INTERNATIONAL EXPATRIATE ASSOCIATION OF COLOMBO
ANNUAL REPORT 2016 TO 2017

Table of Contents
The IEA Board, 31st March 2017
Message from the President
Financial Summary year ending 31st March 2017
Charity Report
International Christmas Charity Bazaar Report
Activities Report
Membership Report
Newcomers Report
Media Report
Public Relations report

This report covers the IEA from April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017 and was prepared by the IEA Board Members in accordance with the constitution. The IEA Board submits this report, along with the accompanying audited financial statement, to the IEA membership on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting.

Throughout this annual report the term “IEA” refers to International Expatriate Association of Colombo and the term “AGM” refers to the Annual General Meeting of IEA. A copy of this report is available at the website IEAcolombo.weebly.com.

The IEA Board, March 31st 2017

The IEA is administered by a Board consisting of a maximum of 11 positions. Board members are elected annually at the AGM but additional Board members may be co-opted by the Board from time to time to fill vacant positions. The Board meets a minimum of 9 times per year and each Board member is required to attend at least 50%.

The IEA Board members continued to play an active role in the management and strategic direction of IEA through 2016 to 2017 which has been a period of rapid growth and change for IEA. IEA Board meetings are recorded in formal minutes which are held on file by the secretary.

President – Yvonne Parks; Vice President - Lorraine Yu; Secretary – Elizabeth Ward, Treasurer - Shazi Salie,
Charity Coordinator – Loan Chan, Activities Coordinator- Sue Knight, Membership Coordinator- Janet Hobbs
New Member Coordinator – Socorro Sena, Public Relations Coordinator- Katie Truemper, ICB Coordinator- Grace Garcia,
Media Coordinator- Kirti Anand and Binu Jha

Email: ieaofcolombo@gmail.com
Website: ieacolombo.weebly.com
In addition we wish to recognize the following Board Members for their service during 2016 to 2017:

Peta Welten as Media Coordinator from August 2016 to December 2016
Alta Du Fourq as Activities Coordinator from (???) until January 2017
Annerose Hartmann as Charities Coordinator from August 2016 to February 2017

On behalf of the IEA we wish Peta, Alta and Annerose the best for their new lives in their new locations and our grateful thanks to all for their service to IEA.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Yvonne Parks

2016 to 2017 has been another great year for IEA. Thank you to all the IEA members for joining our activities, meetings and supporting our charities, volunteering your time and energy. Your attendance at our monthly socials has been amazing and we reached the highest number of over 90 in March 2017. The highlights from this year can be summed up as follows:

- Membership grew again to the highest ever since our inception in 2007 to over 200 and now is 182.
- Our ICCB Stall again won the Best ICCB Stall. This is two years in a row!
- We donated over LKR1,000,000 to IEA’s six priority charities and continue to search for new charities deserving of our support.
- Our IEA Facebook group and WhatsApp networking groups have grown and are now a daily companion to many members, answering an unbelievably wide range of member’s questions and delivering information.
- We have again increased the number of popular and well attended activities, currently 15 with most weekly; we organised special tours to a biscuit factory and Parliament, and at least one special event each month. Check out the Activities report for a complete list. Our colourful monthly calendar is bursting at the seams.
- We have increased the number of participating providers in our Privilege Partners Program from 25 to 50 partners, all of these welcoming IEA members and providing a special discount on presentation of the membership card.
- Introduced a new and well received IEA newsletter layout and kept the website up to date.

It is a privilege to be part of this diverse, friendly, enthusiastic group of people working together to achieve something special. The chance to work as a team with interesting people is one of the great positives of this expatriate lifestyle. I wish to extend my grateful thanks to the Board and to you all for playing a part in the continued success of the IEA.

The IEA has gone from strength to strength this year with 10 monthly socials, a Christmas lunch and a casual lunch or coffee morning each month in addition to the activities. Some of the new and well supported activities are French conversation, pot luck lunch, the ever popular walking group and our new Culture group. Our communication with our members has continued to be a focus and the WhatsApp groups have gone from strength to strength, offering instantaneous advice on just about any topic. These WhatsApp groups are self regulated by the members.

