

WITNESS

APRIL 2025





The **Leo Club of Kolonnawa** is a vibrant and dynamic community of **young leaders**, united by a shared commitment to **service, leadership, and personal growth**. As proud members of the **global Leo movement**, we stand firm in embracing the values of **Leadership, Experience, and Opportunity**, channeling our **boundless energy** into initiatives that **inspire change, uplift communities, and create a lasting positive impact**.

From tackling **social challenges** to protecting **our planet**, every project we undertake is a testament to our dedication to **building a brighter, more inclusive future**. Whether it's **empowering the next generation**, lending a **helping hand** to those in need, or raising awareness about **environmental sustainability**, we are driven by a mission to **make a difference**. **Each step forward is powered by teamwork, innovation, and an unwavering sense of purpose**.

But we are more than a service club – we are a **family of changemakers, bound by the belief** that we grow stronger when **we lift each other up**. With the guidance and mentorship of the **Lions Club of kolonnawa**, we continually seek opportunities to **lead with integrity, learn through experience, and innovate with courage**. We celebrate every achievement as a milestone in our shared journey of growth.

At Kolonnawa Leos, we **serve with compassion, grow with experience**, and create **ripples of change** that extend far beyond our local community. Together, we **dream big, act boldly, and inspire others** to join in our mission to **shape a world where kindness and service prevail**. Let's make every step count—because **change begins with us**.

This revised version is approximately 1,558 characters. Let me know if you'd like further tweaks!

ABOUT US

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01

INSIGHTS

Thoughts from our leaders

06

FOOTPRINTS OF ACTIONS

/ Multiple district Projects

/ District Projects

/ Club Projects

20

EDITOR'S SPACE

/ Club Secretary's note

/ Editor-in-chief' note



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

To the community that made this year unforgettable,

As I write this final message for The Witness, a wave of emotion washes over me. It's never easy to say goodbye to a chapter that has meant so much — a year shaped by shared service, quiet sacrifices, and unforgettable moments of unity.

Serving as President of the Leo Club of Kolonnawa has been the greatest honor of my Leo journey. This club — our club — has shown me what it truly means to lead with heart. Each one of you brought your passion, your time, and your spirit to the table, and together, we created something beautiful.

To my fellow board members — thank you for being my pillars. Your commitment, consistency, and trust made this year not just manageable, but magical. To every Leo who showed up, who cared, who served — this legacy is yours. And to our Lions and every mentor who stood by us: thank you for believing in our vision.

This final newsletter isn't just a summary of what we did — it's a reflection of who we are. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Yours in Service,

Leo Nandeesh Geeganage
Leo Club of Kolonnawa



VICE PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Leos, Lions, and Gentle Readers,

As we come to the close of another incredible Leoistic year, I'm filled with gratitude for the journey we've all shared — and excitement for the one that lies ahead.

This past year has been a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when driven hearts come together. From long-standing members to fresh faces, I've seen Leos step up, take initiative, and shape this club into something we can all be proud of. Being part of that process — and preparing now to lead as your next Club President — is both humbling and inspiring.

To the executive board, especially our President, Secretary, and Editor-in-Chief, thank you for the leadership and love you poured into every project. You've set the bar high, and I hope to build on that legacy.

In the year ahead, I hope to create more meaningful opportunities for every member — to grow, to lead, and to serve. Let's raise the standard even higher, together.

Here's to continuity, to fresh beginnings, and to all that we will achieve next.

Yours in Service,

Leo Dylon Wolff

Leo Club of Kolonnawa



What is Leo Olympics?

The **Leo Olympics** is the **annual sports meet of Leo Multiple District 306**, bringing together Leos from **Districts 306 A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, and C2**. More than just a series of competitions, the Leo Olympics is a platform where Leos from Sri Lanka and the Maldives come together to **showcase athletic talents, build camaraderie, and strengthen the bonds of friendship** through teamwork and discipline.

With a wide range of events—from traditional **track and field to swimming, basketball, volleyball, netball, and even chess**—the Leo Olympics reminds us that leadership doesn't just happen in meetings. It happens when we challenge ourselves, push our limits, and support one another in victory and defeat.

A Day Full of Energy and Excitement

From **8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, Prince of Wales College buzzed with energy. Races like the **100m, 200m, 400m, and 800m** showcased pure speed and endurance, while team sports like **basketball, Netball and volleyball** highlighted strategy, communication, and teamwork. Meanwhile, swimmers took to the water for **freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, and butterfly events**, giving the crowd plenty to cheer for.

The event wasn't just about competition. It was about **celebrating the spirit of sportsmanship, encouraging leadership through physical challenge, and reminding every Leo of the power of perseverance and community.**

“Victory isn't always measured by medals. Sometimes, it's found in the courage to start, the strength to endure, and the joy of crossing the finish line together.”

