Corporate Heritage



The test of endurance

Contents











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The all-encompassing list

THE TEST OF ENDURANCE
The litmus test

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28	H. Don Carolis & Sons	52	Hirdaramani	76	Harris Ceylon	100	Alliance Finance
30	Galle Face Hotel	54	HSBC	78	Unilever Sri Lanka	102	Astron
32	Adamjee Lukmanjee & Sons	56	C.W. Mackie	80	Bank Of Ceylon	104	Metropolitan
34	Aitken Spence	58	Perera and Sons	82	Ceylon Biscuits	106	People's Bank
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40	Browns Group	64	Fentons	88	Ranjanas		

Heritage Companies

COMPANY NAME	YEAR
I GEORGE STEUARTS	1835
2 MACKWOODS	1841
3 CARGILLS (CEYLON)	1844
4 DARLEY BUTLER	1848
5 DELMEGE FORSYTH	1850
6 MILLERS	1854
7 MTD WALKERS	1854
8 SAFS CLASSIQUE JEWELLERY	1855
9 SRI LANKA TELECOM	1858
10 CARSON CUMBERBATCH	1860
11 H. DON CAROLIS & SONS	1860
12 GALLE FACE HOTEL	1864
13 ADAMJEE LUKMANJEE & SONS	1865
14 CEYLON COLD STORES	1866
15 RENUKA HOLDINGS	1866
16 AITKEN SPENCE	1868
17 BOGAWANTALAWA TEA ESTATES	1869
18 JOHN KEELLS HOLDINGS	1870
19 ABDUL RAHIMS	1872
20 BROWNS GROUP	1875

COMPANY NAME	YEAR
21 GRAND ORIENTAL HOTEL	1875
22 MOUNT LAVINIA HOTEL	1877
23 SINGER (SRI LANKA)	1877
24 E. B. CREASY	1878
25 HAYLEYS	1878
26 FORBES & WALKER	1881
27 LION BREWERY	1881
28 CYRIL RODRIGO RESTAURANTS	1884
29 A. F. RAYMOND	1885
30 FLEXPORT	1886
31 HNB	1888
32 A. M. A. CAREEM JEWELLERS	1890
33 ANVERALLY AND SONS	1890
34 HIRDARAMANI	1890
35 PLÂTÉ	1890
36 NUWARA ELIYA HOTELS	1891
37 HSBC	1892
38 SCHOKMAN & SAMERAWICKREME	1892
39 STANDARD CHARTERED BANK	1892
40 FINLAYS COLOMBO	1893

COMPANY NAME	YEAR
41 BATA	1894
42 COLOMBO FORT LAND	1895
43 HARRISONS (COLOMBO)	1895
44 A. BAUR & CO	1897
45 C. W. MACKIE	1900
46 PERERA AND SONS	1902
47 MAERSK LANKA	1904
48 JINASENA	1905
49 CEYLON TOBACCO COMPANY	1906
50 INDO MALAY	1906
51 NESTLÉ LANKA	1906
52 SELINSING	1907
53 COLONIAL MOTORS	1909
54 SHALIMAR	1909
55 CEYLON BEVERAGE HOLDINGS	1910
56 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES INVESTMENT	1910
57 GOODHOPE	1910
58 HUNTERS	1911
59 A. F. JONES	1912
60 DISTILLERIES COMPANY OF SRI LANKA	1913

COMPANY NAME	YEAR
61 M. D. GUNASENA	1913
62 THE COLOMBO PHARMACY	1913
63 SABOOR CHATOOR	1915
64 VAJIRA HOUSE BUILDERS	1915
65 E. H. COORAY AND SONS	1916
66 ERIC RAJAPAKSE OPTICIANS	1917
67 BCC LANKA	1918
68 CEYLON INVESTMENT	1919
69 FENTONS	1919
70 LEE HEDGES	1919
71 COMMERCIAL BANK	1920
72 GUARDIAN CAPITAL PARTNERS	1920
73 COLOMBO JEWELLERY STORES	1922
74 JOSEPH FRASER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	1923
75 YAMAHA MUSIC CENTRE	1923
76 JONATHANS	1924
77 TITUS STORES	1924
78 ROCKLAND DISTILLERIES	1924
79 EBERT SILVA	1925
80 HAMEEDIA	1925

