

The Wesley Times



NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY COLLEGE COLOMBO OLD BOYS UNION AUSTRALIA BRANCH
Summer Edition 2017



A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the year draws to an end it is satisfying to note the OBUA and the current committee have had a very successfully 9 months, meeting the targets that were set out on commencement in April.

We have had two sell out and successful fund raising functions in the " Winter Warm up " and the Double Blue Ball themed the " Great Gatsby" . The inaugural Members and Seniors luncheon was a success and from the feedback received thus far is here to stay in a bigger and better format next year. On the sports front we participated in the Kingwood six a side Rugby tournament winning The bowl after just three years . The Golfers did us proud by beating Trinity in the CJ Orloff trophy and the Cricketers played in the Royal College Six a Side indoor cricket tournament. Full marks to the Sports and Social committees for all their hard work which at times seemed overwhelming and tested their resolve. I believe with the current injection of "Younger "old boys coming on board the future of the association is looking very positive.

Let me wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Ora et Labora

Bryan Wijeyekoon

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From the Editor's desk

After ten months in and out of hospital; and doing rehabilitation after my below the knee amputation of my right leg, I am back at work and living life to the fullest with my limitations. I have also returned to my computer and taken on board my love of writing and preparing the Newsletter for the OBUA. I had a hand in the last issues as well but this issue has been solely mine.

For a newsletter to flourish you need information and to this end the creation of the Wesley College website www.wesleycollege.lk and the OBU website www.wesleyobu.lk has been a wonderful source. This issue has pages and provides you with plenty of reading over the holiday season. I invite all alumni to send me press clippings, information about fellow old Wesleyites in business and in the news, reports on events across the world, news about the school and its students and teachers, news about the school performing in sport and extra-curricular activities, etc.. So my plea to you is to support me and send me whatever information be it from the past and the present.

Warmest regards.
Ora et labora

Keith de Kretser

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MELBOURNE

Round Up

Wesley OBUA clean up Trinity OBA in the C. J. Oorloff Golf Trophy



The Wesley OBUA cleaned up the Trinity OBUA in the annual C. J. Oorloff Golf Day played under Stableford system at Morack Golf Course, Vermont on Sunday 12th November 2017. In perfect conditions for golf, Wesley who have been at the losing end of many close encounters, cleaned up with Tyrone Rode starring. Tyrone Rode had 43 points to win the Martin Siebel Memorial Trophy, George Siebel won the nearest the pin and Jeremy Ebert the

longest drive. A number of new players made the OBUA Team a formidable opponent. Reg



Bartholomeusz who is recovering from open heart surgery was unavailable to play.

The Wesley Team:

Tyrone Rode, Mike Siebel, George Siebel, Shri Kanagasabapathy, Arden Joseph, Imran Jumar, Bin Sappideen, Sharill Azoor, Dick Siebel, Faiz Subyan, Norton Abeydeera, Jeremy Ebert, Gordon Taylor and Giri Raman

Geogre Siebel as usual did a great job organizing the event and the OBUA team with Sri Kanaks



Double Blue Ball 2017

The Great Gatsby

The highlight of the second half of the OBU calendar each year is the Double Blue Ball and this year there was a theme celebrating the Great Gatsby era of the 1920's. **The Great Gatsby** is a 1925 novel written by American author F. Scott Fitzgerald that follows a cast of characters living in the fictional town of West Egg on prosperous Long Island in the summer of 1922. *The Great Gatsby* explores themes of decadence, idealism, resistance to change, social upheaval, and excess, creating a portrait of the Jazz Age or the Roaring Twenties.



The Grand on Cathies with its recent renovations and embellishments was a fitting venue for the ball. Guests were greeted by a spectacular setting with pendula lighting and warm blue hues and a soulful saxophonist playing jazz standards on the centre of the dance floor. The theme was black and gold and set the tone for the



decadence of the era with black linen table cloths and chair covers trimmed with gold sashes. The centre piece on each table was a tall geometric form dressed with feathers in black and gold and frills symbolizing the art décor feel of the era. Facing the stage one saw a large 10 metre by 5 metre LED Screen behind the band displaying the College crest and motto and changing between a photograph of the College.

As guests arrived they gathered on the dance floor for canapes and drinks taking in the ambience before the band began. Many of the guests embraced the Gatsby theme and dressed accordingly which



ARTHLOW CHAPMAN & WIFE THE MOST SENIOR OLD WESLEYITE IN ATTENDANCE

added to the ambience. Music for the night did not reflect the Gatsby era but rather modern and favourite covers of the past decades played by the "Next Generation one of the best bands in Melbourne. It did not take long for the mood of the party to get going and the dance floor was teeming with couples. Whilst the main meal was served the guests were entertained by two female dancers and a roving four piece jazz band reflecting the Gatsby era. The usual door prizes and a raffle with the first prize a



return ticket with Sri Lankan Airlines as first prize were drawn. There was also a prize for the best dressed lady and gentleman in theme.

No Double Blue Ball ends without singing the College Song and War Cry. To the amazement of many the number of old Wesleyites in attendance was staggering with about 75 or more standing in front of the stage and singing with gusto. It is an encouraging sign that a number of the younger old boys attended and have shown an interest for they are the future of the OBUA. There were a number of



old Wesleyites from inter-State, NSW – Glen Wambeek, Queensland – Neil Harvie, Ray Anthonisz and Carlyle Well-Peris.

The Dance Committee - **Brian, Norton, Darryl and Ben** excelled themselves and **Rienzie Mahamooth** did a spectacular job with the décor. The feedback has been very positive with some rating it the best the OBUA ever had.

For more photos go to:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/u3tq0sxn4zxhty7/AADrrNe5Rmh4dF4E01pC4HXRa?dl=0>

WESLEY WINS B WL FINAL

The Wesley OBUA once again entered the Kingswood College Rugby Sevens tournament held on 23 September 2017.

Kingswood Rugby 7s 2017 had 20 teams confirm their participation in this year's tournament, including teams from Kingswood College, Dharmaraja College, Trinity College, St. Anthony's College, Royal College, St. Thomas College, St. Peters College, Wesley College, Isipathana College, combined team from D.S. Senanayake College & Mahanama College (Golden Brothers), combined team from Ananda College & Nalanda College (Maroons Rugby Union) couple of club teams being Atkinsons Rugby Union & Auckland Lions.



Wesley was in Group 3, the group of death it was called as we had the top 3 A teams in our pool.

Games Results were as follows:

Group 3

Wesley 0 – St Thomas 5 (St. Thomas went to win the CUP trophy from here)

Wesley 0 – Rajans Blues 10

Wesley 10 – Golden Brothers 5

Wesley 10 – Atkinson Warriors 5

Then we progressed to the Bowl Semi-finals.

Wesley 42 – St Thomas B 0

Bowl Finals (match went in to extra time)

Wesley 5 – St Peters A 0

If we had not been in Group 3, we would have been playing at cup level for sure. Our teams was one to reckon with. Thanks to Granville Norton for his hard work organizing the clothing and the team.

WESLEY participates in Royal OBA Indoor six-a-side cricket tournament



Wesley entered a team in the Royal OBA six-a-side cricket tournament. Unfortunately the OBUA struggled to field a team and did not want to let down the organiser.

Game 1
St. Peters – 85
Wesley - 55

Game 2
Trinity 96
Wesley 7

Wesley were knocked out early. For the second game, 3 of our key players did not participate.. They had to go at 12noon due to prior appointments.

OBUA End of Year Lunch

Every year for the past 20 years, the OBUA has organized a “Seniors Lunch” for all our senior members – retirees in December with a Festive theme. For the last couple of years this lunch has struggled to create the atmosphere of previous years. There was a need to invigorate and change the format in order to make it an enjoyable occasion and a great time of fellowship for all.

The new Committee under the stewardship of Bryan Wijeyekoon took up the challenge and brought forward the date to the 26th November and also considered new ways to entertain the guests and make it an event not just for Senior’s but for all the members. To this end they did achieve some success though the overall numbers were down on that expected, there were at least 40 – 50 old Wesleyites and their partners and kids present.



The hall was decorated in the College colours with panels of screening in light blue with banners bearing the Crest suspended from them. The tables were draped with a dark blue table cloth with light blue serviettes and an attractive centre piece in silver with the two blues complimenting the arrangement. You knew when you entered the hall that it was a Wesley College function. As the Guests mingled , they were entertained by a trio of musicians two Wesleyites – Jeremy Kreltshheim on lead guitar and Dallas Achilles on trumpet backed by Rodney Jansz a Thomian on bass guitar.



Bryan welcomed the guests and requested a a minutes silence was observed for all the old Wesleyites that has passed away during 2017. In his speech Bryan explained the reasons for the change in format and the goal was to get more of the younger old Wesleyites to be engaged as they were the future of the OBUA. He asked Rod de Kretser and Keith de Kretser to recollect the formation of the OBUA. Langston Joseph then led us in Grace.



The lunch was a sumptuous spread by our regular caterers Cha’s Cabin followed by dessert. During lunch MC’s Keith de Kretser and Ben Nathanielsz circulated with the guests with a microphone and interviewed Wesleyites of all ages about their time and experiences at Wesley. With

the festive season around the corner, the guests were invited to join in with an impromptu choir to sing some of the favourite Christmas Carols. The winners of the annual C J Oorloff Golf Tournament were introduced to the guests by George Siebel after a successful clean-up of all the trophies in the recent tournament. The trio of musicians entertained the guests for the remainder of the afternoon. From all accounts it was a successful afternoon.

"What it means to be a Wesleyite"



I joined Wesley College in 1959 in the Lower Kindergarten. It is so long ago but my memory recalls standing in a line with my mother and a number of other boys with their mothers to be greeted by Miss Norma de Silva. We marched in to our class behind the boarders dining hall to the music of a military march played on the piano by Mrs Dulcie de Mel. I had no choice as to what school I would attend but later on it made sense why my parents had chosen Wesley College. In those days it was a tradition that the son attended his father's school when it was his turn. My father attended Wesley College when the "Saint of Karlsruhe" - Rev Henry Highfields was Principal. On reflection it was a great decision, one which I grasped and went on to make the most of the opportunities available.

From those formative years, due to its racial mix of students there was an English, Sinhalese and Tamil stream. I was a Burgher and I was in the English stream as were all the Burgher boys. Whilst this delineation served its aims, it did generate a respect and tolerance of fellow students of different racial and religious backgrounds. Wesley College inculcated in each of us the fundamental values of respect for your fellow man and regardless of colour, race or creed they were all our equal, values that have stood the test in my lifetime. I still have many friends from all backgrounds as during my time at Wesley we participated in Sport and extra-curricular activities, we travelled on the school bus and some of us lived in the same neighbourhood.

