



# **FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.**

Melbourne, Australia

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2020/2021**

**June 2021**

**Registration No. A01074350**

*(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012)*

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# 1. ABOUT US

## An overview

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Friends of Lanka Inc. (FoL) was formed by a group of Sri Lankans living in Melbourne, Australia in August 2019. The intention was to create a mechanism to carry out humanitarian and community welfare activities in Sri Lanka as well as in Australia. With a view to making this mechanism more effective, efficient and transparent, FoL was registered as an incorporated association in Victoria. During the year 2020/21 FoL had 35 members, around 150 sponsors and donors. The benefits provided include, school stationery for 210 children for a school year, financial assistance to a youth with medical conditions and supporting a home-based enterprise.

In general, the world population is making progress against poverty by increasing the global living conditions over the last five decades. However, a large section of the population is still facing inequality due to economic, political and social conditions. There are many gaps that we can help to fill in the societies we are connected with, to make life a little better for another human being.

We met many generous people who are willing to join this quest in order to alleviate suffering of another. Our main responsibility is ensuring this generosity is met with the real need and that nothing was misused or wasted. The projects carried out during the year 2020/21 demonstrated transparency and the proper delivery to the most deserving individuals.



## Objectives

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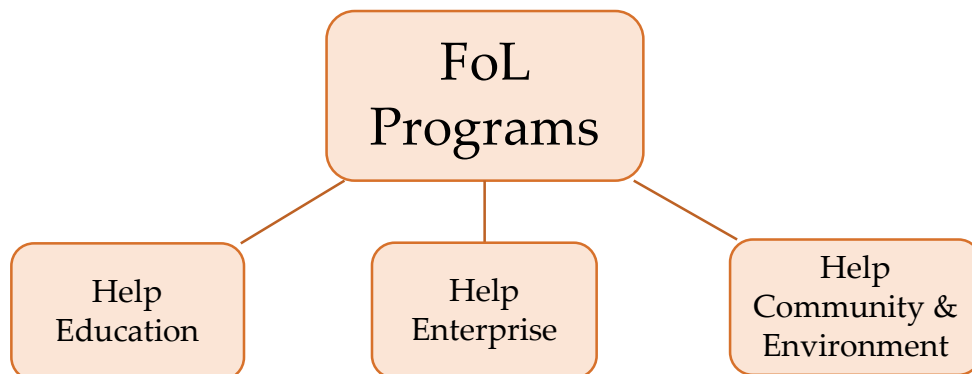
The broader objective of the association is to implement various socio-cultural, economic, and environmental related welfare programs to support the advancement of communities in need, with a specific focus on Sri Lanka, and the protection of our planet.

The association carries out various projects which fall within its objectives ensuring the selfless donations received, reaches the most deserving community, or put to the best use in order to help achieve a worthy cause. The projects will also involve participation in activities such as environmental conservation, social transformation and provide assistance after a disaster.

## Program Structure

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FoL implements different projects under three main program areas.



**Help Education** focuses on assisting school children to continue education, providing the schools with infrastructure and equipment, helping in special circumstances such as medical conditions, and assisting with vocational training or higher education.

**Help Enterprise** is an initiative which encourages to start or provide support to continue and progress with small businesses in rural communities.

**Help Community & Environment** is a broader category which will cover a few different areas, such as environmental and wildlife conservation, disaster relief programs, social transformation activities, and awareness raising about matters on public welfare and civil rights.

## 2. OUR PEOPLE

### In Melbourne

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The team in Melbourne comprises of nine Executive committee members.

Shantha Nanayakkara	President
Shanika Kalansooriya	Secretary
Dimuth Thotawatta	Treasurer
Jayathu Tennakoon	Vice President
Gamini Walisinghe	Asst. Secretary
Upul Weerasinghe	Asst. Treasurer
Chandana Udagedara	Committee Member
Lalitha Rathuge	Committee Member
Saliya Mudannayake	Committee Member

### In Sri Lanka

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We are fortunate to have met a few dedicated volunteers in Sri Lanka who work hard and have the best interest of others in the heart. We are very thankful to each and every one of them for the work they do to ensure the smooth implementation of our projects.

