

July 2018

Newsletter



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On Sunday 17th June 2018, the new Accident & Emergency Treatment Unit at the Teaching Hospital in Batticaloa was ceremonially declared open by the Hon Minister of Health, Nutrition & Indigenous Medicine of the Sri Lankan Government. Hon Rajitha Senarathna was accorded a typical Sri Lankan welcome, alongside his deputy Minister Hon Faisal Cassim and other senior politicians of the Region.



Dr David Young and Nihal de Run joined the dignitaries in the ceremonies which included the hoisting of the National Flag, the singing of the National Anthem in both Sinhalese and Tamil and the unveiling of the commemorative plaque.



Dr M S Ibralebbe, the Director of the Hospital welcomed all guests that assembled in the auditorium and after light refreshments there was a brief presentation of traditional dancing by a local dance troupe.



Following the lighting of the traditional oil lamps a series of speeches by Dr Ibralebbe and Dr David Young preceded the presentation of mementos of recognition and appreciation for the outstanding work done by the President and CEO of the Foundation to assist the Ministry of Health achieve this Milestone.



Mr & Mrs Ricky Mendis received special mention for being the largest single private donors whilst Sri Lanka Telecom were recognised for the largest Corporate donor. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend the ceremony due to an injury that Ricky Mendis endured at that time. Nalin Pathikirikorale, our Vice President in Sri Lanka is shown with Mr & Mrs Mendis and the memento that was awarded to them.



Several members of the Foundation travelled from Australia and Colombo to represent us at the function. David and Nihal are particularly grateful for their presence and your support.



The building is three storeys high, with provision for two more storeys at a later stage. It has 6202 square metres of floor space and comprise on the Ground Floor an expansive reception area with facilities to receive patients who walk in or are brought by ambulance or other means of transport. The Triage, a room for decontamination from burns, a room for treatment for patients who have suffered from poisoning, a room for treatment of those suffering from dog bites (rabies prevention), a Resuscitation Unit with 6 beds, a treatment room for general casualties, a procedure room, Radiology, and Imaging Rooms, which will house the Ultrasound Machine and the C T Scanner when this machine is delivered.



On the first floor are short stay wards for both male and female patients. The wards can accommodate 60 beds.



On the third level are the three Operating Theatres which have been named the RICKY MENDIS OPERATING THEATRE, THE JOHN KEELLS OPERATING THEATRE AND THE DAVID YOUNG OPERATING THEATRE. These theatres equipped with all the modern medical equipment that is expected of a “State of the Art” Accident & Emergency Hospital. The John Keells theatre will also provide for Eye Surgery.



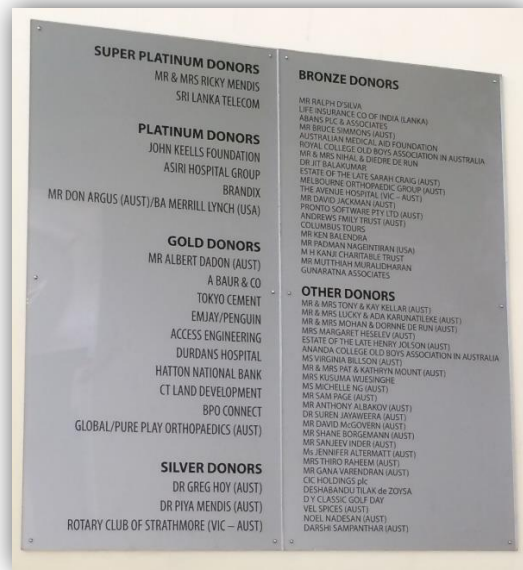


“One swallow does not make a summer. Neither does one A&E Treatment Unit”

We are pleased to learn that the Ministry of Health have plans to follow up on Karapitiya and Batticaloa with twelve more such treatment units. Work has already commenced on four; Jaffna, Kalmunia, Pollonnaruwa and Matara. Our pleas have been heard!!



Honour Boards have been installed in the Main Reception Area to thank those who donated generously for this project. These honour boards are replicated here for the information of our membership and those that have given us both encouragement and support. WE have only named those that gave us a minimum of A\$1000 as at the end of May 2018. Some donated after that date and will be added to the boards in the future. However small your donation may have been it was valuable and useful in our endeavour to collect the US\$2million for the building and US\$1million for the specialised medical equipment, machinery, and furniture.



We are still short of US\$400,000 to complete our pledge and this we intend to provide in the form of a C T scanner or we will provide the shortfall funds as a contribution for the purchase a more sophisticated 128 slice C T scanner. We are therefore still keen to receive more donations or sponsorships for this purpose.





Some of you may be wondering if this completes our Project. The short answer is NO; not until we have provided the C T Scanner or contributed substantially towards it AND arranged vocational training for the nursing staff at the new ETU.

It is an objective of this Foundation to ensure sustainability of the new facility and to help with Training & Development into the future.



Annual General Meeting

Advance notice is hereby given of the AGM of the Foundation in October 2018, most probably on Sunday 14th October 2018. Please make a mental note and I will send out a formal notice when the date, place and time is confirmed.

Nihal de Run
15-Jul-18