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The Charities Outreach team work all year and can be seen at every monthly social, fundraising with their regular books sale. However April and May 2016 was the busiest time, culminating in the May monthly social where our charities visited, let us know what they are doing and were available to answer your questions. At the same time we presented each with a cheque to cover our disbursement of funds raised by you. Don’t hesitate to contact the charities team to learn more about what IEA does to support local charities and how you can help. In addition to disbursements IEA supports members sponsoring students at our charities, providing the chance of education to a child who otherwise might not be able to benefit.

The AGM is the meeting at which you, the IEA members, vote for your new committee. Due to the nature of our transient lives in Sri Lanka we are always in need of new faces and energy on the Board. If you are interested to join us please do not hesitate to contact any board member at any time to find out about the very rewarding work we do in this friendly Board.

Best wishes to you for 2017/2018
Yvonne Parks
President
FINANCIAL SUMMARY – Shazi Salle

The International Expatriate Association’s main income is generated by way of membership fees, social activities and fund raising projects through participation of our members. The IEA is an informal non-profit organization which fosters goodwill, solidarity and friendship among its members and also to support local charities.

As the Hon. Treasurer of this Association, I’m extremely happy to state that it was a very good year for us, as we have surplus of Rs. 658,895.06/= (income over expenditure for the Year).

- Cash in bank as of 31st March 2017 was Rs. 2,266,027.72 as opposed to the Rs. 1,632,132 of the preceding year.
- The Board decided to support “Women In Need” as another charity this year along with the existing 5 charities we have supported thus far.
- It was collectively decided that the amount to be distributed to amongst our charities would be Rs.1,155,450/= and the rest to be left as contingencies if the need arises and for any maintenance of the association.

Rs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cerebral Palsy Lanka Foundation</td>
<td>314,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanka Alzheimer’s Foundation</td>
<td>323,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victory Special Studies Center</td>
<td>70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethlehem Crèche</td>
<td>48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emerge Lanka Foundation</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women in Need</td>
<td>100,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The financial audit for the year ending 31st March 2017 was completed in the month of May 2017 and the statements are available for our members to view if necessary.

Finally a big thank you to all our wonderful members who have been supporting us in every way throughout the year to raise funds in order to support the above charities and helping out on our sustainability.

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CHARITY REPORT – Loan Tran and Rachel Stredwick

Highlights

- IEA provided funds amounting to LKR1,009,000 to six charities.
- IEA members and former members sponsored sixteen children with mild to severe disabilities whose parents lacked the financial means to attend the special-needs schools supported by IEA. The sponsorship amounted to LKR636,000.
- IEA members provided a wide range of support to charities that went well beyond finance. Members generously donated time, participated in charity events, donated household and educational items and foodstuffs, and introduced charities to other providers of finance.
- IEA increased its financial reserve from LKR300,000 to LKR400,000. This reserve provides security for future financial support to existing and new charities.
- The Charity Working Group provides members with the opportunity to learn more about IEA’s charity work and to become involved in the discussions and decisions on the support to be provided.

Background

One of the IEA’s objectives is to sponsor charities in Sri Lanka through fundraising, donations and direct assistance. The year to 31st March 2017 saw IEA expand and deepen this long-standing core activity. IEA continued to support its three priority charities, helped members sponsor children to attend special-needs schools, identified new charities for funding in the future, and expanded the number of members involved in its charity work.

IEA’s three priority charities are the Cerebral Palsy Lanka Foundation (CPLF), the Lanka Alzheimer’s Foundation (LAF) and the Victory Special Studies Center (VSSC). Support takes the form of direct financial contributions from IEA’s fund-raising activities. In the case of VSSC and CPLF, IEA members also sponsor attendance of children from families with limited means. IEA members also donate time through volunteer activities. Many donate foodstuffs, books and DVDs, household items and education materials. IEA members also help the organizations to identify other sources of funding.

The following is a summary of the assistance provided to the three priority charities:

Cerebral Palsy Lanka Foundation

CPLF was started in 2011 and is located in Wattala in Colombo. ‘The Dream Center’ provides educational and a range of therapeutic services to children with Cerebral Palsy. It was the first Center of its kind in Sri Lanka which is exclusively for children with CP. It offers education using the normal curriculum with an Individualized Education Plan. It also offers workshops and vocational training.

A major development this year was the launch of the new National Centre for CP and other development
disorders in Rajagiriya, donated by MJF, in September. The school is expanding at a fast pace and they are looking to reach full capacity of 100 students (with CP and other disabilities) by May/June. Under the MJF operating mechanism the school is to be open to admit children free of charge, thus there will be no requirements for individual sponsorship from IEA members in 2017. As a result of this, the Dream School was looking to expand to offer service to children with other disabilities. Several IEA members attended the soft opening.

