

F r i e n d s o f L a n k a I n c .

Melbourne, Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



Registration No.: A01074350, ABN : 77 303 711 302
(Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012)

www.friendsoflanka.org

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1. ABOUT US

An overview

It has now been over five years since a small group of Sri Lankans living in Melbourne united with a shared goal to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those in need. From these humble roots, Friends of Lanka (**FOL**) has expanded into a vibrant community of caring people who believe in giving back and uplifting others.

In a short time, FOL has captured the hearts of many who share a passion for community welfare, especially for helping children from disadvantaged backgrounds pursue their dreams through education. Despite limited resources, FOL has remained committed to creating real change where it's needed most. Over the past five years, the organisation has provided tremendous support to underprivileged families across Sri Lanka, helping young learners continue their education and move closer to a brighter, more hopeful future.

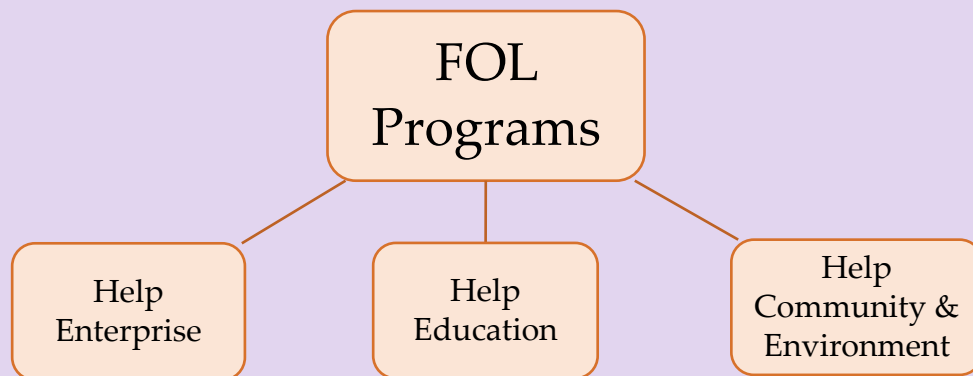
Objectives

FOL was founded with a simple yet powerful purpose — to build a bridge between kind-hearted people who wish to help and those who genuinely deserve that support. Guided by this vision, FOL has carried out a range of socio-cultural, educational, economic, and environmental welfare initiatives designed to uplift disadvantaged communities while promoting care for our planet.

Over the past five years, FOL has remained steadfast in its mission, ensuring that every donation received reaches the most deserving communities and is used effectively to create meaningful, lasting change in people's lives.

Program Areas of FOL

FOL carries out its mission through three key program areas, each designed to create lasting, meaningful change within communities.



Help Enterprise

This initiative supports the establishment and growth of small businesses in rural communities, empowering individuals to build sustainable livelihoods and contribute to local economic development.

Help Education

Focused on breaking barriers to learning, this project provides essential support to schoolchildren by improving access to education, enhancing school facilities and resources, offering assistance in times of need, and creating opportunities for vocational and higher education.

Help Community & Environment

A broad-reaching initiative that includes environmental and wildlife conservation, disaster relief, social development, and public welfare programs. It aims to promote sustainable living, resilience, and community empowerment while protecting the environment and raising awareness of civil rights and social responsibility.

2. OUR PEOPLE

At the heart of FOL is a team of passionate and dedicated volunteers — individuals who share a common vision of empowering children and uplifting disadvantaged communities.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributes their time, skills, and compassion to make our programs successful.

Executive Committee 2024/25 – Melbourne, Australia

Our Melbourne-based committee provides the leadership, planning, and coordination that drives all FOL programs forward.

Saliya Mudannayaka	President
Gamini Walisinghe	Secretary
Upul Sathurusinghe	Treasurer
Shantha Nanayakkara	Vice President
Jayathu Tennakoon	Asst Secretary
Bimla Marcus	Assistant Treasurer
Nandalal Kasturiarchchi	Committee Member
Lal Samarasekara	Committee Member
Supin Bandara	Committee Member
Lalith Nishantha	Committee Member
Udanee Sajeetha	Committee Member

Our Volunteer Team in Sri Lanka

Our Sri Lanka team represents the spirit of dedication and compassion. They work closely with schools, teachers, and local communities to ensure the smooth delivery of our educational and welfare programs.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation for their outstanding service and commitment.

