

Welcome to Double Blue Links

As we see from the websites, Facebook pages and Twitter accounts, Wesley College Colombo and its Old Boys have joined the digital revolution. Over many years we have scanned the world wide web, spoken to old boys and leaders of the many organisations of the school to collect information for the Double Blue International and the ever popular Australian OBU Newsletter. We feel strongly there is now a need for an International Newsletter. We both realize the enormity of the task. Those long days and nights spent on the creation of the DBI and OBUA Newsletter gave us a wonderful insight into the richness of life and achievements of this great school. Time is precious. Content is not cost free. Writing is work. There are no advertising revenues and no sponsorships. But it is a pleasure and a privilege to be the editors of this Newsletter and collate the news and views about our school.

A Newsletter is only as good as the support it receives from the old boys. Any news about the school and its OBU's and members will be most welcome. Please keep us informed of the old boys' achievements, marriages and obituaries.

Facts are sacred but comment is free. We hope the old boys will be able to express their views freely and fairly. The Double Blue Link is not an official newsletter of Wesley College Colombo or its Old Boys Unions although we have common objectives.

Fraternally yours



Nihal & Keith
Editors

Website: <http://www.wesleycollegecolombo.info/index.html>

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FOREWORD

Showers of Blessings

Congratulations to Dr. Nihal Amarasekera and Keith de Kretser for their efforts to design a newsletter called the Double Blue Link. The remit is to collect information about the school and its old boys and disseminate the news to our brotherhood round the globe. My best wishes for this glorious adventure. I wish this unique exploration all success.

It is not time to rest. It is again time to take Wesley to the next level. Wesley is fortunate to have two great minds who are ardent and very loyal authors for the newsletter. Once again Dr. Nihal Amarasekera will work together with Keith de Kretser to intertwine the past, the present and the future to create a thought-provoking newsletters for the Old Boys, Parents, Present Boys and Well-wishers to optimise the journey to celebrate Wesley's achievements. Thank you very much. All Wesleyites will appreciate your fortitude.

I am sure the communication will bring news to all those who are concerned and fascinated about the future of Wesley College Colombo. Please take the time to contribute all the thoughts and memories you have to integrate data to make the mail valuable to those who will benefit in the future. I know that time is a constraint, but give your time and effort to make this a very popular and widespread venture for Wesley. I am sure you will do it and will enjoy the effort.

In the year 2000 Dr. Nihal Amarasekera designed with a lot of determination to bring the Double Blue International website into reality. It was not easy. Not too much of support was given when it was started. There was no hope or expectations from it. Once it was designed and published it brought a lot of Wesley supporters together. The real value was identified and recognized by the present students, old boys from around the world, parents of the school and well-wishes from all quarters. Today it stands out to be one of the best websites in the domain. The value and significance will be more in years to come, with history written now before it is lost in the minds of the younger generation.

This is not only for 141 years of history to be researched and reported. Communication is one of the foundational elements of good letter writing. It is essential for a positive user experience and for a successful letter that will truly benefit the school. It is now time to generate new ideas to take Wesley to a higher level. It is your turn to make this a reality. Take your pen and make your contribution with the passion and the love for Wesley. Let these communications be an enormous success story of the future.

Let us say: Well Done Boys of Wesley! Good luck!

Dr. Shanti McLelland
Principal Wesley College 2009-2014

“We know what we are, but know not what we may be.” William Shakespeare

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ALUMNI S
ASSOCIATION

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Old Boys Union Colombo

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Secretary: Sri Shammugalingam Mobile: 0777765163 Email: trustsri@sltnet.lk
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Old Boys Union Australia (Melbourne)

President: Reg Bartholomeusz Tel: +613 9877 1689 Email: reg.bartholomeusz@hotmail.com
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Old Boys Union U.K.

At the time of publication, there is no website or any record of the current office bearers and contacts. Details will be gratefully received. Editors.

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COLOMBO

JUNE OWSC AGM

OWSC will take part in the Colombo Big Match JULY
Old Boys Cricket Carnival

NOV Double Blue Dance

DEC Carol Service

OBU/OWSC Christmas Party

Notes

- OBU Ongoing project Re-Issuing of membership cards and updating of membership.
- The Colombo Big Match is organised by International Cricket Services (pvt) Ltd consisting of 8 schools OBA.
- OWSC conducts monthly theme nights and quarterly club nights. The 90's show.

AUSTRALIA

Melbourne

23 May Curry Nite

3 October Double Blue Ball, The Grand

CJ Oorloff Golf Trophy (Wesley v Trinity)

6 Dec Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Carol Service

13 Dec Seniors Lunch

Sydney

26 April Lunch with Rev. Ebenezer Joseph (Act. Principal)

26 Sept. 26th Double Blue Spring Ball at Epping Club, Epping

28 Nov. Annual Christmas Party

Double Blue Links June 2015

Wesley College Scholarship Fund

Wesley College is pleased to announce that a new Scholarship Account has been opened by the school, to allow Wesleyites and friends who may wish to contribute towards scholarships at Wesley, to do so. The account will be controlled by the school. The ability of the school to provide scholarships will, understandably, depend entirely on the money available in the account.

Contributions can be made as:

1. Lump sums, the interest on which will be used to meet scholarship needs.
2. Periodic contributions, which will be used to meet scholarship needs.

Donors of lump sums and/or long period of commitment will be entitled to have a particular scholarship or scholarships awarded in a name they specify. The school will provide a report each year to donors, showing lump sum contributions held and interest received on these funds, other contributions received during the year and the manner in which money available has been used during the year.

Types of scholarships envisaged are:

1. Academic scholarships

Grade 5 scholarships: to those who excel at national level or perform particularly well at school level; these may include full scholarships and partial scholarships.

G C E (Ordinary Level): to those who perform particularly well at the exams; these may include full scholarships and partial scholarships.

To those whose academic performance and behaviour have been consistently good and whose parents / guardians require financial support; the scholarships may be a full or partial scholarship and may be subject to being applicable for a prescribed period of time.

2. Sports scholarships:

Candidates need to be endorsed by the Sports Council as excelling in sports or extra-curricular activity and who are in need of financial assistance. They may be full or partial scholarships and may be subject to being applicable for a prescribed period of time.

The criteria above may be made more specific with the passage of time.

COST OF SCHOLARSHIP

- Day Scholar – Academic Rs 35,000/ per year
- Day Scholar – Sports Rs 45,000/ per year
- Hostel Scholar - Academic – Rs 145,000/ per year
- Hostel Scholar – Sports – Rs 155,000/ per year

The continuation of scholarships will be contingent on continuing good performance and good behaviour of the student.

All decisions on the granting or discontinuation of scholarships will be at the discretion of the Principal, who is not required to provide any reason for discontinuing the scholarship. As far as possible, donors' contributions will be used to meet costs associated with their selected scholarship.

At this point, the writer will administer the scheme until a person is appointed by the school to manage the scholarship programme.

Account details are:

Wesley College Scholarship
Account Bank of Ceylon Colombo
08. Account No: 77089169
Swift Code: BCEYLKX
Bank Code: 7010
Branch Code: 038

When funds are transferred, please send email to writer Richie.S@lk.emiratesline.com and Secretary to Principal Ms Rose Wong wong27rose@gmail.com

Richie Sappideen

HIGHFIELD BLOCK REFURBISHMENT

The Highfield Block Refurbishment is still ongoing.

The contractor encountered issues (shortage of labour) due to the long Sinhala/Tamil New Year and the Vesak holidays. The term holidays were also very short. Between 8th and 21st April only. Nevertheless we have seen huge transformation of the classrooms. Specifically note - Floor redone, fresh paints, new grills, new/redone windows, new circuit breakers, switches etc.

Thanks again for your support. We have a lot more classrooms/labs to do.

Anyone wishing to donate towards the classroom re-furbishment project should contact Richie Sappideen Richie.S@lk.emiratesline.com



From the Archives



1874

Wesley College Colombo - Sri Lanka A Brief early history of Wesley College Colombo

Wesley College is named after John Wesley (1703-1791), the founder of the Methodist Church. An Oxford graduate, he was one of the greatest evangelists in the history of the Christian Church. A preacher of great power and an organiser of genius, he founded Methodism in the face of intense opposition and laid the foundations of future world-wide expansion.

Historically, Ceylon Methodism began when the first Methodist missionaries landed in Ceylon on 29 June 1814. But it was in 1813, when Dr Thomas Coke wrote those historic words of his, that Ceylon Methodism actually came into being "I am now dead to Europe and alive to India. God Himself has said to me, 'Go to Ceylon!' I am as convinced of the will of God in this respect as that I breathe - so fully convinced that methinks I would rather be set naked on the coast of Ceylon without clothes and without friends, than not go there".



The chapel of the Wesleyan Mission House, Dam Street, Pettah, opened for public worship on December 23, 1816. The chapel was erected after the model of Brunswick Chapel, Liverpool, with classical features common in the Dutch colonial period. (Artist: P.P. Van Houten; Source: Rev. William Martin Harvard Courtesy : changing face of Colombo by R.L.brohier).



Dam Street, Pettah 1930



The Methodist Church Pettah today

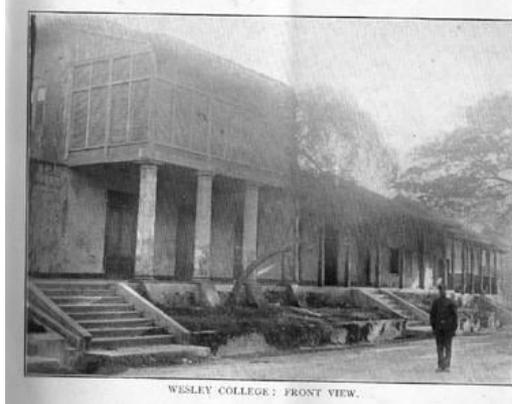
The School in Dam Street Pettah



Wesley College began its life in Dam Street Pettah and was founded by Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira on the 2nd of March 1874. He became its first Vice Principal during the Principalship of Rev. Samuel Rowse Wilkin. Dam Street takes us back to the Dutch period. During the early days Pettah was a respectable residential area and its streets were lined by tall trees. Messenger Street was called 'Rue de Massang' by the Dutch as there were many

Massang trees. Even today it is called Masang Gas Vidiya. Earlier Dam Street was called 'Damba Street' as Damba trees lined its path. The school had its beginnings on the dusty verandahs of the old Methodist Church at Dam Street, Pettah.

Closely associated with Rev Pereira was Jan Crozier, a kindly Boer, from the South African Rand. The Pettah merchants, of mixed race and religions, sent their children to receive their education in this school. Daniel Henry Pereira was much loved by the people and his pupils. He laboured thus for years in the dust and the heat of Pettah. When Rev Highfield arrived In 1895 Pettah was rapidly becoming industrialised and he saw the need for quieter surroundings for his school with room to expand. Wesley College was moved to its present site in 1905 with the help of the dynamic Rev. Henry Highfield.



WESLEY COLLEGE: FRONT VIEW.



CORNER VIEW OF INNER COURTYARD WESLEY COLLEGE

Reminiscences of Wesley in the Pettah By Henry Highfield

I was one of four young Missionaries who left London in the British India 'Golconda' for the East in September 1895. Two went on further for India. R.C. Oliver and I were for Ceylon and so left the ship at Colombo in the early hours of a mid-October day, being met by Rev. T. Moscrop and Mr. S. Passmore.



Mr. Passmore was to initiate me into the work of Wesley College and Mr. Moscrop was Chairman of the Colombo District and a former Principal of Wesley. I lived with him and Mrs. Moscrop until they left to return into the work at home. I was thus exceptionally fortunate in having two such fine and experienced men to guide me at the start.

Besides, this, when Mr. Passmore took me the next day to Wesley I quickly found that I had two other unusually fine and experienced men on the Staff. Charles Peter Dias joined Wesley in its second year (1876) and continued as Head Master until after my departure in 1925. So too did W.E. Mack, the first assistant; and both, but especially Mr. Dias were of the very greatest help, not at the start only but all along and the School should never forget what it owes to them. Of the premises I had a very different opinion and I think from the very first I was resolved that the School must have a better habitation.



It was good for Wesley that she had in Dias a genuine Church of England Christian and in Mack a good representative of the Dutch Reformed Faith. I quickly realised that the school believed in itself and was on its toes to spring forward towards the front and in Redlich and Honter we had two who would give any other school a hard tussle for the first place in scholarship.

Before Mr. Passmore took charge, Mr. Hillard venturing boldly had built the one building that had given the School an Assembly Hall in which all could gather together twice a day and so get to feel their corporate existence. This hall too served for the teaching of four large classes – not an ideal state of things. It is true that Hillard was unable to get it paid for but he wisely pledged the future to make good. So when in 1899 Wesleyan Methodism at Home set out to raise a million guineas from a million Methodists and successfully reached the target, as we would call it, the resolve in my heart on the first day of my seeing the school was confirmed. As however none of these guineas was to be spent in cancelling debts I had to become a beggar. It was done almost as in a dream during the last six months of 1899 and so eventually the Committee at Home gave me a promise of five times all that we could raise in Ceylon.

By the end of 1904 that came to Rs.35,000 and the Committee, though much surprised by the total, stood to their promise and the building facing Base Line Road was erected and opened early in 1907 with the Director of Education, John Harward (previously Principal of Royal College) as chief speaker.

Photos: S.S Golconda - The ship in which Rev. Highfield travelled to Ceylon and The Bell of the ship

The Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira Founder of Wesley College, Colombo. By Shelton Peiris from the 125th Anniversary Souvenir

In a Journey, back in time, to the environs of the dusty noisy Pettah, we go over to the Wesleyan Mission premises in Dam Street, where we find a group of children at the feet of a benign Minister, the Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira. It certainly was no place for a school but in spite of the many difficulties, no doubt inspired by the Lords invitation "suffer the little children

to come upto me" This man kept his grace. Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira, born (circa) 1826 was the eldest son of the Rev. Don Daniel Pereira who started life as a young school master and taught in a school built by the Rev. Benjamin Clough.

On joining the Ministry he followed deep evangelistic trends. He was called "the apostle of Kurana - Negombo ". The Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira had a younger brother, who was Rev. Peter Bartholomeusz Pereira. Young Daniel Henry was keenly interested in teaching and at a very early age took an equally great interest in the snakes which he studied identifying their species and habits under a famous South Indian Snake Specialist who reserved no secrets as he instructed his pupil. Daniel Henry was quick to absorb the life pattern of these ophidian reptiles.

In fact, in later years, he had edited a catalogue in Sinhala and had contributed to journals. He submitted papers to the Ceylon friend a journal associated with the Wesleyan Church. His contribution to these many journals gave rise to research. He was also an authority on ants in Ceylon. He had great hopes of being a Scientist but in response to his dying mothers wish, he entered the Ministry, in 1851. In addition to his knowledge of reptiles, ants, snails and slugs as a nature scientist he was also proficient in English, Sinhala and Portuguese. His fluency and masterly use of these languages kept this congregations spellbound. He had also a knowledge of Hebrew and Greek. He had a brilliant mind displaying itself in the clarity of expression. Certainly he would have been on par with the Western Missionaries of evangelistic fervour. He was a pupil of the famed Oriental Scholar, the Rev. Don John Gogerley who was in charge of the Institute of Colombo which was an early "Divinity School". His interest in teaching combined with his parish work and his deep interest in natural science made him eminent. In his Parish work he served in many stations for over 25 years. Moratuwa, then a very large Parish, which he took over from the Rev. G. G. de Zilva saw him work with zest and vigour. He founded an English School at Gorakagaha in Mankada conducting cottage meetings in the homes of those Methodists whilst he resided at Rawattawatte. He contributed largely to the spiritual revival at Moratuwa. When he fell ill his work was taken over by the Rev. Robert Hardy.