In 2016 the IEA made a direct financial donation of LKR306,000 to CPLF to help cover costs for a new photocopier and a projector. Around twenty-four children attended the Dream Center in Wattala and the number increased to sixty-two when they moved into the new national centre during the year, with the target maximum capacity of one hundred by April 2017. Of these, IEA members and former members sponsored seven children for the aggregate amount of LKR360,000. IEA members visited the Center regularly during the year. Sponsors were provided with annual reports on the progress of each child sponsored. One member donated her household equipment (washing machine, fridge, bookshelves, etc.) to CPLF when she moved at the end of January.

**Lanka Alzheimer’s Foundation**

LAF is an approved charity and a volunteer-based Foundation located in Colombo 10. Its mission is to improve the quality of life of those with Alzheimer’s and related dementias and to enhance the well-being of their families and care givers. LAF’s support services are open to all regardless of ethnicity or religious background. The Foundation has a state-of-the-art Activity Centre offering therapeutic activities such as music, dance, arts and crafts, cooking, gardening, beauty therapy and social stimulation for those diagnosed with memory and cognitive impairment and respite for the family care givers.

The IEA has provided support to LAF since 2007. In the last year, IEA provided direct financial support of LKR315,000. This was used to finance the Monday activity program for clients. Funds covered food and drink for clients and volunteers, materials for therapeutic activities, printing costs, and medication and travel costs for one under-privileged client. In addition, individual members made in-kind contributions in a number of ways, and attended many of LAF’s awareness-raising, achievement-celebrating, and fund-raising events.

**Victory Special Studies Center**

VSSC is located in Colombo 13. It educates children and young people aged 4 to 22 years who have special needs such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome and mild to moderate learning disabilities. More than fifty children attend the Center. The IEA made a direct financial contribution of LKR70,000 which covered a modest annual bonus to eight teaching staff, the cost of a stand fan, and funding for the annual sports meet including prizes, which IEA members attended. In addition, IEA members and former members sponsored education costs for ten children, whose families are unable to afford the full fees, for
the aggregate amount of LKR276,000.

IEA members visited the Center regularly during the year. IEA members also attended the end-of-year party in December 2016 to celebrate the achievements of the children. The annual sports day in February 2017 showed the extraordinary potential and progress made by even severely disabled children and was a joy for all who attended. As with CPLF, sponsors to VSSC were provided with reports on the progress of each sponsored child.

Bethlehem Crèche
Bethlehem Crèche is a day care center in Colombo that can assist up to seventy-five infants and children of the poor aged from one month to five years. The children come from vulnerable families where the fathers are missing and the mothers normally work in menial jobs with few other pre-school child care options. While not one of IEA’s priority charities, IEA provided a range of support during the year. Funding of LKR48,000 was made available to finance urgently needed roof repairs. Individual IEA members became aware of the Crèche through IEA’s engagement. Several went on to provide support in different ways. Many members donated items that were requested by Bethlehem Crèche to help with the day-to-day operation of the Crèche. In December 2016, the call for donation of school supplies for the leaving students to help them start in Government primary schools was met with great response from members. Some made direct financial contributions, one provided music teaching to the children, and another donated the proceeds of yoga classes.

Two new charities funded in 2016

Emerge Lanka
Emerge Lanka works with girls aged 10-18 who have survived abuse, often in their own families, and have had the courage to speak out, to work to protect their younger sisters, and to create a safe reality for their own children. All girls are testifying in court, and are under Witness Protection. Most girls have had very limited formal education, and come from various parts of Sri Lanka. Emerge works to help these girls through legal processes and to give them the skills, resources and networks they need in life to enact their own vision of change. This year IEA provided funding to Emerge for the first time. LKR 200,000 paid for essential life skills training for 25 girls in one shelter. Training covered goal setting, reproductive health, job readiness, money management, communication, crisis management, and community engagement.

IdeSchool
IdeSchool is a small private school that empowers and educates children with severe intellectual disabilities who are unable to attend mainstream schools. It aims for students to learn to take care of themselves, communicate more effectively, improve their social skills, and become more independent in today’s society. It presently has around twenty pupils with a teacher/student ratio of 1:2. IEA provided

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LKR 70,000 to the school to assist them with costs of moving to their new premises in 2016. IEA members are invited to provide sponsorship to individual children or therapists.