District 306A1 dominated many categories this year, but District 306C1 stood out strongly too, especially in Aquatics, Team Events, and Participation. It was an incredible showcase of strength, resilience, and unity from all districts.



LEO OLYMPICS 2025

A CELEBRATION OF SPORTSMANSHIP, SPIRIT, AND UNITY

The sun was shining bright over **Prince of Wales College** on the morning of **March 30, 2025**, as Leos from across the country gathered for one of the most anticipated events of the Leo calendar—**Leo Olympics 2025**. Organized under the theme of sportsmanship, unity, and vibrant energy, this year's games were **nothing short of historic**.

A Milestone for the Leo Movement

Leo Olympics 2025 wasn't just a day of games. It marked a powerful moment of transition and unity—especially as Leo District 306C1 prepares to split into Leo District 306D6 and 306D9 in the upcoming year. It was a day that reminded all of us that while districts may change, the spirit of Leoism remains stronger than ever.

As the final races ended and the medals were awarded, one thing was clear: the future of our Leo Movement is in strong, determined, and passionate hands.



LEO ලී ආදි චන්දන



A Pilgrimage of Faith, Endurance, and Camaraderie

For the people of Sri Lanka, **Sri Pada, or Adam's Peak**, is more than just a mountain. It is a sacred site, deeply rooted in religious significance, natural beauty, and cultural heritage. To Buddhists, **Sri Pada (Sacred Footprint)** is believed to be the footprint of Gautama Buddha, left when he visited Sri Lanka for the third time. But the reverence for Sri Pada extends beyond Buddhism—**Hindus, Christians, and Muslims** also associate the footprint with their own religious figures, making it a **universal symbol of faith and devotion**.

Beyond its religious importance, **Sri Pada stands as the second-highest mountain in Sri Lanka**, only surpassed by **Pidurutalagala**. It is surrounded by the **Sri Pada Forest Reserve**, a biodiversity hotspot that is home to endemic flora and fauna. The mountain is also a **renowned tourist attraction**, drawing thousands of visitors each year, both for its spiritual significance and the breathtaking **Ira Sewaya (Sunrise Worship)** that can be seen from its peak.

Thus, Sri Pada is not just a place of worship—it is a place that **unites people, regardless of religion, race, or age**, making it a destination that everyone should experience at least once in their lifetime.

The 5th Leo Sri Pada Wandana: A Journey of Determination

Organized by **Leo District 306 C1**, in collaboration with **the Leo Clubs of Kolonnawa, Avissawella, Wickramasinghepura, Thalangama Malabe, Horizon Campus, and the University of Colombo**, the Leo Sri Pada Wandana pilgrimage was held for the fifth consecutive year.

The journey began at Diyatha Uyana, Waters Edge, at around 1:30 PM, where two buses awaited to pick up Leos embarking on this journey. Along the way, more Leos were picked up, gradually bringing the total count to around 80. By 2:15 PM, the buses set off, filled with music, laughter, and camaraderie. It wasn't just a pilgrimage—it was a gathering of like-minded young individuals, each motivated by a sense of purpose and adventure.

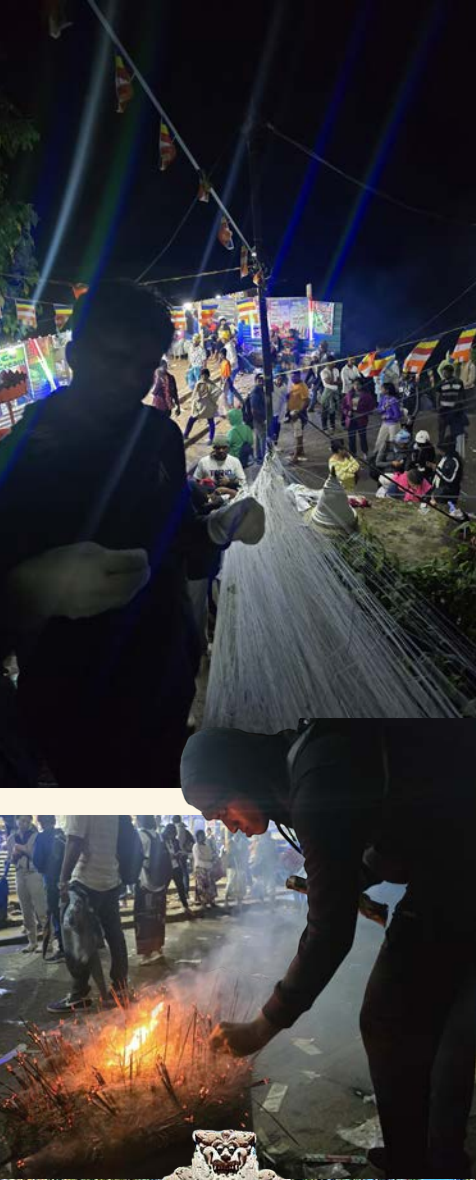
The Road to the Mountain: A Test of Patience

As we traveled towards **Nallathanniya, Hatton**, rain accompanied us—an early sign of the challenges ahead. But the real test came when we encountered an **accident on the narrow mountain road**. A bus had **skidded off the road**, with one of its wheels hanging over a deep drop. The sight was terrifying, and one could only imagine the fear that ran through the passengers inside.