The school at Dam Street he conducted formed the beginning of Wesley College which was founded on the 2nd March 1874 of which he was the first ever vice Principal with the Rev. Samuel Rowse Wilkin its first Principal. (1874 -1879) who was followed by the Rev. Arthur Shipham (1880 - 1883) with whom Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira works till the latter's retirement. The Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira's son, William H. D. Pereira, studied at Wesley. He was later an Assistant Accountant in the Colombo Port Commission. On his retirement as a Minister in 1882 he settled down in Hambantota. Though not in the best of health he visited homes and those persons who had surrendered their lives to Christ. They were greatly helped by this erudite, but simple, priest, with his life style, though plain, was rich in the -scriptures and its application. His was a life of deep prayer and faith of wide labour and concern ever with an alert mind. His old friend. Rev. Arthur Shipham who was stationed at Matara, no doubt, may have had communication with each other. The last few months of his life had been a challenge. His health was failing but his discipline and training, his deep reliance on his Saviour had increased his faith. He faced the storm yet on an even keel as he was confined to his home with restricted movement.

A large number of villagers visited him. It was on the 22nd November 1886 that death took him. His was a life that laboured and was well spent in the lords vineyard as 'answering the master's call 'come follow me'. Wesley commemorates the memory of her Founder, the Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira - annually on Founder's Day March 2nd. This is the most important event in the School's calendar. A three storeyed imposing building dedicated to his memory, the " D. H. Pereira Memorial Building" to accommodate the junior school was constructed during the Principalship of Dunstan Fernando No doubt the labours of the Rev. Daniel Henry

Perera - servant of God - has accumulated a rich harvest of which we, in this present age, are beneficiaries and no doubt this harvest will be garnered by ages yet unborn.

Progress of the School in 1874

From the *Ceylon Friend* of February, 1874 (obtained from the archives held by Edmund Dissanayake)

"A project earnestly desired for the last sixteen years has at length been carried out. It was in 1858 that the Rev. J. Rippon first made the proposal for a superior Educational Institution for the Wesleyan Mission in South Ceylon. The idea has never been lost sight of; there have always been some to urge its importance but we have never succeeded in obtaining the appointment of a Principal until the last Wesleyan Methodist Conference (August 1873). Now the Principal has arrived--The Rev. S. R. Wilkin, of the London University. He is to be aided by an ardent friend of Education, the Rev. D. H. Pereira, as Vice Principal and Wesley College, Colombo, is to be opened, God willing, on March 2nd. The Mission Buildings opposite the Colombo Kachcheri are in process of adaptation, and for the present, it is hoped will be adequate and complete. No doubt in time to come greater accommodation may be required; and we should be thankful for any friend who would give us a good site, say in the Cinnamon Gardens, for the College of the future. This College is intended as the completion of our school arrangements. Without it our labour is to a large extent lost as our most promising scholars leave us for better schools elsewhere.

"Financially, we mean to make those who learn English pay for it. We hope that this College will in no degree be a burden upon the funds of the parent Society. From Fees and Government Grants, we trust that an income will be derived sufficient, or nearly so, for current expenses. But for alterations of buildings and purchase of furniture some Rs.2,000 or more must be expended; and those who love light and value instruction will, it is hoped, provide the needful funds. The Missionaries give time and care for this project. It is a fair bargain for others to give the money,"

Notes of the Month - April. 1874.

Wesley College, Colombo, was opened on March 2nd, the Anniversary of Mr. Wesley's death. In the evening a public meeting was held, the Honourable the Queen's Advocate in the Chair. The Rev. J. Scott delivered an address giving the reasons for the opening of the College from a Missionary point of view. R. V. Dunlop, Esq., and the Rev. S. R. Wilkin, the Principal, also took part in the meeting. It was largely attended, and much interest was manifested in the undertaking."

It is on these well-laid lines that the College has been run, and the change of site anticipated came about in 1907 when, after the begging campaign of 1904 and the generous grant from England out of the Million Guineas and Twentieth Century Fund. These present premises were opened with about the same amount of debt-Rs. 20,000-that the Y.M.C.A. had to admit a week ago. The total cost of land and buildings (without one rupee of Government money) was about Rs: 220,000.

In fifty years the College has had seven Missionary Principals.

The portraits of the six who preceded me, with their names and dates, are in this Hall for all to see. Men enter the ministry of our Church with no expectation of being especially appointed to educational work; but they are ready to go where they are sent and to do to the best of their ability the work to which they are appointed. Thus in the earlier days, the Principals of this College undertook its duties for periods of about the same length as they would have served in stations of pastoral and evangelistic character, and moved on to those other charges in due sequence. The period covered by my predecessors extended to the later months of 1895. Throughout this period the valuable help of a Master who is still with

us, though he joined the staff somewhere about the year 1876. Mr. C. P. Dias still going strong, has advised and helped us all; and what the College owes to him, and What I owe to him is quite beyond words to express. Another 'valuable member of the staff, Mr. W. E. Mack, reckons forty years of service, having joined in 1884: I arrived in October, 1895, and there are also still with us four others who joined the Staff of Wesley before 1900; that is to say, there are to-day seven masters on the Staff who have each served over twenty-five years. At the end of 1906 the Home Committee sent us out the first full-time Missionary VicePrincipal- The Rev. P. T. Cash, B. Sc. The College Owes very much to Mr. and Mrs. Cash for services continued up to August 1920. It was Mr. Cash who initiated the work of the Boarding House in 1910 he too, by becoming lecturer in Zoology in the Medical College for some years, obtained funds to equip our Science Laboratory. He started our Boy Scout Colombo 14th Troop, just now I regret to say temporarily out of action. In very many ways the influence that he and Mrs. Cash exerted upon the College, and particularly the Boarders, has done much to make the College what it is today. To Mrs. Cash we owe the, inauguration of the College Choir, and it was her excellent training that enabled them to win the Singing Shield the first time it was offered to boys. After a well- earned furlough in 1920, Mr. Cash was appointed Principal of Central College, Jaffna. My present colleague, the Rev. E. C. Horler and Mrs. Horler, arrived in October, 1921, and he has taken up the care of the Hostel, also the organisation of the Lower School, and his work is of great value.

In the earlier days external examinations had not so strong a -vogue as now, but as the College grew it was affiliated to the Calcutta" University, and sent up students for that Calcutta Entrance, M.A. and B A. In 1892 we entered the Cambridge lists for the first time, and in so doing gained both honours and distinctions with pass list of ten. The Ceylon University Scholarship was won for the first time by a Wesleyite on the results of the Cambridge junior of 1895; and in subsequent years five more from Wesley have won that coveted prize. The schools can no longer win these scholarships directly, but we hope that some of them will continue to be taken by Wesleyites after their course at University College. I believe that it was not until the Principal ship of the Rev. Joseph Passmore that Wesley entered into the friendly rivalry of the cricket field with Royal and St. Thomas', but since those days in 1893, 189i we have had regular matches with both of those Colleges, a Id later have had a place in the recognised. Inter-Collegiate competitions, and have had at least two Seasons when we were unbeaten by any College team. We joined the Cadet movement from the start and have done good work all along, though never coming, out first in the annual encounters.

Our Literary Associations, Y.M.C.A. and student Christian Union have maintained a steady existence of much usefulness.

Thirty-three Wesleyites took part in the Great War, in the fields of France, Palestine and Mesopotamia, and three -Redlich, Staples, and Brohier- gave their lives for the Empire. Our Old Boys are to be found in positions of trust and usefulness all over the Island, and not a few in lands afar. Their names can be shown in the Legislative Council, in the Civil Service, in the' Christian Ministry, and that not only of our own Church, in the Medical and Legal professions, in Mercantile and Government Offices, as private Landowners and Cultivators. and last but by no means least important. as members of the Teaching Profession:' We can fearlessly maintain that our past has been strenuous . Honourable and useful, and we are justified in looking forward into the future for the continuance and enlargement of our influence upon the life of this Colony. Of the achievements of Old Boys and the' humours awarded to them since last Prize. Day. we have pleasure in recording the following :- The eight boys who left us in August, 1922 qualified to enter University College, are giving a good account of themselves. Four, J. Sitheram, A. H. M. Ismail, W. V. D. Pieris and A. M. Charawanamuttu, have passed the Intermediate (Arts or Science) and are on the way to London degrees. H. S. Goonewardeni has passed:

First M.B., and the first part of the Second year Medical; A. E. G. La Brooy. his First year Medical. Of older Old Boys who are following the Medical Profession, we may mention that M. Osman after a very successful course in our Medical College, gaining prizes and medals has now won the full diploma. Dr. Hector Ferdinando is practicing in Colombo on his return from England with British qualifications; Dr. C. M. Gwyllim has gained his B.Sc., (Lond.) and M.B., with honours in Midwifery and Dr. R. P. Perera has gained British qualifications.

In the Legal Profession:-

E. W. Jayawardene is King's Counsel.

F. C. Loos, Junior, and K. Dhammakasiri. Barrister-at-Law.

J. R. V. D. Ferdinands and C. J. C. Jansz have passed the Advocate's Final, Mr. Ferdinanda has also passed Inter-Laws Lond., London, and is Assistant Adjutant to the C. C. B.

The following have passed their Proctor's Final:-

H. L. de Silva. M. T. Jainudeen. S. Ratnakaram, Allan de Zilwa and R. L. Kannangara. The last, however, though he gained the Intermediate Scholarship, has elected to train as a Teacher and is, along with S. V. O. Somanader and others, now at the Government Training College.

When People Walk Away From You, Let Them Go.
Your Destiny Is Never Tied To Anyone Who Leaves You.
It Doesn't Mean They Are Bad People.
It Just Means That Their Part In Your Story Is over!
Human Life Would Be Perfect If... Anger
Had A STOP Button
Mistakes Had A REWIND Button
Hard Times Had A FORWARD Button
And Good Times A PAUSE Button!

Shattered memories of the small park

By Dr. Nihal Amerasekera

It was the cradle of sports for all Wesleyites. We learnt to bat, bowl and kick a football in a small gravel field behind the school called the Small park. The likes of Neil Gallagher, AR Chapman, Nalendra Abeysooriya, Kennethe De Silva, Sarath Wickramaratne and the Carnie brothers all started their cricket in the small park. It was situated between Karlshru Gardens and the Nalanda Grounds, both ends lined by tall Andara trees. The passage from Karlshru Gardens was a steep slope. A parapet wall separated Dr. Jayasundera's house from the Campbell Park end of the grounds, tall enough to save his 4 daughters from the prying eyes of the boarders constantly snooping in that direction. At the opposite end was an old house with a pretty verandah and porch separated by a barbed wire fence loosened by boys creeping through to collect the ball. A tall Kottan tree was at the far corner beyond which was a 2 storey house where the occupant was a keen cricketer and watched the games as they unfolded. He couldn't resist the temptation to clap for a boundary or comment forcefully about the umpiring.

The Small Park was a veritable dust bowl but it was our Lords Cricket Grounds and the home of cricket. The grounds itself was a mainly gravel pitch with a few patches of dried grass at the Nalanda end. Due to many decades of cricket in the middle was an oval basin which was a our pitch. The stones and the slope gave the bowlers the advantage of viscious spin or a fast break. The conditions were the same for both sides and all was fair. The grounds was no

place for leather and willow. The tennis ball was a fine substitute. We used them until the skin came off the ball and the grey rubber showed. M.W.Wickramaratne, Nelson Jayasinghe, Lakshman Gunaratne "lubba" ,SSP and ASP Ranasinghe A.R, Cecil and NGA Fernando, Kalinga De Silva, DMC Gunasekera, Senaka Jayasinghe ,Milroy Bulner were the great exponents of the tennis ball game. The bouncers were rare but "hooruttu" (ball traveling along the ground) or "goondu" was in every good bowlers repertoire. Tennis ball game had a vocabulary of its own. "pol adi" was the answer to a tight situation. Those who scored slowly were shouted at "hit out or get out". There being no replays and 3rd umpire this was a crucial job and "hora umpiring" done discreetly was part of the game. Missed catches was called "catching frogs". Misfields between the legs were "bowkku". The grounds sloped towards Nalanda and fielding in that area was a nightmare.

My first recollection of the park is watching "Challenged fights" in the small interval. There were a few on at any one time and the choice was entirely ours. Facial injuries were avoided by both parties but torn shirts and cuts and bruises were a part of the fight. On returning to the classes they got punished further for their ungainly appearance and the person to avoid was Miss. Blacker.

In the lunch break the pitch was taken over by the seniors and I recall Richard Dwight, Baafi and Mihlar being the heroes of the many games of cricket I had watched. During the marble season they played "bungkings" and 3 holes where the loser hands over a marble each time. Soccer in the park was very popular too and the permanent goal posts were a great help. The boarders played in the park every day from 4-6pm on weekdays and whole day Saturday.

The hostel House matches took place there. The cheering and the jeering for those was intense. There were those who loved to commentate on the matches and Upali Siriwardene had a special knack for this. The park being mainly gravel falls resulted in cuts and bruises or more severe lacerations. The matron kindly dealt with these running repairs. We even had Athletics on Saturdays. The proximity of the grounds was its main advantage. The midday sun beats on it mercilessly and playing games on it is not for the faint hearted. On numerous occasions I have seen the sunset behind Nalanda College when it was time to return to the hostel.

It is with great sadness that I note the park is no more and has been gone for nearly 40 years. It was part of the land that Rev Highfield toiled hard to buy- cycling and "begging". We will never know the intricate details of the need for this sale and the financial transactions thereafter but Wesley College has lost a plot of prime land just behind it where the school could have extended its buildings if the need arose. Their decision deprived future generations of Wesleyites of a playing field virtually in their back yard. I wonder whether those involved in the intrigue were pleased after the sale of a part of our heritage and our memories. Controversy and innuendo will rage on until the air is cleared by someone who knows exactly what happened behind those closed doors.

The sad saga and the intrigue of the loss of small park is best described in the words of Winston Churchill "It is a riddle surrounded in mystery wrapped in an enigma" Its flames still smoulder even after 40 years. Was it a muddle or a fiddle? This sad and regrettable mistake will haunt us for many more years to come. Only time can soothe the self inflicted deep wounds of our history.

Those who take the initiative at work, do so not because they are stupid but because they understand the concept of responsibility.

Those who apologize first after a fight, do so not because they are wrong but because they value the people around them.

Those who are willing to help you, do so not because they owe you any thing but because they see you as a true friend.

Those who often email and text you, do so not because they have nothing better to do but because you are in their heart.

One day, all of us will get separated from each other; we will miss our conversations about everything and nothing; the dreams that we had, days will pass by, months, years, until this contact becomes rare...

One day our children will see our pictures and ask 'Who are these people?'

And we will smile with invisible tears because a heart is touched with a strong word and you will say:

'IT WAS WITH THEM THAT I HAD THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE'

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Venerable Revd. Perry Brohier

23rd Archdeacon of Colombo of the Diocese of Colombo, Church of Ceylon



The old Wesleyite featured in this issue is the Venerable Revd. Perry Brohier. Perry who was inducted as the 23rd Archdeacon of the Colombo Diocese, Church of Ceylon on 23 December 2013. Perry is the youngest of three brothers who attended Wesley College in the seventies and eighties. He was at Wesley from 1974 to 1985. His eldest brother is Jeremy Brohier who is well known to many alumni and who is the current President of the OBU in Sri Lanka, former President of the OWSC and the Editor who put together the publication on Wesley's Cricket history recently. His other older brother is Miles. The Brohier boys had their education at Wesley even though their father was an Old Josephian. Perry is married to Christina and has a daughter named Namrata. At Wesley, he was in Mack House in Junior School and in Hillard House in Senior School. When he is away from his pastoral care and Church activities, his interests include news, current affairs and sport.