Looking to the Future

Work done during the year laid the foundation for further expansion of IEA’s activities in 2017. One new charity was identified for future support, Women in Need (WIN). Women In Need operates 8 crisis centers across the country as well as the only specific shelter for Women and Children who are subject to Domestic Violence. The ‘One Stop Crisis Centers’ provide all the services needed by survivors of violence. WIN also provides awareness creation and collaborates with law enforcement agencies, the health sector, community based organizations, government offices, NGOs and schools. While WIN has a substantially larger budget than the other charities including external funding, they are facing significant funding cuts in the future. The IEA will provide a small contribution of LKR 100,000 in 2017 for the provision of 6 new beds, mattresses and bed linen for the refuge shelter.

How IEA Members Help Charities

Direct IEA financing will increase to LKR 1.2 million in 2017, and the sponsorship of children will continue.

Every member contributes to IEA’s support to charities. All members’ subscriptions are used for this purpose. So does a portion of the payments from members from IEA events, the proceeds from the craft group, and the proceeds from selling books and DVDs at each Monthly Social. Some members sponsor children. Many visit the organizations IEA supports. Others have joined the Charity Working Group that meets once per quarter. Yet others volunteer their time or find other ways to help based on their contacts and their varied background. All ideas and suggestions from members are greatly valued!

For more information on any of the above, including how to become a member of the Charity Working Group, please contact the new Charity Coordinators:

Loan Tran (loanshea@hotmail.com, 077 678-5769)
Rachel Stredwick (rachelstredwick@yahoo.com, 077 665-5095).
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAZAAR REPORT – Grace Garcia

The International Christmas Charity Bazaar (ICCB) is an annual event popular with both locals and expatriates in Sri Lanka. The ICCB Organizing Committee and representatives from many countries, local associations, and local charities participated in making the 36th ICCB a great success in 2016. The event was held on November 27, 2016 at the Ballroom, Hilton Colombo Residencies.

The ICCB was the IEA’s biggest fundraising event for the 9th consecutive year. Unlike other participants, the IEA is an internationally diverse group of expatriates residing in Sri Lanka, so the items for sale at our stall were varied and unique, including items donated by members, wine and liquor, beautiful handcrafts made by our sewing and craft group, and cookies made by our baking volunteers.

The IEA raised a total of LKR 716,510 (LKR 300,000 generated through raffle tickets sale, LKR 316,510 from direct sales at our stall and at October and November monthly socials and LKR 100,000 from the sponsorship of the Standard Chartered Bank).


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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raffle Books Sold</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>491</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceeds from Raffle Tickets (LKR)</td>
<td>275,000</td>
<td>245,600</td>
<td>206,500</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>300,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceeds from Bazaar Sale (LKR)</td>
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<td>197,140</td>
<td>285,250</td>
<td>223,250</td>
<td>284,510</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proceeds from Monthly Social Sale (LKR)</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>36,720</td>
<td>32,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sponsorship Standard Chartered Bank (LKR)</td>
<td>55,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses (LKR)</td>
<td>-74,693</td>
<td>-24,350</td>
<td>-11,500</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Raffle ticket sales
The largest source of income for the IEA was raffle ticket sales. In 2016 again we sold 600 raffle books, the second year in a row that we’ve sold 3,000 raffle tickets. This raised LKR 300,000. Thanks to our IEA volunteers who sold tickets at Majestic City several times in November, and to neighbors and friends. This activity was a great challenge.

Sales at the IEA stall
Items for sale at our stall were from many different places and often one-of-a-kind. All the items were either donated or handmade by our members. We raised LKR 284,510 from direct sales at our stall. The Christmas Cookies, and the Christmas Handcrafts were extremely popular. For the second year in a row we sold used books donated by our members.

Cash donations
In 2016, Standard Chartered Bank kindly continued their support with a generous sponsorship of LKR 100,000 the same amount as the previous year.

Sales at the IEA Monthly Socials
In October and in November 2016, we sold Christmas Cards at our Monthly Socials, raising LKR 32,000. Thanks to IEA Members.