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



Message from the President

FOL has come a long way in its journey of serving communities, especially children in need. Over the years, our commitment to community engagement has deepened, and this year marks a significant milestone in our approach.

We are proud to introduce the HELPLEARN English Program—an innovative initiative that shifts our focus from material aid to service-based support. This program is designed to enhance children's English language proficiency while equipping them with essential life skills. Structured as an activity-based pilot, HELPLEARN is set to launch next year, with its framework currently being developed in collaboration with experts in language education and life skills.

Initial consultations with these specialists have provided valuable insights, helping us shape a more impactful and sustainable model for the future. I am confident that the implementation of this strategy will bring meaningful and lasting benefits to the children we serve.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Executive Committee, Subcommittee members, and the dedicated support we've received from Sri Lankan volunteers, teachers, and program coordinators—each of whom is an integral part of the FOL family. Your unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have made our work more meaningful and impactful, and I sincerely appreciate your role in advancing our mission.

As President, I am truly grateful for the remarkable growth of the FOL family and the steadfast support of our well-wishers throughout the year. Your contributions have been instrumental in strengthening our initiatives and reinforcing trust in FOL's work. I look forward to your continued support as we strive to uplift disadvantaged communities and nurture their potential.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Saliya', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Saliya Mudannayake
President
Friends of Lanka Inc.



Message from the Secretary

I feel truly fortunate to be part of this wonderful organisation, a group of generous and dedicated people who come together with one purpose: to help those who need it most.

About six years ago, a small group of us got together with a simple idea to create a way to support children and families in need. Since then, *Friends of Lanka* has grown into a strong community of caring individuals who share the same vision.

Our flagship program, the *HelpLearn Project*, has been at the heart of what we do. This year, we took a significant step forward, moving from providing school materials to helping children build essential skills, especially in English and life development. The new *HelpLearn English* initiative has already been designed to be implemented in Anuradhapura and Galle, and we're confident it will soon reach more areas where children have little access to learning resources.

All this has been possible because of the generosity and commitment of our members, donors, and supporters, and the tireless work of our volunteers in Sri Lanka.

Together, we've proven that even small acts of kindness can make a lasting difference in young lives.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Gamini Walisinghe

Secretary

Friends of Lanka Inc.

3. OUR PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

As in previous years, FOL continued to deliver its key educational and community support projects, alongside small-scale enterprise initiatives. While no major fundraising activities were conducted this year, the organisation efficiently utilised the remaining funds from previous years and member subscriptions to sustain and expand its core programs.

These included the *HelpLearn* project, the *Ranliya* enterprise initiative, and a few community engagement programs in Australia.

HelpLearn

For the fifth consecutive year, FOL supported schoolchildren in rural Sri Lanka by donating essential stationery and school supplies. In 2024/25, the *HelpLearn* project benefited **580 children from 66 schools** across **six districts**, as shown below.

District	School	Students
Anuradhapura	18	173
Polonnaruwa	10	110
Galle	15	86
Monaragala	1	83
Mannar	1	30
Vavuniya	21	98
Total	66	580





A Significant Change in the HelpLearn Delivery Model

This year, the *HelpLearn* project underwent a major transformation. As the Sri Lankan Department of Education began assisting schools with the provision of learning materials, FOL identified a new and more impactful area of support, **developing children's English proficiency and life skills**.

Through consultations with local teachers and volunteers, FOL recognised that children in remote schools needed opportunities to enhance their confidence and communication skills to help open pathways to a brighter future.

In response, FOL launched **English Language Learning Programs** at:

- *Kallanchiya Maha Vidyalaya* in Anuradhapura District
- *Woodlands Primary School, Gonapinuwala* in Galle District

These programs are designed as **activity-based, fun-filled sessions** for primary-level students. Each program begins with opening day English camp, followed by **weekly two-hour sessions over four months** with closing day English Camp. The initial phase has been met with great enthusiasm from both students and teachers.