Whilst at Wesley, Perry was a good sportsman, representing Wesley in Cricket at Under 11, 13, 15, 17 and first XI. He captained the under 15 team and was Vice-Captain of the under 17's which were champions. Later this team were adjudged the best schoolboy team in 1985. He also represented the

College in junior athletics. His other interests were the Student Christian Movement (SCM) but never in a leadership role.

His favourite teachers at Wesley were Mrs L C Perera, Mrs B A Fernando and the ever popular Mr Haig Karunaratne. When questioned on his time at Wesley he stated ... "We learnt how to integrate and mix with all kinds and all communities of people irrespective of their social standing or community they belonged to."

I asked him who his best friends at school were and he stated ..."Mylevaganam Ganesh stands out but many more countless names too difficult to make a distinction." I took the opportunity to contact Ganesh who now resides in Sydney, Australia. This is what he had to say.... "Perry is a terrific bloke. Perry played under me when I was captain of the first eleven in 1985. He was a lively opening bowler who bowled well consistently with controlled swing. He was an excellent team man both on and off the field and had the respect of his team mates."

On completing his education, Perry obtained a Diploma in Computer Programming, then did his Theological degree in India. He has represented the Church of Ceylon at gatherings in India, Indonesia, Thailand, the US, and most recently preached at the opening service of the Clergy Synod of the Diocese of Melbourne in October 2014 at the invitation of the Primate of Australia.

When questioned about the most famous person he had met he stated there were many but most recently Pope Francis when he visited Sri Lanka in January 2015

When asked who he would like to meet up with or contact from his days at Wesley he stated ..."It is difficult question to answer but perhaps a class reunion or cricket team reunion would be great, time permitting of course."

Perry has done his alma mater proud and we wish him well in his ministry of the gospel.

Keith de Kretser

Alumni share their experiences

*An invitation to alumni to contribute any informative articles for this column
Offensive, Religious, Racial or Political subjects will not be published Please
send correspondence to doublebluelinks@gmail.com*

Siri Pada – the misty island

By Tony Careem

Fog enveloped us and the rain pelted heavy drops that bounced off my face with some finding its way down my drenched rain coat. It seemed like a mini battle going on between the fog and the rain, a nature's duel that I witnessed with cold pleasure at roughly 7000 feet just below the peak....Adams Peak.

With barely 2 meters of visibility in front and behind us, for a fleeting moment I felt we were somewhere between heaven and hell and willed that we had almost reached the summit! At that stage if the wind had whispered that I had 362 feet more to ascend, I could have easily knocked the wind off.

But nature has its moments, offers beautiful moments ... Sometimes in seemingly adverse conditions to the human thought and comfort. I ventured to climb Siri Pada knowing well in

advance that the weather conditions were not favourable but with a belief that dark clouds do have a silver lining.

We started our drive towards Siri Pada from Dickoya with our cheerful local driver Asitha. The air was nippy with a drizzle as we stepped into the Warleigh Christ Church in Dickoya, a colonial-style Anglican church built by the British in 1878. A walk around the tiny church and I was greeted to sweeping views of the vast expanse and still-waters of the Castlereigh Reservoir below. The drizzle had momentarily stopped. Perhaps my wife Gillian's prayer at the altar did echo to the heavens.

Along the winding roads of the Norwood tea plantations, green carpets of tea shrubs seemed endless with giant cypress dotted along the higher slopes of the Castlereigh Reservoir fresh and absorbing views at every turn.



We drove to Dalhousie, the village that is the starting point of our trek since we planned to try the Hatton-Nallathanni trail being advised that it is the shorter of a possible 6 trails. Our van stopped just before the 'Slightly Chilled' guest house, but we decided to walk into the guesthouse before. It was warm inside this guesthouse and they served excellent hot tea.

With wet weather forecast, an early afternoon climb seemed practical. Armed with egg and tuna sandwiches, glucose and a bottle of water to sustain us, we hurried through our first couple of hundred feet. Enthusiasm, perseverance and desire to reach the top in any weather conditions made the first 2 hours, a walk in the park.

Shops and stalls decked with fairy lights line up by the side of the walkway for the first few hundred meters. I found a couple of these shops well stocked with bottled water and a variety of soft drinks. If you do decide to do some window shopping rather than climb, there is a variety of stuff on display minus the windows. You can purchase soft toys, plastic toys, clothes, ornaments, wood carvings, local produce, fruits, vegetables, sweets and many more colourful stuff. I stopped briefly by the side of a board that read "Nature's Secret Ayurvedic" with a few young lads who looked like Masseurs giving me their charming grin. I realised they would approach us with vigour on our return.



These shops took on a more purposeful and speciality outlook as we ascended. They serve as an important break point to relieve, relax and refresh over a cup of hot tea or a quick meal of finger food. At our first stop, we refreshed ourselves having bananas and some hot tea which was served in glasses. Despite the weather not being so good for climbing, I saw a few families with kids on the move.



Cramps...something we were dreading hindered our progress from about halfway into our climb. The wind had picked up, fog was all over and moving fast, rain was sporadic and the cramps gripped Gillian's calf muscles on her right leg. We trudged on regardless, with the one word surfacing in my head...salt! We needed salt and very quickly.

With me propped as support, I was hoping my legs would hold as we walked up...at snail pace. By this time each step was certainly a giant leap to us. The steps began to get steeper, wet and slippery. The hand rails on either side were a blessing, but they too began to feel colder and colder as we heaved our tiring bodies up.

Finally we reached a kiosk that sold tea, soft drinks, bottled water, bananas, glucose, home-made sweets, packeted snacks and they did have salt. We got rock salt down our throats in the hope that sodium will help regulate the fluid in our bodies. For a bit more energy we feasted on two more bananas and surprisingly the flavour was pleasant when laced with salt.



Peanuts sold in Sri Lanka generally have a high percentage of sodium so I grabbed a few packets. By this time a crowd had gathered at the kiosk. Some of the adults in the group started chanting....

*“mei thena Baaravu...Saman Deviane..... waatha
sulang sel... kandu pupuraa gena..... seetha kerana gal...
pauraak banthegena.....
basaathuraarai... meka mavagena..... Saadhu... Saadhu...
Saadhu.... “ ****



Sounded like words of encouragement, perhaps a Buddhist ritual...I thought at that moment. They appeared to be members of a large family on pilgrimage since they were performing rituals along the way. The two of us suddenly became curious subjects to some. As soon as the older lady in the group realised Gillian was in some sort of pain, she approached us and offered Rulang Aluwa (a traditional Sri Lankan sweet made of cream of wheat) - a kind and warm gesture in the cold. It had been awhile since I last had one of these sweets...it brought back memories of our youthful nights spent at church feasts feasting on Aluwa and other sweets. Gillian being of fairer skin, attracted more attention and certainly energised the lady by responding to her in Sinhalese and offered her peanuts in return.



The relief from the salt only lasted for a little while and after less than a hundred more steep steps, Gillian’s cramps returned with a vengeance. The cramps increased and seemed to have a life of its own and in spamming caused agonising pain down both her legs. I had to steady myself more to support her. In my mind I began to have reservations about salt and its effect on cramps.

We reached a post that had hundreds of white threads knotted and ran up along the hand rails. The locals call it “Indikatupanu” – the needle place. The chanting family thread a needle to mark the spot where it is believed that Buddha paused to mend his robe.

After four gruelling hours, the trail narrowed and steepened as we began to haul ourselves upwards on metal handrails. Foliage had almost disappeared and to our delight a signboard loomed which read “Last Tea Shop”. Both of us staggered in there for another hot tea.

Haris, a young chap from Dubai that we had met earlier at the guest house and had done the same climb did not look happy. He sat there at the tea shop looking rather glum and whining away that his wife had given up the climb only an hour into the attempt. “Look at you, you did it” he exclaimed to Gillian and congratulated her for not giving up despite the cramps. I took a photo for him outside which brought a smile on his face.



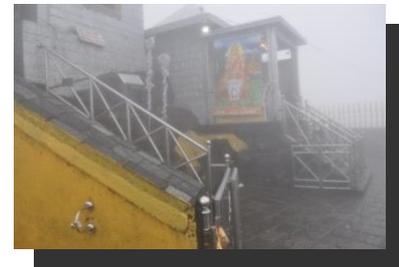
Just before we reached the peak we had to temporarily discard our shoes to walk around the shrine on top as it is considered hallowed ground. It felt good to walk bare footed on a wet and cold rock but I didn’t get a chance to leave my foot print there.

We finally made it past 5200 steps and walked barefooted to the summit. The fog had thinned out by this time and the rain had stopped to greet us....so I thought. Our celebration was heralded by ringing the bell, a rather large bell perched 7359 feet above ground. Gillian was first and she made my ears vibrate for a few seconds. Intermittently the bell peals to herald the return of a person who had climbed before....and I had the privilege to ring it twice as this was my second ascent to the top.



The temple at the summit housed the foot print of Buddha with more steps leading up to it. We could barely see the full shape of the impression which was buried in a garland of flowers that was placed as offerings. The only other curious shape in the room took the form of a person in Sri Lankan Army uniform who sat at a desk across the foot print guarding it. He had a bored expression on his face, like a moth we found perched outside. The adjoining complex housed a Hindu Kovil. Interestingly both temples sat side by side overlooking the sweeping landscape of the Island.

On a clearer day the views from where we stood would have been the same as the numerous pictures I have seen.....breathtaking. Witnessing the sunrise from this point would be simply awesome. The view we had on that late afternoon was different. It seemed like we were on a tiny misty island on a cloud. We missed the sunrise but nature surely displayed its brilliance by offering us a rare view without the Sun. The Siri Pada Gods tested our will and endurance and rewarded us a misty island.



Our descent was quick and brisk with no time out for tea breaks. Later I realised that Gillian had a good reason for the express exit. She didn't want a confrontation with the wildlife in the surrounding jungle aka Kotiya (tigers). Yes, they are a known species spotted in the jungles around the vicinity, but rarely attack humans. However we didn't want to be the unlucky ones.

Fluorescent strip-lights were situated between 30 to 40 meters apart and due to the bad weather conditions, some of them failed to properly light up. This cast a haunting glow and added more excitement to the expectations of the unknown lurking in the bushes.



The express check out did little good for me though....I got cramps. It was my turn to use crutches in the form of Gillian. My hamstrings on both legs screamed out for rest. This slowed our descent a fraction, but the invisible Kotiya drove us to the foot of the mountain within 2 hours and 40 minutes.

When we reached the bottom, most of the stalls had closed shop for the day and the few that were open, the stallholders were snoozing over their wares. Maybe it was their break time before serving the next rush of pilgrims and lame bunnies like Gillian and myself.

The rains had stopped and the night was quiet and peaceful...seemed like an uncanny gesture by the mountain to farewell two enthusiasts that travelled from far and braved the rains to pay homage. Siri Pada threw down a challenge and in return gave us wonderful memories.

***** Translation:**

*This day is dedicated to Lord Saman
The strong winds make the mountain tremble
The icy cold rocks leads up-to the heavens
Words flow easily with imagination
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord.*



SIRI PADA ON A CLEAR DAY

Visit to Florence - The city of my dreams

Dr. Nihal D Amerasekera

I have always wanted to visit Florence having read about its history as a teenager. Almost five decades later came my chance to fulfil my dream. After the winter snow and storms spring must be the best time to see central Europe. I chose my time well to visit Florence in May last year with my friend and colleague Fida, an effervescent Jordanian. There were flowers in great abundance and the trees appeared a brighter green with the new foliage for the year. The people seemed happy to greet the warmth of the spring sunshine.

Florence means flower. I couldn't have described its beauty any better. The city lies in the middle of the Italian peninsula and is the capital of the region of Tuscany. It is a city of half a million people living mostly by the Arno river. We arrived at the sleepy Vespucci airport on a warm Thursday afternoon. Despite the lack of urgency to process our papers and send us on our way there were plenty of smiles and politeness to make up for it. We arrived at the Grand Majestic Hotel which was neither grand nor majestic. But it was cosy and comfortable and the service was prompt and proper.

The city was founded by the Romans in the first century B.C. After the excesses and decadence of the barbaric ages its resurgence began between the 11th and 15th centuries. The Medici family ruled Tuscany from the 15th century and transformed the city to its present glory in art, culture, politics and economic power. In 1860 Tuscany became part of the Kingdom of Italy. Florence remained its capital and became the summer retreat and playground for the rich and famous European aristocracy.



The survival of so many fine Gothic and Renaissance buildings is part of Tuscany's immense appeal. The shape of arches, doorways and windows give a clue to its style and when it was built. Tuscany has been at the forefront of the artistic revolution and record the transition from the stylised charm of medieval art to the pristine beauty of the Renaissance. The Medici family were responsible for commissioning some of the great works of Renaissance art and are remembered with much affection by the Florentines.

The best sights of the city can be seen by foot as they are encompassed within a small area. The Cathedral forms the focal point to this historic city. Its eight sided Dome was designed by Brunelleschi. The sheer beauty and size of the frescoes on the interior of the dome took my breath away. The door on the east side of the baptistery was named by Michaelangelo as the Gate of Paradise and contains the detailed carvings from the Old Testament. There are numerous galleries and museums to vet the appetite of the occasional tourist and the seasoned connoisseur. My favourite was the Uffizi. It was completed in 1580 as an office building but later assigned to display the Medici art treasures and is the oldest gallery in the world. There are ancient Greek and Roman sculptures and a vast collection of art from Gothic to High Renaissance. It took us a whole day to absorb the beauty of this marvellous treasure and would have taken us a lot longer if we allowed our emotions to take control. Botticelli's Birth of Venus, Leonardo Da Vinci's Annunciation, Michaelangelo's The Holy Family, Raphael's Madonna of the Goldfinch and the many works of Rubens, Van Dyke, Caravaggio and Rembrandt kept us busy and focussed. The sensuous painting of Venus of Urbino by Titian was my special favourite for its sheer artistic brilliance although it was condemned at the time for portraying a Goddess in such an immodest pose.

Florence is a treasure trove of history art and sculpture. To appreciate its elegance one requires diligence energy and enthusiasm. Fida dealt with our flight plans in his own

inimitable relaxed style and I took over the controls on the ground. There were times when the whole effort seemed overwhelming. When our enthusiasm failed we took to the Florentine cuisine. Fida is an orthodox Muslim and he looked for a menu without pork and alcohol. The many types of pasta and pizzas cooked in virgin olive oil suited him well. I kept to a cholesterol filled western carnivorous diet with lavish amounts of red wine to wash it down. I tossed a coin whether to refuse the brandy at the end. Fortunately my hotel was just a stones throw away from the gourmet restaurants. Fida most generously took part in the inebriated discussions about my jaundiced and light-hearted view of the world. I left the restaurant having solved the human problems that were fomenting since the beginning of time.

The river Arno runs through the city. In the summer it is reduced to a trickle and its pollution rises to unacceptable level. Its most famous bridge is the Ponte Vecchio. There are many goldsmiths at work here exhibiting their wares in the shops on the bridge. Built in 1345 it survived World War II. The bridge is especially attractive at sunset viewed from the embankment. The Gothic church of Santa Maria Novella contains some of the most important works of art in Florence. The church has a marvellous façade of inlaid marble.

The local economy depends on tourism and industries like textiles, jewellery pharmaceuticals, glass and ceramics. Much of the jewellery is still produced in the Ponte Vecchio to be sold all over Europe. The Boboli gardens are not to be missed. It is an excellent example of Renaissance landscape architecture formerly owned by the Medici family. Its hedges with geometric patterns and the tall cypress trees show an unusual but pleasing contrast of shapes and sizes.



In the Academy Gallery the most famous sculpture is Michaelangelo's David (1501). He is the person of David and Goliath fame. The anatomical detail of the sculpture is absolutely stunning. The size and proportions of this work of art shows his brilliance and genius.

