



# Newsletter

## Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya

Issue No. 02 | JAN - 2024



### 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM and Induction of 4<sup>th</sup> President 2023



Veterinary Alumni Association is all about taking collective action to inspire the Veterinary community to discover their full potential

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> AGM and Induction of 4<sup>th</sup> President 2023

The veterinary community of Peradeniya came together in grand style on March 18, 2023, for the third Annual General Meeting of the Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya (VAAP). The event took place at the Institute of Continuing Education – Department of Animal Production and Health, where esteemed guests, including university dignitaries, graced the occasion. Among the distinguished guests were:

- Prof. M. D. Lamawansa, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.
- Prof. T. Madhujith, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Peradeniya.
- Prof. Pradeepa Bandaranayake, the President, Alumni Association of University of Peradeniya.
- Prof. Dileep de Silva, Chair Professor of Community Dentistry at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

The event was a spectacular showcase of the strong bonds that unite the Peradeniya veterinary community. It provided a unique platform for alumni, faculty, and university leadership to interact, collaborate, and reflect on the remarkable journey of the VAAP.

Dr. Niranjala de Silva was inducted as the new President of VAAP. Her dedication and vision for the association promise to guide VAAP to new heights, fostering greater unity among the alumni and advancing the field of veterinary science.



# Message from the President

**Dr. Niranjala de Silva**



I consider it an honor to write this message to the second issue of the Newsletter of VAAP. This issue gives a glimpse of activities carried out during the past few months hence, I am not going to mention them in my message. However, there are a few more activities planned before the end of the tenure of the present Executive Committee.

I trust that the activities initiated by the Executive Committee of VAAP in collaboration with its overseas chapters will create a long-lasting impact on undergraduates especially those who are fortunate to gain studentships, and the faculty in general. Moreover, the initiation of the Moodle platform funded by the VAAP UK-EU Chapter on the website of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons will enable veterinary practitioners and academics to enhance their knowledge and skills and thus, their professional and personal career development.

I must appreciate the support extended by the Ex-Co members including the overseas chapter coordinators to help the faculty. I request the alumni of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science to join the VAAP to achieve its objectives more efficiently in the years to come.

# VAAP's Commitment to Veterinary Students

At VAAP, supporting the aspirations of promising veterinary students remains at the forefront of our mission. Providing studentships for deserving candidates in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science is not just a priority; it's our primary objective.

To ensure that the assistance reaches those who need it the most, a meticulous screening process is employed. Identified students are granted financial support monthly for a period of one year. This support is instrumental in easing their financial burdens, allowing them to focus on their education and pursue their dreams in the field of veterinary medicine.

In 2023, VAAP's commitment to these studentships is stronger than ever. We are proud to announce that each supported student will receive a total amount of LKR 60,000.00 per year. This significant financial aid serves as a lifeline for our aspiring veterinarians, enabling them to excel in their studies and embark on a successful career.

The studentship details for the year 2023 are summarized in the table below:

Donor	Amount (LKR)/Month	Instalments	Amount (LKR)/Year	Number of Studentships	Total amount
Oceania Chapter	5,000.00	12	60,000.00	9	540,000.00
UK Chapter	5,000.00	12	60,000.00	5	300,000.00
North America Chapter	5,000.00	12	60,000.00	1	60,000.00
Dr. Sanjeewa Silva	6,000.00	10	60,000.00	1	60,000.00
Vet 75 Batch	5,000.00	12	60,000.00	1	60,000.00
VAAP Funds	5,000.00	10	50,000.00	2	100,000.00
VAAP Funds	5,000.00	12	60,000.00	1	60,000.00
VAAP Funds	6,000.00	10	60,000.00	1	60,000.00

We are immensely proud of the impact that VAAP's studentships have had on the lives of these diligent students. Through our continued commitment, we are helping them turn their dreams into reality.

## Inspirational Achievement for a Noble Cause



We are excited to share that Professor Ayona Silva-Fletcher accomplished an incredible feat on April 23, 2023. She participated in the prestigious London Marathon to support the VAAP.

With unwavering determination, she completed the marathon and raised an impressive 1400 GBP for our fund. We congratulate and deeply appreciate her dedication to advancing veterinary education.

Professor Fletcher exemplifies our community's spirit of compassion and support, making a lasting impact on veterinary education.

We thank her for her remarkable commitment and for setting an inspiring example. Together, we can achieve extraordinary things.



## Exciting News; Logo and Name design Competition for eLearning Platform



Nelum Mahishi Aberathne, the winner of the logo design competition for the eLearning platform of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons.

In April 2023, VAAP hosted an engaging Logo and Name Design Competition for the eLearning platform of the Sri Lanka College of Veterinary Surgeons, in collaboration with VAAP. Open to all VAAP members and talented veterinary undergraduates, our esteemed panel of judges, including Prof. Ayona Silva Fletcher, Drs. Oswin Perera, Kalhari Bandara, Nadeeka Wawegama, and Vadivel Mohan, meticulously reviewed 15 impressive entries.

We're delighted to announce Ms. Nelum Maheshi Aberathne, a final-year veterinary student at the time of the competition, as the winner of the Logo Design Competition. She received a generous 50 USD Amazon gift voucher from Prof. Ayona Silva Fletcher. We're thrilled to share that Ms. Aberathne has successfully completed her BVSc program, marking an exciting chapter in her journey.

While no entry captured the perfect name, our selection committee creatively coined the name "Vet eHub" to define our eLearning platform's identity.