COMPANY NAME	YEAR
81 SIEDLES	1925
82 ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF CEY	LON 1926
83 A. T. COORAY	1927
84 KANDY HOTELS	1927
85 CT HOLDINGS	1928
86 RAJA JEWELLERS	1928
87 SHERMAN SONS	1931
88 STATE MORTGAGE & INVESTMENT E	3ANK 1931
89 RICHARD PIERIS	1932
90 CEYLON PAINT INDUSTRIES	1934
91 LAL AND NIHAL	1934
92 MALIBAN	1935
93 RAJABDEEN & SONS	1935
94 CEYLON OXYGEN	1936
95 HARRIS CEYLON	1936
96 WIMALADHARMA BROTHERS	1936
97 HETTIGODA GROUP	1937
98 MUTHUKARUPPAN CHETTIAR JEWEL	LERS 1937
99 CAPITAL MAHARAJA	1938
100 HEMACHANDRA BROTHERS	1938

COMPANY NAME	YEAR
101 SEMAGE & COMPANY	1938
102 SENARATH TOURING AGENCY	1938
103 UNILEVER SRI LANKA	1938
104 BANK OF CEYLON	1939
105 CBL FOODS INTERNATIONAL	1939
106 CEYLINCO INSURANCE	1939
107 CEYLON BISCUITS	1939
108 CEYLON LEATHER PRODUCTS	1939
109 DIESEL & MOTOR ENGINEERING	1939
110 J. L. MORISON SON & JONES (CEYLON)	1939
III ICL MARKETING	1940
112 LALAN RUBBER HOLDINGS	1940
113 MAJESTIC ELECTRIC	1940
114 THE FINANCE	1940
115 LAKE HOUSE BOOKSHOP	1941
116 SWADESHI INDUSTRIAL WORKS	1941
117 CHINESE DRAGON	1942
118 GUNARATNE OFFSET	1942
119 HEMACHANDRAS (KANDY)	1942
120 MERVYNSONS	1942

	COMPANY NAME	YEAR
121	NAWALOKA	1942
122	NEW SWASTIKA PRESS	1942
123	TUDAWE BROTHERS	1942
124	ESWARAN BROTHERS	1943
125	JAFFERJEE BROTHERS	1944
126	MCLARENS	1944
127	CEYLON CARRIERS	1945
128	EASTERN MERCHANTS	1945
129	UNITED MOTORS LANKA	1945
130	ATLAS HALL	1946
131	RANJANAS	1946
132	CYCLE BAZAAR	1947
133	P. B. GUNADASA & SONS	1947
134	SAMAYAWARDHANA BOOKSHOP	1947
135	UNITED TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT	1947
136	ALBERT EDIRISINGHE OPTICIANS	1948
137	BERNARD BOTEJUE	1948
138	HEMAS	1948
139	HERCULES TAILORS	1948
140	MOOLCHANDS	1948

142 W. A. DE SILVA & COMPANY 143 WEERODARA STATIONERY 144 ACME PRINTING & PACKAGING	1948 1948 1948 1949 1949
143 WEERODARA STATIONERY 144 ACME PRINTING & PACKAGING	1948 1949 1949
144 ACME PRINTING & PACKAGING	1949
THE METHOD WINCH CONTROL	1949
145 ASSOCIATED MOTORWAYS	
	1949
146 CEYLON & FOREIGN TRADES	
147 MANDARIN DAIRY PRODUCTS (ALERICS)	1949
148 CEYLON RUBBER INDUSTRIES	1950
149 CEYLON TEA SERVICES	1950
150 D. S. JAYASINGHE OPTICIANS	1950
151 SINWA HOLDINGS	1950
152 ARPICO FINANCE	1951
153 BARTLEET & COMPANY	1951
154 CEYLON GUARDIAN INVESTMENT TRUST	1951
155 LALITHA JEWELLERS	1951
156 VISKAM BROTHERS	1951
157 BARNEY RAYMOND	1952
158 BULLION EXCHANGE	1952
I59 EDNA	1952
160 ODIRIS ENGINEERING	1952