With the bus blocking most of the road, **only motorbikes and pedestrians could pass**. Walking to the **base of Sri Pada Mountain** from there wasn't an option—it was still **12 km away**. Just as we were considering alternatives, transport was arranged to take us **past the blockage**, allowing us to finally reach the **base of Sri Pada Mountain at 10:30 PM**, later than expected.

But delays didn't dampen our spirits. **At 11:00 PM**, the climb began.





The Ascent: A Journey Through Tradition and Challenge

Unlike a walk, climbing **Sri Pada is an endurance challenge**, requiring both physical strength and mental resilience. Along the way, we encountered key landmarks that hold deep cultural and spiritual significance:

- 1. Makara Thorana (මකර තොරණ)** – Located **1.4 km from Nallathanniya**, this **serpent-shaped archway** marks the official beginning of the pilgrimage. Here, we **observed Pansil (පන්සිල්)**, officially commencing our journey with blessings.
- 2. Seetha Gangula (සීත ගඟුල)** – A freezing-cold stream where **pilgrims wash their hands and faces**, symbolizing purification. First-time climbers, known as **Kodu (කොඩු)**, follow the tradition of **applying oil from oil lamps and tying a coin wrapped in white cloth to their right hand**—a gesture seeking **protection and blessings for a safe climb**.
- 3. Indikatupana (ඉදිකටුපාන)** – A place where **pilgrims press a needle into a wooden structure and pull a thread from it as they continue climbing**. This act represents the continuity of devotion, as each climber adds to the countless threads left by those before them. The sight of these intertwined threads, stretching along the path, is a beautiful reminder that **we are one of many who have made this sacred journey over centuries—connected by faith and perseverance**.

A short distance after Indikatupana, the **Hatton route became overcrowded**, so we took an **off-road detour towards the Ratnapura-Palabaddala route**. While the muddy and rocky trail lacked concrete steps, **ironically, it was easier on our legs** compared to the seemingly endless stairs of the main route.



Makara Thorana (මකර තොරණ)



Seetha Gangula (සීත ගඟුල)

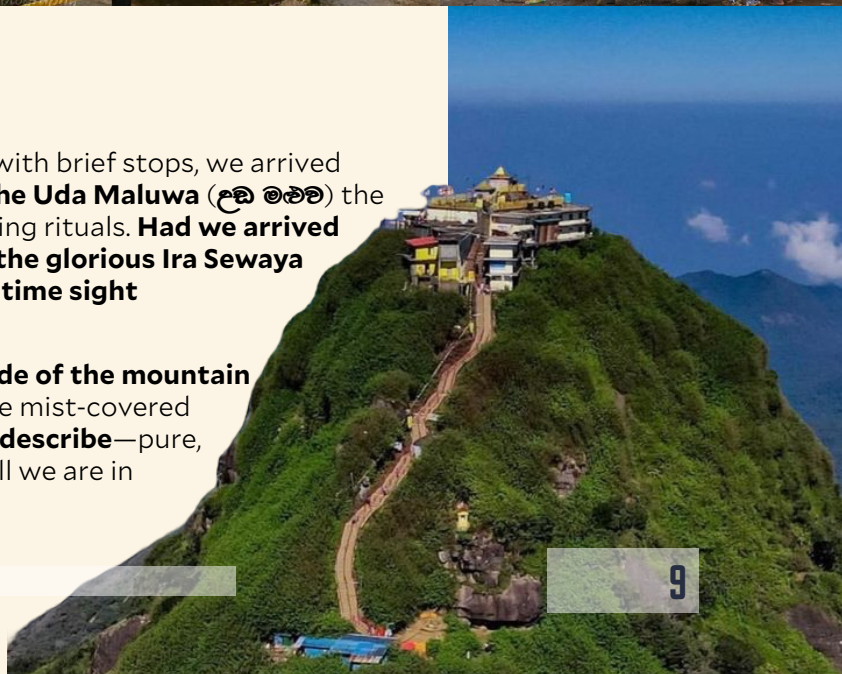


Indikatupana (ඉදිකටුපාන)