Another great value was the devotion to school, Christian was a great discipline We sang wonderful

It gave each of us an opportunity to fulfil our school motto "Ora et labora" which means to Pray and

the bible readings and prayed for God's guidance and blessing as we began each school day. It gave each of us an opportunity to fulfil our school motto "Ora et labora" which means to Pray and Work. To this day, my Christian faith and prayers have been a great strength and comfort to me as I have journeyed through life and its many challenges, especially in recent years where I have endured many health issues.

that Wesley College gave me religion. Being a Methodist worship at the start of the day that we were regimented in. hymns of praise, listened to

Whilst Wesley College had modest facilities, it did not deter any student from developing their talents and expanding their horizons whether it was in academia, sport, oratory, debating, choral and drama productions and quiz competitions. I had the opportunity to play sport – hockey, rugby and athletics. I represented Wesley in inter-school elocution contests. I also participated in inter-school drama contests. But my greatest love was being

in the choir which has kept my love for music in particular Christian choral music to this day. I still sing in a choir that I formed in 1998 for the Christmas festivities, called the Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Choir.

Education was another strong facet of Wesley College. The group of teachers during my time were dedicated to their craft and were loyal teachers who had served Wesley College for many years. They did not watch the clock and think more about their private tuition classes after school. Each of us are blessed with many talents and I was fortunate that I was a good student and was ranked around the top of the class till I left for Australia in 1970, not sitting for my O/Level exams. During our journey through Wesley we encountered many teachers with varying personalities and rapport with their students. I have fond memories of my teachers and the solid grounding I received in the three R's - reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic that have held me in good stead to this day. Corporal punishment was acceptable in those times and some delivered it more harshly than others. However what it instilled in each of us was that that we had to observe the rules of the school and meet the expected standards of behaviour, something which we would take with us for later on in life as we had to abide by the rules and laws of the state and be decent citizens of our country.

Whilst Wesley did not have a "big match" it did not diminish our status as a good school. The social demographic of the student population did not lean toward students from wealthy families, though there were some who did not show off their wealth. The core principles were that regardless of one's social standing we were all equal and we learned to respect those who were less well-off or fortunate by teaching us inclusiveness, ensuring that they were included in all our activities and were not made to feel different or inferior.

As you can gather from my previous comments, Wesley College sought to provide each of us with a holistic education. I can confidently state that I received such an education which has stood the test of time and has given me the life skills and confidence to go about my daily duties. Wesley College brought together various races, religions and cultures that reflected a rich mosaic of life in Sri Lanka. Wesley College also gave us a simple set of values that would act like a moral compass to help and guide us along life's journey. Pouring through the history of Wesley College, the beacon on the Karlsruhe hill has beamed her magnificence in all facets of Sri Lankan society, producing many distinguished scholars, sportsmen and eminent citizens.

I am eternally grateful for the eleven wonderful years at Wesley and my passion stems from this love of my alma mater. That is why **"I am proud to be a Wesleyite"**.

Keith de Kretser
September 2017

A Wesleyite who “Taught a Nation to read”

M. D. GUNASENA



Malagalage Don Gunasena was a mere school boy at Wesley College when he first peered in fascination through the windows, as the rolling wheels of the huge Wharfdale machines were moving to churn out sheets of printed matter in the presses on Dam Street. Even while in school, he ran errands for the printers just to get closer look at the printing presses.

His father Malagalage Don Carolis Peiris Appuhami and mother Galpotte Kankanamalage Sophaya Perera Hamine belonged to a paddy farming family from Wewala,

SalpitiKorale. Malagalage Don Gunasena the youngest son in a family of three, began his education in Wewala Government School in the village. His parents sent him to Wesley College to learn English under British rule. Soon after, the family fortunes changed and the parents could not afford the luxury of giving him, an English education. The boy was compelled to leave school when he was in fourth standard and took up Ayurveda, under a Veda Mahattya in Grandpass.

At this time his elder brother was running a small grocery in Colombo. Seeing young Gunasena's futile efforts over the study of ancient Pali and Sanskrit, he suggested that it was time for his younger brother to learn a trade. It was then that Gunasena requested that he be sent to the Boys' Industrial Home attached to the Wesley Press. Following his boyhood fascination, it is there that he mastered the art of printing. Destiny had been made and there was no turning back.

The young qualified printer immediately joined H.S. Perera to help the Dinaminaat the Lanka Abhihawa Visrutha Press owned by Pundit Robert Batuwanthudawa. Subsequently the press was handed over to his Son-in-law Sir Baron Jayatilaka. Gunasena mastered the art of setting up type and further sharpened his printing skills, until he was forced to return to Wewala due to a bout of illness.

On his return to Colombo he sought an opening at the Government Press with a letter of introduction from Pundit Thomas Karunaratne, only to be told that the Government Printer – Mr.Cotton had left to England. With no job, he was at his boarding on Green Street, when a friend informed him of a vacancy for a compositor. He joined Sir Harry Van Cuylenberg's Independent Newspaper at Hulftsdorp, where he earned his first salary. Ironically, 30 years later, he bought the same premises and it became home to Independent Newspapers Limited, an associate Company of M.D.GUNASENA's, which shut down in 1990.

His adventurous and entrepreneurial spirit always found him looking for better prospects. He later worked as the manager for Wijewickremage John Appuhami's Victor press on Dias Place. Here he played the role of salesman, canvasser, bill collector, designer and printer. As a salesman he use to start of early to visit many establishments to obtain printing jobs from

customers and return to the office at around 10 a.m. Assuming that Gunasena was habitually late, he was reprimanded. The honourable young Gunasena immediately tendered his resignation. A week later Appuhami apologised on behalf of his poor judgment and asked him to return to work. Gunasena refused; as he had made up his mind, never again to work under anybody.

Appuhami then proposed that Gunasena buy the press but then again he declined, as he did not have the money. Then Appuhami suggested that he was willing to accept the payment on installments. Gunasena agreed and this was the defining moment way back in 1913.

With determination complemented by hard work, Gunasena surged forward. Success and progress came quickly and he was able to buy additional secondhand machinery from N.S. Fernando and company. He installed the new machinery on First Cross Street, in Pettah, in 1917 and named it New Victor Press. Two years later he relocated to Fifth Cross Street.

At 29 he married Lilian Senehelatha Perera from Grandpass on the 30th of November 1922. As the press expanded, he borrowed more funds from the Chettiars(local money lenders) of Sea Street to meet working expenses, as banks did not lend to small-time Sinhala businessmen. When the Japanese paper supplier, Kiichi Ensha, whom Gunasena took on as a partner in 1919, expressed concern over his debts in 1925, he cancelled the partnership, paying him in full.

In 1925, he expanded the business with new machinery and staff, relocating it to Fifth Cross Street. The business being his alone, he named it M.D.GUNASENA AND COMPANY. This same year the company ventured into book publishing with sales and distribution handled by K.D. Perera & Sons, J.D. Fernando & Company and W.E. Bastian & Company. In 1926 Gunasena acquired a small firm of Book publishers named C.Boteju & Company on Dam Street. Armed with stocks and a few copyrights the company began to operate as a bookseller.

In 1929 the business expanded rapidly and the company was relocated to Norris Road (Olcott Mawatha), its current headquarters. The bookshop operation was carried out from Olcott Mawatha, the printing happened in the middle of the premises and the wholesale operation was at the rear, opening out to Maliban Street.



At that time the Company was at the forefront of the Publishing Industry. Many prestigious titles from renown authors like, Martin Wickramasinghe; Professor Gunapala Malalasekera, V.D. de Lanerolle, Dr. E.W. Adikaram, and Munidasa Kumaratunga were and continue to be published by the company. Gunasena's nephews both M.D. Sirisena and M.D. Premadasa joined the business in 1932 and grew the business exponentially. In 1942 the property was purchased from Helena Jayewardene mother of the former President of Sri Lanka J.R. Jayawerdene. In 1945 the company was registered as a limited liability company.



In 1949 artist G.S.Fernando created the famous logo. The scribe in the logo is a representation of Gurulugomi the author of Amawatura and Dharmapradipika written in the 12th Century. The logo was first used in Martin Wickramasinghe's Sahityodaya Katha book published in the same year, 1949. Ever since that the logo has become the symbol of quality literature in the country.

By 1959, the company was publishing almost 300 titles a year virtually a book a day. The same

year the company reopened the doors of its new building at Olcott Mawatha. The spacious state of the art multi storied bookstore was the second largest bookstore in the world with the other being in Helsinki built a year earlier. Ever since that day we never looked back but surged forward to become the market leaders in the fields of Publishing, Printing and Bookselling.

This is the story of the humble beginnings of our company. It is the Founder's vision, corporate values and the innovative spirit that continue steer this company forward. We believe and it has been widely accepted that, **"We Taught the Nation to Read."**

Source: <http://www.mdgunasena.com>

Alston Koch celebrates 50 years in the Music industry



The Grand Receptions and its chairman Jude de Silva put on display an amazing variety spectacle with a well-produced and well organised dinner show for ALSTON KOCH'S 50 years in the Professional Music Industry.

Performing on stage for their friend ALSTON KOCH' were International stars of the calibre of Frank Ifield with more than six No 1 hit songs worldwide, 24 'Hit singles and recognised by the Guinness Book Of Records.

John St. Peeters another Australian legend and hit maker and TV host, TV legend Donnie Sutherland OAM, The Princess of Bollywood Jacqui Fernandez. International guests included International Film Director Chandran Rutnam Hollywood's celebrity coach MUNNI IRONE. SRI LANKAN AIRLINES Chairman Ajith Dias and his team of Executives and a host of other Sri Lankan talent present made this a night to remember.

Special mention must be made of Frederick James Koch's thrilling debut performance as a singer demanding a repeat command performance by the VIP guests making this an atmosphere seldom seen in functions in Australia.

The Grand on Prince's turned out a 'LAS VEGAS' style production with their newly installed mega LED screen and a decor 'and cuisine second to none.

Frank Ifield who sold out 6 concerts in arenas across the World before arriving for this show thrilled the intimate audience with his rendition of 'I'll Remember You'. John St Peeters excelled and his duet with Tommy Emmanuel via satellite had to be seen to be believed.

Speeches by Jacqui Fernandez, Frank Ifield, Chandran Rutnam, Munni Irone and the Chairman of Sri Lankan Airlines were well received. Joining the evening of entertainment were Loretta Koch, Esric and Sandra Jackson and Dallas Achilles who made the night complete.

Special felicitations by Nirj Deva M.P (European Union) other politicians and stars from Asia, North and South America were presented to the audience on the night.

And then there was the evergreen ALSTON KOCH who at the end of his performance brought to the stage a nostalgic and emotional moment with his VIP guests all storming the stage and letting their hair down beside him on stage. There was something special about this moment. Elroy Fernandez (Jacqui's Dad) created another 'moment to remember' when Jacqui and her family joined him on stage while he was singing a few 'Jim Reeves' favourites creating the 'WOW' factor of the night.

