

# FRIENDS OF LANKA INCORPORATED

Melbourne, Australia

## ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023



**Registration No. A01074350**  
**(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012)**



**1**

## **ABOUT US**

---

An Overview  
Objectives  
Program structure

**2**

## **OUR PEOPLE**

---

In Melbourne  
In Sri Lanka  
Message from the President  
Message from the Secretary

**3**

## **OUR PROJECTS**

---

HELP LEARN  
RANLIYA  
HELP EARN  
REUSABLE SANITARY PAD

**4**

## **OUR FINANCES**

---

Treasurer's Report  
Financial Statements

**5**

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

---

Our website  
How you can join  
Look into the future  
Contact us

# 1. ABOUT US

## **An overview**

Friends of Lanka (FOL) Inc. has its roots dating back to 2019 August when a group of Sri Lankans residing in Melbourne came together to carry out humanitarian and community welfare activities in both Sri Lanka and Australia. The initial members registered FOL as an incorporated corporation, thus making its operations more effective, efficient, and transparent. FOL launched its Flagship project Help Learn by providing school stationery and school bags requirements of 210 disadvantaged students from the rural areas of Sri Lanka. Since then, FOL has been steadily increasing the number of students benefitted by Help Learn and this year 520 students from 6 districts have been assisted by this project. FOL also engaged in two local community projects which included a Blood Donation Program and a Clean Up Australia project. FOL has engaged in other projects which would be detailed elsewhere in the Annual report.

FOL understands the donations received are hard earned by our donors and hence utmost care is taken in the way the money is spent. We maintain our transparency regarding the way we conduct our business operations.

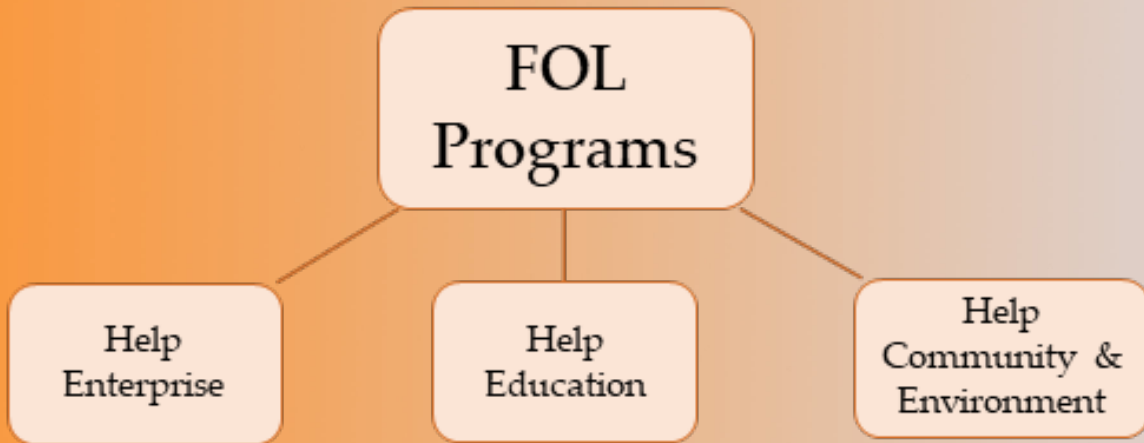
## **Objectives**

The broader objective of FOL is to implement various socio-cultural, economic, and environment related welfare programs to support the advancement of communities in need, and the protection of our planet.

FOL executes a range of projects aligned with its mission, with the primary goal of ensuring that the generous donations it receives directly benefit the most deserving communities and are optimally utilized to support meaningful causes.

## Program Structure

The FOL implements different projects under three main program areas.



Help Enterprise is an initiative aimed at promoting the establishment of new small businesses in rural communities and providing ongoing support to help these enterprises grow and thrive.

Help Education is a project dedicated to supporting schoolchildren by facilitating access to education, enhancing facilities and resources, offering aid during critical situations, and fostering opportunities for vocational training and higher education.

Help Community & Environment is a multifaceted initiative encompassing various areas of focus, including environmental and wildlife conservation, disaster relief efforts, social transformation initiatives, as well as public welfare and civil rights awareness campaigns. This comprehensive project is committed to making a positive impact across these diverse domains.