Reaching the Peak: A Moment of Triumph

By **5:00 AM**, after nearly **12 hours of climbing** with brief stops, we arrived near the summit. Unfortunately, the **gates to the Uda Maluwa (ඌඩ මලුව)** the sacred upper courtyard—were closed for morning rituals. **Had we arrived just a little earlier, we would have witnessed the glorious Ira Sewaya (ඉර සේවා, Sunrise Worship), a once-in-a-lifetime sight from the peak.**

Nevertheless, **the sunrise from the western side of the mountain was breathtaking**, casting golden light over the mist-covered valleys below. It was **a sight that words fail to describe**—pure, untouched beauty that reminds us of how small we are in comparison to nature's vastness.





At 10:00 AM, we finally entered the **Uda Maluwa**, where we made our offerings and worshipped **the Sri Padaya (Sacred Footprint)**. On our way down, we **tyed the coin-wrapped white cloth onto a sacred structure near Seetha Gangula**, where we had applied oil at the beginning of our climb. The sight of countless similar white cloths fluttering in the wind was a powerful reminder of the thousands of pilgrims before us who had prayed for a safe journey—just as we had. **With this final act, our pilgrimage was complete.**

The Descent: A Humbling Experience

As we made our way down, I noticed something truly inspiring—**elderly pilgrims well past their sixties still making the climb with remarkable endurance**. It was surprising to see how **they were actually fitter than some of us, who were struggling and scrambling our way down, completely worn out from the climb**. Among them were **small children effortlessly striding along** and **foreigners, equally determined to reach the top**. It was in that moment that I realized—**Sri Pada is not just a place for Buddhists or Sri Lankans; it is a place for everyone.**

At **6:30 PM**, we finally reached the **base of Sri Pada Mountain**, exhausted but fulfilled. Some of us still had energy left, **singing and dancing on the way home**, while others—especially first-timers—opted for well-deserved rest.