A unique part of the evening was the 'Planting of a Tree' for the protection of the environment at the Grand on Prince's premises by Munni Irone, Ajith Dias, Alston Koch and Jude de Silva.

The show was produced by Alston Koch with Executive producer Count Ricardo Pietrapaolli.

Official Coverage By: Johann Jayasinha #SNNI Media Network Australia Times of Lanka 19/09/2017

Subscription Reminder

Your membership subscription is now due and payable. The annual fee is \$20 and if you have not paid for this year- 2017, please make payment as soon as possible. All cheques should be made out in favour of Wesley College Colombo OBUA and posted to:

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The Inaugural Shelton Wirasinha Oration

The Inaugural Shelton Wirasinha Oration 2017 was held on the evening of 19th October 2017 at the College Main Hall. The oration was delivered by a distinguished Old Boy and Media personality, Mr Kumar de Silva.

Among those present were President/Bishop of the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka Rev. Asiri Perera, Archdeacon of the Anglican Colombo Diocese Ven. Perry Brohier, members of the Wirasinha family including Nihal Jayamanne PC and Mrs. Rohini Jayamanne, Past Principal MAP Fernando, former acting Principal Upali Ratnayake, distinguished old boys Managing Director of Metropolitan Ivor Mahroof and Chief Operating Officer of the Commercial Bank S. Renganathan, teachers past and present, and, students past and present.

With his 21 year tenure as Principal of Wesley College from 1962-1983, Arthur Shelton Wirasinha affectionately referred to as “ASW” goes on record as being the second longest serving Principal of the College after Revd. Henry Highfield.

A product of Richmond College, Galle, Shelton Wirasinha touched the hearts and lives of tens of thousands of students who passed through the portals of Wesley College.

Shelton Wirasinha Oration was thus a fitting event which paid homage to this great educationist.

The Bard of the Wesley Manor

By Kumar de Silva



I stand before you here today, extremely proud, yet deeply humbled at this invitation to deliver the inaugural Shelton Wirasinha Oration.

To those of us from the past, we knew Shelton Wirasinha as a living, breathing, multi-dimensional human being ... to those of you from the present, Shelton Wirasinha is just a Memorial Building on what was once, the Wesley College tennis courts and later the sweet potato patch.

Shelton Wirasinha is also that old sepia photograph up on the wall. I shall, in the next one hour, attempt to bring that photograph back to life, to re-live and retrace his life and times over 62 years, from Richmond Hill in Galle to Karlsruhe in Colombo

Pre-Wesley College era

Shelton Wirasinha was born on 24th November 1923 in a house at the foot of Richmond Hill in Galle, just beyond the level crossing. His father was Lionel Wirasinha, a draughtsman in the government service and his mother was Letitia, a teacher. The Wirasinhas kept a simply home with a large garden full of wild flowers, which in turn, played home to a large variety of birds. Leo and Letty Wirasinha were proud of their two boys. There was Arthur Shelton and his older brother Victor Lloyd. V.L. Wirasinha later went on to become a brilliant Civil Servant.

The four-year old Arthur Shelton began scrawling his ABCs and 1,2,3s at Richmond College under whose portals he was later to pass as Prefect, Senior Prefect, Teacher, Headmaster, Vice Principal and Principal. His meteoric rise at College was punctuated by successes in almost every field. He was the indefatigable Chorister, Debator, Dramatist, Scout, Athlete, Musician, Cricketer and Scholar. A keen sportsman, he excelled in cricket, track and field events, basketball and tennis. He was also a very eloquent speaker.

His relatively easy stride in the academic sphere was crowned when he was awarded the College's much-coveted Darrel Medal for the Best Student. In 1942, offering English, Latin and History, he passed with an Upper Second for his Bachelor's Degree. His school career was tempered by the inspiring influence of Principals like the Rev. Alex Sneath, Rev. John Dalby and, my own paternal uncle, E. R. de Silva.

As would be the norm at that time, his parents wanted him to be Lawyer or Civil Servant. He would have excelled in both but he gave vent to his love for teaching. He loved to share knowledge. And so he packed bag and baggage and off he went to Rakwana to his first-ever teaching assignment at St. Anthony's School, Rakwana.

As fate would have it, he contracted cerebral malaria there and had to leave.

He then came down to Colombo and served for a short spell at St Peter's College where he taught English and History in the HSC and SSC forms. 1947 saw Richmond College proudly welcome one her illustrious products as Vice Principal. He was an engaging and hands-on teacher whose favourite subjects were Christianity, English, History and Mathematics.

Five years later 1952, he was awarded a scholarship and left for Birmingham, UK where he read for his MA in Education. Shelton Wirasinha was a brilliant student and won coveted George Cadbury Prize for the Best Student of the Year. Returning down South to hometown Galle, he assumed duties as Principal of Richmond. This was his crowning glory. The simple, modest and unassuming man that he was, he easily connected with the Richmondites and won their love, respect and admiration.

He was also known for his very unconventional methods of teaching. Richmondites loved the 'Moonlight Walks on the Galle Ramparts with the sounds of the sea thrashing on the old fortifications ringing in their ears. They loved the cycling trips away from the school uniforms and the enclosed classrooms. He knew how to use these methods, and to make them a learning process. When public announcement of this Oration was made, a Richmondite wrote on my Face Book wall how he remembered Principal Shelton Wirasinha driving down Richmond Hill in the pouring rain in his Holden car, collecting the boys and bringing them up to school in the car in several trips. Shelton Wirasinha did not have to do this – but he did. These were the acts of selflessness that Richmondites still speak of even 60, 70 years later.

To the Richmondites, Shelton Wirasinha was also the Principal who spent his evenings on the playing fields in a pair of billowing old khaki shorts of 1931 vintage.

A Richmondite had once written thus: *"Looking at that picture which hangs on the wall, who would have thought that the rather gawky lad with a huge nose and large spectacles would turn out to be this man it is not just enough to hear of Shelton, you must see him in his many dimensional glory"*. Then came 1961 and it was time for him to leave Richmond and take over the reins at Wesley. Kenneth M. de Lanerolle wrote thus in *The Double Blue* (1975-1985):

“After the harsh and ill-conceived take-over of schools in the sixties, he left Richmond to become the Principal of Wesley College. At Richmond while keeping the traditions of Darrel, Small and ER de Silva (his guru), Shelton left on the school the peculiar stamp of his wide interests and engaging personality. Wesley on the other hand gave him an even wider empire where Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians, under his benevolent rule, enjoyed equal privileges and lived as brothers”.

Wesley College 1961-1983

It was mid-December 1961. The unmistakable Christmas chill was in the air. The wind howled through the cypress trees at Karlsruhe, geographically the highest point in Colombo as the Wirasinha drove up the drive to the 101 year old Karlsruhe House (built by Charles Ambrose Lorensz) which solemnly awaited its new occupants – Shelton, Manel and the three year old Dushy. He was to preside over the destiny of Wesley and charter its course for 21 years. It earned him the title – Bard of the Wesley Manor – which I think suited him perfectly. He was with no doubt THE quintessential Bard of the Wesley Manor.

He goes on record as having said thus: *“Revd Fred Silva put the challenge to me to head a non-fee levying school and I took up this very difficult assignment in 1962”.*

A month later at 5pm on Monday 15 January 1962, on this very stage, in the presence of Revds. Fred Silva and WJT Small, Shelton Wirasinha was inducted as Wesley’s 15th Principal.

These were his very words at his Induction:

“This is the moment of rededication in my life. It is my hope and prayer that this school will be allowed to function by the State in an atmosphere of freedom. Education does not end with the gaining of jobs. It is much more than that. Education is the training and disciplining of the entire person”.

Those last three lines were to be his mantra and a recurring theme over the next 21 years - *Education does not end with the gaining of jobs. It is much more than that. Education is the training and disciplining of the entire person”*

Dark / Bleak period:

I don’t know whether or not he really knew what he was walking into when he accepted this position at Wesley College BUT this was one of the darkest and bleakest periods in Wesley’s history. It was a difficult and challenging assignment.

Wesley College was a non-fee levying school. The boys paid a pittance called facilities fees which amounted to almost nothing. The Management ambitiously believed it could run on donations alone. This was a very tough time financially. Bills had to be paid. The staff had to be paid. Wesley had to make a difficult choice – either go over to the government, or remain as a private non-fee levying school. Mercifully Wesley chose the latter. Shelton Wirasinha worked very hard. He steadfastly pushed for state support to pay staff salaries. And mercifully he was successful.

In that sense, Wesley blessed to have a Principal of his calibre with his multi-faceted personality, foresight, vision, inspiration and commitment

Early recollections

My early recollections go back to 1968, to Grade 01. There was this big burly man striding in military precision through the corridors which boomed with his stentorian tone. We were petrified of him

and fled when we saw him. 'Principal' was only to be seen from a great distance and never from close quarters.

I remember our Grade 01 class teacher was the exquisite Norma de Silva. And then in Grade 02 we had Nirmali de Silva, who was distantly related to me. Her Father, I learnt, was the President of the Methodist Church.

We loved her to bits and worshipped the ground on which she walked. I remember writing to Santa Claus at the end of that Grade 02 year and asking that she be made our Grade 03 class teacher too. Lo and behold my wish was granted.

Towards the end of Grade 03 we heard that the Grade 04 class teacher was going to be a Miss Mary Masilamoni. Now this Miss Mary M. had a persistent reputation of having to buy new umbrellas very often since her umbrellas broke. And how did they break? They broke because she used to use them to whack the buttocks of 'naughty' boys. We shuddered at the thought.

And so summoning all the courage a seven-year old could have, I trotted to the Principal's office and meekly asked him, "*Sir can we please have Nirmali Teacher for Grade 04 and NOT Miss Mary M?*". I expected him to explode in rage. He didn't. He simply beamed, then laughed and said, "*We'll see Putha*". I wish I had written to Santa and not gone to the 'Principal'. Grade 04 arrived and there she was Miss Mary M. our class teacher together with her Umbrella et al.

ASW – the Teacher of English

My fear of him gradually subsided and I went into the higher classes.

The NCGE (National Certificate of General Education) was my first big public exam. It replaced the OLs. This was the then Education Minister Badudin Mohamed's very ill-conceived and mercifully short-lived brain child. We were the guinea pigs.

Instead of ALs was the HNCE (Higher National Certificate of Education). After 02 years of the HNCE, it was scrapped and AL brought in again. I was thus in the AL class for FOUR years. In the last two of my four years of studying for the ALs, I was the only one in class offering English and French and German.

I was first in class. I was last in class. If I cut classes or cut school, I got caught. I was like the proverbial arecanut ... caught in the nutcracker.