COMPANY NAME	YEAR
161 AUTODROME	1953
162 CARMART	1953
163 HARISCHANDRA MILLS	1953
164 HELEN'S STUDIO	1953
165 EAP FILMS AND THEATERS	1953
166 MASCONS	1953
167 RAY BAN OPTICIANS	1953
168 LIONCO FOAM	1954
169 COCA-COLA BEVERAGES SRI LANKA	1955
170 DFCC BANK	1955
171 SARASAVI BOOKSHOP	1955
172 ALLIANCE FINANCE	1956
173 ASTRON	1956
174 COLOMBO AGENCIES	1956
175 DINAPALA GROUP	1956
176 GEORGE GOONERATNE OPTOMETRISTS	1956
177 GLAXOSMITHKLINE	1956
178 LAXAPANA BATTERIES	1956
179 MILCO	1956
180 PIRAMAL GLASS CEYLON	1956

COMPANY NAME	YEAR
181 PREMADASAS GEMS & JEWELLERY	1956
182 USWATTE CONFECTIONERY WORKS	1956
183 CENTRAL FINANCE	1957
184 CEYLON FERTILIZER COMPANY	1957
185 LANKA MINERAL SANDS	1957
186 S-LON	1957
187 ABDEEN JEWELLERS	1958
188 CEYLON PRINTERS	1958
189 GRANT MCCANN ERICKSON	1958
190 KALAMAZOO SYSTEMS	1958
191 METROPOLITAN	1958
192 NEW RATHNA MAHAL JEWELLERS	1958
193 OFFICE EQUIPMENT	1958
194 PARAGON CEYLON	1958
195 PHOTO TECHNICA	1958
196 CEYLON PENCIL COMPANY	1959
197 GODAGE INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS	1959
198 RAUX BROTHERS	1959
199 ANDREW THE TRAVEL COMPANY	1960
200 ASOKA GLASS	1960

COMPANY NAME	YEAR
201 NINEHEARTS	1960
202 ST. ANTHONY'S INDUSTRIES GROUP	1960
203 WICKREMARATNE GROUP	1960
204 W. M. MENDIS & CO	1960
205 ALPEX MANAGEMENT	1961
206 BUKIT DARAH	1961
207 JANET GROUP	1961
208 NANDA INVESTMENTS AND FINANCE	1961
209 OLYMPIC TYRE HOUSE	1961
210 PEOPLE'S BANK	1961
211 UNION CHEMISTS	1961
212 ACL CABLES	1962
213 ASSOCIATED MOTOR FINANCE	1962
214 CEYLON CHOCOLATES	1962
215 CEYLON GRAIN ELEVATORS	1962
216 DSI SAMSON GROUP	1962
217 INDUSTRIAL FINANCE	1962
218 MACARTHY PRIVATE HOSPITAL	1962
219 MOOSAJEE SONS	1962
220 RANATUNGA MOTORS	1962

	COMPANY NAME	YEAR
221	RECKITT BENCKISER (LANKA)	1962
222	RHINO ROOFING PRODUCTS	1962
223	RIO CINEMA	1962
224	SATHOSA MOTORS	1962
225	SRI LANKA INSURANCE	1962
226	THREE ACRE FARMS	1962
227	VOGUE JEWELLERS	1962
228	ALPHA INDUSTRIES	1963
229	AVIKANS	1963
230	FINCO	1963
231	GEHANTEX INDUSTRIES	1963
232	MASTERS ADVERTISING	1963
233	NATIONAL LOTTERIES BOARD	1963
234	ROTAX	1963
235	SINGER INDUSTRIES	1963
236	STUDIO TIMES	1963

Mackwoods





ackwoods epitomises a unique corporate model of growth spanning the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. In 1841, Capt William Mackwood began his business life

in Ceylon, trading in a variety of merchandise whilst being an agent for coffee estates owned by his former employer, the shipper and merchant Tindle & Co. Following the coffee blight, Mackwoods – a member of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce since 1847 – turned its attention to tea and insurance, and became an agency house for international business.