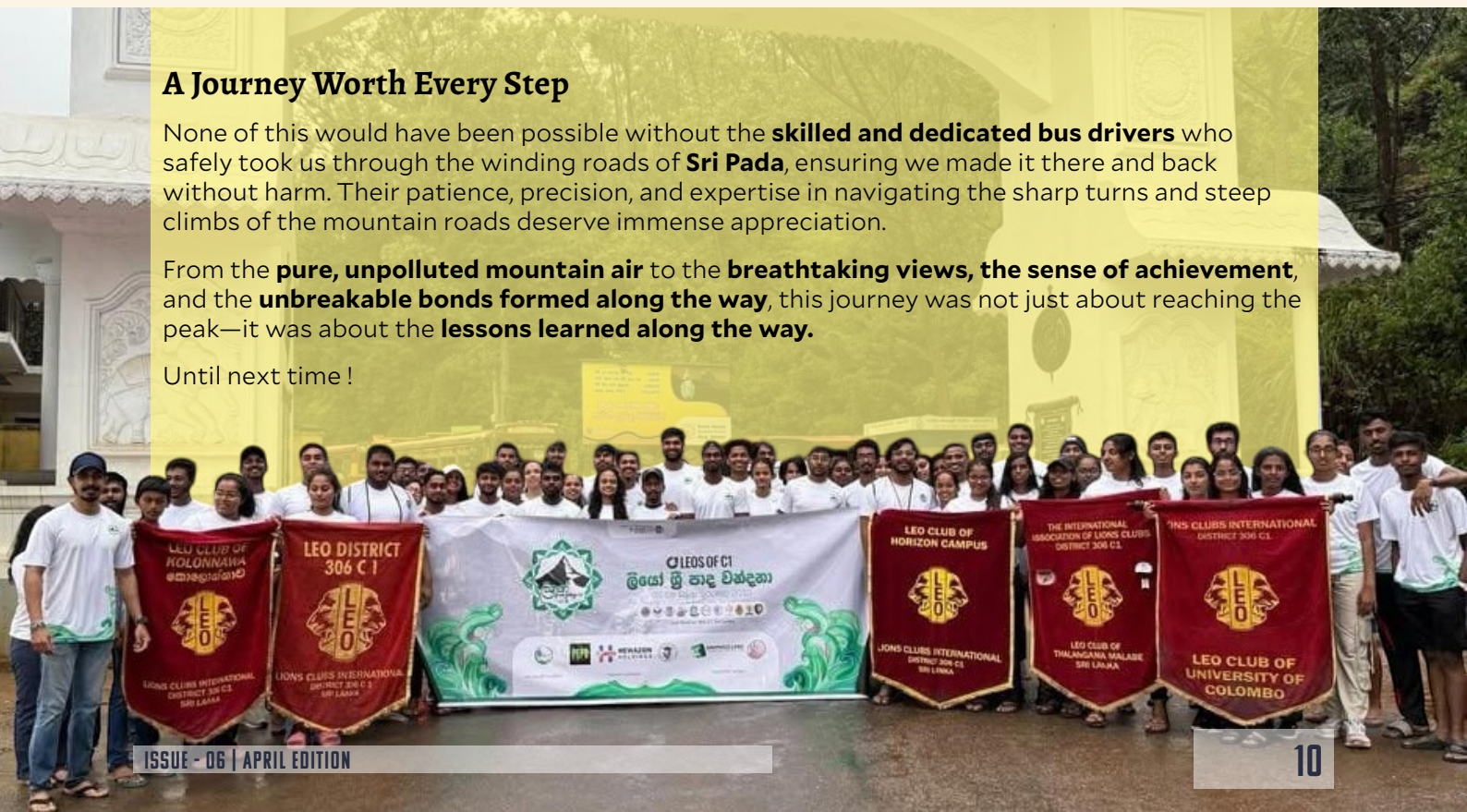


A Journey Worth Every Step

None of this would have been possible without the **skilled and dedicated bus drivers** who safely took us through the winding roads of **Sri Pada**, ensuring we made it there and back without harm. Their patience, precision, and expertise in navigating the sharp turns and steep climbs of the mountain roads deserve immense appreciation.

From the **pure, unpolluted mountain air** to the **breathtaking views, the sense of achievement**, and the **unbreakable bonds formed along the way**, this journey was not just about reaching the peak—it was about the **lessons learned along the way.**

Until next time !



A HISTORIC SHIFT IN LEADERSHIP

THE DAWN OF DISTRICTS 306D6 AND 306D9



306 D6

DISTRICT ELECTION



306 D9

Leoistic Year 2025/2026 Elections – A Milestone for Leo District 306C1

The elections held on **March 30, 2025**, at the **Leo Activity Centre, Colombo 07**, weren't just any ordinary gathering of delegates—they were the stage for a **historic transition** in Sri Lankan Leoism. The atmosphere was **energetic, emotional, and filled with anticipation**, as Leos from across the district came together to witness something unprecedented: the election of not one, but **two District Presidents**.

With the **redistricting of Multiple District 306**, our cherished **Leo District 306C1** has now been divided into two fresh chapters—**Leo District 306D6** and **Leo District 306D9**. This change doesn't just redraw the map—it opens new doors, creates **more leadership opportunities**, and invites a new generation of Leos to step into roles that shape the future.

As we bid farewell to **Leo District 306C1**, we also honor **Leo Nisal Dulmith**, the last District President of this era. His leadership will be remembered as the closing chapter of a district that shaped many of us—including our very own Leo Club of Kolonnawa.



Introducing the Pioneers of 306D6

Our club now belongs to Leo District 306D6, and we are proud to be part of this new beginning. Leading us forward:

- **Leo Anjana Udesch FLM**, elected as the **first-ever District President of Leo District 306D6**.
- **Leo Lion Ravindi Hettiarachchi PFLM**, appointed as **the first District Vice President of 306D6**.

Charting the Path for 306D9

In the newly formed 306D9, the elected leaders are:

- **Leo Supasan Deemantha**, elected as the **first-ever District President of Leo District 306D9**.
- **Leo Udara Herath**, appointed as the **first District Vice President of 306D9**.



With two districts now in place, the **scope for impact has doubled**. Leos have more chances to lead, to innovate, and to leave their mark. For clubs like ours in 306D6, this opens up fresh collaborations, tailored initiatives, and a renewed sense of purpose.

This redistricting isn't the end of something—it's the beginning of **something bigger, bolder, and more focused**. Here's to the future of Leoism, written by all of us.



PAW PATROL SHINE FOR SAFETY



WITH:



A PROJECT OF MANY KIND HEARTS

For many street dogs, danger isn't loud or sudden — it's silent. It comes in the form of a vehicle that doesn't see them in time. It lives in the darkness, in the invisibility.

Paw Patrol – Shine for Safety set out to change that.



Led by the **Leo Club of Kolonnawa**, this initiative focused on a small but powerful intervention: **reflective collars**. These simple bands, generously provided by **StrayGuard**, help drivers notice dogs at night — offering crucial visibility that can mean the difference between life and death.

The project unfolded in two phases, starting in **Colombo**. It wasn't just one club, but a collaboration: the **Leo Clubs of Kolonnawa, UoC Alumni, Colombo Host, and Moratuwa 2020** worked side by side. But what made it special wasn't just the teamwork — it was the compassion that carried through every step.