Shelton Wirasinha's forte was Literature - Drama, Prose and Poetry. My English periods with him were the two before the interval. His office is now the Principal's Secretary's office. There was no air-conditioning and so the doors were wide open. He always sat by the door and backed the College Office. I always sat with my chair half in the doorway and backed the office. No one saw our faces.

There was neither television nor internet at that time. The World Wide Web was something beyond comprehension but my English lessons were always a fabulous audio visual experience.

Shelton Wirasinha got passionately and deeply involved in his literature. He loved his literature and poetry. He had this fascinating capacity of bringing characters to life. He almost made them tangible, living, breathing human beings.

And so with Leonard Woolf we went through the deep and evil forest that surrounded the village of Beddegama We shared in Silindu's and Babun's fear and incomprehension in the dock in the Hambantota Court House as the white judge spoke in English ... With William Wordsworth

we wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high o'er vales and hills ... With Walter de la Mare we held our breath and observed – Slowly, silently, now the moon, Walks the night in her silver shoon; This way, and that, she peers, and sees, Silver fruit upon silver trees; ... With John Keats we saw Autumn sitting careless on a granary floor, her hair soft lifted by the winnowing wind" ...and with William Shakespeare we helplessly we saw the Othello the Moor "put out the light put out the light". I remember he used to get into an absolute rage when portraying the moments as Lago poisons Othello's mind ... his voice rising in a crescendo, almost screaming, he would 'become' the enraged Othello.

There I was enjoying the performance while the entire office went dead silent, staff stopped work and stared, open mouthed – they thought I was getting blasted to smithereens by the Principal. No I wasn't. Such were English lessons with Shelton Wirasinha. To him it was sharing of knowledge and not teaching it.

Interval

He was so passionately and deeply engrossed that he never heard the interval bell ring. I heard boys playing and shouting outside. He was so engrossed and so he never heard. How on earth could I say "*Sir, Now Stop!!*" Even as an AL student I dared not.

Manel Wirasinha used to send chilled thambili in a tall tumbler. I think he was embarrassed to drink it alone and so I often got half. On bonus days she would send fresh orange juice. There again I got half. Mercifully he did hear the bell at the end of the interval. I used to say, "*Sir the interval is over and I'm not allowed to go to the tuck shop. The prefects will pull me up*". Back came the reply, "*Follow me Putha. I am the Principal*". And so I trotted behind him to the tuck shop which was run by his cousin Sirimal Wijesinghe whose sons Ajith, Ransiri and Sanjeev were also at Wesley. The prefects, obnoxious as they were, took great delight in pulling me up. I had the perfect cover. Cockily I would say – "*Ask the Principal*". They dared not.

Fairplay by all students

ASW never bore grudges and never unfairly penalised students. If he did, I would have been the first. He had taught my Father Justin de Silva at Richmond College Galle, and then many years later my Father then served under him here at Wesley College. Being a Southerner from Ambalangoda, Daddy's temper wasn't the mildest at most times. I, his son, was greatly embarrassed at most times. His colleagues from the staff present here would know it very well.

Daddy was one of Shelton Wirasinha's harshest critics. They often clashed at staff meetings. But never did ASW take it out on me or penalise me.

Then there was the venerable Old Boy Shelton Peries spoke his mind out at Governing Board Meetings. At times he too clashed with Shelton Wirasinha and argued on principle. It was referred to as 'The Battle of the Sheltons'. It was done in the most gentlemanly and dignified manner and when they came out of the meeting – all was forgotten. Peter Peries says that never ever was he penalised for being Shelton Peries' son.

Assemblies and Pronunciation

Shelton Wirasinha was particular about his pronunciation which went beyond being meticulous. His articulation was sound perfect and he made the correct stress on the correct vowel, the correct syllable. Pronouncing the 'V' and 'W' were important to him. He often said, "*You talk to a FACE, not to hair or hands or feet*".

Listening to him talk was like listening to a surgeon's scalpel poetically sliding through a slab of frozen butter You the reader can figure that out!

When we saw him walking down the corridor we knew we were in for a treat at Assembly. He was a grand raconteur, a story teller with a storehouse of stories and tales. He fired our imagination and there were lessons to be learnt

Spelling W-i-r-a-s-i-n-h-a

Shelton Wirasinha was neither fussy nor demanding but there was one thing that irked him a lot and that was when his name was mis-spelt. He would actually get very, very cross. It has to be spelt as W-I-R-A-S-I-N-H-A.

Golden Era of Culture and the Arts

Shelton Wirasinha's era at Wesley was also the Golden Era of Culture and the Arts. During his time, on the staff were great names such as Jayantha Premachandra the international award winning artist, Basil Mihiripenne the celebrated oriental dancer and teacher of great acclaim, Felix Premawardena the dramatist and actor, and, Haig Karunaratne the dramatist and choir master par excellence. They were the Stars of Wesley. We were the little fireflies. In later years were teachers like Gamini Samarakoon and Mr. Nagahawatte to name a few.

He also got involved in directing plays for end of year concerts. The choir was primarily Haig Karunaratne's domain which Shelton Wirasinha never invaded. He got very very marginally involved in the choir and left it all to Mr. Karunaratne.

During Shelton Wirasinha's time, culture and the arts at Wesley were not only of the English 'kultur' kind. Oriental Ballet, Sinhala Drama and Tamil Drama were also nurtured. There was also once the 17th century French playwright Moliere in Sinhala.

Shelton Wirasinha encouraged boys to excel in what they did, and they did.

Peter Peries, was given special permission and three months leave to act in 'The Great Alligator' alongside Hollywood super star Barbara Bach and directed by Sergio Martino.

My batchmate the 16 year old Kamal Addararachchi, was given permission to act in a play called 'Aney Ablik' directed by the German Prof. Norbert Mayer in 1978.

The following year he gave Kamal permission again to act in 'Sagarayak Meda' directed by Gamini Fonseka. Kamal recalls thus, *"That time I was only 17 years. He gave me his total consent and blessings and encouraged me which even my own Father couldn't do"*

Prize Day – Founder's Day

He was very fastidious and paid great attention to detail. Everything had to be perfect. He chose the music with great care. There were two hymns which were close to his heart. One was *"I vow to Thee my Country"* which he played on every Founder's Day morning as the procession of flags entered the Hall to begin the service. This is a British hymn (patriotic song), created in 1921, when a poem by Sir Cecil Spring Rice was set to music by Gustav Holst. The other was *"Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah"* Listening to these two hymns takes me back to my childhood. Hence my special request to the Wesley College Choir to sing these two hymns this evening as we celebrate the life and times of Shelton Wirasinha.

Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child

Shelton Wirasinha was both lenient and tough. The largesse of his heart was legendary, but if a student stepped out of line, well then he had to be corrected.

In those days ... the 1970s and into the 1980s you did NOT spare the rod and spoil the child. You used the cane and corrected the child instead.

I can still hear the occasional whoosh and the swish of the cane in the Principal's / Vice Principal's office and the Head Master Wilfred Wickremasinghe and others, who walked along the corridors, cane in hand, just in case.

Much traffic has passed along Baseline Road since that era and now the cane is taboo.

Project Work

Once in a Prize Day report he said thus : *"The academic straight-jackets that students are compelled to wear must be removed and much greater stress laid upon the training of skills if education is to be more meaningful for the many and support the growing needs of a developing country like Sri Lanka"*.

It was possibly with this in mind that the boys of Wesley were exposed to Project work with the Poor, and the Prisons, as extra-curricular work activities of the seniors.

There were also projects such as the Nutrition and Health study, Mass Communication with special reference to film as a medium, Radio Technology and Marketing Surveys. There was also the Wesley School of Technology headed by Mr. Warnakulasooriya which taught Motor Mechanism, Radio Technology, Electro Technology and Photography.

Beyond State Curriculum

The American Educator - Charles Kendall Adams said: *"No student ever attains very eminent success by simply doing what is required of him: it is the amount and excellence of what is over and above the required that determines the greatness of ultimate distinction"*.

Shelton Wirasinha wanted his students to go beyond the state curriculum, and so he brought in other books, other texts and other sources of information to expose his flock to a 361^o experience. We were richer by the experience.

Sports

In as much as he lent his patronage to culture and the arts at Wesley College, sports was his parallel passion. This was no surprise, given his brilliant sporting record at Richmond College. It was his belief and conviction that sports was critical in making the perfect man. And he was correct.

As I mentioned earlier, to the Richmondites, he was also the Principal who spent his evenings on the playing fields in a pair of billowing old khaki shorts of 1931 vintage. To us Wesleyites he was the side-parted, be-spectacled, bush-shirted man who was seen coaching our cricketers at Campbell Park. Jeremy Brohier recalls how very gently and persuasively ASW coached the boys. He had patience, great patience.

Shelton Wirasinha often said, *"You have to push yet gently and persuasively. You cannot rush a sport. It's like planting a seed, watering it, manuring it, caring for it and watching it grow"*.

He also rejoiced in the successes of his students. For example when 18 year old Navin de Silva selected by Sri Lanka Cricket Association to lead the first ever U-19 Sri Lanka School Boys Cricket

Team to England with his team consisting of players such as Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga, Romesh Kaluwitharana, etc, Shelton Wirasinha was over the moon.

Mahendra Dissanayake recalls how awesome it felt to have the Principal himself coach you in person. It made a great difference to young impressionable minds.

Putha

The charming, dusky damsel who inhabited Karlsruhe House, Dushy Wirasinha, must have been a lucky young lady. She had hundreds of brothers and they were all Wesleyites. He called us 'Putha'. He knew a large, large number of boys by their first names. It was an individual bond he created with all of us. His simplicity and modesty earned for him the love and respect of his students.

Vadai at Galle Face

Shelton Wirasinha also had a life away from the Principal's Office and Wesley College. The man had the right to. And so the BA Fernando's and the VS Fernando's and the Wirasinhas often got into their respective cars and drove to the Galle Face Green. There they laid mats on the green and indulged in their ulundu and masala vadai treats. He loved vadai and this was not to the liking of Manel Wirasinha. She was in the minority and was thus out-numbered. And so she compromised and insisted that the drinking water was always thoroughly boiled and brought from home.

Multi Tasker

He worked hard and long on the National Christian Council and served in the honorary capacity as Chairman of the Broadcasting Committee. As Principal, he also multi-tasked a lot with his calm and collected disposition. He successfully combined both administrative work and teaching duties. The man was accountable to his Conscience and to his God. He lived by example. He was both a Tee-totaller and a non-smoker.

Gladys Manel Dunuwille

To talk of Shelton Wirasinha is also to talk of his wife Manel, Gladys Manel Dunuwille, one of the five extremely talented Dunuwille girls. If Shelton Wirasinha was the Bard of the Wesley Manor, then Manel was the Empress of Karlsruhe. The Bungalow and the Lawn were her realm, and there she reigned supreme in all her glory. She made it her personal vocation to maintain Karlsruhe House like a jewel.

