enjoyed our term immensely and will always carry with us all the warm, joyful memories of these eventful months.

This edition of the Shamrock has all the exciting news of the colourful "Bretro Night". It also carries a feature of our fellow Bridgetines who have kept the flag of their Alma Mater flying high in their respective fields.

St. Bridget's Day Mass, which was followed by a reception, where everyone let their hair down and had a truly enjoyable evening, was an event much looked forward to.

This issue also carries articles of the newly revamped netball courts, and the achievement of our very own PPA choir, "Contempo" as they took part in the Asia Pacific Choir Games.

As we take our final bow, we would like to say a very warm "Thank You" to you, our members for your encouragement and support without which the events wouldn't have been as successful. It is our wish that the Bridgetine Family grows from strength to strength and continues to inspire and support each other always.

Before signing out I'd like to share with you these beautiful words by Helen Steiner Rice.

" Stores don't sell I must confess,
The joys of life that cheer and bless,
But friends and prayers are priceless treasures,
Beyond all monetary measures.
And so, my friends, I say a prayer,
That God will keep you in his care.
.....Good bye, stay safe and blessed always.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Hafiya Azim
Tharindri Rupesinghe





From the Desk of the Editor



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Past Pupils' Association (PPA) will be held on 12th June 2018, at 5.30 pm at the Main Auditorium of St. Bridget's Convent.



Our Strength

The total membership as at 30th September 2017 is 3978



Application for Membership

Application forms could be downloaded from the PPA website or alternatively, a copy could be collected from the Collegiate School gate.



Membership Cards

Members who have not obtained their new personalized membership cards are encouraged to apply for one at a nominal cost of Rs.500/-. Please forward a request letter clearly mentioning the name and address to be printed on the new card together with a recently taken stamp size photograph, and a self-addressed registered envelope together with the old card to the Joint Secretary, Past Pupils' Association of St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 7.

It is imperative that members update the Secretary with their contact details in order to receive all the current information on the PPA.



PPA Web Site

All updates and news can be accessed on the website which is – <http://www.sbcppa.org>.



PPA Facebook Page

Browse through the numerous photographs, albums and keep abreast with current and upcoming events on <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St.Bridgets-Convent-PPA>. The site is constantly updated with interesting information. Make sure you don't miss out on any of the happenings!



Our Mission

Endeavoring to promote camaraderie and goodwill amongst fellow past Bridgetines and to continue to uplift and support the school in as many ways as possible.



MEMBER EVENTS

Bretro! A Bridgetine Retro Night

The PPA ended 2017 in style with a party that took everyone back to the retro years of bellbottoms, disco, and big hair. Bretro, the Bridgetine Retro Night, was held at the Taj Samudra Grand Marquee on Friday, 24th November, just as people were winding down for the year and getting into the festive spirit.

The evening was hosted by Bridgetine Michelle Herft, accompanied by the incomparable Dhanu. Talented Bridgetine Tarja De Silva and her dance partner Bharatha set the tone for the night with their entrance jive to a Meghan Trainor track, adding some retro glamour to the event. From their onwards, it was all about the music. Anno Domini started off with a string of retro and slightly newer tracks that brought the ladies – and their gentlemen! – to the dancefloor. The band shared the stage with DJ Missy Flame, another talented and trailblazing Bridgetine who was one of Sri Lanka's first female DJs. All this good music had Bridgetines young and old on the floor and dancing, bringing out their best – and most retro! – moves.

But the evening really kicked off when the house-based dance-off was announced. As always, the spirit of friendly competition set in and each house gathered their teams in





no time. With their captains leading the moves, the houses danced off to a number of disco favourites. It was a tight competition, but the Purple ladies took the crown!

In addition to some fun spot games like Biggest Bellbottom and Who's Wearing Green Nailpolish, the other highlights of the evening were the Retro King and Queen competition and the always-popular baila competition, both of which saw some memorable moves.

With the Taj Grand Marquee lit up with disco-inspired lights and partygoers flocking to the retro-themed photobooth, the music and dancing continued into the night. After an early-morning breakfast, the bell-bottom-clad Bridgetines brought the evening to an end.



St. Bridget's Day 2018

The PPA held its annual St. Bridget's Day Celebration on Friday, 2 February 2018. Keeping with our traditions, Holy Mass was celebrated at the School Chapel, in thanksgiving for our beloved Alma Mater. This was followed by an evening of fellowship and fun for PPA members, a chance for old friends to meet up and celebrate the institution which defined their childhood.