We walked the length and breadth of the city many times over absorbing the atmosphere and appreciating its ambience. By the end of the week the bricks and mortar made us claustrophobic and we decided to take a short bus ride to the Piazzale Michaelangelo at the edge of the city to get a panoramic view of Florence and the river Arno. That was indeed a breath of fresh air!!

The public transport in Florence is good, clean, cheap and punctual. I did not see the massive traffic jams. There were no rows of vehicle standing still behind traffic lights spewing toxic emissions. The scooters and motor cycles were seen in great numbers zigzagging their way past pedestrians. We never saw the blue haze of pollution common in the big cities. The main train station opposite the Santa Maria Novella church is modern and computerised. I realised how cheap it is to travel by train compared to London.

During our stay we had remarkable good weather. The days were hot but not humid and the nights were warm enough for people to gather in the squares of the city centre to wine and dine and also listen to classical and popular music played by buskers and local bands. The Florentines seem to enjoy a wonderfully relaxed outdoor lifestyle. Many of them spoke English and were helpful. I never saw the infamous Latin temper.

Florence exhibits unparalleled beauty and sophistication. There was no let up in the sheer richness we saw and experienced. A week would be the minimum time required to appreciate its vast treasures and the extraordinary beauty of its lush green countryside. We left the city with a sack full of pleasant memories and a heavy heart.

We took the return flight to London from Pisa which was an hour train journey from Florence. The trip past olive groves and vast acres of vineyards was a treat and gave us a cross section of life in Tuscany. Some lived in small shacks in screaming poverty whilst others lived in plush palaces. Five thousand years of civilisation, religion, democracy, socialism, communism and even the European Union have failed to change this. We live in such an iniquitous world.

The sheer physical sensation of being in Florence is powerful and exhilarating. Its splendour and its enduring charm will remain a magnet for travellers for centuries to come.

Excellence in Teaching; a transformative force for all learners.

Roy Oorloff, 10 February 2014
(Apologies to the author for the delay in publication)



In December 2013, I had the pleasure of spending a morning in Colombo with a former teacher. That meeting was especially pleasant as the now retired College Master had visited Australia only 3 months previously, where he had, along with the current Principal, spent time in each State capital with Wesley Old Boys. We had re-acquainted during a day in Brisbane. Surprised and gratified, I realized he did remember me, once a pupil in Form 4 English Literature, metamorphosing from treble to baritone in the College Choir, and then as a junior, later a senior in Wilkin House, where he officiated as House Master. Our conversation ranged far and wide as we reminisced the past, and critiqued the present. We happily spent the day together at Brisbane South Bank Cultural Centre, dined, and enjoyed a modern interpretation of a Shakespeare play at 'The Powerhouse'. Much of the time, the visitor's breadth and range of knowledge and experiences made him a very interesting and entertaining companion. Occasionally, his depth of feeling for certain issues, both the commonplace and the controversial, made him an unforgettable and unique raconteur. His evident passion for theatre, and the Visual and Performing Arts in general spoke of a long life lived learning and teaching, then gifting others with the sum of that endeavour. The College Master's belief in the creative, the productive and then the redemptive value of his intellectual capabilities led him to personal practice in Drama production and performance. That in turn enriched his pedagogy with a constant renewal of knowledge, and excellence in delivery. Formerly a long-serving teacher at Wesley, he is today remembered with respect and affection by all his 'Old Boys', many who benefited professionally and personally through contact with him.

Leaving Wesley, and Ceylon (as it was) over 50 years ago wrought many pressures upon the boys of that generation. As immigrants in Australia we encountered new social environments, and quickly adapted, applied ourselves to the worlds of work, built a sense of belonging through our language skills (in contrast to some other ethnic groups), and common values of materialism, and social conservatism. Before long, many developed the will to selfadvancement. That usually took the path of higher education, and in Australia circa the 1970's, political change allowed previously economically disadvantaged students to access tertiary education. A great flowering of opportunities gave many young (and older) Australians the scope to emancipate themselves from the strait-jackets of tradition, and to embrace a world of new economic, political and social roles. Among many, I had qualified as

a tradesman and had worked in an industrial context. Later, among many, I attended university and qualified as a teacher. That was the path to a life-long commitment to the world of ideas and skills, promoting learning in a wide range of educational contexts. Reflecting upon years spent in the twinned processes of teaching and learning, it is clear that a major component of the effectiveness of those processes is, simply, the excellence that the teacher brings to the class-room. Observation, and experience has demonstrated again and again the value that 'Excellence' contributes towards student development as a learned individual. Nowadays, excellence is often defined by testing; an entire cohort of pupils, public examination results, tertiary admission rankings, 'client' satisfaction, and other domains, objective and subjective. In the 1960's, Wesley College teachers often were characterized by excellence that was driven by a passionate love for curriculum material they taught. Authority in the class-room derived from a magisterial knowledge of content. Authenticity of process was driven by commitment to responsibility for engagement, and an awareness of the diversity of individuals within the class-room. Then as now.

Nationally, Australian society is currently wracked by doubt over apparently declining educational standards and attainments. Comparisons are frequently made between other OECD countries' student achievements in numeracy, literacy, and tertiary attainment scores. This, in a social landscape where a funding policy divide separates Government (State) and private (Church, Special interest groups) schools, favouring the latter. The notion of equality in education is confounded, and confusion between value inputs and attainment outcomes results both in the loss of morale by educators, as well as loss of confidence in the process by children, parents and employers. In Australia, that coupled with sense of helplessness by the participants, has led to a general abdication of responsibility by a critically important group; the parents. Once an involved, active and productive part of a child's development, parents today are generally less inclined to engage in meaningful ways. Popular and widespread is the view that 'the job of teachers is to teach kids everything needed to succeed in life'. The past is another country, temporally and geographically. Yet then, parents invested more than cash in educating their children. It was rare that a child arrived at school unable to write and read their own name, and to metaphorically, tie their own shoe-laces. Parents partnering children in teaching and learning are often cited by successful individuals. Others refer to discovery learning, small-group research, whole-group lectures, text-based learning, rote learning and Direct Instruction (particularly for cultural disadvantaged children). All quote special teachers who left indelible lessons through the sheer enthusiasm and energy they brought to learning.

Many will remember Wesley College staff, passionate and dedicated, mentors influential at school, and in life. Just some were Mr Premawardane for Sinhala 'Kavi' – folk poetry set to melody; Mr Watson Wijewickrame for English and Geography, Mr Suntheralingam for 'Chlamydomonas' and 'Euglena' in Biology; and first among many equals, Mr Haig Karunaratne for English Litt., Choir, Spelling Bee and 'Do You Know?' Yes, it is he who taught so many so much, and continues, by his intellectual energy and irrepressible personality, to generate challenges and creativity. It is indeed he, the now retired but very active College Master who entertained us well both in Brisbane and Colombo.

Voices of the Past ...

Aneeeeeey...wot men!!! Emm

I am sure you will identify with some of the statements below. I recently enjoyed (re)reading Tarzie Vittachi's 'Trials of transition in the Island in the Sun' mainly a collection of his 'Flybynight' columns, with cartoons of Collette's. In the book he celebrates (in 3 chapters) the use of 'Singlish' or Ceylonese-English, with lots of examples - which he suggests were commonly heard around the Hens International Club and the As-As-Cee. I strung some of the words and expressions together and they read like many of the conversations I had been in the midst of: She gave me the 'come to the body like look', So, puttass I followed her. Adday! I only wanted to put a break to her, but her brother putting pul-part with me. And she also, straightaway asked to borrow my bike. How to say no to the face so I had to give, no?

When Mummy heard about it she told me 'Jus' be Chile. You want to start trouble in the junction getting involved with that family? Beeeeeeg trouble! For all their booroos-part they are actually a godayatic, har' par' six crowd. Better you catch a corner and study. But what for telling?.....you never lis'en to me anyway.

When you become a doctor, you can easily catch a Colombo7 number and all your friends will look and say "Aow Aow! Where to catch!" Some buggers of course will try to put k.p. (katey pus) to you. But that will be because they are really 'J'. Straightaway you can warn them saying "Take care men! What happen' to Happenstall, mus' happen' to us all" they will all shut up, then'

Other common words that I was happy to be reminded of were:

Koloppan, Thoppi, Gori, Poot-board traveller, Gundu, Leg-bail, Lool piece, Gultik, Dead rope, Sus-gahla, Hoo-ha, Nevermind karaya, Border catching, Bandakka-ispeed. Istubistekcutlis.

Taken out of context of that time and environment they sound amusing, but they were a part of everyday conversations of that time. I remember, people used to eagerly await the delivery of the Sunday Observer to read the "Fly by night" columns and view the cartoons by Collette. You will also probably remember enjoying their incisive political and social comment, and the colloquialisms they created (Bambalawatte, The Yeighty Club). They also made us aware of the colourful characters that we had around us (in their creations of the characters like Sooty Banda and Citizen Perera) and of course the deviousness of the politicians in our 'Land of Hope and Gori'.

I wonder if any of these Ceylonese-English is still heard around Colombo, or have the new generation compiled their own new patios?

News from Sri Lanka

New Principal designate Dr Ben Manickam does not take up office

After months of speculation and anticipation, Dr Ben Manickam has decided to decline the offer of being the next Principal of his alma mater to pursue other career opportunities. It was hoped that he would continue the progress and development of his predecessor Dr Shanti McLelland. The positions of Principal and Vice Principal have been advertised.

Mariella Vandort sings for His holiness Pope Francis

The welcome greeting and song sung for His Holiness Pope Francis at the Airport when he arrived in Sri Lanka on 13th January 2015 had a strong Wesley connection. The song was sung in English, Sinhala, Tamil and Italian and was written and composed by Priyanthi Seneviratne VanDort who also composed the choral arrangements and trained and directed this special choir. She is the wife of old boy Wilhelm Vandort. The Choir was formed especially for this event comprising children selected from a mixed group of school children and school leavers from the big city schools and the poorer peripheral schools in Colombo.



Greeting His Holiness Pope Francis to Sri Lanka on behalf of the Catholic Church and the Nation with the words of welcome was by his daughter Mariella VanDort.

The National Choir which sang for the Canonization Mass of Joseph Vaz held at Galle Face on the 14th of January, was also trained, and accompanied by Priyanthi. Her daughter Mariella played violin in the orchestra.

Priyanthi Van Dort is well known as a music teacher and her involvement in conducting and training choirs. Mrs van Dort has been a music teacher at Wesley and she trained and conducted many choirs during her years of service.

Lakshman “Lucky” Gunasekera appointed Editor of the Sunday Observer

By Keith de Kretser

After five weeks have elapsed since the new government took over, two independent, senior journalists have been appointed, in place of Rajapaksa henchmen, to head two leading English language national newspapers, namely ‘Daily News’ and ‘Sunday Observer,’ say Lake House sources.



Lakshman Gunasekara (59) has been appointed editor of the Sunday Observer. Mr. Gunasekara is the founder president of the South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA) - Sri Lanka branch. He was editor of ‘Sunday Observer’ previously from 1994 to 1999. He was a founder member and one time Secretary and Trustee of the Free Media Movement, and has long been active in media and human rights work parallel to his career as a mainstream newspaper journalist. He was part of the founding team of the Sunday Leader newspaper whose founder-Editor is perhaps the most prominent Sri Lankan journalist to have been harassed and then assassinated.

Lakshman or “Lucky” to his many friends was a student at Wesley College, joining Wesley in 1965 from St Thomas’ Prep School with the likes of Wilhelm Van Dort, Sunil Fernando, Hemantha Cooray, Gamini de Silva and Anton Selvadurai. Lucky was of fair complexion, wore glasses and was very conscious of his hair. He was a very polite, well mannered and respectful lad and was subject to the occasional teasing by his friends. His mother Mrs Marbit Gunasekera was Principal of Methodist College (1967 & 1968). He also had a sister Nelun who caught the eye of many a Wesleyite.

Lucky lived in Wellawatte near the corner of Galle Road and Charlemont Road opposite the Savoy cinema. There were a number of Wesleyites who lived in the vicinity including myself and we attended the Methodist Church Wellawatte and the Sunday school. Rohith Fernando, Sunil Fernando, David and Keith Grenier, Rommell and Wavell Pereira, Gamini and Hiran de

Silva, Carlyle Wells-Peris, Christopher Goonewardene, Lucky and I were regulars at church and Sunday school and rode on the school bus each day.

I had the privilege of meeting Lucky in 2010 when I was in Sri Lanka on a holiday and it was great to catch up with him after forty years. From my conversations with him I gathered that he was a strong advocate for free speech and human rights and at the time kept a low profile for obvious reasons.

As Wesleyites we should all be proud of Lucky and his appointment as Editor of the Sunday Observer. We wish him well as his publication pursues the truth and reports in a balanced and transparent manner.

Well done Lucky!

The photo is an old picture from his previous time as Editor of the Sunday Observer circa mid 1990's.

The old school tie

By Renuka Sadanandan
Sunday Times Sri Lanka 14 June 2015

One of Wesley's distinguished old boys Bill Deutrom is back from Australia to give his alma mater a helping hand.



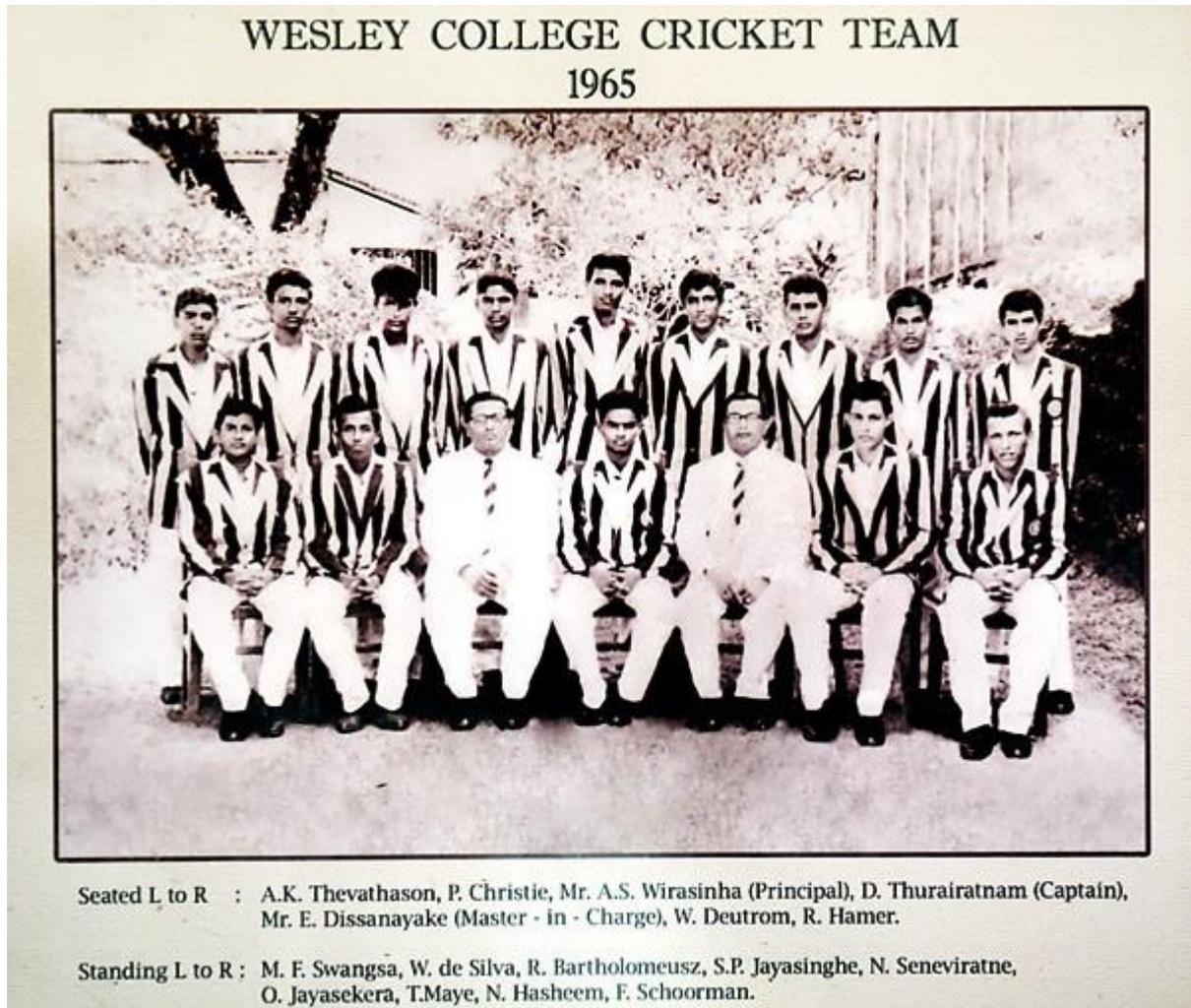
beloved alma mater the best school of all.