## 2. OUR PEOPLE

### **In Melbourne**

The team in Melbourne comprises of ten Executive committee members:

Shantha Nanayakkara	President
Nandalal Kasthuriarachchi	Secretary
Saliya Mudannayake	Treasurer
Jayathu Tennakoon	Vice President
Gamini Walisinghe	Asst Secretary
Dimuth Thotawatta	Assistant Treasurer
Shanika Kalansooriya	Committee Member
Bimla Marcus	Committee Member
Upul Sathurusinghe	Committee Member
Dinusha Nanayakkara	Committee Member

### **In Sri Lanka**

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

Ven P. Pagnnaratne Thero	Vice Principal, A/Kallanchiya Vidyalaya
Asiri Gunawardana	Volunteer, Logistics
Seetha Kumari	A/Principal, Sirikanduyaya Vidyalaya, Polonnaruwa
Ranjith Senevirathna	Volunteer, Vavuniya District
Udayaseelan Vinojni	Volunteer – Vavuniya
Prasad Nanayakkara	Vice Principal, Saralankara Maha Vidyalaya, Galle
Sudath Ranjan	Volunteer, Monaragala District
Kumari Menike	Coordinator, Ranliya Kulagana Society, Padaviya

## Message from the President



As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of the challenges we faced in our mission to serve those in need. The global economic landscape brought with it rising interest rates and inflation, making it tougher for individuals to contribute to charitable causes. However, it is during these trying times that we witness the true spirit of generosity.

Our kind donors and supporters rose to the occasion, demonstrating unwavering commitment to our cause. Their support allowed us to continue our work and expand our reach, touching the lives of a broader community group. This collective effort showcases the strength of our community and the impact we can make when we come together.

This year Friends of Lanka launched a new community event - a blood donation drive. This reflects our dedication to local community service, and we hope to expand our roster of such initiatives in the upcoming year.

It's heartwarming to note that despite having a small member base, the support from our friends and well-wishers for the Food Fair Event was truly remarkable. This event, held for the second time, was made possible through their dedication and hard work, spanning several days. Their enthusiasm and commitment remind us of the power of collective effort.

As we look ahead, we invite others to join us in our journey. The challenges faced by our communities are vast, and we believe that by uniting our efforts, we can make an even greater impact. Together, we can reach more people in need and continue to extend our support to those who deserve it the most.

I am dedicated to continuing my services for yet another year with the association's community work.

Shantha Nanayakkara  
President

## Message from the Secretary

Dear Friends and Supporters of Friends of Lanka, As we gather to reflect on the past year, it's clear that the challenges in the communities we serve have deepened. A growing number of our fellow citizens are grappling with the harsh realities of economic hardship, pushing them further below the poverty line. In the face of these difficulties, our mission to help disadvantaged communities has become more crucial than ever.



We firmly believe that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. This belief has led us to establish HELP Learn as our flagship project. Through HELP Learn, we are dedicated to empowering the younger generation with the knowledge and skills they need to build a better future. What truly warms our hearts is the unwavering support we receive from our dedicated supporters who share this vision. Your commitment to our cause has been a source of inspiration and strength. When the need arises, our members and supporters come together, demonstrating the power of unity with a noble goal in mind.

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your invaluable support. Without your dedication, we would not have achieved all that we have accomplished thus far. It's your passion and generosity that fuel our mission and bring smiles to the faces of those we serve.

As we move forward, I encourage our supporters to spread the word about our work, helping us reach even more people in need. By expanding our member base, we can strengthen our efforts and make an even greater impact on the lives of those who require our assistance the most.

In unity, we find the strength to create positive change. Together, let us continue our journey of service and uplift the communities that depend on our help.

With heartfelt thanks and warm regards,

Nandalal Kasthuriarachchi  
Secretary



### 3. OUR PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

After enduring the worst period of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global experience of high inflation, coupled with the continually rising interest rates, adversely affected people's capacity to make donations towards welfare activities. Despite challenging economic conditions, FOL not only continued to support a larger community through its Flagship project HELP LEARN but also expanded to include new projects. This year FOL initiated a new project called "HELP EARN" to facilitate income generation for economically disadvantaged families. Additionally, FOL launched a pilot project to introduce reusable sanitary pads to a group of disadvantaged school children with the objective of reducing high absenteeism amongst schoolgirls during their menstruation. With a modest member base, FOL was able to support a larger community thanks to the generosity of our donors, well-wishers, and friends.

#### HELP LEARN



FOL firmly believes that children are our future and therefore, regardless of their economic backgrounds, every child deserves equal and equitable access to school education. Taking this issue seriously, under the HELP EDUCATION program the flagship project HELP LEARN was launched with the aim of reducing school dropouts in underprivileged communities due to economic hardships. Each year through HELP LEARN children from low-income families are provided with school stationery and other essential items needed to continue with their schooling for the year. This year FOL added the underprivileged district Monaragala to the HELP LEARN project thus increasing the number of recipient children to 520. With the expansion of HELP LEARN project Monaragala District was added which increased the recipient children to 520. Monaragala district is considered to be one of the most poverty-stricken districts in Sri Lanka.