Ven. P. Pagnnaratana Thero	Vice Principal, Kallanchiya Vidyalaya, Anuradhapura
Asiri Gunawardana	Volunteer, Logistics
Seetha Kumari	Teacher, Sirikanduyaya Vidyalaya, Polonnaruwa
Ranjith Senevirathna	Volunteer, Vavuniya District
Udayaseelan Vinojni	Volunteer – Vavuniya District
Prasad Nanayakkara	Vice Principal, Saralankara Maha Vidyalaya, Galle
Kumari Menike	Coordinator, Ranliya Kulagana Society, Padaviya

## Message from the President

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Just like many organizations around the world, this year has been a challenging one to Friends of Lanka, which is a young community welfare association that started its operation beginning of 2020. The global pandemic impacted indiscriminately each and every one of us and the way we worked in some way.

While we were aware of all those challenges we did not want to step back from the good work we planned ahead for the year, particularly the delivery of HELP LEARN project in which we planned to support school education for hundreds of children from disadvantage families in Sri Lanka. Apart from HELP LEARN, we were also able to support a small group of mothers in Padaviya area with their small scale income generating activities under Ranliya Project and provided financial support to cover medical expenses to a young boy under Anjula Medi-Aid Project.

All these projects were started with some uncertainty ahead, because of the unpredictable COVID-19 crisis. However, thanks to all our supporters, particularly to our valued members and generous sponsors, we were able to support many families who deserved your help.

On behalf of FoL, I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the members, sponsors and the tremendous contribution made by our volunteers who tirelessly worked on the ground in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Vavuniya districts.

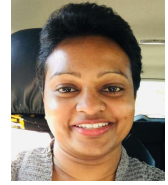


Shantha Nanayakkara  
President



## Message from the Secretary

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We were able to share in the happiness of many children through the HELP LEARN project delivery in December 2020. With the help of many wonderful donors and sponsors together with the contributions of our own membership we were able to put smiles on 210 kids and their parents too. "Seeing the joy in their faces was the best part of this project" Mr. Gamini Walisinghe told us after attending a distribution event.

I wholeheartedly thank the FoL committee who dedicated many hours to make the projects a reality, specially Gamini, who despite the COVID situation in Sri Lanka, committed many days to organise and manage the distribution events. He also visited all our representatives in Sri Lanka to appreciate their valuable role and the dedication to help the next generation of Sri Lanka.

During the pandemic, there were times we felt it was improper to request donations from people as everyone was affected in some way and the uncertainty of the situation made things worse. But on our request many people came forward, with their generous hearts to make life a little better for someone else.

I sincerely thank FoL membership and all the sponsors who donated money, time and effort, which gave us inspiration and encouragement to continue the work we do. I look forward to another year with more engagement and friendship from all of you.

Shanika Kalansooriya  
Secretary



*The certificates awarded to two of the volunteers in Sri Lanka*

### 3. OUR PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

#### HELP LEARN

HELP LEARN is the FoL's ongoing flagship project. FoL understands that one of the key factors which affects inequality in the society is lack of opportunities for education. Under 'Help Education' category, the project supports selected children from families with financial difficulties by donating the school stationery needed for a school year.



In December last year, 210 such children were given a school bag, exercise books, pens, pencils, mathematical set, other stationery items as per their school book list, a water bottle and a lunch box.

Thanks to FoL donors, sponsors and members, each of these children will be able to complete the school year without having to struggle.

FoL pays special attention to how the most deserving children are been selected and our representatives in each area play an important role in this process. There are pre-defined selection criteria, based on which they evaluate the children before recommending them to be included in the beneficiary list. The representatives also carry out a follow-up evaluation to ensure the children stay in school and are still eligible to receive the stationery pack next year.