Bill Deutrom isn't too comfortable talking about himself – characteristically so for a man whose actions have always been his calling card. In his long career, the eminent businessman in Australia has worn many hats and faced many challenges but what brings him back to the land he left behind in the '60s is simply a call of the heart. These past few months, the distinguished old boy of Wesley College is a man with a new mission – to make his

It may seem a tall order but Arthur William Deutrom is all seriousness. The premier Methodist boys' school, Wesley College, founded in 1874, is steeped in history and proud tradition, has produced statesmen, scholars and sportsmen of distinction, yet perhaps lacks the recognition its more vaunted peers receive. The potential for excellence, he is convinced, is there. Every morning at 7.30 a.m, he is at 'College', impeccably dressed in long-sleeved shirt and tie despite the sticky heat. Folk at Wesley, from the students to the staff and minor employees have grown accustomed to the lanky figure patrolling the corridors. There isn't much that his eagle eye misses.

He is here just to help, he stresses, no official capacity, but that help has been substantial as he liaises with the school's governing body and main committees involved in its administration. In the interim period as Wesley awaits a new principal after the highly results-oriented Dr. Shanti McLelland's term, Acting Principal, old Trinitian Upali Ratnayake is at the helm, and Bill Deutrom is there to help in any area -Sports, Finance, Maintenance — people all know they can turn to him.

“Bill has always been a great benefactor of our school over the years- financially and in so many ways, ever ready to galvanise things into action. This time he readily responded to our call and agreed to come back to the country for a period, selflessly giving his time, to get things done,” commented another old boy.



In his old haunts: Bill Deutrom at Wesley (top) and the 1965 Wesley College cricket team with a young W. Deutrom seated second from right. Pic by M.A. Pushpa Kumara

Bill's Wesley ties stretch back more than a few decades. It was in 1949 that the young Arthur William joined Wesley and 1965 when he left, in-between stamping his mark as an excellent sportsman, earning colours in cricket, rugby, tennis and hockey, and playing for the Public Schools hockey team, also being a house captain (Passmore) and prefect. His mother Doris Deutrom was a well-loved kindergarten teacher at Wesley- she also taught music, but her son has other less fond memories of her presence in school. Those were the days when errant behaviour earned a beating and he recalls with a wry smile, being hauled out of detention and roundly smacked by her.

In his old haunts: Bill Deutrom at Wesley (top) and the 1965 Wesley College cricket team with a young W. Deutrom seated second from right. Pic by M.A. Pushpa Kumara

The Deutroms, like many Burgher families of that era, migrated to Australia in 1965 but Bill remembers that his father, an executive at Brown & Co. was not at all keen to go. The political climate of the time however, left them little choice. Bill himself, having already begun

accountancy studies in Sri Lanka, found he had to start all over again and take the Aussie exams. Having earned his finance and marketing degrees, he went into the hospitality business with an old Josephian and dear friend Errol Graham. From there it was the property trade and he can look back on a satisfyingly successful career, sitting on the boards of numerous corporations and earning notable awards. He was inducted into the Queensland Hotels Association Hall of Fame in 2002 and the following year came the Australian Hotels Association President's Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Australian hotels industry. He was also Chairman of the Federation of Sri Lankan Organisations in Queensland and is Deputy Chairman now of the PA Research Foundation, that funds medical research into deadly and debilitating diseases.

In 2004, Bill was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list 'for services to the Australian and Sri Lankan communities and the Sri Lanka Cricket Foundation'. "I think it was for the work I was doing with the Princess Alexandra Hospital Research Foundation (he is still Deputy Chairman) for the community and for the cricket, he says, pausing to talk of the cricket connection that has lasted from his days as an opening bowler and batsman for Wesley. In Australia, where work commitments kept him from serious cricket he was heavily involved in supporting the game as Chairman of the Sri Lanka Cricket Foundation in Queensland. The Foundation assisted the cricketers when they toured Australia. Incidentally his cousin Malcolm's son Warren Deutrom is the CEO of Irish Cricket, that branch of the family having migrated to England.

He was there when the infamous no-balling of Sri Lanka's ace spinner Muttiah Muralidharan took place in 1995 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and recalls he was sitting with Frank Tyson, the legendary Australian quick in the VIP box. "Tyson said 'you know Bill they are going to call him today'. And they did. It was a total set-up," he says, still irate. "And then Murali bowled leg spin and they still called him. The Aussies (in the box) too were so disgusted." Coach Dav Whatmore was a close friend and those were immensely stressful days but he is all praise for Murali's strength of character that saw him weather that most painful of assaults. Today Australia has asked him to coach, he says, with great satisfaction that the wheel has turned full circle.

When he went to Australia, most Aussies didn't know where Sri Lanka was but the cricketers have done us proud, he says, deeply appreciative of the calibre of the likes of Mahela (Jayewardane) and (Kumar) Sangakkara. "I'm so impressed with them. They should be Wesleyites," he grins. "They're not just champion cricketers, they're champion people."

But the longtime commitment to cricket apart, it was actually the tsunami disaster that brought Bill back to Sri Lanka regularly and got him started on what has been an ongoing albeit low-profile journey to do his bit in fund raising for many causes – cancer care, CKD, Wesley. In the aftermath of the tsunami, along with 30 other Lankans in Australia, they formed the Sri Lanka Disaster Relief Fund and in total built 220 houses in Kalutara, Maggona, Kalkudah and Seelamunai. After an initial assessment visit, they lobbied the state government in Queensland and managed to get 2 ½ million Aussie dollars... "they have never done that before," he says. 130 houses were built with those funds alone. It was tough going, especially in the Northeast with the war still raging but they found a way partnering with the Ramakrishna Mission whose help was invaluable.

He is also active in Australia, fundraising for charities like the CCC Foundation (CCC stands for courage, compassion and commitment) "supporting the wonderful work done by the Sri Lankans on the ground here" he says, speaking with sincere admiration for founder Chairman Jetha Devapura and the dynamic team in Sri Lanka. The CCC House was a desperate need-for relatives of patients and children undergoing chemotherapy at the Maharagama Cancer Institute to have a place to stay overnight especially when they had travelled from afar. He

recalls how the specialist they had sent from the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne came back and told them how all the good work would be in vain if outpatients had to spend the night on the floor where stray dogs wandered about. They thought of building a 20-room centre but the Director of the Maharagama Cancer Institute Dr. Kanishka Karunaratne had been adamant -200 beds. And so it was. Built in 2010, the funds for upkeep are provided from Australia.

The CCCLine, a free telephone counselling service (Tel; 1333) is another cause he supports, with the priority now to get volunteers for the night shift. Last year's awareness-raising bikeathon was a huge success. Efforts like this, he feels, go a long way in addressing the need. "From 100 calls, it went up to 3000 a month and now it is about 2000," he says, hopeful that the next bike-athon in August will help in this effort to bring people out of the shadows.

Chronic Kidney Disease is another issue he can talk at length about –where Kushil Gunasekera's Foundation of Goodness, the CCC and the Lions Club are all working to help but state support is vital, he feels. At Wesley, the problems are more manageable in some ways, with the ready goodwill that the old school tie engenders. When Acting Principal Upali Ratnayake expressed a wish for Bibles in the chapel, a Buddhist old boy promptly obliged, in true Wesley spirit, he says.

The way he sees it it's the leadership that's needed and his role is helping put the infrastructure in place to ensure smooth running in the future. "You need someone on site. Other old boys don't have the time; I have the time now. It's very rewarding," he says, matter of fact. That he has strong contacts in Australia and the extended old boy network of some 300-350 staunch old Wesleyites there, willing to rally round certainly helps in getting things done promptly. Keeping the Old Boys informed is important, he feels and the OBU website www.wesleyobu.lk, is designed for this purpose among others dedicated to the school. No area goes unnoticed meanwhile. To ensure toilets are clean, the job has now been outsourced because in his book, the boys should work in a clean, safe environment. It's reflective of the way the school is run: "You create the right environment, standards will improve."

"We've got the right calibre of boys. We can make the boys proud Sri Lankan citizens. All our colleges have to produce strong Sri Lankans who have the vision of helping the country," he says. His Australian wife Maureen whom he married in 1969 loved Sri Lanka and was so impressed by the warmth and inherent goodness she found among the people, he reflects. She died in 2008 from asbestos-related cancer and Bill is determined to do all he can to have the material banned in Sri Lanka. All the major countries in the world have done so – why is Sri Lanka lagging behind he asks with some frustration. Their four daughters all love Sri Lanka, "they're very jealous when I come here."

The Deutrom families in Colombo are all gone, he thinks, but the connection to the country is still deep-rooted. Wesley was where Bill Deutrom spent many happy years, learnt the discipline and values that mostly shaped his life and he's glad to have the chance to give something back.

Sports Round-up

ATHLETICS

Wesley are nowhere in the schools circuit in Athletics because the boys have lost interest in Athletics, so much so, that Wesley has hardly had any representation in Athletics over several years. However there is an outstanding prospect S. Saithyaraj who took part in the

National marathon achieving 37th place out of 700 marathon runners. He was placed 7th out of 400 athletes in the Colombo 10 kilometre event. His full potential is still to be realised.

Recently a coach and an assistant have been appointed and have begun to introduce a regular training programme. Meanwhile the interest in Athletics to be revived through the Sports Meet, which was successfully concluded on 8th April 2015.

Annual Sports Meet of Wesley College

The Annual Senior School Sports Meet of Wesley College was held at Campbell Park on Friday 27th March 2015 under the patronage of the College Principal Rev. Ebenezer Joseph.

It was indeed a colourful event with each House vigorously competing not only to be the best in athletics but also to win the award for the best decorated tent. The Teachers Guild ably led by the Master in Charge of Athletics Mr. Hemantha Perera worked tirelessly to make this event an unreserved success. The highlight of the day's proceedings was the magnificent drill display by 140 students of Grades 6 and 7 who were clad in bright and beautiful outfits.

While Wilkin House emerged Champions, Nethuja Herath, Ebinesh Udayakumar, Ovin Vinnath, Thikshana Vithanage, Dayan Wijetilleke, Sanjula Perera and Sudesh Fernando were the pick of the Athletes who performed excellently.

The former public school athlete and a life member of the Wesley College Old Boys' Union Mr. Peter Peiris together with his wife were the Chief Guests. Mrs. Anoja Peiris presented the awards.

BADMINTON

After almost a decade Wesley began competitive badminton. The Badminton structure was revamped just about two months ago. Wesley have already begun to enter tournaments beginning in the lower divisions. The team ended up being the runners up in the "D" Division, which is an encouraging sign.

Meanwhile a training programme was held for a selected set of players during the April holidays. The under 16 team travelled up to Bandarawela to play in a tournament. They were beaten in the quarter finals.

Mr. Ajith Wijeyasinghe has been very methodical in guiding the coaches, assigning tasks enforcing discipline and planning for the future. Managing 125 players is difficult. Those who show greater potential are being separated and given special practices and exposure. A total of 14 players drawn from different age groups represented Wesley in the Junior National Badminton Championship 2015 held at Ananda College Courts during the last week of May 2015. Our doubles pair in the under 13 and Yogendran playing in the under 17 singles event qualified to participate in the final round which will be played in July 2015.

BASKETBALL

For the first time in many years Wesley participated in competitions. In an under 17 tournament Wesley won two matches. This is a reasonable beginning as playing basketball was just a pastime. Many plans are underway which is to improve the infrastructure. Once that becomes a reality the quality of basketball at Wesley will improve.

CHESS

Tremendous interest in chess has been shown by the young ones. There are over 100 students interested in Chess. For the first time Wesley participated in a tournament where many schools participated. It is heartening to note that 3 youngsters entered the final round.

CRICKET



The cricket season begins in September when the inter-school competition gets underway for the “Singer” Schools Cricket competition. Whereas in the old days, third term games were to blood new players and give senior players sitting for exams a break.

Wesley this recently concluded season 2014/2015 performed woefully. So much so if you refer the table below, Wesley are ranked 37th. For some, you may not have heard about the schools ahead of Wesley. The OBU Colombo and keen supporters of cricket are hoping to reverse the results in season 2015/2016. Wesley has been demoted to Division 2. Wesley were called upon to play in a relegation round and were successful in winning both matches, one on first Innings and the other outright. Even so, the points earned were insufficient to remain in the “A” division as the performance in the league matches are also incorporated in the final analysis. The bitter truth is that we have been relegated to the “B” division.

Comments from the Sports Administrator – Clifford Rodrigo on the season just concluded

“Notwithstanding, allow me to share my thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of our team.

1. Our batting is technically sound. A greater degree of mental strength and self-belief could have yielded much better results.
2. Our ground fielding was well above average. Close - in catching however was weak. 3. Our fast medium bowlers are more than adequate, while our spinners were substandard. The latter were also underutilized. The following were the exceptional performances of the season
 1. Andrew Paraes our opening bowler was outstanding and took wickets on a consistent basis and ended the season with 55 wickets.
 2. Two centuries were scored one by Reshana Senevirathne and the other by Zenith Wickramanayake.
 3. Our skipper Jonathan Cadiramanpulle who did not live up to expectations, was yet the best all-rounder.
 4. Our batting performance against Carey in the second Innings was indeed excellent. We reached the target of 186 runs in 31 overs losing 6 wickets. A run rate of 6 runs per over.

RESULTS

Versus St Anthony's College (No Result) at Kandy

St Anthony's won the toss and batted

St Anthony's 1st Innings 228

Wesley 1st Innings 53 for 3 Match abandoned due to weather

Versus St. Benedict's College U19 1st XI (St Benedict's won by 10 wickets) at Campbell Park

St Benedict's College won the toss and sent Wesley in to bat.

Wesley 1st Innings 135 and 2nd Innings 105

St Benedict's 1st Innings 216 and 2nd Innings 6 for no loss

Versus Royal College Panadura (Match Drawn (Royal won on 1st Innings)) at Campbell Park

Royal won the toss and sent Wesley in to bat

Wesley 1st Innings 105 and 2nd Innings 75 for 2 Royal

1st Innings 231 for 5

Versus St. Joseph's College U19 1st XI (St. Joseph's won by an Innings & 3 Runs) at Darley Road

Wesley won the toss and batted

Wesley 1st Innings 99 and 2nd Innings 164 St

Joseph's 1st Innings 266 for 5

Versus St. Thomas' College U19 1st XI (S.Thomas' won by an Innings & 54 runs) at Mt Lavinia

Wesley won the toss and sent St Thomas' in to bat St

Thomas' 1st Innings 240

Wesley 1st Innings 83 and 2nd Innings 103

Versus Trinity College U19 1st XI (Trinity won by 3 wickets) at Bloomfield Grounds

Trinity College won the toss and sent Wesley in to bat.