Contempo, the Past Pupils' Choir of St. Bridget's Convent, began the evening with the school anthem, followed by a musical item. They were felicitated by the PPA for their excellent performance at the recently concluded Asia Pacific Choir Games 2017. The PPA also felicitated Mrs. Priyanthi Seneviratne van Dort, a Bridgetine and the Director of the Collegiate School choir, for her commendable service to the school.

After the celebratory cake was cut by the past presidents, the games began. The first game on the agenda was a quiz to test the ladies' knowledge of St. Bridget's Convent – which proved to be admirable! We then had the slightly more rambunctious Balloon Bursting competition, which was over almost before it began due to the enthusiasm of the crowd! The last game on the agenda was the Paper Plate game,



which required some artistic and coordination skills...and produced some 'creative' results!

The rest of the evening was a blur of music, dancing and catching up with old friends.



Contempo shine at the Asia Pacific Choir Games 2017

'Contempo' the Past Pupil's Choir of St. Bridget's Convent was formed in the year 2001 as an all-female vocal ensemble for Bridgetines' with a passion for music and singing. From its inception to date the choir has grown in number and strength, welcoming new members each year.

Under the guidance of many well-known choral directors such as Eshantha Pieris and Sheranga perera, to name a few, the choir has had opportunities to be part of School Events such as the PPA School Day celebrations, the PPA All Souls Day masses and the School Christmas Carols Service. The choir has been part of the combined choirs for events organized by the Symphony Orchestra of Sri Lanka and the Chamber Music Society of Colombo and it has also showcased its own public performances such as "September (2009)" – a joint event organized with Choro Benedicte, "Viva la diva (2012)" and "Reel Music (2015)".



Contempo's hallmark achievement for the year 2017 is its participation in the 'Asia Pacific Choir Games' organized by INTERKULTUR, the world's leading organizer of international choir competitions and festivals, which was held in Colombo in the month of October. After months of planning and preparation, with the support of the choir along with the guidance of Eshantha Pieris, Nishantha Warnakulasooriya and Harin Amirthanathan, the choir opted to compete in two categories namely – 'Gospel, Spiritual and Music of Faith and Spirit' and 'Vocal Ensemble', which incorporated a mix of song choices from Sri Lankan traditional, to rock, pop, jazz. The choir, conducted by Harin Amirthanathan, achieved the unimaginable in the Gospel, Spiritual category when it was granted the opportunity to progress to the highest level in international competition 'The Grand Prix' after having achieved 'Gold' in both pre-requisite levels which are the 'Open competition level' and 'The Asia Pacific Champions level'. Having qualified on-site for the Grand Prix level the choir had not prepared a fifth song for the higher level competition. Contempo took up the challenge however and learnt a song in two hours to perform and was awarded with a 'Gold' at this level too! The choir also successfully progressed to the 'Asia Pacific Championship' level in its second category, 'Vocal Ensemble' and achieved 'Silver' having achieved a 'Gold' in the 'Open competition level' in the same, collecting 4 four golds and a silver in total.

Contempo was a part of several highlighted Christmas events in the month of December, such as 'Joy to the World' organized by the Archdiocese of Colombo and the Joseph Vaz Trust held on the 13th of December at the Nelum Pokuna Auditorium, 'Rejoice' – A Christmas Gospel Concert organized by Voice Print held on the 16th of December at the Race Course and was granted the opportunity to perform for the Prime Minister and his guests at Temple Trees on the 18th of December.

The roots of progress of the choir lie in the learning rendered through the school years, and all the choristers of 'Contempo' are forever grateful to its choral and music teachers for their teaching through their school years. Contempo is also thankful to the Past Pupils' Association of St. Bridget's Convent for always being a source of strength and support to the choir and look forward to be part of its upcoming events.





CSR ACTIVITIES

Giving Back To Society.

The PPA donated a sum of Rs 50,000/- to the Good Shepherd Home, Mankulam, Jaffna.

The Good Shepherd convent was in dire need of a recreation room with library facilities. The New rec room was to be fitted with new tables, cushioned seating, and other facilities.

