



WITH A VISION AND A MISSION

Henry Ford once said "If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses." People do not know what they really want till it is presented to them and it is for the visionary to come up with inventions capable of moving civilisation ahead.

By SARASI PARANAMMANNA AND DIANNE SILVA

Along the rough and long road

Overcoming many challenges, R.M.Dhammika Sujith Rathnayaka has come a long way as an inventor and a nominee for the Ray award and said such initiatives were vital for the survival of inventors.

He said he had decided to venture into this invention as many people were injured by coir machines. "The coir machine I made is a de fibre machine which is protective. It minimizes injuries in the de fibre process." He said his coir machine needed only 4 skilled workers where as less efficient machines needed 12 workers.



DHAMMIKA RATHNAYAKE Protective De-bre Machine AGE: 40 EDUCATION: Halamadagama Abaya Adarsha Maha Vidyalaya HOMETOWN: Nankadawara, Panirendawa Contact: 0772537432 Goals: To create machines that make a difference in people's lives

Making ripples without waves

His 'waveless' boat earned him the 2012 Ray Award and his dream of another design to pay tribute to Dr. Ray Wijewardene.



EVEN THOUGH WE CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY THE STATE BANKS ARE NOT KEEN ABOUT ASSISTING INVENTORS. THEY ASK FOR SECURITY, BUT NOT ALL INVENTORS ARE WELL TO DO PEOPLE

His invention is a boat made of steel and aluminium that does not generate waves, is eco friendly as it does not contribute to river bank erosion and can be recycled. He had used anodic protection to reduce corrosion of the boat.

INDRASRI KARUNATHILAKA "Waveless" boat AGE: 50 EDUCATION: Vidyaratne College, Horana Licentiate Accountant Hometown: Horana Contact: ikarunatilake@gmail.com Goals: An invention to make an impact on the world and to take my project to the international arena.

The nominees at the award ceremony held last week



"Lightening" the deadly force of nature

Lightning is a concern for many homeowners and businessmen and protection from this deadly force of nature is imperative. A young inventor from Meegoda had this desire to protect his father's business from bolts of thunder and came up with his invention to avoid lightning related disasters.

SANKHA NANAYAKKARA Lightning Surge Diverter AGE: 28 EDUCATION: Mahanama College, Ananda College, University of Coventry BEng. Telecommunications Engineering, Presently reading for a PhD in Lightning Protection from the University of Colombo HOMETOWN: Meegoda Contact: Sankha84@live.com Goals: To become a research engineer

I came up with this invention because my father who owned an ice-cream factory about half a mile from our home used to run to the factory as soon as rain and lightning started, to switch off the electrical equipment. Due to the nature of the production at the factory it was difficult to switch off the equipment and the freezers. This is what got me interested in finding a solution to this problem," he said.

I WANT TO PRODUCE A FAULTLESS PRODUCT, BECAUSE AT PRESENT THERE IS A TENDENCY TO RECOGNISE MAN MADE RADIO WAVES AS LIGHTNING AND THIS ISSUE NEEDS TO BE CLEARED

As a young boy Mr. Nanayakkara had always been interested in electronics and said that his interest in pursuing an academic career in the field sparked during his Ordinary Level Exam. He credits his father, a meteorologist, for giving him the necessary backing and knowledge to pursue his dream.

SUNIL GOMES Latex Eco Sphere AGE: 61 EDUCATION: Isipathana College, Colombo 5 Moratuwa University: Rubber Technology and Mechanical Engineering HOMETOWN: Kelaniya Contact: tsunilgomes@gmail.com Goals: To combine innovation and a passion for the environment to produce environmentally sustainable processes which reduce costs.



Environmental sustainability is the need of the hour and any inventor today needs to recognise the importance of protecting natural resources. Sunil Gomes has been successful in bringing together his passion for the environment and his expertise in clean, efficient and cost-effective production.

Green Invention There have been a number of advances in rubber manufacturing. However, the collection methods have not changed in 125 years. During many of his observational visits to rubber factories Sunil Gomes noticed that the latex collection methodology was extremely inefficient and has not changed in over 125 years.

A Surgeon with a cause

Dr. Shantha Lenadora a doctor who started out his career in the Navy as a Surgeon Lieutenant.

DR. SHANTHA LENADORA Lenadora Retractor AGE: 60 EDUCATION: St. Thomas' College, Mathale, University of Peradeniya HOMETOWN: Lenadora Contact: sjblenadora@yahoo.co Goals: I have achieved everything set out to do and succeeded in creating an improved instrument.

His invention is especially useful in prolonged and extensive surgeries. As he mentioned, the conventional self retaining retractors which help to keep the tissues off the surgical field sometimes damage and traumatise tissues and in certain instances due to the extensive nature of the operation there is also the possibility of surgical injuries.

DESPITE A CHILDHOOD INJURY HE IS NOW A SURGICAL INNOVATOR

Providing an easier breath for asthmatics

His 'Ventohaler' is seen as an ordinary inhaler on the outside, however this improved device has a few key features that make it unique. The inhaler is designed in such a way that a cyclonic movement occurs within it when the patient inhales, allowing for a larger deposit of medicine in the lungs.

I WANT TO ENSURE THAT OUR PATIENTS RECEIVED A HIGH QUALITY DRUG THAT WAS AFFORDABLE

DR. ANIL GOONETILLEKE Lina Ventohaler AGE: 52 EDUCATION: Royal College Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo Royal College of Physicians (UK) HOMETOWN: Colombo Contact: 0777562157 Goals: Manufacture a complete range of respiratory medicinal products



They say suffering is the birth of invention and this was certainly the case with Dr. Goonetilleke who suffered from Asthma for many years and in his adulthood came up with an improved inhaler which would better the lives of many children and adults who suffered from this respiratory ailment.