Built around 1860 by Charles Ambrose Lorenz, this is a heritage building and the Jewel in Wesley's Crown. Charles Ambrose Lorenz was one of the most outstanding members of the Burgher community during the 19th century and a member of the Legislative Council. He is was credited with being the architect of the currency ordinance which enacted that Ceylon should switch from the British currency to its own of rupees and for coining the term '*Ceylonese*'.

Charles Ambrose Lorenz was a man of means and had many homes in his life time of 42 years. There were 'Rose Cottage' on the right bank of the Nilwala in Matara his birthplace, 'Lodge Harmony' the more spacious two storeyed house also in Matara, 'Teak Bungalow' in Kalutara commanding a beautiful view of the river and sea, the waters' meet, 'Gatherum' near St. Paul's Kynsey Road, Maradana which had the seclusion of a house in the heart of a forest and 'Elie House', in Mutwal. Karlsruhe was his last home – Charles Rest in German – that's where he died. Lorenz was in not in the best of health when he acquired the land and built on it a spacious house. Came into residence early in 1871, but "Karlsruhe" was his home only for a few months. He passed away on 09th August the same year at 42 years with a fair fortune and no children.

"Karlsruhe" was gifted to Eliza La Brooy, the constant companion and friend of Mrs. Lorenz.

An interesting feature in the house is the historic satinwood screen with a background in the traditional acanthus pattern separating the drawing room from the dining room. The letter 'L' for Lorenz appears in one of the panels, while the other panel bears the letter 'K' for Karlsruhe. Generations of boys knew those polished verandah floors where one can literally see one's face. We weren't allowed to walk on those polished floors. Those who had to, had also to remove their shoes. Even Shelton Wirasinha!!!

Few years ago when Dr. Shanthi McLelland was Principal, with his permission I took great and vicarious pleasure in walking up and down the verandah with my dusty shoes on. I was reliving a childhood fantasy. Believe me I could almost feel Mrs. Wirasinha glaring at me.

The day before Prize Day, it was a treat to see the trophies and cups and shields all polished and gleaming on the verandah. Although out of bounds to lesser mortals like us students, the Bungalow was a veritable cultural oasis. Shelton, Manel and Dushy their daughter shared in their love for music. Mrs. Wirasinha was a double gold medallist of both the Royal and Trinity Schools of Music London. Dushy also played the piano. And so that old Marshall and Rose piano made beautiful music, it sang. It sang happily, it sang dolefully, it sang in different moods and genres.

And the music of the masters - Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, Rachmaninov, Debussy, Bach, Haydn - literally poured out of the Bungalow, over the verandah, across the drive and into Wesley College. To those of us who appreciated it – it was bliss. "It was like going to Heaven and back", says Mrs. BA Fernando.

Post Wesley College

Shelton Wirasinha served Wesley from 1961 to 1983 and then it was time to go. They had to leave the majestic Karlsruhe House. The Wirasinhas were not from the landed gentry. I don't think that even he wasn't aware ... but over 21 years Mrs. Wirasinha had scrupulously saved sufficient money to invest in a house. She told me so. They moved to Nawala, to a much smaller house than Karlsruhe but they were comfortable there.

We were then delighted to see him on television as Quiz Master of the Dulux Do You Know Competitions.

I visited him often during that period. I was then an undergraduate at the University of Kelaniya, reading English and French for the Hons. Degree. Just like it was at Wesley, his library was still open to me. He had taken to private tuition to supplement the family income. Some of the AL texts were modern texts with modern African poets such as Gabriel Okara. Shelton Wirasinha wasn't too familiar with them and so he got me to teach him so he could teach his students in turn. Such was his humility !

As I lay dying

The very last time I visited him was one week before his death in November 1985. He had had hepatitis and was on slow road to recovery. I found him reading a book called '*As I Lay Dying*', a 1930 novel by the American author William Faulkner. Whether this was a premonition or not, I don't know.

It tells the harrowing account of a family's odyssey across the Mississippi countryside to bury Addie, the wife and mother. The story is told in turns by each of the family members, including Addie herself with the novel ranging in mood from dark comedy to the deepest pathos. He told me, "*Putha get this book from the American Centre and read it. They have extra copies*". I borrowed book the very next morning, hoping to read it that night. That evening, 13th November 1985, I learnt that he

was dead, eleven days before his 62nd birthday. I did not open that book. Even to this day I have not read it.

Nineteen years after his demise, the foundation stone for the Shelton Wirasinha Memorial Building was laid by Revd. Noel Fernando, President of the Methodist Church on 02 March 2004. It was declared open exactly a year later, Founder's Day, by Manel Wirasinha.



Kumar de Silva

And so Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope I was able to bring that old sepia photograph back to life and in this short space of time, recreate the living, breathing, multi-dimensional human being I knew him to be and a lot of us knew him to be.

And now that old photograph goes back to hang on that wall and occupy its rightful place in the history of Wesley College as we journey to a glorious 150 years in 2024.

Permit me to close, quoting his words from one of his Wesley College Prize Day Reports:

“We need as a nation to labour on with a new sense of vision and a new hope. The words of Albert Camus come to mind:

Don't walk in front of me I may not follow

Don't walk behind me I may not lead,

Walk beside me and just be my friend”

It is in this spirit of comradeship that we as a nation need to march forward.

It will be the concern of Wesley to help her sons to tread this path, willing to share and willing to sacrifice, to meet the challenge of the future with integrity, putting our whole trust in God and his purposes for this country and this nation” - Arthur Shelton Wirasinha

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Editors note: I had the privilege to study under Shelton Wirasinha's stewardship from 1962 – 1970. I compliment Kumar de Silva for capturing so vividly the Shelton Wirasinha era including his family who were much a part of the Wesley experience for most students at that time. He brought to Wesley, an appreciation of the arts – art, music and dance, drama and an appreciation of the nuances of language and literature– especially English literature, the classics, prose, poetry and oratory.

Well done Kumar!

About the speaker: Kumar de Silva, who has been invited to deliver this inaugural Oration, had his education at Wesley College and came under the direct tutelage of Shelton Wirasinha. An English Honours and French graduate of the University of Kelaniya, he is a Paris-trained television personality.

Multi-lingual de Silva is also a veteran Public Relations and Media Consultant, and, a currently much sought after Personality Development and Corporate Etiquette Trainer. He is also an award-winning media personality, photographer and author.

In recognition of his contribution to promoting the French language and culture in Sri Lanka for more than quarter of a century, de Silva was knighted by the Government of France as 'Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters'.

Catching up with former Wesley cricketer Oscar Dissanayake

Daily News 18/11/2017



Former Wesley College cricketer, Junior Athlete and Senior House Captain, Saracens Sports Club, Burgher Recreation Club, Galle Cricket Club Sara Trophy and Mercantile "B" Division cricketer, Cricket Umpire, Coach and Director Coaching Oscar Dissanayake spoke to the Daily News at his residence in Kotte.

Q. Can you tell something about yourself and your family in brief?

A. *I am Oscar Dissanayake and I was born on 11th August 1953 and I am the only child in our family. My father is Clair Dissanayake and he was at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs and my mother is Iranganie Dissanayake nee Seneviratne. She was a housewife. My wife is Tilaka Dissanayake nee Boange and we have a daughter and we hail from Panadura.*

Q. What is your school?

A. *I studied at Wesley College, Colombo from Lower Kindergarten to Advanced Level and entered in 1958 the Principal was Harold Nonis and my first class teacher was Miss Norma de Silva. Later Shelton Wirasinha assumed duties as the Principal.*

Q. Did you participate in sports?

A. *I played cricket and was a Junior Athlete and a Senior House Captain. I am a right hand bat and a right arm bowler. During my time it was all friendly matches in the under 14 and 16 and traditional matches in the first eleven. I played for the under 14 and was the vice-captain in my first year and my captain was Nilaraj Coomarrowel and the coach and MIC was Shelton Wirasinha. I batted at number three and bowled off spin. My under 16 captain was Tyronne Jansz and L. C. R. Wijesinghe took over as the coach and asked me to open and to concentrate on batting. The following year I captained the under 16 team.*

Q. Did you play for the first eleven?

A. *My first year was in 1968/69 under Amaresh Rajaratnam and the following year too he captained and Edmund Dissanayake was the MIC and Coach. Under Rajaratnam we won the Lifebuoy Trophy I was the Best Batsman that season. In 1970/71 Delmer Achilles captained and I got 566 runs and against Kingswood I scored 81 versus Trinity 81. We beat Thomians. I*

was awarded the Best Batsman Trophy at the College Prize Giving and I won Colours. The following year A. H.A. Cader and Tyronne Jansz led the side.

Q. Did you lead the College team?

A. In 1972/73 I captained Wesley and D. H. de Silva was the coach and MIC was L. C. R. Wijesinghe and my Vice Captain was Granville Hamer. In the Sir Frank Gunasekara Trophy we beat Royal on first innings.

Q. What is your unforgettable match under your leadership?

A. Against Trinity we travelled down to Kandy and Trinity had a very strong side and the match was played on turf but we were used to the matting. They under estimated us and their captain was Ranjith Dissanayake. In this game we won on first innings. Athula Wickramasinghe got a scintillating 107 and I got 74 and put on a record partnership of 177 runs in 114 minutes. The same year against Richmond we won the E. R. de Silva Trophy. In the Kingswood match Rennie Devadasan got 107 and I scored 81 we put on another record partnership of 180 runs.

Q. Can you tell the names of your under 19 squad?

A. Granville Harmer (Vice Captain), Rennie Devadasan, Geethal Peiris, Athula Wickramasinghe, Wilhelm Vandort, Dayalan Sellamuththu, Carlyle Peris, K. Dayaparan, Lalith Fernando, Eric Solomons, Russel Kern, Wavell Perera, Weera Pathirajah, Mahesh Samaraweera, Anura de Silva and Roger Koch

Q. How do you fair in athletics?

A. In the Junior Level I did 100, 200, Relays and High Jump and I was in Lemphers House. In the Senior Level I did not take part in athletics but I was the House Captain of Passmore House.

Q. Did you play club cricket?

A. I played Sara Trophy for Saracens, B.R.C. and Galle CC. Ralston Burke and Percy Perera captained Saracens and I opened with Meryll Dunuwille while Gerry Wouterz and Vernon Wambeck led B. R. C. I opened with Bernard Wijetunge. Saliya Wijewardene and Harith Weerawarna invited me to play for Galle CC and I played under Tissa Dias and Neranjan Withanage and scored six fifties in a row.