### **Beneficiaries by District**

District	No. of schools	No. of students
Anuradhapura	17	171
Polonnaruwa	9	90
Vavuniya	16	89
Galle	9	85
Monaragala	1	85
Total no. of children helped		520

It's disheartening to hear of the high absenteeism amongst the schoolgirls in remote Sri Lanka during their menstruation. FOL trialled a pilot project under the HELP EDUCATION program, by providing the reusable sanitary pads to 60 students from the Bakamuna District. Based on the success of the project FOL intends to extend the recipient school children to cover the other districts.



## **RANLIYA SUPPORT (Under Help Enterprise Program)**



Ranliya Kulagana Society is a small home based manufacturing business operated by a group of highly skilled women in Padaviya of Anuradhapura district who make their living through the manufacturing of mosquito nets, school bags etc.

Under the HELP ENTERPRISE program, FOL supported the Ranliya Kulagana Society through the purchasing of all the requirements of school bags and pencil cases for its HELP LEARN project.

FOL purchased 520 bags and pencil cases for its 2023 HELP LEARN Project, which includes the 230 fabric bags which are used for the students who already have the school bags from the previous years.

### **Computer Chairs donated to Balaharuwa MV**

Upon receiving a request from the Balaharuwa Maha Vidyalaya, FOL funded the purchase of 12 computer chairs for the school, allowing them to initiate computer usage.



## Blood Donation Day

Under Help Community and Environment program we organised our first ever Blood Donation drive at the Mount Waverly Red Cross Blood Donation Centre in January 2023. It was heartwarming to see the 26 attendees who turned up on an early Saturday morning to be a part of this worthy cause.



## HELP EARN

As outlined in last year's annual report as a future endeavour, FOL initiated an income-generating project with an economically disadvantaged family. The family's income producer had to stay at home due to their family situation. We provided a cow to enable them to generate income through the sale of dairy products. We are pleased to report that the project has been successful, and the family is now earning a sustainable income to support themselves."



## Clean Up Australia Day

For the second consecutive year, we participated in a Clean Up Australia event at the Jells Park Wheelers Hill in March. On a sunny Saturday morning, we spent a few hours collecting litter along the lake's path, preserving the natural environment and creating a pleasant setting for the public. It also provided an occasion for a social gathering to the FOL members and the other supporters who turned up on the day.



## Fund raising event – The Sri Lankan Food Fair

FOL held a Sri Lankan Food Fair for the second successive year with the aim of raising money for its Flagship Project HELP LEARN. Despite being a small organisation, we are grateful for the tremendous support from dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the event's success. Even under unfavourable weather conditions there was a turnout exceeding expectation. With the funds raised FOL hopes to extend the number of recipients and to include another district to the existing five districts.



## Donation of Laptops and near new clothing with books

We sent eight boxes of new or near new clothing and books to Monaragala district. Three computers that were in almost new condition were also donated to three undergraduates from Sri Jayewardenepura University and Moratuwa University who could not afford to buy laptops which were essential component to their studies.



## 4. OUR FINANCES

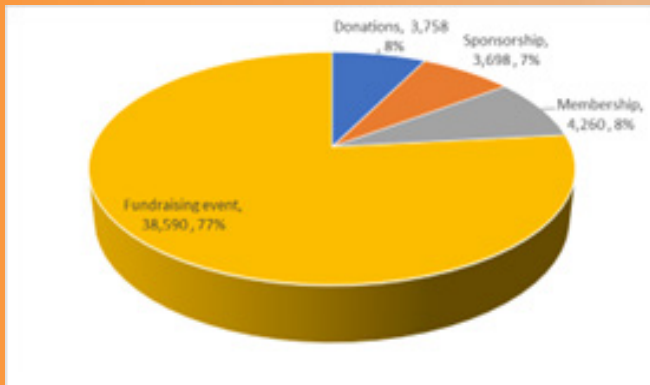
### Treasurer's Report

This is FOL's third completed financial year since its registration.