#### Distribution in December 2020

District	No. of schools	No. of students
Anuradhapura	13	120
Polonnaruwa	7	48
Vavuniya	12	42
<b>Total no. of children helped</b>		<b>210</b>



## RANLIYA SUPPORT

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Ranliya Support falls under the 'Help Enterprise' program category. The key objective of this program is to promote and encourage the members of low-income communities who are willing to work on small-scale enterprises, generating income to support their families.



Ranliya Kulagana Society is a group of ambitious mothers who live in Padaviya area of Anuradhapura district. They run a home-based manufacturing operation of items such as school bags, casual bags, female underwear, mosquito nets, and toys.

Last year they supplied 210 high-quality school bags for HELP LEARN project.

FoL is pleased to be able to contribute to this socially uplifting local enterprise which empowers women in a rural area rather than purchasing the school bags from large scale manufacturer.



## Anjula – Medi AID

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*Anjula with some of the medals he won in Tennis*

Anjula Nayanajith is a 20-year-old bright, young man with a few medical conditions which disturbed his normal education and normal life. He is attending a school for children with special needs to continue his secondary education.

Anjula's father is suffering from kidney disease and lost his job recently. Last year Anjula had to undergo a few operations to gain control of his bodily functions. With the kind donations received from our members, we were able to assist him with some of the medical expenses. The surgeries were successful and he is on the path to recovery now.

FoL is in touch with his mother and is planning to assist him further to recover and pursue his interest in Wheelchair Tennis.



## 4. OUR FINANCES

### Treasurer's Report

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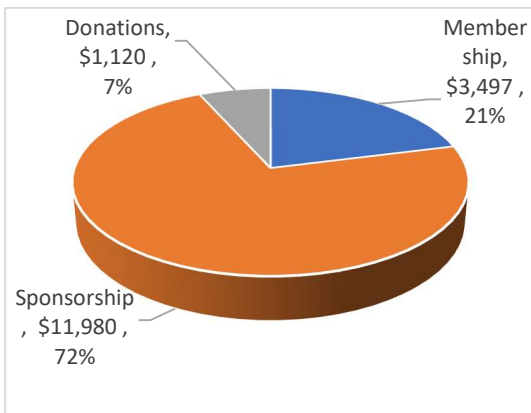


This is FoL's first completed financial year since its registration.

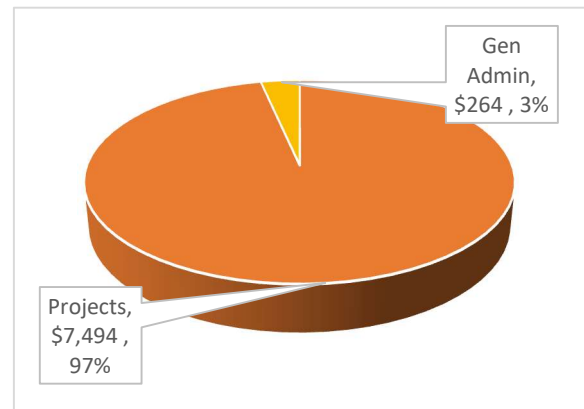
We planned all our work, in an uncertain atmosphere created by a global pandemic. Finding necessary funds to implement planned projects was a major challenge to overcome. Thanks to our members and sponsors who came forward with their generosity made the plans a reality.

I am pleased to present FoL's financial statements that provide the details of income, expenditure and the financial position, together with some financial highlights depicted below.

#### Source of funds:



#### Spending:



I would like to thank everyone who were involved in by donating of funds and other activities of FoL. I look forward, knowing that another great year is ahead of us with the community spirit and willingness to help needy people of the society and engage with the broader community.



Dimuth Thotawatta  
Treasurer

## Financial Statements

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### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

		2021 AU\$	2020 AU\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at bank	Note 2	10,810	1970
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<u>10,810</u>	<u>1,970</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
General Reserve	Note 3	1,970	0
Current year surplus / (defidit)	Note 4	8,840	1970
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<u>10,810</u>	<u>1970</u>

We declare that the above financial report of the Friends of Lanka Inc. has been prepared as required under the rules of the said Association and it presents fairly the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2021 and the results of its activities for the year ended on that date from the date of incorporation.