A significant phase of the company's burgeoning growth towards modernity began in 1956, when solicitor N. S. O. Mendis acquired the company. Under his trailblazing leadership, Mackwoods expanded its business portfolio to include manufacturing pharmaceuticals, travel services, plantations management, and imports and exports.

Mendis was succeeded as Chairperson by his daughter Sriyani Nonis, a Barrister-at-Law from Gray's Inn, who steered the Mackwoods Group as a Director, Deputy Chairperson and Chairperson over a period spanning 40 years. She adopted her father's vision and expanded the diverse business portfolio of Mackwoods. It was during her tenure as Chairperson that Mackwoods made the bold and farsighted move of re-entering the plantations sector in Sri Lanka – and she has the distinction of being the only Sri Lankan woman to head a plantations company.

Sriyani Nonis steered the company's investment in human capital and the community, process engineering and modernisation, and sustainable development and diversification initiatives. Her son Dr Chris Nonis, a Doctor of Medicine by profession, took up the mantle as Chairman of the Mackwoods Group in 2005 and, together with his sister and Co-Chairman Nirmali Samaratunga,

MILESTONES

1841



Capt William Mackwood begins his business life in Ceylon as a merchant and agent.

1956



N. S. O. Mendis acquires Mackwoods and diversifies the group.

1983



The Mendis-Mackwoods Charity Fund is established.

an accountant (the first female President of the National Chamber of Commerce of Sri Lanka), is continuing diversification-led growth. Being a family-owned entity, Mackwoods has been led by successive generations – all professionals in their own right – who have preserved with the principles and family values of the group.

The Mackwoods Group today is a conglomerate engaged in key sectors of Sri Lanka's economy: healthcare (medical equipment, scientific and laboratory equipment), agribusiness, plantations (tea, rubber and oil palm), ICT education and software development, imports and exports, industrial machinery and equipment, industrial chemicals, manufacturing, energy, hotels and tourism, and stockbroking and financial services.

A defining strength of Mackwoods lies in its 172-year-old heritage which reflects stability, integrity and resilience in the face of adversity, underpinned by a consistent strategy of selective

diversification within its domain areas of expertise, a continuous drive towards expansion of international trade, and pursuit of value creation and innovation-led growth, thereby ensuring its long-term sustainability.

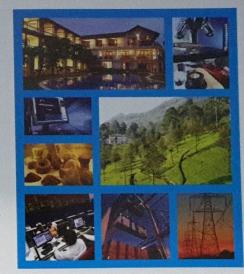
The Mendis-Mackwoods Charity Fund, the vision of N. S. O. Mendis, was set up over 30 years ago — long before the concept of corporate social responsibility became an imperative in the business arena. The fund focuses on uplifting the poor and marginalised at grassroots level in society. This work was significantly expanded by his daughter Sriyani Nonis, who was deeply committed to social and welfare initiatives. Her children Kshama, Nirmali, Chris and Shelley have established the Sriyani Nonis Charitable Trust, in her memory.

Recognising the imperative of bridging the urban-rural divide and achieving growth with equity, rural ICT and English Literacy Centres

were set up in partnership with the Mackwoods Research Foundation, enabling all communities to harness the benefits of the knowledge economy. These microfinance initiatives and key social healthcare and education projects make a contribution towards the achievement of the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

The Mackwoods strategy of selective diversification-led growth – aimed at broad basing revenue streams, bolstering profits and integration along the value chain – has seen considerable progress with its re-entry into the leisure sector, and its foray into the financial services and energy sectors.

Mackwoods' greatest satisfaction is derived from the knowledge that its work has a positive impact on the lives of Sri Lankans – and with the distinction of being the second-oldest mercantile establishment in Sri Lanka, Mackwoods is proud to be a part of the nation's heritage.



1991



Sriyani Nonis becomes the Chairperson of the Mackwoods Group. Mackwoods re-enters the plantations sector. 2005



Dr Chris Nonis becomes the Chairman of the Mackwoods Group. 2008-2012

Mackwoods re-enters the leisure sector in 2008, the financial services industry in 2010 and lists Mackwoods Energy on the CSE in 2012.