Wesley 1st Innings 166 and 2nd Innings 76

Trinity 1st Innings 89 and 2nd Innings 155 for 6

Versus St. Peter's College U19 1st XI (St. Peter's won by an Innings & 147 runs) at Bambalapitya

St Peter's won the toss and batted

St Peter's 1st Innings 357 for 4

Wesley 1st Innings 156 and 2nd Innings 54

Versus Royal College, Colombo U19 1st XI (Royal won by 9 wickets) at Reid Avenue.

Wesley won toss and sent Royal in to bat.

Royal 1st Innings 235 2nd Innings 34 for 2

Wesley 1st Innings 93 and 2nd Innings 172

Versus President's College U19 1st XI (Wesley won by 9 wickets) at Campbell Park

President's College won the toss and batted.

President's 1st Innings 34 and 2nd Innings 331

Wesley 1st Innings 243 and 2nd Innings 125 for 1

Versus St Sebastian's Moratuwa (Match Drawn (St Sebastian's won on 1st Innings)) at Campbell Park

Wesley won toss and sent St Sebastian's in to bat

St Sebastian's 1st Innings 241 2nd Innings 164 for 1

Wesley 1st Innings 189

Versus Ananda College U19 1st XI (Ananda won by an Inning & 48 runs) at Campbell Park

Wesley won toss and sent Ananda in to bat.

Ananda 1st Innings 316 for 3

Wesley 1st Innings 37 and 2nd Innings 131

Versus Richmond College U19 1st XI (Richmond won by 7 wickets) at Campbell Park

Wesley won the toss and batted

Wesley 1st Innings 215 and 2nd Innings 89

Richmond 1st Innings 252 for 5 and 53 for 3

SCHOOL U19 - D1 - TWO DAY TOURNAMENT 2014/15

POINTS TABLE AS AT 03.03.2015 (FINALIZED)

SERIAL NO.	SCHOOL	TOTAL NO.OF MATCHES PLAYED BY EACH SCHOOL	RESULTS									POINTS					TOTAL POINTS	POINTS AVERAGED ON NO.OF MATCHES PLAYED	POSITION ON AVERAGED POINTS		
			WON BY INNINGS	WON OUTHRIGHT	WON 1ST INGS.	LOSS BY INNINGS	LOSS OUTHRIGHT	LOSS ON 1ST INGS.	NO RESULT	TIED	NO PLAY	ON VICTORIES	ON NO RESULTS	ON MATCHES TIED	ON LOSE 1ST INGS.	ON RUNS & WICKETS					
1	Trinity College, Kandy	16	5	5	3	1		2						154	0		4	113.28	271.28	16.9550	1
2	Thurstan College	16	4	2	6			3	1					128	3		6	99.53	236.53	14.7831	2
3	Lumbini Vidyalaya	15	2	6	1			5	1					108	3		10	99.72	220.72	14.7147	3
4	St. Peter's College, Colombo	16	4	3	5			2	2					132	6		4	90.47	232.47	14.5294	4
5	S. Thoms' College, Mt. Lavinia	16	4	1	6			4	1					116	3		8	98.84	225.84	14.1150	5
6	Ananda College	16	4	1	5			3	2		1			108	6		6	101.56	221.56	13.8475	6
7	Zahira College	15	1	2	7			4	1					94	3		8	100.84	205.84	13.7227	7
8	Richmond College	15	4	3	4		1	1	1	1				124	3		2	75.55	204.55	13.6367	8
9	D. S. Senanayake College	16	2	1	9			2	2					112	6		4	94.75	216.75	13.5469	9
10	Isipathana College	15	1	3	6			3	1		1			98	3		6	84.76	191.76	12.7840	10
11	Mahanama College	16		4	4		1	7						80	0		14	99.58	193.58	12.0988	11
12	Dharmaraja College, Kandy	16	2	1	7			3	2		1			96	6		6	81.41	189.41	11.8381	12
13	St. Sylvester's College	15	3	1	4			2	1	4				86	12		2	76.47	176.47	11.7647	13
14	Gurukula College	15	1	2	4	1	1	5	1					70	3		10	90.21	173.21	11.5473	14
15	Royal College, Panadura	16	2	1	6			5	2					88	6		10	80.45	184.45	11.5281	15
16	Maliyadewa College	16	1	2	5			2	6					78	0		12	91.19	181.19	11.3244	16
17	St. Joseph's College	16	2	1	5	1	1	4	2					80	6		8	76.83	170.83	10.6769	17
18	St. Servatiou's College	16	2	2	2	1	1	6	1		1			68	3		12	86.89	169.89	10.6181	18
19	St. Joseph Vaz College, Wennappuwa	16	2		4	1	1	4	4					60	12		8	87.82	167.82	10.4888	19
20	Bandaranayake College	14	2		3	1	4	3	1					52	3		6	85.53	146.53	10.4664	20
21	St. Benedict's College, Kotahena	16	2	2	3	1		4	3		1			76	9		8	70.99	163.99	10.2494	21
22	Maris Stella College	16		1	6	3	2	3	1					60	3		6	88.51	157.51	9.8444	22
23	Dharmasoka College	16		3	2	4	1	5	1					52	3		10	92.44	157.44	9.8400	23
24	De Mazenod College	16			7		1	5	3					56	9		10	81.70	156.70	9.7938	24
25	Nalanda College	16			1	5	1	2	3	4				52	12		6	79.37	149.37	9.3356	25
26	Mahinda College	16			2	3	2	1	5	3				48	9		10	78.45	145.45	9.0906	26
27	Moratu Vidyalaya	16			1	4		4	6	1				44	3		12	86.40	145.400	9.0875	27
28	St. Sebastian's College	16				6	1		7	2				48	6		14	77.40	145.400	9.0875	28
29	St. Aloysiu's College, Galle	16	1	1	3	2	2	2	5					50	15		4	73.53	142.53	8.9081	29
30	Prince of Wales College	15	1		3	1	1	7	1		1			38	3		14	72.83	127.83	8.5220	30
31	Holy Cross College	13			4	2	2	2	3					32	9		4	62.88	107.88	8.2985	31
32	President College, Kotte	16				3	5	5	2	1				24	3		4	84.04	115.04	7.1900	32
33	Dharmapala College	16				1		3	5	4	3			12	9		8	79.28	108.28	6.7675	33
34	Anuradhapura MMV	16					1	2	3	8	2			8	6		16	73.53	103.53	6.4706	34
35	Carey College	15					2	6	1	5	1			16	3		10	64.74	93.74	6.2493	35
36	Revatha College	15						5	3	7				0	0		14	78.25	92.25	6.1500	36
37	Wesley College	16					1		5	4	4	1	1	12	3		8	59.23	82.23	5.1394	37

Source – the *Batsman* www.batsman.com

CRICKET – JUNIOR TEAMS

The under 17 and under 15 team's season began in May 2015.

The under 17 team played six practice matches, won four, lost one while the other was washed out when they were in a commanding position.

Our under 17 team though fielding a very strong team including 7 players who played in the 1st XI has been a disappointment in that they have won only 2 matches out of the 5 outing they have had so far.

The under 15 team played four practice matches and won all four.

The under 15 "A" side has won all matches played to date. The scores are as follows.

Wesley College Vs C. W. W. Kannangara

C. W. W. Kannangara 79 in 42. 1 overs
(Dilusha Claaz 4 for 7, Avishka Ashen 2 for 18, Akib Thahir 2 for 19)
Wesley 83 for 2 wickets in 13.2 overs
(Sachithra Kavinda 22, Kalhara Perera 23, Ruchira Dangalla 14, Rahul Gunasekara 02)
Wesley won by 8 wickets

Wesley College Vs Siri Priyarathana College Padukka

Siri Priyarathana 103 all out
(Akib Thahir 5 for 20, Sanura Amarasinghe 3 for 23, Ruchika Dangalla 1 for 12, Dilusha Claaz 1 for 18)
Wesley 106 for 2
(Sachithra Kavinda 33, Kalhara Perera 16, Denuwana Mendis 30, Ruchika Dangalla 10)
Wesley won by 8 wickets

Wesley College vs St Joseph's

Wesley 212 for 5 in 34 overs (Yasas Bawantha 82 n.o, Shenal Dangalla 61, T. Akmeemana 42 n.o)
St. Joseph's 165 for 8 in 34 overs (Shenal Dangalla 3 for 23, Yasas Bhawantha 3 for 43)
Wesley won by 47 runs

Wesley College vs St Thomas' Kotte

St. Thomas' Kotte 119 in 39.5 overs (Sasmith Reshan 26, Charuka Dilshan 22: Akeeb Thaheer 3 for 48, Rahul Gunasekara 2 for 16, Shenal Dangalla 2 for 16, Avishka Ashen 2 for 24)
Wesley 120 for 4 in 21.5 overs (Yasas Bhawantha 43, Akeeb Thaheer 36: Deshitha Sadmitha 2 for 36)
Wesley won by wickets

The under 15 "B" played 2 matches and lost both.

FOOTBALL

Just two months ago Football at Wesley was at a standstill. They were no where near competitive level. After the appointment of two coaches there is a greater focus. The team needs to upgrade the quality of football at Wesley and will soon be participating in an All Island tournament. It will be a slow process of improvement for the senior team. The junior teams are doing well.

In the first under 19 match played at Hindu College Grounds, Wesley beat Hindu College by 4 goals to nil.

HOCKEY

Hockey is a game in which Wesley has done well in. In recent times the game suffered due to a very poor coach at a senior level. A new coach has been appointed and it is hoped that improvement will show good results in the future. The junior team is in good hands. The season will begin soon.

The under 13 team participated in the All Island Inter Schools tournament held in Kandy over 5 days including the weekend. The results of the matches played

Beat D. S. Senanayake	4 / 0
Beat Trinity College	3 / 0
Beat Bandaranayake	W / O
Beat Thanna School Matale	1 / 0

Wesley was the only school which won all their matches. They were also awarded the Gold Star Certificate. In accordance with the tournament rules.

KAYAKING AND CANOEING

Four under 16 boys attended a training programme organized by the National Association for Canoeing and Kayaking in Sri Lanka. This programme will, at the outset, expose the students to 5 weekends of training at the Bolgoda Lake Rowing Club in Moratuwa. They will engage in a long term training programme thereafter.

SWIMMING

Our swimmers began to compete with excellent results. In the initial competition that was held for beginners which included teams from Colombo, Wesley had the privilege of winning 25 medals 8 Gold, 9 Silver and 8 Bronze. It was immediately followed by an All Island Tournament for novices where about 3000 swimmers took part. Six of our swimmers qualified (we won 1 Gold and 2 Bronze medals).

Swimming at Wesley is on the upward trend considering the fact that they have just begun to engage in competitions. This being the first two meets for the current year, the outcome is indeed a morale booster which has encouraged and inspired all concerned.

Two under 13 swimmers participated in the all Island Open Pentathlon Swimming Championship 2015 conducted by Sri Lanka Swimming Association. Aakash Kumareson surpassed the qualification time.

Three relay teams from Wesley College took part in the Sri Lanka National Relay Carnival, where 60 schools and clubs participated. The under 11 free style relay team and the under 13 medley relay team qualified to participate in the finals.

TABLE TENNIS

The performance of the 15 year old Lithmini Maharama has been exemplary. He became the under 15 champion in the recent Rating Tournament conducted by the Schools Federation.

Lithmini Mahanama who has been in the forefront of Wesley College table tennis for many years has been invited to participate in the "set 2015 Thailand Junior & Cadet Open, ITTF Golden Series Junior Circuit" which was held in Bangkok 13th to 17th May 2015. Lithmini who won almost all singles events in the schools circuit tournaments this year is yet 15 years old and has a great future. He is also a ranked player among Sri Lanka Junior Squad.

TENNIS

Mini tennis was introduced to the younger students from the Havelocks park campus about 2 months ago where over 120 boys attended the practice sessions. Forty of these boys who had adequate potential according to the coach in attendance graduated last week to begin proper practices on the normal size tennis courts at Moors grounds Tennis will be introduced to the Borella campus before the end of June 2015.

RUGBY UNION



Wesley's 60th Rugby season will be skipped by, 3rd year player, Fly Half Omar Kuthubdeen. Omar will represent Wesley next year too. The vice-captain will be 3rd year Coloursmen, Flanker Pasindu Wickramasinghe, wing three quarter Chamika Kusal and Hooker Zyan Sabaar son of old Wesleyite (Class of 81) the late Shiraz Sabaar, will be the other play makers in the side.

Team 2015 is a young side with most players available next year as well as in 2017

Wesley is once again being coached by former Wesleyite and Vice-Captain (2005) and present Sri Lanka and Navy S.C. Prop Henry Terrence. The Assistant Coach and Trainer is former Wesley fly half (2006) Dennis Amal Pathirana.

The Under 16 team is coached by present Navy prop and Wesleyite Dulanjana Wijesinghe who represented College for 3 years and also Captained the College 1st X1 cricket team in 2009 and 2010.

The Master in Charge is Mr Nimal Bandara and the Sports Administrator is Mr Clifford Rodrigo.

As a precursor to the season proper, the under 18 All Island Schools Singer 7-a-side Tournament was held at the Royal Complex on 14th and 15th February 2015. Wesley emerged Champions in the Plate beating Royal College in the finals. What is of greater importance is the high quality of rugger displayed by our side with just one setback to Trinity at the beginning of the tournament, which resulted in our participation in the Plate. It was clearly evident that we were one of the best sides in the tournament.

Results are as follows:

March

22nd Wesley Vs Kingswood

edge out Wesley in First Leg of the Blaze Trophy

Kingswood College started off a second half challenge by Wesley College to score a close 19 points (2 goals, 1 try) to 17 (1 goals, 2 tries) win in their schools under 19 rugby tournament match played at the Nittawela Rugby Stadium, Kandy yesterday. At half Kingswoodians were in command leading 140.

Nittawela Kingswood

Try scores for Kingswood College were Raficideen (1), Fan's Ali (1) any W.A. Senash. Rezo Rafaideen added the extra points to 2 of the tries.

For Wesley T.D. Bahardeen (1), T.R. Samaratunga (1) and K.M. Perera (1). M. Kuthubdeen scored one of the tries.

28th Wesley Vs Issipathana Havelocks Sports Ground

Issipathana breeze past hapless Wesley 34-0

Issipathana continued their good start to the schools rugby season with an emphatic 34-0 win over Wesley College in their inter school rugby match at Havelock Park on Saturday.

Issipathana's points came from 2 goals and 4 tries as their opponents failed to put any points on the board. The winners led 10-0 at half time.

April

10th Wesley Vs St Peter's CR&FC Grounds St.

Peter's comfortably outpace Wesley in a try-fest

St. Peter's College finally played to the best of their ability as they crushed Wesley College by 45-22 points in their Singer Schools Rugby League encounter played at Longden place. A total of 11 tries were scored between the two teams inside the 80 minutes of play. Half-Time: St. Peter's 26 (4T,3C) – Wesley 05 (1T)

25th Wesley vs C W W Kanangara CR&FC Grounds

Wesley thrash Kanangara 61-0

Much fancied Wesley College thrashed minnows C W W Kanangara Vidyalaya by 61 points (Three goals and eight tries) to nil in their Singer Inter-schools Under 20 'A' Division rugby encounter played at Longden Place. Wesley dominated the match from the beginning and opened scoring through their dynamic outside half A.D. J.K. Samaratunga who touched down for two back to back tries to give Wesley an early lead but he missed both conversions. Wesley led 10-0 at half time. M. S. Amith scored two back to back tries for Wesley.

May

9th Wesley vs St Joseph's CR&FC Grounds

Joes after a strong comeback in the second half defeat the Double Blues 33-15

St Joesph's College played their final group stage match against Wesley College at Longden Place. The Josephians after a convincing win over Kingswood in their previous match was focused on continuing their good run this season. The Double Blues on the other had nothing to loose, having lost three matches out of the four they have played, they had little chance in making any progress this season. After a sluggish start by Wesley, the Joes hit the lead early. However, Wesley came back and at half time, Wesley led Joes by 10 points to 9. The Joes came back strong and dominated play in the second half to lead 33 points to 10. On the stroke of full time Wesley scored to reduce the margin. The final score Joes 33 defeated Wesley 15.