Members contributed time and energy throughout the year by volunteering in many ways, not least of which was selling hundreds of raffle tickets through their networks of friends and acquaintances. The Sewing and Craft group did a fantastic job again this year, and the baking team pitched in despite the busy holiday season and provided cookies. Lastly, on the day of the event, many members volunteered to staff the IEA stall and the Raffle Table. The success of the ICCB is entirely due to the contribution of our members’ time and energy. This year we again won the ICCB Award, for second time in a row, for the Best Stall 2016. Congratulations everybody.

Thanks to IEA Sponsors
We received support from 20 gracious sponsors who provided us with their generous donations of goods, items, services and entertainment. Items included numerous hotel and resort nights, vouchers for restaurants and spas; all attracting tickets buyers resulting in the sale of 600 booklets.
ACTIVITIES REPORT – Sue Knight

The membership year 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2016 – 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2017 was a very productive year for our Association. We provided our members with an array of regular and one-off activities that proved to be successful and well-attended. Activities ranged from the physical to creative, cultural and intellectual.

Our activities are designed to:

- support networking and interaction
- keep members engaged
- allow our members to continue to use their talents and to hone new skills.
- raise funds for our IEA sponsored charities.

**Overall Summary of Activities**

- 17 regular activities were offered to our members during the membership year 2016 – 2017.
- Activities requiring instruction such as the Yoga, French, Bollywood Dancing classes and the Gem Course continued to collect money each month. Other activities including Mahjong, Singing Group, Walking Group, Craft Group and Book Club were free to IEA Members.
- IEA Members gave generously of their time and skills so that we could deliver on a range of activities.
- The Culture Club was new to 2016/17 with members expressing strong interest in these activities. The first Tuk Tuk Tour was oversubscribed resulting in a repeat of the activity the following month.
- In addition to regularly scheduled activities, we were able to organise, again with the assistance of our members, many more one-off activities including: a Movie Night, Nature’s Secret visit, cooking demonstrations, cooking classes and a visit to a biscuit factory. All one-off activities continued to collect donations based on the expenses of the activity. Please see the table following for all the ‘one-off’ activities organised.

The introduction of the *WhatsApp* networking groups to encourage less formal and more ad hoc *get togethers* and arrangements has been very successful. The IEA Q&A, ‘Colombo Tasters’, ‘Pot Luck Lunch’ and now ‘The Culture Club’ have proved a great success with members sharing information and making arrangements easily.
### ACTIVITIES REPORT APRIL 2016 – MARCH 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency/Date</th>
<th>Activity Coordinator/Host</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Book Club</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Dipti Kotian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Gem Course</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Shazi Salie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Crafts Group</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Peta Welton/Denise Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Mah-jong</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Janet Hobbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Katie Truemper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Walking Group</td>
<td>Daily/Weekly</td>
<td>Alta Dufourq /Janet Hobbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Yoga</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Binu Jha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Music for Toddlers</td>
<td>Bi-Monthly</td>
<td>Socorro Sena</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>French Conversation</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Katie Truemper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Pinch of Spice</td>
<td>4 x Weekly pa</td>
<td>Amina Ali &amp; Mala Kumar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Bollywood Dancing</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Thien Thuy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Pot Luck Lunch</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Anh Ngoc Nguyen</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Spanish Conversation</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Cristina Torres</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Bunco</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Jennifer Chandler &amp; Maria Politte</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Binu Jha</td>
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**One-off**

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<tr>
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>Afternoon Tea Galle Face Hotel</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Katie Truemper</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>Morning Tea @ Coffee Bean</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Katie Truemper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Organizer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>Parliament Visit</td>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>Katie Truemper</td>
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<td>One-off</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Lunch</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>Katie Truemper</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>Nature’s Secret</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>Katie Truemper</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-Off</td>
<td>Coffee Morning Galle Face Hotel</td>
<td>August 2016</td>
<td>Katie Truemper</td>
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<td>One-Off</td>
<td>Hafele Cooking</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
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<td>One-off</td>
<td>Biscuit Factory</td>
<td>October 2016</td>
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<td>Linen &amp; I</td>
<td>October 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>Hafele Cooking</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>Christmas Lunch</td>
<td>December 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>Causal Coffee Morning Galle Face Hotel</td>
<td>January 2017</td>
<td>Peta Kealy</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>Japanese lunch Waters Edge</td>
<td>February 2017</td>
<td>Yvonne Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>Brazilian Afternoon Coffee</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Paula Garcia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-off</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day &amp; Ashok Ferry</td>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Katie Truemper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Used Books and DVD Sale</td>
<td>Every month</td>
<td>IEA Board Members</td>
</tr>
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Further details on one-off events are provided below in the Public Relations Report.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Janet Hobbs

The IEA Membership year runs from January to December, however for financial and auditing reasons, the membership yearly report is for April to March. This report therefore reflects the Membership year of April 2016 to March 2017.