Sameera Pet Service played a vital role, offering not just logistical support but heart. Volunteers were able to safely place collars on dogs thanks to their guidance, and even more touchingly, **a fresh meal was served to the dogs after the work. That moment — of feeding, of care — said everything about the project's true purpose.**

This connection was made possible by **Charuka Animal Service**, who introduced the **Leo team to Sameera Pet Service and joined the effort** himself. Charuka's calm presence and deep care for animals reminded us all why we were there.





The second phase in Kandy was just as impactful. With support from the **Leo Clubs of Kiribathkumbura and UoC Alumni**, and the expertise of a veterinary officer from the **Sri Lanka School of Animal Husbandry**, the team managed to vaccinate, treat, and collar the dogs before safely releasing them back to the streets — this time, healthier and easier to see.

In total, around **80 reflective collars** were placed between **Colombo and Kandy**. The remaining collars will be handed over to animal welfare groups, ensuring this effort continues quietly, even after the project ends.

What truly stood out wasn't just the number — it was the **spirit behind it all**. **Paw Patrol – Shine for Safety** was not a solo effort. It was a chorus of kind hearts, working gently and deliberately for those who cannot ask for help.

To every volunteer, every club, and every partner who walked, fed, collared, and cared — thank you. You didn't just make the roads safer. You made them kinder.



REFLECTIVE COLLARS TO HELP PREVENT ROAD ACCIDENTS



PAW PATROL

BRUNO'S STORY



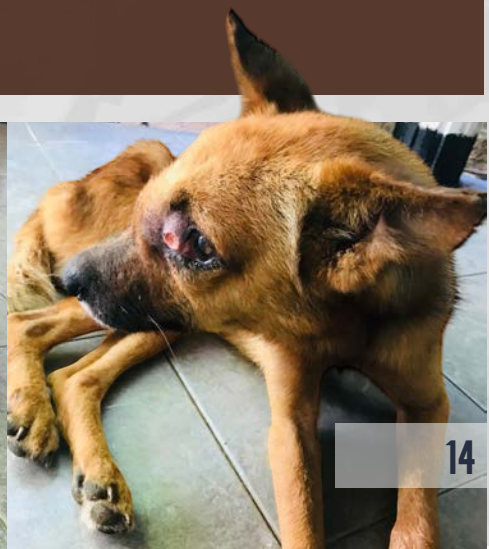
In late 2024, the **Leo Club of Kolonnawa** launched a heartfelt initiative — Paw Patrol — a project devoted to rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming street animals in urgent need. With its roots in compassion and community care, Paw Patrol was built on a simple belief: **every life deserves a second chance.**



Following the success of their first rescue, **Shoffy**, who made a full recovery from severe skin infections, the team turned their attention to a new case. A frail, wounded street dog found along **Meegoda Road in Dompe**, soon to be named **Bruno**.

Bruno's condition was heartbreaking. He was visibly in pain, malnourished, and suffering from a serious cyst infection that made it nearly impossible for him to eat or move. He was slipping away. But the **Paw Patrol team stepped in — fast, gentle, and determined.** With the support of **Sameera Pet Service**, Bruno was rescued and received the critical medical care he so desperately needed.

Over the weeks that followed, something incredible happened. **Bruno healed.** His appetite returned. His strength came back. And little by little, **his trust in people was restored.** The dog who once winced at touch began to wag his tail. His eyes, once clouded with pain, started to shine with life.





But none of this can happen without the generosity of our community. A fund-raiser has been launched to cover **Bruno's ongoing medical treatment, boarding, and recovery costs** — and we are currently seeking to raise **Rs. 60,000**. Every donation, big or small, will help rewrite Bruno's story and give him the second chance he deserves.

Today, **Bruno is healthy, thriving, and rehomed in a loving environment**. His journey — from the streets to safety — stands as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when **kindness meets action**.



Reflecting on the **project, Sanidi Rovinya, Chairperson** of Paw Patrol, shared:

"Bruno's recovery was not just a victory for us, but a symbol of hope.

Every life we touch is a reminder that compassion still exists — and that with the right support, we can do so much more."



With **two successful rescues now behind them**, the Leo Club of Kolonnawa is looking ahead — to more lives, more healing, and more moments like this.

Because Paw Patrol isn't just about animals. It's about community. It's about stepping in when no one else does. And it's about proving that even the smallest rescue can change the world for someone.

One dog at a time. One chance at a time.





KLEO FAMILY CIRCLE



**WE WERE LATE. OBVIOUSLY.
BUT THAT'S HOW YOU KNOW IT'S A REAL LEO GET-TOGETHER.**



Our KLeo Family Circle kicked off (a little past schedule, as usual) at **Independence Square**. We brought the essentials — a big mat, way too much food, and a whole lot of good energy.



