

# Newsletter



**President (Ex. Officio)**

Mrs Rukmani Gunaratna

**Vice Presidents**

Sharmali Kodagoda

Indira Malwatta

**Hony. Jt. Secretaries**

Samiddhi Dewapura

Eranthi Premaratna

**Hony. Treasurer**

Piroshini Trikawalagoda

**Asst. Treasurer**

Yasinta Abeywickrema

**Committee Members**

**Staff**

Pushpika Abeyratna

**Over 60 yrs. of age**

Priya de Silva

Rukmini Raddalgoda

**40-60 yrs. of age**

Rohini Chandrasekera

Arundathi Chandratilleka

Renuka Dharmadasa

Ramani Gomes

Nita Liyanage

Jeevanie Pandithage

Sepali Peiris

Sunanda Ranawaka

Priyangani Ratnasekera

Manoja Wickramasuriya

**30-40 yrs. of age**

Dushyanthi Adikari

Buddhika Godakanda

Sabitha Gunatilleka

Himali Perera

Geethanjali Ranasinghe

Vishaka Samaraweera

Dayani Perera

Tharindra de Silva

Eranthi Karunaratna

Manouri Abeysirigunawardena

Nadeesha Gunatilleka

Samanmali Jayasinghe

Ishani Ariyapperuma

Prashani Sandanayaka

**Below 30 yrs. of age**

Amodini Jayawickrema

Anushi Senaratna

Sarala Kodagoda

## Editorial

Each year come July, a new executive committee takes over the destinies of the VVOGA. It is somewhat overwhelming to realize, that just thirty-seven of us are answerable to a membership exceeding six thousand!

For many years now, the mere mention of being a Visakhian offered us old girls instant recognition and instant privileges. It is a truism that every student entering the portals of Visakha leaves her as someone, somewhat special, someone more confident to face the world. Some magical ingredient seems to get rubbed on! Could it be that special combination of femininity and strength of character, not to mention wisdom that so characterized the ideal whose name our school bears?

This is perhaps the reason why most old girls aspire to have their daughters admitted to Visakha. What better way for that but to join the OGA?

Another dimension to this has now to be reckoned with. Many school leavers are found to defer, nay even to be reluctant to join the OGA. They seem to believe the Association's only role is the admission of members' children. Yet, another rumble heard is that there is no place for the young in the OGA

These misconceptions need to be redressed. Whilst the Association does its best to help those seeking admission for their daughters, this is certainly not its only role. It is the avenue by which we old girls can repay the debt we owe our school. It is also the surest vehicle of sustaining that special, indefinable bond among Visakhians, whatever be their age, background or circumstances.

The OGA welcomes young minds with new ideas. The need of the day is to acquire a modern day complexion tempered by the experience of the past.

This is a call to every member. Please pass the word. Join the Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls' Association.

Priya & Sarala

## Features

### The new admission policy

A policy on admission of students to Grade 1 for 2008 has been finally arrived at, after much deliberation between the Ministry of Education & the Supreme Court.

The Joint Committee of Past Pupils' Associations of National schools in which the VVOGA played an important role was instrumental in obtaining concessions for children of Past Pupils, where none existed in the recommendations of the NEC.

The religious ratio of students in the school at the time the school was vested in the State shall be maintained.

Eligibility criteria -5 years of age by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January of the year of admission

Admission categories -

A Residence in the Feeder Area (Colombo for VV) - max 20, minus 1 for each Nat. school between residence & VV

B Past Pupils – max 20 marks

Period in school (2 per year) - max 10

Membership in OGA - max 2

Academic/extra & co curricular activities - max 4

Services rendered to school - max 4

a) Siblings in school – 5 marks

b) Employment in the public sector (both within & outside Feeder area) & residing within Feeder area / employment in the private sector or self employed (only within feeder area) & residing within Feeder area - 5 marks

OR

Applicant in the Armed Services or Police - 10 marks

a) & b) to be added if relevant to either category (A or B)

### How will the new policy impact on organizations such as the VVOGA?

Opinions were sought from -

#### Samiddhi Dewapura (Hony Jt Secretary VVOGA)

**Q** – How would the new admission criteria impact on future contributions from Old Girls?

**A** – The marks given for contributions would be a turning point for old girls. These are for services, so that old girls would get more involved in OGA activities and hence build up a foundation to admit their children.

**Q** – As an Office Bearer of the OGA do you think the Past Pupils got a fair deal?

**A** – Yes. In March this year we had nothing. The quota system was scrapped. With the formation of the Federation of Past Pupils' Association with Ananda Vidyalaya taking the lead, we have got a fair deal.

#### Kumudu Sharmali (an applicant in the Old Girls' category)

**Q** – Is the new policy of admission more favourable or less favourable to Old Girls?

**A** - It is more favourable, as there is now no competition among the old girls. But not so when our category is compared with those of the Feeder category, since there is now no quota system.

**Q** – What are your feelings about the assessment of the child in the marking system of the new policy?

**A** – I do not like it. All children are not alike. Some have talents not displayed in public. Though parents would score marks, the assessment of the child would bring the total down.