Q. What is your employment and did you play cricket for them?

A. I was at Kundanmals and I played in the Mercantile "B" Division and later "C" and "G". I captained in 1981 and scored an unbeaten 130 with Hirdramanis and I carried away the Best Batsman and the Highest Scorer of the tournament in any division trophy called the Bartleet Trophy.

Q. Were you involved in coaching?

A. I am a Level One coach. I commenced with first eleven at St. John's College, Dematagoda, Wesley Juniors, Carey and Sir Baron Jayathilake schools first eleven teams and St. Thomas's Prep. I was an umpire too. In the mean time I got an appointment in Saudi Arabia and I played for ABV Rock Camp. I was the president of Rock City Cricket Club for two years and came to Sri Lanka and went to Doha Qatar. There I coached Lanka Lions cricket team for two

years and I was the Director Coaching of the Qatar Cricket Academy. Then I joined United Nations Mission in Siera Leon and came back to Sri Lanka.

Q. Are you involved with your OBA activities?

A. *I was one of the Vice Presidents of the OBU and a member of the Old Wesleyites Sports Club and a member of Saracens SC and Colts CC and a life member of the Galle CC. In addition I am a Methodist and a member of the Methodist Church, Nugegoda and a Parishioner at Christ Church, Kotte.*

Q. Who is the Best Schoolboy Batsman and Allrounder during your school career and at club level?

A. *The Best Batsman was Roy Dias and Best All-rounder was Garry Melder and at club level it was Anura Tennakoon and Michael Tissera.*

Q. Does your daughter do any sports at school?

A. *Her name is Shivanthi Dissanayake and she was at Ladies College, Colombo. She captained the Schools Senior Table Tennis team. Presently she is domiciled in Australia and both my wife and I might join her soon.*

Q. What is the advice you can give to young sportsmen?

A. *Firstly you must obey your parents, elders and teachers and whatever the religion you are, you must practice it and then the studies. In the present day youngsters doesn't want to take up defeat. For this you must do at least one sport and play the game in true spirit.*

Reflections of Youth

by Shelly Middleton

I watch them from afar as they play.
I listen to the words they say.
They laugh and love with such freedom.
Problems show no rhyme nor reason.
They look through eyes that see a land
Full of castles made out of sand.
Kings and Queens, dragons and fairies,
Not war and strife wrecked with worry.
Oh! to be the youth of the past,
To live the fantasy and make it last.
But alas, youth has passed away.
Reality is the house where I stay.
And though I mourn the youth I've lost,
I rejoice as I measure the cost.
I may be wrinkled, my hair may be gray.
But the life I have lead will be rewarded some day.

From the Archives – Prize Giving Day 11th March 1911

The Prize-Distribution at Wesley College took place on Saturday afternoon, March 11th. The Hon. Mr. A. Fairlie presided, and the others accommodated on the platform were: The Rev. W. H. Rigby, the Rev. H Highfield, Mr. K. W. B. MacLeod (Mayor of Colombo), Mr. O.Hattley, Mr. C. P. Dias, the Rev. P. T. Cash, and the Rev. H. Binks. After an opening hymn and prayer by the Rev. H. Binks the report of the school having been read by Mr .Highfield, the Chairman rose to address the assembly.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH. Mr. Fairlie said: - Mr. Principal, Old Boys and friends of this College, I am pleased to be here this afternoon, and I think it is very encouraging to the Principal and boys of this College, to see such a muster of friends upon this occasion. Apparently, there was no annual large gathering last year, and you are here on this occasion in large numbers. The report which has been presented shows the progress of the work during the course of the year. I notice that Mr. Highfield has taken up the question of Commercial Education; I think it is important that this question should be taken up as a good thing without any delay. I am glad to notice also that he emphasizes the importance of the subject of Botany. It is important that the country should be developed, and I am of opinion that there is among our young men a large number who should attach themselves to their land. And if they are to cultivate the land intelligently. They must study these two subjects, Agriculture and Botany, For this reason I think it is important in a College such as this, where many of the boys come from country districts. that these subjects should be taught and encouraged, I have noticed the reference in the Report to the boarding, I think it is a very important point, Mr. Highfield, some years ago, and those connected with him, had some difficulty over the removal of this College from the centre of the town to this splendid site which is bound to have an increasing population round it during the coming years. Mr. Highfield was more farsighted than Government.

Government are only beginning now to move their Royal College from its present busy site in the Pettah to a healthier one close to the Race course. Mr. Highfield started his work several years ago. when land and material were very much cheaper than it is now I think Mr. Highfield is to be heartily congratulated in having this land secured and erecting this building upon it, I notice that a boarding-house has been started. I think this is also an important matter. We are Sorry that Mr. Highfield is again contemplating leaving for home and our best wishes go with him; and we trust that he will come back with renewed vigour to carry on the work which he has carried on here. Of late, the question , of Education' has received much more attention than it used to get during the past 30 years great strides have been made in connection with education in our own nation, in Europe, and the United States of America, and also in the East, especially in Japan, but to a lesser degree in India and in Ceylon. This question of Education is being forced upon us. I think Government have done wisely in not pressing for compulsory education in an island such as this, at the present time, Government are encouraging education in many ways. All estates have to provide for schools and teachers, but the boys and girls on the estates are not compelled to attend school. I have no doubt that will come later. The village communities have 'a right to

make education compulsory in certain districts. Government seem to realise that a too hasty compulsory education may upset the existing conditions. In Great Britain probably 80 per cent of the population could read and write before the compulsory Law was passed. In Ceylon, I suppose more than 90 per cent cannot read and write.

It seems, therefore, desirable, to proceed cautiously as there are certain dangers to be guarded against. You know that an educated scoundrel is worse than an ordinary scoundrel. In my city, they started some years ago a free museum and a library. The first interesting event in connection with the library was a law case. A young man, who had been out of employment, attended the library and read certain books and by chance among them he read a book which taught him how to distil whisky. He bought the necessary apparatus, and turned out for six months.

I suppose, what was excellent whisky, and sold it without paying one cent of Duty, and was sent to jail. Unless' education is carefully guarded, and directed, there may be dangerous results to the community. In colleges such as this, education will benefit those who attend them and education is given in such a way by those who are in charge that the boys really become educated. In my city there was a wonderful professor who died recently and his ability brought him to the notice of Government who agreed that he should be knighted, so he proceeded to London and got his knighthood. During his absence, an assistant had been teaching the class which used to be taken by the professor who was a capable man with enormous brain power, Nobody in the class actually understood the professor. The assistant, who perhaps had not such great learning, made himself quite understood to the class, and when the announcement was made that the professor was coming back, a wag of the College took a chalk and wrote upon the blackboard of the College, " Night cometh and no man can work," You students are to be congratulated in having a principal and professors in this College whom you can follow easily. I am glad that Mr. Highfield is not going to give up classics. I must, congratulate you on the success which has attended this College, I hope, those boys who have not been successful in securing prizes this year will be stimulated to greater exertions. You know some of you are more gifted than others. Generally, the boy who works hard and steadfastly succeeds.

The Principal said that kind letters, expressing inability to be present, had been received from the Director of Public Instruction from Nuwara Eliya, and from Sir Allan Perry, and from other friends from outstation places. The prizes were then given away by the Hon. Mr.Fairlie.

Source: Double Blue International <http://www.wesleycollege.biz/recollections1.html#r85>

***Whoever pursues righteousness and love
finds life, prosperity and honor.***

[Proverbs 21:21](#)

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?

[Mark 8:36](#)



OBITUARIES

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

PETER CASIE-CHETTY AKA PETER CHRISTIE – August 2017

From the Daily Mirror of 8th August 2017

Peter Christie (Casie Chetty) — a well-known cricketer, veteran journalist, international chef and musician among other talents— passed away last week at Liverpool in Britain. He was 71.

Peter William Sinclair Christie, he later took his mother's name Casie Chetty, was one of the leading cricketers at Wesley College where he emerged for many years as the highest wicket-taker in school. One of his most notable achievements was a hat-trick against Trinity College. He later played for the Bloomfield Sports Club and Burgher Recreation Club (BRC) in first division cricket.

Peter Christie or Casie Chetty took to journalism as a sports reporter for the Daily News in the 1970s. Being enterprising, innovative and wanting to specialize in other fields also, he went overseas to France, Britain and other countries.

Later in life he came back to journalism and worked for several years at the Daily Mirror with his knowledge of sports and imaginative writing style being widely acclaimed specialize in other fields also, he went overseas to France, Britain and other countries. Family members say one of his great achievements was as an international chef, making dishes that were as tasty as his spin bowling and writing style.

Though he suffered many illnesses, Peter was known for his laughter and good humour, forgetting whatever trials or tribulations he may have been going through.



With Mike Christoffelsz in York five days before he died

May his soul rest in the peace of God.

From Dr Nihal D Amerasekera, Double Blue International Website

A voice of honesty and integrity for all matters about Wesley has gone silent with the passing of a dear friend, Peter Casiechetty. Although he antagonised some with his rhetoric he was a good man and had a heart of gold. Despite writing about many controversial issues about school over so many years not once have I had any verbal duel with Pete. There were times we agreed to disagree like Wesleyites should.



Peter was an honest man and no one doubted his intense loyalty to Wesley. He carried these traits with him all through life in an uncompromising way. Although I disliked the language he used at times there was some truth and a lot of sincerity in his arguments.

Death is the great reminder that this life is limited, and that it may not be the end. For most of our lives, we behave as if this is not so. Many of us know that Peter was an outspoken atheist and of his hostile views on religion but deep down he believed in the teachings that were drilled into him all through school. This surfaced unknowingly to him in times of crises.

On behalf of the Brotherhood of Wesleyites I thank Peter for his contribution to the life of the school. His contribution to cricket on and off the field and his well publicised disagreements and battles by email will pass on to the folklore of the school.

The myriad of Wesley Old Boy's emails that surf the ether and reach our homes will never be the same again without Peter's colourful expletives and profanities. He kept us on our toes!!

Away from the unparliamentary outbursts Peter was a fine journalist with a good command of the English language. He has contributed numerous interesting and informative articles to the Sri Lankan newspapers and to Wesley College Websites. Here are some he has written for the Double Blue International.

There are many who genuinely feel privileged they knew him. I will miss Peter's cheeky grin and friendly smile.