**Wesley Scrums Down with S. Thomas' for The Sir Oliver
Goonetilleke Shield**



Sir Oliver Goonetilleke **GCMG, KCVO, KBE, KSTJ, DLL, BA,**

Appropriate to the greatness of the individual, the Old Boys Union of Wesley College along with the Old Boys of S. Thomas' College Mt. Lavinia after obtaining the approvals of the Principal and Warden of both great Christian institutions have decided to lock horns in rugby in memory of arguably Sri Lanka's greatest citizen, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, which will continue to be an annual feature.

Considered an outstanding public servant, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke Ceylon's first Ceylonese Governor General and a colourful personality was one of Wesley's five illustrious Knights and arguably Wesley's greatest alumni. As the unsung hero, very few in the public

domain know that he was responsible along with the late Hon. D.S Senanayake for achieving Sri Lanka's independence in 1948.

Sir Oliver did not fail to recall with gratitude the education he received at Wesley, and that the bursaries and scholarships played a valued part. Bestowed with the Hill medal which is the supreme award for academic achievement of the College for a record three consecutive years in 1908, 1909 and 1910, Sir Oliver maintained an abiding interest in Wesley and made several contributions for its improvement. Teaching at Wesley for a few years and later passing the London B.A. and the London Inter Science (Economics), Sir Oliver served as President of the Wesley College OBU from 1940 – 1949 and once again from 1953 – 1963, the longest to serve in that capacity. He was the confidante of Principals, and befriended many an Old Boy and teacher, and was truly a friend of the school in good times and bad. He did not hesitate to welcome into "Queens House" Old Boys for meetings, and even during the time he was away in England he remained as its President, at the unanimous request of the Old Boys.

On 17.07.1954 Sir Oliver Goonetilleke succeeded Lord Soulbury to be the first Ceylonese Governor-General. He served in this position till March 1962.

The inaugural encounter for the magnificent trophy was played on Friday the 15th May 2015 at the Havelock Sports Club Grounds at 4.30pm. Prior to the 1stXV game the junior matches commencing at 1 pm. Evenly matched, both teams are bound to produce exhilarating rugby. All roads lead to Havelock Park which was abounding in a sea of blue with Old boys, parents, friends and rugby enthusiasts coming to cheer their teams in what could be a nail biting game.

Gracing the occasion will be the Principal of Wesley and the Warden of S. Thomas' along with family members of Sir Oliver and dignitaries from both schools.

St Thomas' win inaugural Sir Oliver Goonetilleke Shield

Text Source: Papare Rugby



The newly commissioned Sir Oliver Goonetilleke trophy game Wesley College vs S Thomas College got off amidst some splendour today at the Havelock Grounds. In a last minute comeback, the Thomians powered their way to an exciting win 36-29 breaking the hearts of the Double Blues 'out-pouring' at the grounds especially with Wesley storming through gallantly till the end stages of the game.

It was the Double Blues who drew first blood in the game inside the fifth minute. They scored a second to lead 10 points to nil-00 to Wesley after fourteen minutes of play.

With the head start, the Double Blues were right on the money as they settled themselves to play good rugby. The Thomians tried hard but were making many errors. However late in the half, they scored to reduce the margin to 10 points to 7. Wesley were quick to reply and ran the length of the field to score. The conversion was successful and Wesley led 17 points to 7. In the closing minutes of the half the Thomians scored wide and at the break the score was 17 points to 12 in favour of the Double Blues.

On resumption of play, Wesley continued where they left off scoring in the second minute to increase the margin to 12 points. The Thomians persevered and scored next to reduce the deficit to 5 points. The Double Blues counter-attack followed to extend the lead to 29 -19 in favour of Wesley and they thought they had sealed the game. The Thomians replaced their scrum half with ten minutes to go and he turned out to be the playmaker. Two quick tries resulted in the Thomians grabbing the lead for the first time, 33 points to 29. The crestfallen Double Blues who held sway against their more powerful opponents most of the match, fought valiantly to come back in the game. But the Thomians in the dying stages sealed victory converting a 40 metre penalty to be the inaugural winners of the Sir Oliver Goonetilleke Trophy.

Full time – Wesley College – 29 (5T 2C) S. Thomas`s College – 36 (5T 4C 1P)

The teams did justice to the celebrated Sir Oliver Goonetilleke by putting on a splendid display of fighting rugby for the crowd present.

Rugger Fixtures Singer League 2nd Round

May

29th Wesley vs Zahira CR & FC grounds
Wesley beat Zahira College 32 (6T, 1C) to 22 (3T, 2C, 1P)

Wesley got off to a great start scoring three consecutive tries in the first fifteen minutes to lead 15 points to nil with all conversions missed. However playmaker Jurangpathy left the field injured and the momentum shifted in Zahira's favour. Zahira scored two converted tries to reduce the margin to trail by a point at half time.

Zahira kept up the pressure and opened scoring in the second half with a penalty to hit the lead. Midway through the half Wesley scored under the posts but a woeful miss in front of the posts had Wesley snatch the lead back leading 20 points to 17. Zahira were quick to reply and scored their third try to take the lead again. Wesley not to be out done scored wide to take the lead once more. As the game meandered towards full time, Wesley sealed victory by scoring again. The conversion was successful and the Double Blues beat Zahira 32 (6T, 1C) points to 22 (3T, 2C, 1P)

June

6th **Wesley vs D. S. Senanayake** **CR & FC grounds** **Wesley cling on to win against DS Senanayake College**

A second half rally by DS Senanayake College was not sufficient as they fell short by a single point as Wesley College scraped through a 12-11 victory to stay unbeaten in the plate segment. The double blues started off matters in style as they opened scoring early to lead 7 points to nil. DS squandered many opportunities to try and level the scores. Wesley led at half time. On the resumption of play, Wesley increased the margin to lead 12 points to nil. DS picked up the momentum and slowly clawed back to within one point. In the final minute, DS were kickable penalty but chose to run the ball. Wesley were successful enough to survive another close encounter and register their second victory in the Plate Division. Full Time - Wesley 12 (2T 1C) to DS 11 (1T 2P)

13th **Wesley Vs Dharmaraja** **CR & FC Grounds** **Wesley beat Dharmaraja 27 points to 13** No match report available.

19th **Wesley Vs St. Anthony's** **CR & FC Grounds** **Wesley retain Plate Championship**

Wesley College retained the Singer Schools Plate Rugby Championship where they pulled off a 26 points (3 Goals, 1 Try) to 20 (2 Goals, 2 penalties) win over St. Anthony's College Kandy in the decider played yesterday at Longden place. Both teams played a superb brand of rugby and Wesley scored a try off a beautiful three quarter move which was converted. To lead 7-nil. The Antonians were awarded two back to back penalties for infringements by Wesley to close the gap to just one point. Wesley 7, St. Anthony's 6 at half time.

Early in the second half the Antonians took the lead by 13 points to 7. Wesley were quick to reply and regained the lead when they scored off a fantastic three quarter move. The score read 14-13 in favour off Wesley. Wesley increased the margin with another converted try to make it 21-13. Both teams were playing with passion and St Anthony's came back to reduce the margin to one point. Within the space of four minutes Wesley College sealed the game when they worked their three quarter line off a rolling maul to score wide. The conversion was missed but Wesley ran out winners by 26 points to 20.

Editor's note: The CR & FC grounds appears to be our home ground for rugby.

In Memoriam

Obituary 30th May 2015 WILLIAM RALPH MAAS

From Dallas Achilles



So sad to advise you that Ralph Maas, extraordinary Sax & Clarinet player of the fifties and sixties passed away. Ralph was a great muso who enjoyed his music. Loved to improvise on the jazz and swing standards. He was a big fan of introducing different tune titbits from other well known songs whilst improvising on a 'standard'.

He played with several leading bands in Ceylon including The Morton Cole Combo, The Joy Ferdinando Combo, Adrian Ferdinands and The Sharps. He was ever ready to help the budding young muso and I relished the time he spent helping me when I started to learn the trumpet. Ralph was an old boy of Wesley College. May his soul rest in peace.

Obituary 10th May 2015

RANJITH ASOKA DASSANAYAKE



Ranjith was at school 1952-62

Ranjith was born on the 19th of September 1940. He is my cousin and we grew up together in Nugegoda. Ranjith started his education at the Royal Primary School where he was known for his prowess in wrestling. He had an enormous appetite in those days and was a big guy for his age. I recall with much nostalgia playing cricket with him and his sister who was my age. As I remember studying was something alien to him and when he returned home from school there was just one thing on his mind – cricket.

Ranjith left Royal to join Wesley College in 1952 in Form 1 which I believe in the modern curriculum is year 6. His parents were now in the Railway Housing estate in Dematagoda opposite the Police Station. Ivan Bowen and the Carnie brothers lived on the same road. He walked daily to school, played cricket and got involved in the fun and mischief like the rest of us. As he was 2 years my senior in age I looked up to him and learnt much from him. He never laughed at my mistakes and faults. Ranjith had tremendous kindness and understanding for his age. He was the eldest of the cousins and had a tremendous influence on us all.

My parents were in Gampaha 1952-56 and then in Katunayake 1956-58. During the school holidays Ranjith stayed with us. We had such a wonderful time playing cricket and football from dawn to dusk. There were times we scoured the forests for wild fruits, went fishing in murky ponds and swam in muddy pools. I remember the vigour and the sense of purpose as we set out on our journeys. Those times were a rich gift. Ranjith was a voracious reader and appreciated the Arts. His drawings were colourful. His caricatures were wonderful works of art. I recall once when he created from mud and clay the figure of Jiggs, the American cartoon character, from Bringing up Father by Geo McManus. That was indeed a masterpiece.

My abiding memory from those days is his excellent general knowledge and his gift for writing essays. As he was well read he spoke well and had a fine command of the English language. At Wesley he did well in class and won several prizes at the prestigious school Prize Giving. Although his talents were for the Arts there was the inevitable family pressure to study the sciences with a possibility of becoming a doctor. He knuckled down to some serious hard work in 1957 for the SSC obtaining the required 5 credits with a distinction to study medicine at University.

I remember he was a fine cricketer and a good athlete. Although he went for cricket practices with a view to playing for the school he never applied himself fully and did not make it to the first team. He loved the good life and enjoyed the friendships and tomfoolery at school and became a popular figure. At school we all had nicknames and Ranjit was called "Boat". By his affable manner and charm he made many friends. He took an active part in the life of the school. I well recall he wrote a fine piece about the life of the Classical Composer Giuseppe Verdi for the 1958 Double Blue Magazine. That was the extent of his love for opera and classical music.

It was around this time when he was in the 6th form at Wesley he lost his focus on his studies and slowly drifted away from academia. He continued to enjoy sports and social life at school. Although we expected a glittering career it did not quite happen. He failed the University entrance a couple of times and decided to take on a job in the Railways (CGR) as an apprentice. His interest was to become a Colour Lights Supervisor. This environment can be a daunting experience for a young man. There was a strong culture of drinking and partying. Ranjith never fulfilled his potential in the CGR. His life was not without mishap. He retired early after several years of service in the organization in which his father held a prestigious position.

After retirement Ranjith taught English and helped the Alcoholics Anonymous in a voluntary capacity. His work was greatly appreciated by all. His talents and brilliance shone through. This he did for several years and it gave him great pleasure. After several years he decided to call it a day. During his retirement he read about philosophy and religion and converted to Christianity after being a Buddhist since childhood.

Whenever I visited Sri Lanka he came to see me in a 3-Wheeler wearing a broad smile. We often got together for a meal. There we reminisced our days in Gampaha and Katunayake and the many escapades, pranks and mischief we enjoyed. We often made a pilgrimage to Wesley College to walk those long corridors again. We saw the Great Hall and the Science Laboratories once again to recall the good times. He knew a lot about his friends at Wesley, where they were and what they were upto. Ranjith had a tremendous love for his old school and remembered his friends with much fondness.

Ranjith had a fine sophisticated sense of humour. When he was in a joking mood Ranjith was never less than charm itself. He was a great talent and a fine friend, with whom it was a privilege to have spent time. Many of his jokes were of his own creation, cleverly put together, about mundane day to day events in our lives.

In retrospect, having known him a lifetime I feel he is exceptionally gifted. Although he was a man of considerable ability Ranjith didn't fulfill his potential. His talents were left to wither away. There are times we make wrong choices and he did with serious consequences. Ranjith was a man of such puzzling conflicts of character. He lived the way he wanted, come what may. With Ranjith no amount of reasoning, discussion or persuasion was ever possible to make him change his mind. Some prefer to call it the awesome force of destiny. Sadly he was unable to enjoy his retirement with his family for long. Serious illness struck from out of the blue. To all those who know him well he will always remain an enigma. It is my hope he will have a good quality of life in the years ahead.

**Obituary 27th April 2015 CAPT. ANWAR DOLE From
Keith de Kretser:**

Mr Anwar Dole passed away on Tuesday, 28th April 2015 in Sydney, Australia at the age of

95. He was the father of Bunty(NZ) and Binky aka Sumitro(SL) who were also educated at Wesley College. Sumitro was my classmate from the LKG and I met up with him in December 2014 in Sydney.

Mr Dole was the oldest Wesleyite in Sydney. Capt. Anwar Dole opened batting for Wesley and played under Henry N. Duckworth in the mid 1930's. Whilst his sons were at Wesley, he was actively involved in the PTA for many years. To his family we extend our sincere condolences.

A Tribute to Capt. Anwar Dole by Bunty Dole (his eldest son)

Photo - Anwar Dole in extreme left with Nizar standing.



Our loving father Captain Tuan Anwar Dole passed away peacefully in Sydney Australia at the age of 94 on the 27th of April 2015 surrounded by his family and friends. An old boy of Wesley College he was an outstanding sportsman and represented the school in Cricket and Hockey. With the outbreak of the 2nd World War Captain Dole's academic career was cut short as he decided to join the Army. While serving in Singapore with the British Forces he was awarded a Kings Commission. Coming back to Sri Lanka he joined the Ceylon Army

and was one of the founder members of the Sri Lanka Singha Regiment. Captain Dole retired from the Army after 23 years of service. He would relate stories of his time in Trincomalee during the Japanese bombing. He was privy to be a member of and take an active part of many outstanding organisations including Ceylon Light Infantry Association and the Ex-Servicemen's Association. His civilian career saw him join the Malaysian High Commission in Sri Lanka, where he spent the next 22 years. For meritorious services rendered to the Malaysian Government he was awarded the PPN (Pingat Parkuan Negra). Being a proud Malay, Captain Dole was involved in many Malay organisations including being a founder member of the Sydney Malay Association.

The last few years he spent at St Dominic's Nursing Home he successfully introduced activities such as table tennis and sing along to lift the spirit of the residents and bring more fun. He also promoted inter faith understanding between the various groups of people in the Home by inviting the local mosque clerics for talks. Our father leaves behind a legacy of very high standards. With the vision and wisdom he has provided to his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren this will surely be carried on. May Almighty Allah grant him Jennathul Firdouse.

From Nizar Sappideen (NSW):

Anwar Dole's sons Bunty and Binky Dole were students at Wesley. I was associated with Anwar since the formation of the Sri Lankan Australian Malay Association (SLAMA) on 19th Sept. 1998. SLAMA was formed by Sri Lankan Malays and their families domiciled in NSW, Australia. I was the founder President. Anwar was a very lively member of SLAMA and helped draft the Constitution of the Association. As an Army Officer, he was very methodical in his ways and made sure that all members strictly adhered to the rules. Having a good knowledge of Malay culture in Sri Lanka, he was the driving force behind many successful cultural events conducted by SLAMA in Sydney. His passing away is a great loss to our Association. May Allah grant him eternal rest and heavenly bliss!