A new home for a Family



With the onslaught of the floods in 2017, the aid that came flooding in wasn't limited just to our shores. The SBC PPA of Canada and Australia (Melbourne) made generous cash donations towards renovating a house affected by the floods.

Mr Anurapala from Ratnapura is a daily wage earner who maintains a family of four. His wife has a neurological disorder and is constantly in need of medication and care. This poor family was in dire need of simple renovations to convert their small home into proper living quarters after being submerged during the heavy flood. Unable to afford such repairs on his meagre income and with no one to turn to, indeed providence led us to him. Past Bridgetine Ms. Kekuli Unamboowe Abeyratne was kind enough to identify his problem and after much deliberation we decided to help this humble family from Ratnapura,

The families in Nayakakanada that received help during the floods.



BRIDGETINES KEEP THE GREEN AND WHITE FLYING HIGH

Marini De Livera Appointed As Chairperson Of The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA).



President Maithripala Sirisena appointed Marini De Livera as the new Chairperson of the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA).

Marini de Livera is an LLB Graduate, an Attorney-at-Law and holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Human Rights and a Masters in Law in Public Law and Human Rights. She is also a Licentiate Teacher in Speech and Drama of the Trinity College London and obtained a Gold Medal for Public Speaking from the London Academy of Dramatic Art, UK.

Marini de Livera has functioned as an Academic, and taught Constitutional Law, European Law, International Human Rights Law, International Criminal Law and Public International Law in UK, Sri Lanka and the Republic of Seychelles. She has presented papers at international and regional forums on Human Rights and Public Law related subjects.

Marini De Livera was also invited to speak at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, USA. More recently she was invited to speak on 'Constitutional Reform in Sri Lanka' at the Faculty of Law, University of Melbourne, Australia.

She served as a Member of the Child Soldiers' Rehabilitation Committee, Prisons Reforms Committee, the Committee set up to draft amendments to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, and at present functions as a member of the National Committee on Women.





Mrs. Varuni Jayasekara is awarded the prestigious Fellowship by The Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama (UK,)

The Society of Teachers of Speech and Drama – UK, (STSD) awarded a Fellowship to Mrs. Varuni Jayasekara on 8th June 2017. Mrs. Jayasekara was awarded the Fellowship, which carries with it the prestigious postnominal letters 'FTSD', following a unanimous vote of the Society's Council as announced at the STSD Annual General Meeting in February 2017. The Fellowship is awarded to members who have held Full or Associate membership of the Society for a minimum of seven years in appreciation of their valued service to further the aims and objectives of the Society beyond their individual membership, through their work

in theatre or the world of teaching of speech, drama and communication.

Mrs. Jayasekara is the Founder Principal of the Varuni Jayasekara Academy of Speech, Drama and Communication as well as of the Academy of English for Specific Purposes. She is also the Executive Director of the Colombo Academy of Language Skills and Dramatic Art and is the Regional Representative of the STSD for Sri Lanka.

In 1992, Mrs. Jayasekara became the first and only candidate in Sri Lanka to have been awarded a trophy by the Sri Lanka Centre of the Trinity College of London for having completed the highest diplomas of the College in Speech and Drama, Effective Speaking and the Teaching of English as a Second Language: a distinction she holds to date.

Mrs. Jayasekara has over 38 years of experience as a teacher of Speech and Drama and allied subjects, having trained and guided candidates from Initial Grade to Associate, Licentiate and Fellowship Diplomas from prestigious London Colleges.

SCHOOL / TEACHER & STUDENT DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



School Events and PPA Participation

Since its inception, the PPA has been a source of encouragement and support to its Alma Mater. The President and Committee members attended the following events by invitation during the past six months.



Date	Event
29th October	"The Other Side of Dreams" An evening of drama by the Collegiate school
31st October	Primary School Prize Giving
17th November	Mass For The Dear Departed
30th November	Nativity Play - Montessori
8th December	Carol Service Primary School
10th December	Carol Service Collegiate School
1st Feb	St. Bridget's day

St. Bridgets Convent win CBB Drama Competition

St. Bridget's Convent secured the championship of the CBB Drama Competition for the second year running with their colorful and energetic rendition of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' by Oscar Wilde. The adaptation skilfully edited by the director Malintha Perera conveyed the essence of the play in a nutshell.

Competing against local and international schools was no easy task especially for an all girls' cast competing with mixed casts. Ultimately, it was all down to hard work, prayer and the grace of God.