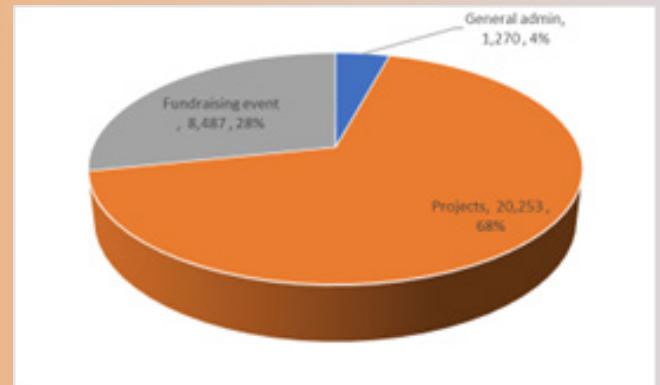


I am pleased to present FOL's financial statements that provide the details of income, expenditure, and the financial position, together with some financial highlights depicted below.

Source of funds



Spending



I would like to thank everyone who were involved by donating funds and contributing other activities of FOL. I look forward to 2023/24 knowing 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.



Saliya Mudannayake  
Treasurer – Friends of Lanka Inc.

# FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.

Melbourne Australia

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t. +61 401 017 328



## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Memberships Received	4,260	4,390
Sponsorships Received-HELP LEARN	3,698	16,768
Medi Aid - Hospital Support	3,758	5,767
Sanitary Project	-	500
Fund Raising Event - HLEPLEARN	38,590	21,301
	<b>50,306</b>	<b>48,726</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Admin & Establishment Expenses	1,118	524
Bank Charges & PayPal Commission	152	146
Distribution Event Expenses - HELPLEARN	215	126
Donation	250	-
Fund Raising Event - HELPLEARN	8,487	4,949
Medical Aids - Supplies	8,428	6,066
Other Projects-HELP LEARN	697	-
Purchase of Materials - HELP ENTERPRISE	405	597
Purchase of School Bags - HELPLEARN	1,274	4,614
Purchase of School stationery - HELPLEARN	8,957	18,439
Sanitary Project	-	1,232
Social Transformation Advertising Expenses	27	596
	<b>30,009</b>	<b>37,290</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>20,297</b>	<b>11,436</b>

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## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

		2023	2022
		\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at bank	Note 2	42,543	22,246
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>42,543</b>	<b>22,246</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
General Reserve	Note 3	22,246	10,810
Current year surplus / (deficit)	Note 4	20,297	11,436
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>42,543</b>	<b>22,246</b>

We declare that the above financial report of the Friends of Lanka Incorporated has been prepared as required under the rules of the Association and it presents fairly the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2023 and the results of its activities for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Shantha Nanayakkara  
President

Saliya Mudannayake  
Treasurer



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## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

### 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(GST)

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.

#### 1.5 Contribution of volunteer services and goods

Contribution of volunteer services and goods to the association during the reporting period were unable to quantify and recognise in the financial statements.

### Note 2 - Cash at Bank and PayPal

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Bank Account - CBA 063 182 - 1153 9014	15,479	1,116
Bank Account - NAB 083 004 - 717737077	3,560	17,354
Bank Account - NAB 083 004 - 717812073	21,000	1,000
FOL PayPal Acct	2,504	2,777
	<u>42,543</u>	<u>22,246</u>

### Note 3 - General Reserves

Membership Fund	8,602	4,883
Project Fund	13,644	5,927
	<u>22,246</u>	<u>10,810</u>

Memberships Fund: Accumulated, unutilised membership income

Project Fund: Accumulated, unutilised project related income mainly from Sponsorships for HELPLEARN and other project related income.

### Note 4 - Current Year Surplus

Surplus from the membership income	2,990	3,719
Surplus from the project related income	17,307	7,717
	<u>20,297</u>	<u>11,436</u>

## **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 help make a difference in the life of someone less fortunate. The membership fee is \$10 per month. The membership fee will go towards a fund that will be used in charitable work.

## **Look into the future**

High inflationary circumstances coupled with the increased bank lending rates limited the ability of raising funds via our usual fund-raising events. However due to the commitment of our dedicated members of the Association coupled with the generosity of the members of our community we succeeded to meet our last year's plan to support 500 school children.

FoL is looking forward to working on more projects next year such as:

- Continue with the expansion of the Help Learn Project by providing assistance to 600 disadvantaged students while increasing the ethnic diversity
- Continue with the support of Ranliya Kulagana Society through the purchase of school bags
- Provide and promote hygienic, reusable sanitary pads and underwear to the eligible girls in the project HELP LEARN.
- Make a feasible study of manufacturing the reusable sanitary pads with the Ranliya Kulagana society
- Supporting disadvantaged families to start income-generating activities

## **Contact us**

Email : [info@friendsoflanka.org](mailto:info@friendsoflanka.org)

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Facebook: @Friendsoflanka

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