Shantha Nanayakkara  
President



Dimuth Thotawatta  
Treasurer

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>AU\$</b>	<b>AU\$</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Memberships Received	3,497	2,050
HELPLEARN Sponsorships Received	11,980	
Medi Aid Donations	360	
Sundry Income - Masks Sale	760	
Donations for Special Project Advertising	-	5,560
Donations for COVID-19 Food Distribution Project	-	1,800
	<u><b>16,597</b></u>	<u><b>9,410</b></u>
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Admin & Establishment Expenses	244	-
Purchase of School stationery - HELPLEARN 2020	4,025	-
Purchase of School Bags - HELPLEARN 2020	2,480	-
Distribution Event Expenses - HELPLEARN 2020	190	-
Medical Aids Paid (Anjula Project)	799	-
Bank Charges & Paypal Commission	20	-
Social Transformation Advertising Expenses	-	5,520
Food Covid-19 Food Reliefs	-	1,800
Hall hire expenses	-	120
	<u><b>7,758</b></u>	<u><b>7,440</b></u>
 <b>SL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<u><u><b>8,840</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>1,970</b></u></u>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

### Note 1 - Statement of significant accounting policies

#### 1.1 Statement of compliance

The committee has determined that the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. The financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

#### 1.2 Income Tax

The organisation is a not-for-profit community service association and is exempted from income tax under section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

#### 1.3 Revenue

Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

#### 1.4 Goods and Services Tax

The organisation is a not-for-profit community association; the turnover of which is less than the threshold of \$150,000, therefore not registered for GST.

### Note 2 - Cash at Bank and PayPal

	2020 (\$)	2021 (\$)
Bank Account - CBA 063 182 - 1153 9014	6,031	1,970
Bank Account - NAB 083 004 - 717737077	2,762	-
Bank Account - NAB 083 004 - 717812073	1,500	-
FoL PayPal Acct	517	-
	<u>10,810</u>	<u>1,970</u>

### Note 3 - General Reserves

Membership Fund	1,650	-
Project Fund	320	-
	<u>1,970</u>	<u>-</u>

Memberships Fund: Accumulated, unutilised membership fee income

Project Fund: Accumulated, unutilised project related income mainly from Sponsorships and project related income. (Mainly for HELP LEARN)

### Note 4 - Current Year Surplus

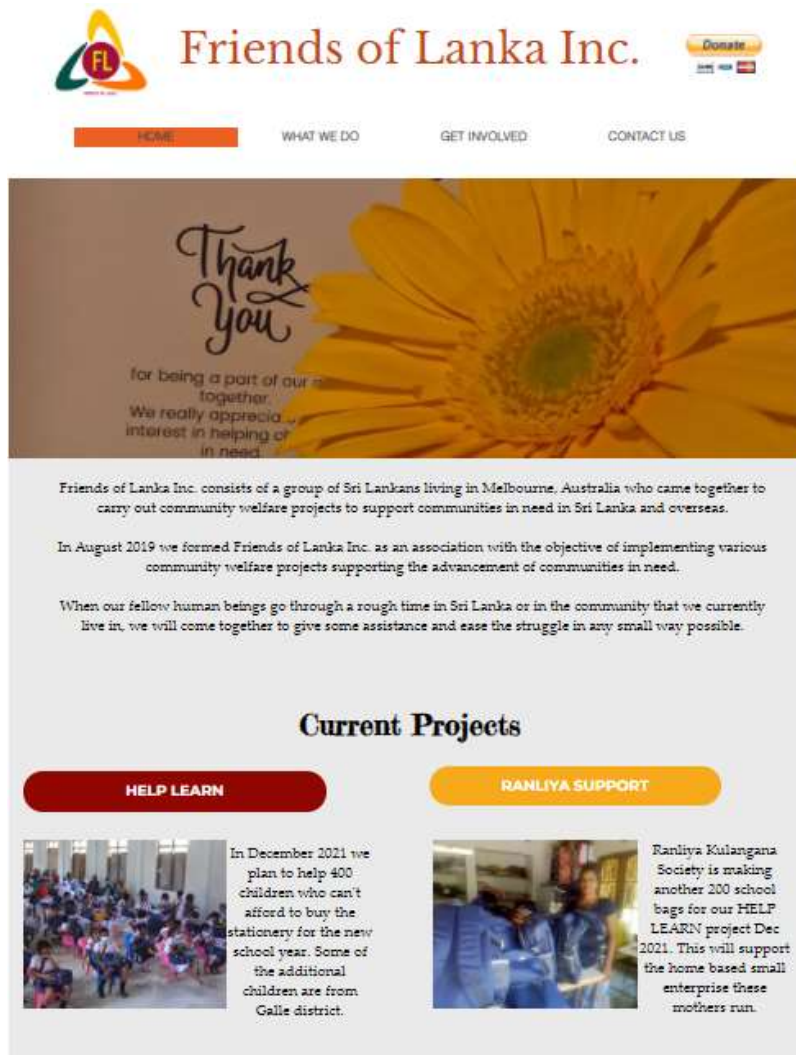
The two components of current year surplus:

Surplus from the membership income	3,233	1,650
Surplus from the project related income	5,607	320
	<u>8,840</u>	<u>1,970</u>

## 5. OTHER INFORMATION

### New Website

FoL launched its website [Friendsoflanka.org](http://Friendsoflanka.org) in order to connect with the donors and enable them to stay up to date with how their donation is put to good use. The website is regularly updated with the progress of ongoing projects and information of the new projects.



It also contains links to *New membership application*, *Sponsorship application*, and *PayPal & bank account details* to make it easier for our donors to join with us. They can also communicate through the chat function or the contact form on the website.

## How You Can Join

The Association would like to invite more Sri Lankans in Australia to join hands with FoL, so that you can be a proud member and contribute to making a difference in the life of someone less fortunate. The membership fee is \$10 per month and it will go towards a fund that will be used in charitable work.

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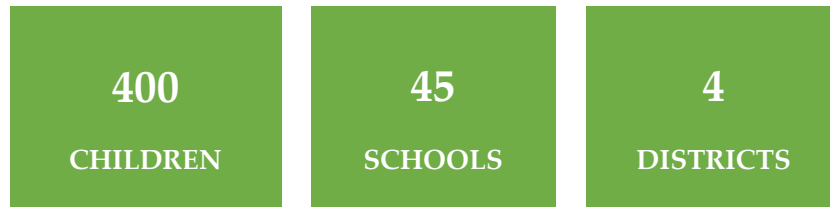
At school  
 30/12/2020.  
 To uncles and aunts who donate  
 school supplies.  
 we offer our thanks to all  
 the uncles and aunts who gives us  
 gifts This is a meritorious deed. Our  
 parents are very poor. They work hard  
 and earn something to fulfill our needs  
 Again we offer our thanks to all of you  
 May god bless you.  
 yours lovingly  
 Shamindi.



## Look into the Future

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FoL is planning to expand its HELP LEARN project to Galle district this year. Further the number of children benefited in the three districts in 2020, will be increased. With this expansion, FoL expects to provide essential necessities for 400 children altogether from 4 districts in December 2021.



The support extended to Ranliya Kulagana Society through the purchase of school bags will be continued in 2021 by ordering another 225 school bags.

Apart from the expansion of the activities as above, FoL is looking forward to working on more projects next year, such as:

- Providing financial support to identified children with special talents from families needing financial assistance.
- Provide hygienic, reusable sanitary pads and underwear to the eligible girls selected in the HELP LEARN. Project.
- Supporting disadvantaged families to start income-generating activities.
- Aiding destitute families with medical emergencies and / or in similar crisis circumstances.

## Contact us

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**Facebook:** [@Friendsoflanka](https://www.facebook.com/Friendsoflanka)

**Website :** [Friendsoflanka.org](http://Friendsoflanka.org)