Help Earn

Under FOL's *Help Enterprise* initiative, the **Ranliya Kulagana Society** — a group of industrious mothers — continued to receive support for the fifth consecutive year. They were once again awarded the contract to produce school bags, providing much-needed income and empowerment for their families.

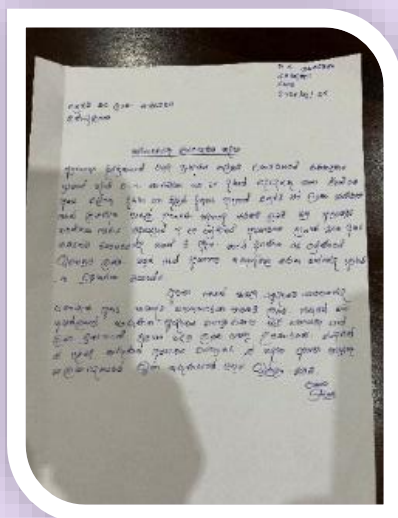
In 2024, FOL purchased:

- **520 school bags and pencil cases**, including
- **230 fabric bags** intended for students who had received bags in previous years.

This initiative continues to serve as an excellent model of sustainable community enterprise.



Additionally, FOL supported a **single mother with two children** by helping her purchase a **cow and calf**, enabling her to generate income to sustain her family and fund her children's education — a true reflection of FOL's commitment to uplifting lives through meaningful assistance.



Blood Donation Event

FOL also continued its **annual blood donation drive** at the *Mount Waverley Australian Lifeblood Centre* in April. The event saw active participation from our members and supporters, reflecting the organisation's ongoing commitment to community welfare beyond borders.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who participated and helped make this event a success.



Donation of Laptops to deserving undergraduates

Eight laptop computers that were in almost new condition were also donated to three undergraduates from Sri Jayewardenepura University and Kelaniya University who could not afford to buy laptops, which were an essential component to their studies.



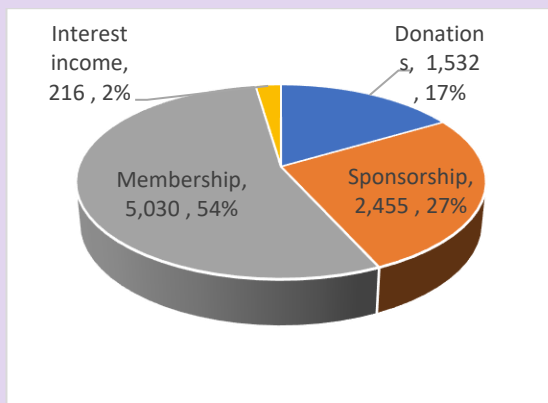
4. OUR FINANCES

Treasurer's Report

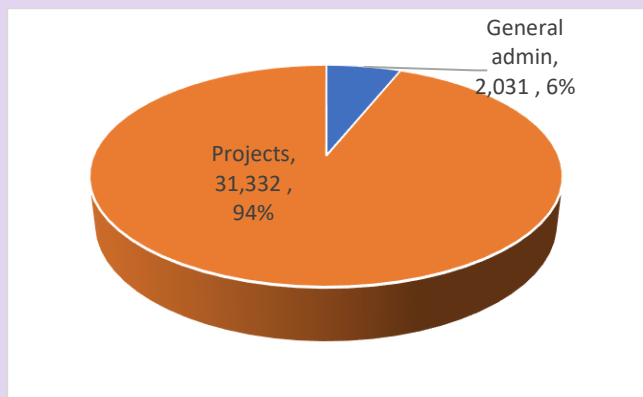
This is FOL's fifth completed financial year since its registration.

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

Source of funds:



Spending:



I want to thank everyone who was involved by donating funds and contributing to other activities of FOL. I look forward to 2025/26, 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.

Upul Sathurusinghe

Upul Sathurusinghe
Treasurer
Friends of Lanka Inc.

FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.

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STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	2025	2024
INCOME		
Memberships Received	\$ 5,030	\$ 4,470
Sponsorships Received-HELP LEARN	\$ 2,455	\$ 13,297
Project Income	\$ 1,532	\$ 2,684
Fund Raising Event - HLEPLEARN	\$ -	\$ 30,758
	<u>\$ 9,017</u>	<u>\$ 51,209</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Interest Income	\$ 216	\$ 243
EXPENDITURE		
Admin & Establishment Expenses	\$ 2,031	\$ 1,092
Bank Charges & PayPal Commission	\$ -	\$ 42
Distribution Event Expenses - HELPLEARN	\$ -	\$ 371
Fund Raising Event - HELPLEARN	\$ -	\$ 11,332
Other Projects-HELP LEARN	\$ -	\$ 253
Purchase of Materials - HELP ENTERPRISE	\$ 1,552	\$ -
Purchase of School Bags - HELPLEARN	\$ 8,784	\$ 5,596
Purchase of School stationery - HELPLEARN	\$ 20,996	\$ 23,117
Sanitary Project	\$ -	\$ 400
Social Transformation Advertising Expenses		
	<u>\$ 33,363</u>	<u>\$ 42,203</u>
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u><u>\$ (24,131)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 9,249</u></u>

FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

		2025	2024
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash at bank	Note 2	\$ 26,074	\$ 51,793
Advance payments	Note 3	\$ 1,589	\$ -
		<u>\$ 27,662</u>	<u>\$ 51,793</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>\$ 27,662</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 51,793</u></u>
EQUITY			
General Reserve	Note 4	\$ 51,793	\$ 42,544
Current year surplus / (deficit)	Note 5	<u>\$ (24,131)</u>	\$ 9,249
TOTAL EQUITY		<u><u>\$ 27,662</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 51,793</u></u>

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 2025 and the results of its activities for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Saliya Mudannayaka
President

Upul Sathurusinghe
Treasurer

FRIENDS OF LANKA INC.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

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

	2025	2024
Bank Account - CBA 063 182 - 1153 9014	\$ 4,042	\$ 9,929
Bank Account - NAB 083 004 - 717737077	\$ 975	\$ 4,879
Bank Account - NAB 083 004 - 717812073	\$ 19,458	\$ 35,242
FOL PayPal Acct	\$ 1,599	\$ 1,743
	<u>\$ 26,074</u>	<u>\$ 51,793</u>

Note 3 - Advance payments

Outstanding advance payment to set up smart learning facility
at Kallanchiya Maha Vidyalaya, Anuradhapura and Woodlands
Primary school in Gall for the Help Learn - English Program

\$ 1,589

Note 4 - General Reserves

Membership Fund	\$ 14,928	\$ 11,592
Project Fund	\$ 36,865	\$ 30,952
	<u>\$ 51,793</u>	<u>\$ 42,544</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 5 - Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)

Surplus from the membership income	\$ 2,999	\$ 3,336
Surplus from the project related income	\$ (27,130)	\$ 5,914
	<u>\$ (24,131)</u>	<u>\$ 9,249</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

Economic disparity remains one of the most significant challenges in the remote regions of Sri Lanka. Many children from low-income families still lack access to the essential resources and opportunities needed to build the brighter future they dream of.

At FOL, our mission continues to focus on bridging this gap — by connecting those who have the means to give with those who are most in need of support.

The new English Language and Life Skills Development Program was initiated with this vision at heart. The pilot program, now underway, will benefit around 160 children from two carefully selected schools. These students will be introduced to engaging, activity-based learning experiences that aim to boost their confidence, communication skills, and self-belief.

Looking ahead, FOL is determined to expand this initiative to more rural schools across Sri Lanka within our means and with the continued encouragement of our dedicated members, donors, and supporters.

We remain optimistic and inspired. The growing support from our extended FOL Family strengthens our confidence that, together, we can help many more children from disadvantaged communities take their first steps toward a brighter, more hopeful future.

Contact us

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

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