Leo Devuni had a few games lined up, and soon we were snacking, laughing, and pretending not to be overly competitive.



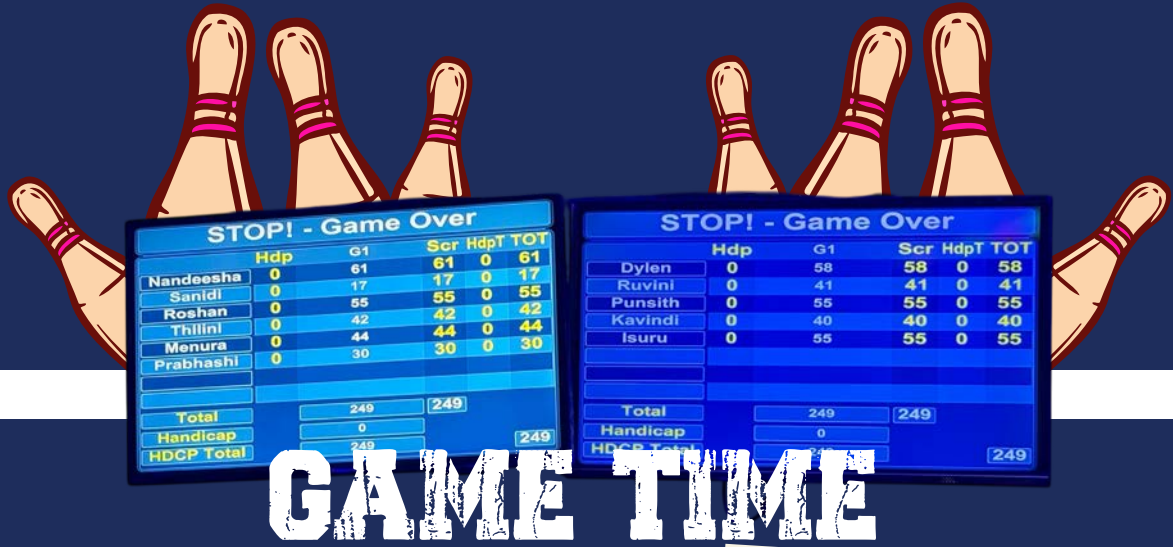
One of the most memorable moments for me? The “**letter to our future selves**”. We sat down and wrote personal notes to the versions of us one year from now. It felt a little silly at first — but then it hit. Where do I want to be? What do I hope I’ll be proud of next year? It got kind of deep.

Dear Leo Nandeesh, you better not be reading ours.



Letters written, food demolished, and then — the TikTok. I don’t even know how to describe it, but it was chaotic, glorious, and probably the most Leo-thing we’ve ever filmed.





GAME TIME

Next, we made our way to **Excel World** for a game of bowling. Now, this wasn't a match between seasoned players. This was a competition between people who had never touched a bowling ball in their life. The first few rounds were pure comedy — balls going into the gutter, wild aim, dramatic near-misses. But eventually, we found our rhythm (kind of). It wasn't about the score. It was about the noise, the cheering, and those rare, triumphant strikes.



Before we knew it, the sun had dipped and the day wrapped up. We said our goodbyes — tired, happy, and somehow closer than we'd been that morning.

Kleo Family Circle wasn't a project. It wasn't a campaign. It was a pause. A day to step back from all the busy and just be — with each other. We weren't Leos ticking boxes. We were friends, teammates, and something closer to family.

Here's to more short days that leave long memories. And if you're wondering — yes, we will open those letters in a year. And yes, we'll probably cry and laugh and wonder how we ever doubted ourselves.

UNTIL THEN,





KOLONNAWALEOS.LK



RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

We are incredibly proud and humbled to share some exciting news with our community. Our website, kolonnawaleos.lk, has been recognized among the top .LK websites for March 2025!

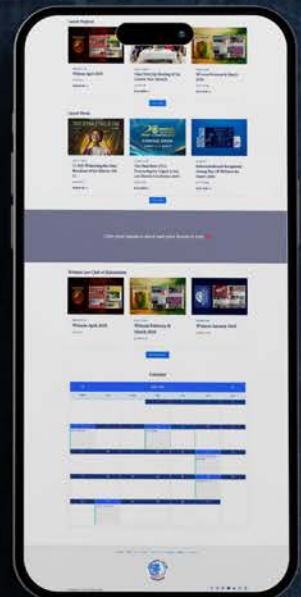
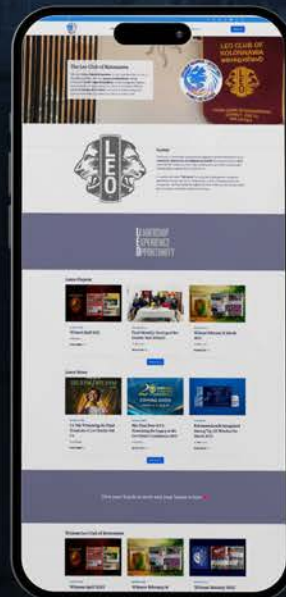
This achievement is a true reflection of the spirit, passion, and hard work that drive the Leo Club of Kolonnawa, both online and offline.