IEA membership for the year 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2016 – 31\textsuperscript{st} March 2017 has again increased, the total active membership being 182 members on 1\textsuperscript{st} April 2017, compared to 163 last year and 126 the year before that. This is a growth of 12\% over the year.

Our monthly socials held at the Taj Samudra on the first Tuesday of each month were attended on average by 80 people, an increase on the previous year. This figure includes members, guests and people new to Sri Lanka and interested in joining the IEA. An average of 9 people became members each month. On 1 occasion during the year, the monthly social attendance exceeded 100 people– another record!

Members were invited to renew their membership at social coffee mornings held in December and January in Colombo and Battaramulla. This proved to be a very popular method of renewal. In previous years, renewal was only available at the monthly social, which was not ideal due to the time spent by members waiting for their renewal to be processed.

The International Expatriate Association of Colombo continues to be a highly diverse group of individuals from over 40 countries around the world currently living in Sri Lanka. The highest percentage of members is British at 12\%, with Australians and Americans at 9\%, Indians at 8\% and Japanese and Sri Lanka members each are 7\%. Brazilians, Swiss and Germans are represented with 3\% of the membership each. Other nationalities include people from Ireland, The Netherlands, Belgium, Nepal, New Zealand, Russia, Vietnam, Austria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Korea, Czech, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Mongolia, Colombia, Croatia, South Africa and Lithuania, to name just a few.
NEWCOMERS REPORT – Paula Garcia

The newcomer’s coffee morning is held each month to offer our newest members an opportunity to meet in a smaller group so they can feel comfortable sharing ideas, hidden talents and learning more about the association. Volunteers from the IEA Board are present to answer questions and assist newcomers to find the resources that they need to fully enjoy their lives in Sri Lanka.

The coffee mornings are usually one or two weeks after the Monthly Social, preferably at the coordinator’s house or at any of the Privilege Partners’ cafes. The coffee morning is mentioned at the time of registration at the Monthly Social and the new members are invited by email or message (WhatsApp group) one week prior to the date. A reminder is sent the day before. Board members are also invited to attend the event.

Newcomer's Coffee Mornings 2016 - 2017:

September 2016: attended by 4 members
October 2016: attended by 5 members
November 2016: attended by 8 members
December 2016: attended by 9 members
January 2017: attended by 3 members
February 2017: attended by 10 members
March 2017: attended by 5 members.
MEDIA REPORT – Kirti Anand and Binu Jha

Newsletter
This year the newsletter has been published monthly, providing a wealth of information about living in Sri Lanka. Together with our IEA activities and events, the newsletter is circulated in soft copy (pdf format), is emailed to all the members in the last week of every month. The downloadable version is also provided through our Facebook group. The January newsletter was published with a new look and feel designed by Kirti. Several sections were added – Handy Hints, Explore Sri Lanka, Caught on Cam, Cook’s Corner and Ready Reckoner. Response to the new format has been good and Members are being encouraged to send in their travel experiences, reports on IEA activities, photos etc. to feature in the newsletter.

Facebook
IEA has two Facebook-pages: a static one that refers to the IEA-webpage and an active one for IEA members only (this a closed group). The two pages are: International Expatriate Association of Colombo and IEA of Colombo (group page). The group page has 130 members (March 2017) which is more than half of our membership. The number fluctuates, especially at the beginning of the year and around September when new expats arrive and the new IEA season starts.

Noteworthy topics posted between April 2016 and March 2017 were posted in the form of Facebook albums like IEAs visit to the Nature's Secrets factory and garden, Sri Lankan cooking class at Ma's Kitchen and Tuktuk Tours to explore a few hidden treasures inside the Colombo Fort by the Culture Group. Other major IEA activities like the ICCB, Valentine’s Theme Social, the colourful Holi celebrations on the Paradise beach, the Book Club’s interactive session with Sri Lankan author Naomi Munaweera, and various other popular activities like the Wednesday Pot-luck, Brazilian Coffee Afternoon were also shared and appreciated by the members on Facebook. There were more than 700 posts in all.