GRANT HIM O LORD
ETERNAL PEACE

ROGER HILLS – November 2017

IN NEW ZEALAND

DHIREN PERERA - November 2017

IN EUROPE

RANJIT FERNANDO (BCRN) – September 2017

IN USA

ROBIN JAYATILLEKE – August 2017

IN AUSTRALIA

RUSSELL NATHANIELSZ - July 2017

GERALD DE ZILWA - August 2017

HAIG MALONEY – September 2017

LT CMDR DERRICK MACK - October 2017

**BREAKING NEWS FROM
PERTH, WA
SHERIFF FALLIL –
December 2017**

IN SRI LANKA

TUAN MOHAMED WEERZAN MUTALIPH (CLANCY) – May 2017

JEHAN CASSIM – July 2017

KENNETH HONTER – August 2017

ROGER BAKELMUN – October 2017

GRAHAM DISSANAYAKE – November 2017

**BREAKING NEWS FROM
COLOMBO
NIHAL (MNG) PERERA
BROTHER OF UPALI (MUJ)
- December 2017**

*An honest man here lies at rest,
The friend of man, the friend of truth,
The friend of age, and guide of youth:
Few hearts like his, with virtue warm'd,
Few heads with knowledge so inform'd;
If there's another world, he lives in bliss;
If there is none, he made the best of this.*

Robert Burns

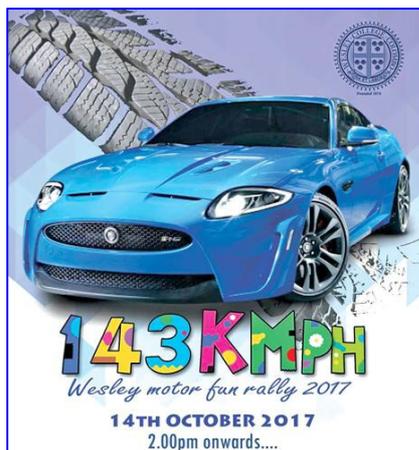
News from Colombo

Sources: www.wesleycollege.lk and www.wesleyobu.lk

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR TYRONE JANSZ

A Memorial Service for Tyrone Jansz was held on Tuesday 17 October 2017 at the College Chapel, followed by dinner at the Old Wesleyites Sports Club hosted by TJ's widow Bernadine. It was a very moving service and there were around 60 people at the Chapel and the club that was made up of Tyrone's class mates, friends and team mates. Haig Karunaratne was also there and shared some memories of Tyrone. Edward Vanden Driessen and Braden Koch shared some reflections on Tyrone's life, and Roger Koch and Rene Devadason who was Tyrone's team mate did the prayers and blessing. The Service went off well.

WESLEY COLLEGE ALUMNI'S FIRST EVER FUN MOTOR RALLY



Wesley College celebrated 143 years of existence in March earlier this year and the celebrations go on with the Annual Dinner dance which was held on 21st October at the Cinnamon Grand. Preceding the dance was the first ever Wesley Alumni organized Fun Motor Rally which was held on Saturday 14th October flag off from Campbell Park was at 1.00pm. The Fun Motor Rally lived up to its tag with many interesting and fun filled facets which was incorporated in its course. The Rally was conducted under the auspices of the Motor Rally Association of Sri Lanka and conforming to city traffic police laws.

The Motor Rally is a first ever done under the flag of Wesley College and its Alumni and undertaken with tremendous enthusiasm. The Old Boys Union of Wesley College and the Old Wesleyites Sports Club under respective stewardships of Mr. Wilhelm Van Dort – President OBU, and Mr. Farman Cassim - President OWSC leading from the front ensured both events went off well. The Fun Motor Rally project was chaired by former OBU/OWSC President Mr. Richie Sappideen.

An “after party” followed the Motor Rally at the OWSC premises. A Bouncer for children, DJ, food stalls with favourite beverages on special offers was available. It was entertainment for the family.

ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

The Annual Prize Giving was held on the 13th June, 2017 at the distinguished Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH) at 4:30 p.m. and was graced by the Presence of the Chief Guest, Dr Gayan Jayakody - Senior Management Consultant , Postgraduate Institute of Management- University of Sri Jayawardenapura.

The Double Blue ball 2017 – Broadway Classics



The Double Blue ball 2017 – Broadway Classics organised by the OWSC and the OBU was held at the Oak Room Cinnamon Grand Colombo on 21st October. The event was sold out one month before the tickets were printed and close to 500 attended the glamorous themed event with 1920's styled décor and dress. D Zone and Wildfire provided the music. There were a number of old Wesleyites who



attended from overseas including two tables from Australia. The Wesley teaching legend **Haig Karunaratne** was also in attendance enjoying himself.

Completing 25 years of Service at Wesley

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

We recognize with gratitude the faithful and dedicated services of:

Mr Duminda Kumarathunga - President of the teachers guild and Advance Level Commerce Sectional Head

Mr Jayantha Padmasiri - Advance Level Maths Master

Mrs Daphny Athirshakumar - Secretary of the teachers guild

Mrs Shanthi de Silva - Librarian

as they complete 25 years of service at Wesley College, Colombo. Their Pedagogical leadership in instilling lasting values, while promoting diversity and equity among the students is much valued by the Wesley Family.

Adeetha Siriwardena Excels in Swimming

Thursday, June 29, 2017

Born in February 2008, Adeetha Siriwardena started his swimming career at Wesley College by competing in the 2014 College Inter House Championship which was held in November 2014. He was the youngest swimmer to participate in the age group category and became under 9 Wesley College Age Group Champion defeating swimmers who are 3 years elder to him. He has five under 9 College Swimming Records under his name. During the years 2014/2017, he has won more than 60 medals & number of trophies in numerous Swimming Championships in the country and abroad.

FLOOD RELIEF

Thursday, June 29, 2017

"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." — Winston S. Churchill

We are grateful to the many who contributed towards the Flood Relief programme of Wesley College. Our gratitude to the batches of 90, 94 & 96 for their timely contribution which of course paved way for our team to assist the devastated community which was heavily affected by the recent floods, in the Hiniduma and Thavalama areas. We appreciate the contributions received from our own students who had contributed generously towards this initiative of the school.

An overview of the distribution:

A donation of agricultural equipment was made to the Hiniduma Mallika Maha Vidyalaya .

- The Thavalama National School (Primary) was donated with stationery worth Rs.150,000/-
- Dry rations & clothes were handed over to the Hiniduma Methodist Church, which would be distributed among the flood victims through the Grama Niladari.

Daiyan Sabar

Monday, July 10, 2017

Daiyan Sabar will be representing Sri Lanka U18 rugby 7's team to take part in the Commonwealth Games 2017. We wish him all the very best as he represents the country.

Inter School Science Quiz Competition 2017

Monday, July 10, 2017

Wesley College bags off the championship in the Inter - School Science Quiz Competition - 2017, which was held on the 9th of July, 2017, by the Amal International School. Our heartiest congratulations to the team which comprises of Umar Hashim, Irshan Rafeek, Judah Christopher, Tamal Ediriwikramasooriya & Leon Silva.

Avishka Lee will be representing Sri Lanka

Sunday, July 30, 2017

Avishka Lee will be representing Sri Lanka National Under-20 7s team that will represent the country at the Asian 7s Series which begins in Hong Kong next Friday. We wish him all the very best as he represents the country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JUNIORS OF WESLEY!

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Our students from the Junior section were awarded the 1st place for their amazing performance at the Zonal English Day Singing Competition.

We wish Jason Thilakasiri, Abishai Vasanthakumar, Tahir Bazeer, Joshua Peiris, Ranmeth Wijerathne, Dhakir Aniff, Thineth Jayasinghe, Vishwa Fernando, Menuk Fernando, Devish Wijekumar, Sunesh Perera, Shenuka Gomes, Sathsara Satharasinghe, Jenon Perera, Dyan Mahanama, Lismika Naodka, Akindu Athauda & Amanda Fernando all the very best.

PRIMARY STUDENTS OF WESLEY BECOME 2ND AT THE ZONAL ENGLISH DAY COMPETITION

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Primary Students of Wesley became the Runners Up at the Zonal English Day competition which was held recently. Our heartiest congratulations to the winners comprising of: Kevan De Silva, Yasiru Perera, Bhagya Perera, Ifthifaath Abdeen, Dulaj Gamage, Ishan Vimalanathan, Sehandu Athauda, Shoshan Nathaniyel, Yusuf Thurab, Niqash Jayah, Aadam Thurab, Akil Jahn, Aaqib Rafi, Nethul Jayasinghe, Miranga De Silva Senanayake & Seth Jayawardena.

1ST PLACE AT THE ALL ISLAND RECORDER COMPETITION (JUNIOR)

Tuesday, August 8, 2017

Wesley won the 1st place at the All Island Recorder competition (Junior), which was conducted by the Ministry of Education. We congratulate the following students on their accomplishment: Akindu Athauda, Joshua Simon, Vishwa Fernando, Senthune Soundararajan, Annan Khan, Sunesh Perera, Joel Fernando, Lismika Naodka, Sathsara Satharasinghe, Amirthalingam Loshan, Randeew Senanayake, Deron De Silva, Abdullah Siddeek, Vinoth Benjamin & Ayesh Ravishan.

CRICKET TOUR OF THE UNDER 15 & 17 CRICKET TEAMS

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

31 students from the Under 15 & 17 Cricket teams of Wesley College, will be leaving to Bangalore, India on 23rd August, 2017, along with their Master in charge and the Coaches, to play a few matches.

Shakespeare Drama Competition 2017

Monday, October 2, 2017

Wesley College drama team fought hard in the finals of the Shakespeare drama competition on 30th September 2017. Wesley became 2nd for the first time in the History. College is proud of the boys and thankful to the director Mr. Kevin Cruze for training the boys. Special thank you goes to Batch of 2002 (Asitha Etipola, Shamaz Hossen, Asanka Edirisinghe, Eksath Perera, Deshaka Perera, Ruzni Raheem, Manoshanth underaj, Dilshan Boange, Kumudith Ratnayake, Sanka Jayanada, Rilwan Careem, Rumesh Fernando, Jerome Anandaraj, and Uditha Hapuarachchi) for their contribution.

Wesleyites excel in drama

Tuesday, November 21, 2017

Print Edition. Daily News.

For the first ever time in history Wesley College won the runners up trophy at the Inter School Shakespeare Drama Competition. The Interschool Shakespeare Drama Competition is one of the most highly anticipated events in the drama circles. The event was held for the 44th time recently.

This competition began in 1951, shortly after Sri Lanka gained independence. Thespians Oliver



Swaris and Anthony Rayer spearheaded the competition to encourage a love of Shakespeare amongst the school students. This event was eventually revived by the Rotary Club of Colombo North with the aid of the Colombo Y.M.C.A in 1973. This year 19 boys schools and 15 girls schools competed for the coveted title in their respective categories.

Wesley College Colombo has always been an active participant in this competition for many years and in the history of this competition in the recent past. Students from the Drama Society have taken part with the great enthusiasm in the event encouraged by its principal Avanka Fernando, Chaplin Rev Obeth Thevanesan and teacher in charge of the Wesley College Drama Society Anusha Senaratna. They were supported by the director of the production Kevin Cruze. The Best Actor award was won by Taariq Jurangpathy. The first student from Wesley to win this title was Brandon Ingram in 1999.