This competition has spotlighted our community's immense talent and unveiled a promising future for veterinary education and innovation. Stay tuned for more updates on how "Vet eHub" will shape our community's future.



<https://lms.slvvetcollege.org/login/>

## VAAP's Alumni Dual Generosity; Advancing Veterinary Care

In 2023, the Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya witnessed two heartwarming acts of generosity, furthering the cause of veterinary care and education.

In May, Dr. Logeshwaran, a devoted VAAP UK-EU member, donated a cutting-edge Karl Storz endoscopy machine to the Small Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital. This generous contribution filled a critical need for advanced equipment, facilitating procedures such as laparoscopic hysterectomies, castrations in toque monkeys, and even unique examinations, like that of a python's cloaca. Dr. Logeshwaran's commitment extended beyond the donation, as he conducted extensive training sessions for clinicians and students, ensuring the efficient utilization of the machine. The impact of this donation and training has been truly transformative, empowering the hospital with state-of-the-art capabilities.

In September, the 72 Vet Batch members showcased their unity by generously donating LKR 100,000 to VAAP. Along with this heartening gesture, they contributed a Benchtop Centrifuge with a fixed-angle rotor, addressing a pressing need at the Small Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

This new equipment has significantly elevated the hospital's diagnostic capabilities, facilitating efficient and timely sample analysis. Furthermore, Dr. H.P. Premasiri, a member of the 72 vet batch, has expressed his commitment to supporting the development of the poultry health and production laboratory within the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. A proposal detailing the laboratory's specific requirements has been submitted to Dr. Premasiri, and we eagerly anticipate his forthcoming support.

These acts of generosity exemplify VAAP's core values of unity, support, and a shared commitment to excellence in veterinary care and education. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Logeshwaran and the 72 Vet Batch members for their invaluable contributions, making a significant difference in the lives of animals and the progress of veterinary science.





# Equipping the Future of Farm Veterinary Animal Care



Farm Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital.



The equine surgery preparation room and the theatre.

Embark on a journey with VAAP to enhance the Farm Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the University of Peradeniya! The recently expanded facilities include a more spacious outpatient department (OPD), cutting-edge sections for small ruminants and equine surgery, a pharmacy facility, expanded hospitalization spaces, and well-furnished student restrooms and discussion rooms.

While these upgrades signify substantial progress, the hospital still requires essential elements for full functionality, aligning with modern-day standards for a 21st-century teaching and learning environment and patient care. These include but are not limited to, multiple animal examination tables, 32 LED TVs for the surgical theater, and a surgical theater light camera.

Undaunted by this challenge, the VAAP Overseas Chapters are uniting to fulfil some of these crucial requirements. Their unwavering dedication mirrors VAAP's commitment to excellence in veterinary education and elevating care standards.

This impactful campaign not only symbolizes our dedication to veterinary excellence but also showcases the collaborative spirit of the VAAP community. We sincerely seek everyone's support to make this vision a reality, extending beyond hospital walls to resonate with those passionate about animal welfare.

Be on alert for updates as VAAP strides towards transforming the Farm Animal Veterinary Teaching Hospital into an innovative education hub. Let's join forces to support this noble cause and pave the way for a brighter future in veterinary medicine!

## Restoring Mobility and Opportunities: VAAP Oceania Chapter's Generous Contribution to Bus Repair



In a heartwarming act of solidarity, two committed members of the VAAP Oceania Chapter generously revitalized the aging bus at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science. Their joint effort resulted in a substantial donation of LKR 500,000.00, marking a pivotal moment for the faculty.

The transformation that followed was truly astonishing. Thanks to this contribution, the once-worn bus now shines as if it just left the showroom. This upgrade was much-needed, particularly with the faculty's increasing student enrollment.

The impact of this donation cannot be overstated. With the bus restored to its former glory, students and faculty can maximize its potential for field visits and academic activities. This renewed mobility reignites opportunities for hands-on learning and collaborative research.

The VAAP Oceania Chapter members showcase an unwavering commitment to advancing veterinary education, extending their dedication beyond the classroom. Their contribution not only revives a critical resource but also rekindles the spirit of exploration and learning within the faculty.



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In another enriching event, on July 10, Dr. Raj Pakianathan conducted a seminar at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science during his visit to Sri Lanka. His seminar revolved around the essential topic of clinical reasoning in veterinary medicine. The session not only engaged the students but also broadened their horizons, leaving a profound impact on their approach to veterinary practice. These educational initiatives underscore VAAP's dedication to fostering the growth and development of future veterinarians. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Nadeeka Wawegama and Dr. Raj Pakianathan for their commitment to advancing veterinary education.

Looking ahead, Dr. Nilhan Fernando from the Oceania chapter is scheduled to conduct a virtual seminar on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, focusing on Current trends in Poultry Breeding. This seminar aims to capture a wider audience, including veterinary students, professionals, and agriculture experts interested in poultry production. These educational initiatives underscore VAAP's dedication to fostering the growth and development of future veterinarians. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Nilhan Fernando for his commitment.

# VAAP WEBINAR 2024

 SUNDAY  
25 FEBRUARY

 Time  
1.30 PM



**Dr. Nilhan Fernando**  
Chief Technical Officer  
Specialised Breeders Australia

Will share the current trends in Poultry Breeding

- Genetics and Egg size
- Male Egg Layer Embryo Selection Initiatives

Coordinated by VAAP Oceania Chapter  
Organised by Veterinary Alumni Association of Peradeniya