**Q** – But it is the child surely who is to be admitted and hence needing to be assessed?

**A** – I have no answer to that.

## NEWS & EVENTS

Farewell to the outgoing Principal, Mrs. Rupa Amarasinghe at the Galle Face Hotel, on the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2007.



**The Official Web Page of Visakha**  
<http://www.visakhav.org>

### The School Archives

The Archives housed in the Old hall complex are managed by the OGA. It is a veritable treasure trove of Visakha memorabilia and is now been given a face lift. Entrance will soon be open to visitors. Inquiries could be made at the VVOGA Secretariat. Donations in kind & in cash are an urgent need. Contact Tharindra at 2828394/0777379973

### Visakha OGA Table Cloth

This table cloth brought out on special occasions is an heirloom of Visakha. It has the embroidered signatures of many old girls & even of old boys, many belonging to a generation or two ago. Signatures have been added on from time to time. As part of the 90th anniversary of our school, we again offer the chance for our members to join the honour role of signatories. Send a legible & large sample of your signature to the VVOGA Secretariat enclosing a cheque to the value of Rs. 3,000/ in favour of the VVOGA to reach it no later than the 31st December 2007.

### “Members’ Day”

This is an invitation for all our members to gather at the Jeremias Dias Hall on **Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of November**. There would be presentations on Reproductive Health, Good Grooming & Culinary Delights with strawberries and of course the fellowship that goes with all this. Organised by the Social Activities Subcommittee this is open to all members of the OGA & members of the school staff. **Time: 3 pm – 5 30 pm**

### “Boot” Sale

A novel concept of both showcasing the talents of our members and to raise funds for our coffers, a sale is to be held at the school premises on **Saturday the 1st of December 2007, from 9 am - 2 pm**. Participation is only for members of the OGA to display & sell whatever they choose from the boots of their vehicles parked inside the school premises. The sale would be open to the public.

Charges:

- 1,000 per car
- 1,250 per van or double cab

For inquiries contact:

Manoja at [mandywicks@gmail.com](mailto:mandywicks@gmail.com)  
/0777393038

Jeevanie at [jeevsp@sltnet.lk](mailto:jeevsp@sltnet.lk) / 0722242177

Applications should be sent on the form given on page 4, to reach the OGA Secretariat on or before the 23rd November.

### Education Abroad. Is it affordable? Is it an investment?

A seminar on the above topic would be held on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2008, from 9.30 am till 12 noon, targeting post O' level students & their parents. Organised by the Educational sub committee this seminar would field resource persons with experiences in this exercise and hence best able to advise our girls to compete on equal grounds with others seeking places in Colleges or universities in countries such as Australia, USA, UK & India.

## Subcommittees & Conveners

Fund Raising – Manoja & Jeevanie  
Religious - Vishaka & Nadeesha  
Building Maintenance  
– Priyangani & Savithri  
Education - Indira & Arundathi  
Secretariat - Priya & Tharindra  
Membership & Data Base  
- Eranthi & Anushi  
Sports - Rohini & Renuka  
Newsletter - Priya & Sarala  
Cafeteria - Ramani & Renuka  
Finance - Piroshini & Yasintha  
Web site - Priya & Prasangi  
Social Activities – Sabitha, Manouri & Himali  
Archives - Tharindra & Dushyanthi  
Publicity - Dayani & Ishani  
Equipment - Prashani & Sunanda  
Sports - Rohini & Renuka

## Projects/Events on the drawing board

- Launch of the Visakha Alumnae choir
- Screening of the film “Sankara’
- Members’ Annual day out
- Launch of the Visakha Book Club
- Staging of an English Musical

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2007 / 2008

18<sup>th</sup> November 2007 Members’ Day  
1<sup>st</sup> December 2007 Boot Sale  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 Last Day for Table Cloth Signatures  
“Education Abroad”  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2008 91<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
Bodhi Pooja  
January 2008 Annual Members’ trip  
March/ April 2008 Avurudu Pola  
13<sup>th</sup> June 2008 Visakha Dinner  
Dance 2008

## Batch News

### Batch of 1995

A Bana Sermon was held at the Vajiraramaya Temple on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October in memory of Anoma Induttara Gunadasa who lost her life in the Colombo floods in May this year.

### Batch of 2001

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual get together was held on 26<sup>th</sup> June. 75 batch mates had a great time at the Bougainvillea block.

Launch of the **Visakha Alumnae Choir**  
Open to any member with a penchant for singing, this would be meeting twice a month on Sundays from 4 - 6 pm. Contact Sarala at yasanthi23@hotmail.com/0776072380

.....  
**.Application form for the “Boot” Sale”** (closing date - 23.11.07)

Name ..... OGA Membership Number: .....

Address.....  
.....

Make of vehicle & registration number: .....

Items for sale: Food/clothing/plants/electrical items/Home needs/others .....  
(tick off what is relevant)

(Please enclose a cheque for the relevant charges to the credit of Visakha Vidyalaya Old Girls’ Association & send it to the OGA Secretariat, Visakha Vidyalaya, 133, Vajira Road, Colombo 4.)

Guidelines would be supplied on submission of the application