The young and energetic cast comprised of Hashen Rathnayaka, Taariq Jurangpathy, Shakib Hisham, Zaahid Aman, Sushendra Peiris, Murthaaz Barry, Muaad Razick, Nabeel Barry, Draveen Ahmadeen,

Fulail Thaha, Aqeel Mohideen, Nadeem Ashraff, Adib Mubark, and Akhlaq Ghazzali.

Newly elected President of the Wesley College Drama Society Murthaaz Barry was very keen to take the College Drama society to great heights by winning the championship in the year to come with the support of the seniors.

14th Colombo Scout Troop celebrates 100 years

Kingfisher Patrol

Leopards Patrol

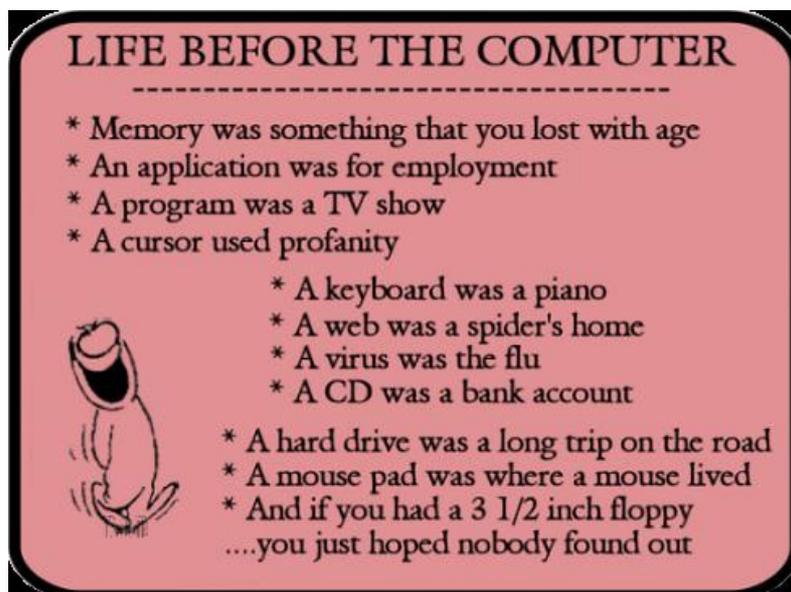
Eagles Patrol

Cheetahs Patrol

Peacocks Patrol

Woodpeckers Patrol

Congratulations



SPORTS UPDATE

We take pleasure in presenting a brief report of the Sports Activities carried out during the months of July and August 2017.

SENIOR CRICKET

Our 1st XI Cricket season is about to begin. While our fixture card is on print, we deem it fit to keep our Sports loving fraternity informed of the 3rd term fixtures which are as follows : -

DATE FIXTURE VENUE

22ND & 23RD SEPTEMBER 2017 VS. ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE HOME

29TH & 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017 VS. ST. PETERS' COLLEGE AWAY

6TH & 7TH OCTOBER 2017 VS. NALANDA COLLEGE AWAY

13TH & 14TH OCTOBER 2017 VS. DHARMARAJA COLLEGE AWAY

20TH & 21ST OCTOBER 2017 VS. ST. BENEDICTS COLLEGE AWAY

27TH & 28TH OCTOBER 2017 VS. ST. SERVATIUS COLLEGE HOME

1ST & 2ND NOVEMBER 2017 VS. KINGSWOOD COLLEGE HOME

10TH & 11TH NOVEMBER 2017 VS. GURUKULA COLLEGE HOME

17TH & 18TH NOVEMBER 2017 VS. PRINCE OF WALES HOME

24TH & 25TH NOVEMBER 2017 VS. JOSPEH'S VAZ COLLEGE HOME

JUNIOR CRICKET

As indicated in our 2nd quarter report both our under 17 and under 15 (A) teams fared exceptionally well in reaching the knock out stage of the All Island Inter School Tournaments of those age groups. The following exceptional performances are worthy of special mention.

UNDER 17

- The skipper Thisuraka Akmeemana scored a century against Nalanda College.
- Kavindana Perera scored 2 nineties
- On our way to the quarter finals we beat Nalanda and St. Josephs which are very good sides.
- Movin Subasinghe had match bags of 6 wickets against Nalanda and Carey.

UNDER 15

- It is indeed remarkable that an Under 15 team recorded as many as 5 centuries (2 by Muftee Mysan, 2 by Sahil Dias and the other by Sidath Dharmasiriwardane (153 not out))
- More than four 5 wicket hauls.
- A record partnership of 183 between Sidath Dharmasiriwardane and Muftee Mysan.

TOUR OF BANGALORE, INDIA

We are pleased to report that our Under 17 and under 15 teams toured Bangalore, India from 23rd to 30th August 2017. According to our recollection this is the first time that our Cricket teams have toured abroad. Both teams won all their matches in India.

JUNIOR RUGBY

Our under 12 A team became champions in the all island interschool rugby tournament beating Trinity, St. Anthony's and Science College.

Our under 16 team qualified for the quarter finals of the Inter School Tournament and are presently relegated to the Bowl having lost to Science College.

BASKETBALL

As reported earlier we have begun to win matches in Basketball as well. Our Under 17 team playing in the "C" Division beat Lyceum 31 / 15 and Karandeniya Central 42 / 18 before losing to St. Aloysius 49 / 32.

DEVELOPMENT OF HAVELOCK PRIMARY

We have already announced our long term plan to make the Havelocks Primary which has 800 children below 12 years age, to be the Nursery from which talent is spotted at an early age. Such talent will thereafter be carefully nurtured and developed, so that the need to import players will gradually decline.

With this in mind we have already introduced Cricket, Tennis, Badminton, Table Tennis, Swimming and Chess to Havelocks and are also in the process of including Basketball and Rugger.

It is now opportune to keep our Sports loving fraternity updated with a brief report of the activities we undertook during September and October 2017, despite the continuous inclement weather that prevailed during this period. The current N / E Monsoon which normally is somewhat moderate in the Western sector of Country during this time of year, has tended to be much more intense.

Our 1st XI team began the new season in an inauspicious note by being defeated outright by St. Anthony's College Kandy. The performance thereafter has improved though we need to further improve as the season progresses. A glance of the results to-date is reflected below.

1. Lost outright to St. Anthony's College Kandy
Wesley 140 and 112
St. Anthony - 265
2. Match against St. Peters was drawn while St. Peters earned 1st innings points.
St. Peters 250 Wesley 134 and 169
3. Beat St. Benedicts outright
St. Benedicts 122 and 176 .
Wesley 130 and 171 for 8
4. Wesley Vs St. Servatius Matara was drawn with the latter obtaining a 1st inning win. Incidentally St. Servatius were All Island Under 17 Champions last year.
St. Servatius 169. Wesley 75 and 135 for 6

JUNIOR CRICKET

The 3 under 13 teams representing the School has thus far put up an average display while most matches were disrupted due to rain.

SOCCER

It will be recalled that Wesley created a sensation early this year by winning the Zahira Sevens, which was always dominated by the hosts. This has resulted in Zahira abandoning the sevens tournament and replacing it with Zahira Elevens. Wesley became Plate Runners Up in that tournament which was concluded recently.

In the All Island under 19 tournament we have now reached the quarter finals by defeating Ananda 5 / 0 and drawing our match against Thurstan.

HOCKEY

We have had to completely revamp Hockey due to lack of interest among seniors. A strategic change was made by inducing the soccer players, to play Hockey. In order to achieve the desired outcome the Master in charge has been appointed to manage both games.

It was no surprise that we lost Royal in our Annual Encounter by 4 goals to nil.

BASKETBALL

In the Cager Tournament held on 30th September at Royal College, we lost to Royal A and beat Royal B team. We followed up by defeating D. S. Senanayake College and emerged Runners Up in the tournament.

COLOURS AND AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

We will conduct our Colours Night for the 3rd consecutive year on 6th December 2017 at the College Hall. This has now become a major event eagerly looked forward to by the Sportsmen of the School.

Clifford Rodrigo

SPORTS ADMINISTRATOR

Former Wesley captain Zaliq Jayah to lead in Dubai Sevens

DUBAI: Lanka Lions bolstered by fresh young talent are determined to regain the Gulf Men's Open title at the forthcoming Emirates Airline Dubai Sevens Rugby tournament.

Former Wesley and CH and FC three quarter Zaliq Jayah will be leading the side for the first time in the blue riband rugby event in the UAE which begins on November 30 at The Sevens Stadium.

"I'm really honoured to become the captain of Lanka Lions and thank to the (Lanka Lions Sports Club) committee for supporting me and the boys for having faith in me to lead this side," said Jayah, 27, who captained Wesley College in 2008 and represented Southern Sharks at the Carlton International Sevens in Sri Lanka in 2013.



WESLEY COLLEGE (COLOMBO) OLD BOYS' UNION AUSTRALIA BRANCH INC
 PO Box 123, Mulgrave, Victoria 3170
 E-mail: secretarywcobua@gmail.com

10 December 2017

Preliminary Notice of Annual General Meeting

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Constitution of the Wesley College (Colombo) Old Boys' Union Australia Branch Inc., I, Brian Azoor, Secretary of the above Association, hereby give notice of the Annual General Meeting for 2018

1. Venue: Waverly Community Centre, 47 Miller Cres: Mt: Waverly 3149 (Melway Ref: 70E1)
 Date: Sunday 25th February, 2018
 Time: **11:00am – 2pm**
2. Nomination for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and four General Committee positions are called for on the attached form.
3. Please forward any motions to be tabled at the above Annual General Meeting in writing. The motion should have a Proposer and Secunder who should be a financial member in 2017.
4. All duly completed nomination forms and motions should reach the Secretary by Monday 29th January, 2018. Please address all correspondence to PO Box 123, Mulgrave 3170.



Brian Azoor
Secretary

**NOMINATION FORM
 WESLEY COLLEGE (COLOMBO) OLD BOYS' UNION AUSTRALIA BRANCH
 INCORPORATED**

Position

Name of Nominee Signature

Proposer Signature

Secunder Signature

Date/...../2018

NB: Only Members that are financial in 2017 can be nominated. The Proposer, Secunder and those eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting must be financial members in 2017.

Date received:/...../201

Dates for your Diary 2018

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
	<p>Annual General Meeting Sunday 25/02/2018</p>	<p>Sri Lankan Schools 6 a-side Cricket Monday 12/03/2018</p>
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
	<p>Winter Warm Up Saturday 12/05/2018</p>	
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
		<p>Kingswood College Rugby Sevens Date to be notified</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>Double Blue Ball Saturday 6/10/2018</p>	<p>OBUA Members Lunch Sunday 25/11/2018</p>	<p>Combined College of Sri Lanka Carol Service Sunday 2/12/2018</p>