A MILESTONE BUILT ON DEDICATION

From the very beginning, our aim was to create more than just a website — we wanted a digital space that tells our story, showcases our impact, and invites others to join us in service and leadership.

Thanks to the vision and commitment of Leo Dylen Wolff, who led the website's development and content strategy, kolonnawaleos.lk has become a platform that truly represents who we are.

Every design element, every piece of content, and every update was thoughtfully crafted by Leo Dylen Wolff to ensure that our values, achievements, and journey are shared with authenticity and excellence.



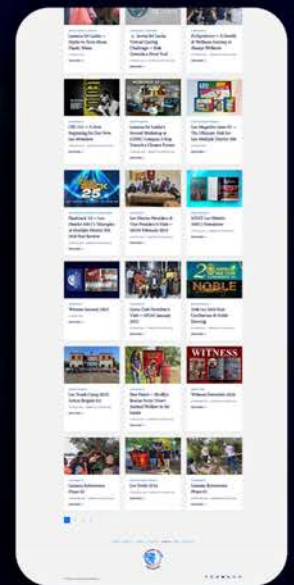
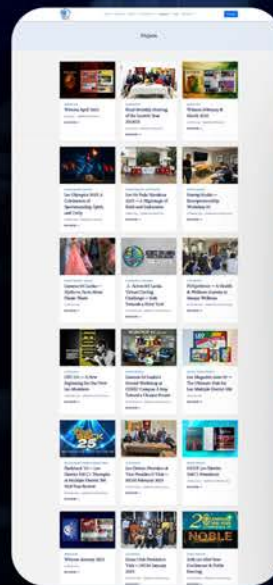
KOLONNAWALEOS



A SHARED SUCCESS

While Leo Dylen Wolff's outstanding contribution made this platform possible, this recognition belongs to every Leo of Kolonnawa — past and present — who has contributed to our story.

It is the collective energy, service, and leadership of our members that fuel the vibrant community showcased through kolonnawaleos.lk. We are grateful to all those who have supported us, visited the site, and shared in our mission to create a better tomorrow.



LOOKING AHEAD

This milestone inspires us to continue pushing boundaries, both in the digital world and beyond.

As we move forward, we are committed to growing stronger, reaching further, and empowering more young leaders through the opportunities we create.





SECRETARY'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

As we turn the final pages of this Leoistic year, I find myself reflecting not just on the reports written or meetings held — but on the quiet, powerful moments in between. The late-night planning calls. The rush to meet submission deadlines. The joy of seeing our work recognized. It has been a journey of growth, precision, and deep pride.

Serving as your Secretary this year has been more than a role — it's been a responsibility I've carried with care and heart. To document your efforts, to ensure our voice was heard at every turn, has been my greatest privilege.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our Club President, the board, and each and every Leo who made this year meaningful. Your dedication made my job easier, and your passion made every report worth writing.

Though the year is coming to a close, the impact we've made will remain — carefully recorded, proudly remembered.

Thank you for the trust, the teamwork, and the shared purpose.

Yours in Leo Spirit,

Subhani Embuldeniya
Leo Club of Kolonnawa



EDITOR'S NOTE

To the dreamers, doers, and storytellers of Leoism,

With a full heart, I present to you the final edition of The Witness for the Leoistic Year 2024/2025. What began as a humble attempt to document our journey has grown into something far greater — a reflection of our spirit, our values, and the people who bring this club to life.

This role has been one of the most enriching experiences of my Leo journey. Creating The Witness wasn't just about collecting stories — it was about learning how to tell them with truth, emotion, and pride. It challenged me, inspired me, and gave me a space to grow as a leader, a creator, and a communicator. It taught me how to listen deeply, write honestly, and connect people through shared moments.

I'm also incredibly grateful that our work was recognized and appreciated beyond our club — by Leos and Lions across the district and beyond. That recognition belongs to every single one of you who contributed, supported, and believed in this publication.

To our board — thank you for your constant encouragement. And to every Leo who shared an idea, a photo, or a sentence — thank you for helping shape this archive of who we are.

As we close this chapter, I carry forward not just memories, but a deeper belief in the power of storytelling. Let's keep writing, keep dreaming, and keep serving.

Yours in Service and Creativity,

Leo Sanidi Rovinya
Leo Club of Kolonnawa



WITNESS