Obituary 11th April 2015 NIMAL SENAKA WIJESINGHE

From the Scottish Herald: Nimal Senaka Wijesinghe Passed away peacefully after a sudden illness, at Monklands Hospital, Airdrie, Scotland on 11th April, 2015, aged 73 years, beloved husband of Celia, loving father of Neloni and Dilini, father-in-law of Gordon and the late Anoman, much loved grandfather of Alanki, Emmi and Ben. Funeral service at Airdrie Baptist Church, on Tuesday, 21st April at 1pm, thereafter to New Monkland Cemetery, Glenmavis. Called to rest with Jesus. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to British Heart Foundation and Diabetes Association

From Rev.Rohan L Wijesinghe

Hello dear friends,

Pardon me for not writing individually just now. Thank you for your expressions of sympathy and condolences. Some of you shared specific memories of Nimal - Thank you! Indira and I and our son Rajeev were able to be in Scotland for about 8 days. Nimal's funeral was at the Airdrie Baptist Church. It was attended by over 240 people including the local MP and members of several churches, far and near, where Nimal had preached, There were several friends and relations from all over England.

Pastor Alan McKnight, a close friend of Nimal, conducted the service and the three grandchildren and I also took part. In my presentation I was able to include a few memories some of you shared with me - thank you! The Burial was at the Monkland cemetery which is walking distance from Nimal & Celia's home. A reception was held at the Tudor Hotel in Airdrie. At the same time of the service in Airdrie, (April 21 at 1.00 p.m.) a memorial service was held at the Nugegoda Baptist Church in Sri Lanka (6.00 p.m. same day). This service was attended by over 150 persons. It had also been a very moving service.

Celia, Neloni and Dilini are coping satisfactorily. But the three grandchildren already miss their beloved Grandpa! Thank you for uplifting us in your hearts, thoughts and prayers.

Rohan

From Dr Nihal D Amerasekera



Nimal was a popular student at Wesley in the 1950's. He was an outstanding Badminton player and captained the school team in 1960 with much success. Both Rohan and Nimal were fine all round sportsmen and played under 12 and under 14 cricket for Wesley and took part in Athletics. With his brothers Rohan, and Prasan they were stalwarts of the school's Student Christian Movement. Nimal, Rohan and I have been friends since 1950 when we first joined Wesley College and travelled daily by train from Nugegoda to Baseline Road. Those were the days of coal fired steam trains with dust everywhere. As the slow KV train chugged along the narrow gauge we had a great time chatting. Nimal's father passed away when the boys were very young and he took on the responsibilities at home, quite early in life. At Wesley he was well liked. He treated everyone with courtesy, respect and discretion. Nimal left Wesley after the Senior School Certificate. A few years after leaving school he got married and emigrated to Scotland where he had a rewarding career as a Consultant Hydrographer. He started his own Company N. S. W. (CONSULTANTS) LIMITED in Scotland where he was the Managing Director. Nimal and Celia had two daughters and lived in Glenmavis, Airdrie, Scotland.

After his retirement, he found the faith that would transform his life. He became a popular lay preacher and a member of the Scottish Lay Preachers Association. His gifts as a communicator led to his great success as a preacher. Nimal combined a regard for tradition with a liberal open mind. His well-ordered worship and thoughtful preaching was greatly appreciated. This characterised his entire journey as a preacher and won him many admirers

and friends. His two brothers, Rohan and Prasan, are both Priests. Rohan is a retired Pastor in Toronto, Canada and Prasan is in active service in Sri Lanka.

Nimal and I have communicated by email for many years until he suddenly went silent quite recently. The only time I met him after leaving school was at the General Hospital Kurunegala where I worked as a junior doctor in 1969. He popped in to say 'hello'. I have many happy memories of those days at school and feel deep sadness in losing a friend for whom I have always had the greatest respect and regard. On behalf of the Worldwide Brotherhood of Wesleyites I send my condolences to Nimal's immediate family, Rohan and Prasan.

From LCR (Lalith) Wijesinghe

Nimal and I were classmates and in later life were neighbours for a short period when living down Chapel Lane, Nugegoda when my parents rented one of their houses (Celiya's). The last time I contacted him was in 2008 prior to the reunion when I invited him to join. Unfortunately he could not do so due to a family reunion which was to take place in 2009 in SL. Nimal did well in later life when working for Shell. He had some assignments in SL too whilst resident in Scotland. I recall meeting up with him at the OWSC with some others when he happened to be in Colombo. This was my only meeting with him in recent times.

1958 School Badminton Team



Standing LtoR: Rohan Wijesinghe, Farook Sikkander, SK Seneviratne, Fahmy Sikkander
Seated LtoR: Nimal Wijesinghe, Mr PH Nonis, **PS Rodrigo (Capt)**, Mr Lanerolle, Mr Wilfred Wickramasinghe (Master in Charge)

1959 School Badminton Team



Standing: L—R: D. Ingram, Rohan Wijesinghe.
Seated: L—R: *The Principal*, P. S. Rodrigo (*Capt.*) N. S. Wijesinghe, Mr. W. Wickremasinghe, (*Master-in-charge*).

We thank Nimal for his contribution to the life of the school.

All of Nimal's emails carried this stanza:

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things.

I cannot think of a better epitaph for this fine gentleman and genuine good Christian.

**GRANT HIM O LORD
ETERNAL PEACE**

Obituary 17 January 2015 EBERT. DENNIS. 10.6.1932 - 17.1.2015

Gone Home to Jesus Deeply loved father, grandfather and great grandfather of Cara, Ross, Randall and Carolyn, Joshua and Emily, Kye, Jesse, Laura, Rebecca and little Amala.

Very sad to hear that Dennis has passed away. As a good and honourable servant we salute his extraordinary commitment to public life in Sri Lanka with his long and distinguished years of service in the Police Force. Dennis was a decent and lasting friend. He will be sorely missed. We thank Dennis for his immense contribution to the life of the school As we say for cricketers "May the turf lay lightly on him" NDA

Obituary 17th March 2015 GLADWYN (SARATH) DE SILVA

Husband of Daphne (née Mortier), father and father-in-law of Lyric & Vicky and Rohan & Nicola. Grandfather of 3 and great-grandfather of three great-grandsons. Brother of Lal, Ranjith, Derrick, & Ray. Passed away in the U.K. on the 17th of March 2015.

Gladwyn and his brothers were Wesleyites. To the de Silva family we extend our condolences. KDEK

VISWASAM - ERNEST SAMUEL
Obituary February 2009 (belated tribute)

Former Director of Colombo Commercial Co. Son of late Albert and Esther, loving husband of Manel, adored father of Suresh and late Sonali, beloved grandfather of Jordan, Noah and Sienna, father-in-law of Jenn Catt and Terence McCarthy, brother of Christopher, Ted, Dennis and late Dorothy. Mortal remains will be laid to rest at Macquarie Park Cemetery, Sydney, Australia. "All of us are richer for having known the love of such a gentleman." 110, Fragar Road, Penrith, NSW, 2750, Australia.

Ernest Viswasam was at Wesley from 1945-50. The period soon after World War II was a difficult time for the school and the country with food shortages and rationing. The school was moved to Kittiyakkara during the war and was being gradually moved back. This process took place under the watchful eye of Rev James Cartman. Despite the hardships Ernest had a tremendously successful school career winning many medals and awards. With his quick intellect, bon vivant charm and dry sense of humour Ernest was a popular student. He left Wesley in 1950 the year I joined the school in (Primary School) Std 2. Hence our paths never crossed. During this time the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Ceylon had not yet been opened. So he joined the Colombo Commercial Company as an Engineering Apprentice. Ernest worked diligently to gain experience and impressed the management. He

was sent to England to qualify as a Chartered Mechanical Engineer. On his return to the company within a few years he was selected to become a Director of the Organisation. Despite his entry into the exclusive club of Directors at a young age he had his feet on the ground. In his high office Ernest showed great humility, kindness, and loyalty to his staff.

The 1960's and 70's were a turbulent time for the country. There was political unrest with a coup d'etat and later an insurgency. Ethnic troubles raised its ugly head. With import restrictions and strictures on foreign travel the country became isolated. The educated middle classes in Sri Lanka bore the brunt of these changes and were the worst affected. Thus, they began their mass exodus from the country which was euphemistically called the 'brain drain'. Ernest emigrated to NSW Australia in 1974 the same year I left Sri Lanka to seek my fortune abroad in the UK.

Ernest settled with his family in New South Wales and continued working in Mechanical Engineering. With his wide experience he was much valued as a hard working colleague. He retired in 1995. He had many friends and was well loved and greatly respected in the community. Despite some setbacks and misfortunes he lived a happy and dignified life in Australia. I never knew his funeral was taking place in Sydney on the 21st of February 2009 when I was visiting that great city. If I knew I would have paid my respects as a member of the brotherhood of Wesleyites. I am grateful for his contribution to the life of the school and for the love and respect he showed Wesley as the Vice President of the OBU Colombo.

Dr Nihal Amerasekera

Vincent "Vincy" Adhihetty by brother Louis Adhihetty



Vincent (familiarily known as Vincy and, popularly, much to his fury, nicknamed ' Galthoppi ') was born on the 31 st of July 1937. He was the youngest in the family of 4 children -a girl and 2 other boys. The entire family (father, mother and children) was Sports crazy!. At least 3 members of the family represented a Sri Lankan National Team in Sports (Cricket, Athletics and Hockey). Of course, this was no surprise to friends and relatives because Monday to Friday the entire family woke up at 5.30 am and joined the trainee Prison Officers' to Physical Training on the Welikada Prisons Cricket Field. What discipline and regimentation!

Vincy started his schooling (Kindergarten) at St. Bridget's Convent at the age of 4 years. He continued there until he was 8. In 1945, he was admitted to Wesley College -thanks, to Mr.Weragoda, who was the Head of the Junior School. Then, as a result of ruthless / unsympathetic Government Officers' Transfer Policies, Vincy and his brother Lou, had a nomadic spell in schooling for (thank God) only 3 years. Their father was transferred from Welikada Prisons, Borella to Mahara Prisons, Ragama. As a result, since financially it was not feasible to board all 4 children in Schools, the younger two were admitted to De Mazenod College, Kandana in July. 1945. Then, in Jan. 1946, both boys were admitted to Richmond College, Galle. Vincy detested Boarding School life, especially the discipline, rigid rules and regulations. In addition, he was very 'homesick' and threatened to jump into the Richmond College Boarding House well of course, naturally a 'pity party' to win the sympathy of Mum and Dad!! So, in July 1946, Vincy was re-admitted to Wesley College, where he continued his schooling until he left in 1955.

Vincy excelled as a Sportsman at Wesley .He represented Wesley in no less than 5 sports and won College Colours in Cricket, Football, Hockey and Athletics. He was an exceptional sportsman. In 1953 he skippered Wesley Under 16 Cricket Team. In 1954 he was Full-back in the 1st XI Soccer Team. He was feared by the many opponents because of his truly aggressive and rough tactics. He played in the same position in the 1st XI Hockey Team often, if he could not get the ball he, at least, got the feet of the opponent! In the same year, Vincy won the Javelin, Putt Shot and Discus Throw events in the College Sports Meet. He also represented Wesley in the Public Schools' Sports Meet and. also, the Public Schools' Tennis Tournament. Also in 1954, Vincy is down in Wesley 1st XI Cricket Records as 'saviour' - Herman Claessen and he helped the School to beat St Thomas' by 1 wicket and 2 runs. A memorable feat! In 1955, he was top scorer in the Thomian match, which Wesley lost by 8 wickets.

Academically, Vincy achieved something which not one of his family member's were ever able to do! He passed the Senior School Certificate in his first and only attempt. After passing his SSC he underwent training as a planter but, obviously, it was not his cup of tea! Soon he was able to apply for a position in the army as a Trainee Cadet. Then, in 1956 he was sent as Cadet to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in Camberly, England. He passed out as a Second Lieutenant in 1958. In the same year, he married Hannelora Hoffmann (of German descent), who was learning English in Camberly. They returned in 1958 and Vincy was then attached to the Army Camp in Diyatalawa. In 1960, as Lieutenant, he joined the Army Ordinance Corps. Later, in 1962, Vincy was appointed Captain. After the birth of their two children Karl and Merlyn, Vincy had a desire to quit the Army and pursue further studies. In 1963, he and his family left first for Germany - Lauenburg on the river Elbe .- not far from Hamburg and, eventually, emigrated to Canada in 1964. While working for Canadian Gypsum in' Toronto, he studied and qualified as an Industrial Accountant. Around 1980 Vincy joined the Canadian Development Co-operation - a semi government organization.

Vincy continued participating in sports, especially Tennis. In fact, he was President of the Thorold Tennis Club. However, unfortunately, he was a heavy cigarette smoker. In 1992 (or thereabouts) the first signs of cancer surfaced. Soon a kidney was removed. Then, he experienced restrictive movement of his right shoulder. Once more, a tumour was detected. His condition was too advanced and not responding to medication. Then, in December 2000 Vincy died. It was a sad end of an excellent Wesley College Sportsman!

**GRANT HIM O LORD ETERNAL
PEACE**

The Light of Other Days by Thomas More

Oft, in the stilly night,
Ere slumber's chain has bound me,
Fond Memory brings the light
Of other days around me:
The smiles, the tears
Of boyhood's years,
The words of love then spoken;
The eyes that shone,
Now dimm'd and gone,
The cheerful hearts now broken!
Thus, in the stilly night,
Ere slumber's chain has bound me,
Sad Memory brings the light
Of other days around me.

When I remember all
The friends, so link'd together,
I've seen around me fall
Like leaves in wintry weather,
I feel like one
Who treads alone
Some banquet-hall deserted,
Whose lights are fled,
Whose garlands dead,
And all but he departed!
Thus, in the stilly night,
Ere slumber's chain has bound me.
Sad Memory brings the light
Of other days around me.

PHOTO GALLERY

Please send your photos to: doublebluelinks@gmail.com

OBU SYDNEY, NSW



CHRISTMAS PARTY NOV 2014 1



PICNIC AVOCA BEACH



CHRIS SWAN & DERRICK GINGER



2



3



4

- 1) Ganesh Mlyvaganam,,Chris Swan; Chris Goonewardene, Darrel Maye(hidden)'Frank Baptist, Lalith Fernando, Nizar Sappideen, Godfrey Abel, Rodney Harvie(hidden), Jaye Winslow, Asoka Kularatne
- 2) Noel Saravanamuthu, Stan Niles, Gamini Kulasuriya, Asoka Kularatne
- 3) Keith Grenier, john Buultjens, Chris Swan
- 4) Noel Saravanamuthu, Nizar Sappideen, Darrel Maye, Susan Brohier, Jeremy Brohier, Chris Swan, Jeremy Claessen, John Buultjens

OBU MELBOURNE

Jeremy Brohier, President OBU Sri Lanka visit to Melbourne



1



2



3

- 1) Trevor Collette, Stewart Williams, Brian Azoor, Jeremy Dickson, Jeremy Brohier, Reg Bartholomeusz, Jeremy Honter, Keith de Kretser, Curk Solomons, Sanjeev Wijayasinghe, Darryl Koch (hidden), Leroy Jansz, Richard Burke, Marlon Willenberg 2) Brian Azoor, Curk Solomons, Jeremy Dickson
 3) Curk Solomons, Marlon Willenberg, Leroy Jansz, Jeremy Honter, Brian Azoor, Richard Burke, Jeremy Brohier



The Wesley College OBU Australia Branch Committee 2015

- L – R: Tony Careem, Brian Azoor, Nelson de Silva, Reg Bartholomeusz (Pres.), Trevor Collette, Duminda Nissanka, Marlon Willenberg, Sri Kanagasabapathy

Wesley OBUA

Winter Warm - up 2015