Website
The IEA website is at http://ieacolombo.weebly.com. The events and activities calendar is updated on a monthly basis. The site aims to attracting new Expats arriving in Sri Lanka and also provide an easily accessible repository for IEA information including a description of the IEA supported charities and our constitution and guidelines.

WhatsApp
WhatsApp has become an essential part of every IEA member’s daily routine. There are now 3 constant groups – IEA Board, EA Tasters and IEA Q N A; apart from this; the various activity coordinators create temporary groups for individual activities as it is the fastest and most efficient method of getting a message across to multiple persons. For the members who are working and are unable to attend the monthly social or participate in various IEA activities, the whatsapp groups keep them abreast of goings on at IEA.

President – Yvonne Parks; Vice President - Lorraine Yu; Secretary – Elizabeth Ward, Treasurer - Shazi Salie, Charity Coordinator – Loan Chan, Activities Coordinator-Sue Knight, Membership Coordinator- Janet Hobbs New Member Coordinator – Socorro Sena, Public Relations Coordinator- Katie Truemper, ICCB Coordinator- Grace Garcia, Media Coordinator- Kirti Anand and Binu Jha

Email: ieaofcolombo@gmail.com
Website: ieacolombo.weebly.com
2016-2017 brought numerous benefits to our group through a number of well-attended special events, programs and day tours as well as the substantial increase in the number of member discounts and benefits provided by our participating vendors in our Privilege Partners Program.

**Notes on Special Events, Trips and Tours Highlights**

**September:** 25 IEA member enjoyed a German cooking demo give by Katie Truemper at our Privilege Partner Hafele Kitchen Studio.

**October:** 35 members enjoyed a bus tour to Maliban Biscuit Manufactures Ltd. This was a very interesting and informative morning on the making of biscuits, and the social and humane work Maliban does to give back to the Sri Lankan community. IEA members then enjoyed lunch at Mount Lavinia Hotel, at the invitation of the CEO of Maliban. An unforgettable outing.

End of October The owner of our Privilege Partner, Linen & I launched her new season fashion collection in UGA Hotel restaurant. 55 of our members enjoyed a very beautiful and fun night.

**November:** We returned to Hafele Kitchen Studio for our Christmas cookies baking demo given by Katie Truemper.

**December:** We enjoyed a casual coffee and renewal of IEA memberships at IEA Privilege partner, the Galle Face Hotel.

**December 6:** We substituted our monthly social for a very festive Christmas lunch at our home base and Privilege Partner Taj Samudra Hotel. 75 members enjoyed a sumptuous 6 course Christmas lunch, followed by fun Christmas games, and rock n rolling to Jingle Bell live music.

**January:** A New Year casual coffee morning in our PP Kingsbury Hotel. 55 people turned up to enjoy the morning - some old and some new people.

**March 17:** 34 members celebrated St Patrick’s Day at Dottie’s Tea Room with Irish traditional home made Brown bread and other Irish treats. IEA’s Guest of Honour was Sri Lankan author Ashok Ferry, reading from his latest novel “The Ceaseless Chatter of Demons”.

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Privilege Partners

In September 2014 IEA set up the new Privilege Partners program for our IEA members. This program has been well received by both our partners and members and has proven to be a very successful and sought out feature. Our Privilege Partners include Hotels, Beauty salons, Coffee and Tea shops, Restaurants, Jewellery stores, and a fitness club. PPs offer our members a discount on their goods and services purchased by our members and in return the IEA introduces the business to its members and includes their logo and description in our web site for a whole year free of charge.

The role of the Privilege Partner Coordinator is to identify local companies and businesses, develop relationships, encourage them to become Privilege Partners, negotiate member deals for our IEA members and nurture the relationship by using PPs as venues special trips, events, visits and meetings for our members.

During 2016-2017 we increased the number of Privilege Partners from 35-to date we have over 50 companies. Our goal is to announce a new PP during our monthly social each month.

Please check out our website, [ieacolombo.weebly.com](http://ieacolombo.weebly.com) to see the names of all the companies offering you great deals as members of IEA. With our good IEA reputation and the amount of charity work we do more and more business are willing to come on board and have their company’s name connected with the IEA.