St Bridget's Convent won the competition for the second time consecutively with their elegant and witty extract from "The Importance of Being Earnest" by Oscar Wilde.





ACTIVITIES WITH THE SCHOOL

Child development - A program on cyber exploitation precautions and support available conducted by Mr. Hans Bilimoria was planned by the PPA and the Children's day (in Oct) was allocated by the collegiate principal for same.

As the requested time by the presenter per 2 age groups was 90 minutes per batch the program was rescheduled for the 2nd term in 2018..

Revamping The NetBall Courts

The P.P.A as one of its school uplifting projects revamped the existing netball courts according to the specifications given by the teacher in charge of netball, Miss Hemanthi De Silva.

The newly refinished clay netball courts along with a protective fencing was completed and handed over to the Principal of the Collegiate school Rev. Sr. Alexandra Mendis in time to commemorate Children's day. Rev Sr. Rohini Mendis conducted a simple religious ceremony at the time of handing over the court. Several committee members of the P.P.A were present at the ceremony. The members of the school's netball teams also participated in the handing over ceremony and christened the court by playing a few games on it.



Bridgetines represent Sri Lanka at FIBA, Bangalore India.



The PPA is proud to have had the opportunity to part-sponsor two talented Bridgetine basketball players, upon the school's request. Bridgetines Shayami Perera and Netanya Perera of Year 10 were selected to represent Sri Lanka at the FIBA U-16 Women's Asia Cup 2017 in Bangalore, India.

The P.P.A gifted a sum of Rs 50,000/- and a set of School T-shirts to the two girls.

PPA co treasurer Nilakshi Samaranayake is seen making the presentation. PPA President Dulanganie R. Jayatilleke and Committee member Hafiya Azim along with the school games mistress Ms Jeevani were present to wish the girls the very best.

A projector for school



A cash donation of Rs. 252,500/- was made to the Primary School for a projector. Dulanganie Jayatilleke the President of the P.P.A and Suzette de Alwis Vice President of the P.P.A seen here handing over the cheque to Primary School Principal Rev Sr. Dilani Jayamanna.



Renovation of the Montessori Toilets



The Montessori toilets were renovated at the cost of Rs.500,000/-. The PPA California branch forwarded a sum of Rs. 260,000/- and the balance Rs. 240,000/- was donated by the PPA Colombo. PPA President, Dulanganie Jayatilleke handed the cheque to Rev. Sr. Dulcy Peiris, Principal of the Montessori.

In Loving Memory

- Remembering with love, those who left us for eternal life.



Past President of the P.P.A.
Mrs Lilamani Rodrigo



Past President
Ms. Claudia De Silva.



Ms. Mallika Williams
Teacher of Oreintal Dance,
Collegiate School.



Past Pupil
Kisanicy c De Saram.

SBC P.P.A. teams who paricipated at the Relay Carnival which was organized by the PPA of Holy Family Convent Bambalapitiya, on the 20th of January.



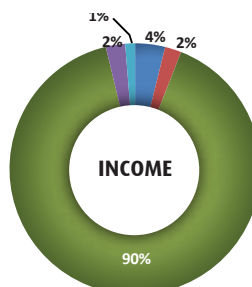
Cricket Carnival organized by the STCML Class of 90 on the 26th November 2017, at the NCC Grounds .

Cricket Carnival organized by the STCML Class of 90 on the 26th November 2017, at the NCC Grounds

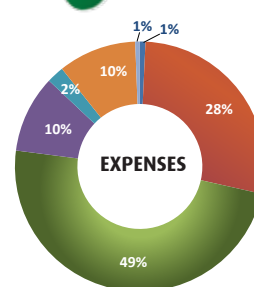


Our Past Bridgetine Trio who took part in the IRONMAN International Triathlon Championship, held in Colombo in February 2018. Anusha Hettiaratchchi Hettigoda - Swimmer, Dharshini Ariyaratne - Cyclist & Shermila Lafir Jayasinghe - Runner.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



Membership	4%
Merchandise	2%
Bretro	90%
SBC Day -Committee Contributions	2%
Interest	1%



Bretro	49%
School Development	28%
SBC Day	10%
CSR	10%
Shamroc	2%
Gifts	1%
Mass for the Dear Departed	1%