



# Wesley Times – JULY '13

Newsletter of Wesley College Colombo Old Boys Union Australia Branch Inc.

## Message from the President



I trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas break with your loved ones. On behalf of my wife Carmen and myself I would like to wish you all and your families a happy new year and best of luck and health for 2013.

I returned from a 5 week holiday with my wife and daughter visiting Sri Lanka and spending Christmas and New Years with our extended family. It was great bringing in 2013 with some dancing rather than being behind the microphone.

While I have returned to the island many times, my personal highlights of this trip was being invited with Brian Azoor(OBUA Secretary) and Tony Careem (OBUA Treasurer) to address an OWSC meeting after catching up with old friends and meeting new ones from the Wesley family. On a separate occasion I visited our old school and was invited to address an assembly of current pupils followed by a tour of the facilities generously arranged by the Principal, Dr. Shanthi McLelland whom I must comment is doing a great job. Taking a walk through Wesley with my daughter Danielle brought back fond memories of my youth. The good times with old friends of talking, laughing and most importantly learning. I paid a visit to the swimming pool which the O.B.U. Melbourne contributed \$10,000 in funds towards its construction. I felt very proud seeing it come together and you all should share in that pride knowing that we have contributed to our College.

Now down to a little business as we are approaching our Annual Double Blue Ball on 5<sup>th</sup> October this year. I sincerely request every old Wesleyite to make a special effort to attend as we are only as strong as our membership. To continue our fellowship for one another we need to be present at such events.

We are proud to announce the visit of the Principal, Dr Shanti McLelland and former teacher Mr Haig Karunaratne in September. Earlier plans for their visit in April had to be cancelled due to the death of Dr McLelland's father in Canada. Further details are in this issue. Refer page 6

Finally on behalf of the alumni community in Australia we extend our congratulations to the Wesley Rugby Team that had a stellar year winning the President's Trophy along the way. A full report on the rugby season is in this issue.

ORA ET LABORA

Ben Nathanielsz

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### E-mail correspondence

All members who prefer to receive OBU correspondence by email are invited to inform the Editor on [keithdek@optusnet.com.au](mailto:keithdek@optusnet.com.au).

Your email address will then be included on our data base. This means that future OBU Bulletins will also be sent to you email, not by POST. Your co-operation is appreciated. **The Editor**

### FACEBOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wesley-College-Colombo-OBU-Australia/296647643739345>

## STOP PRESS

### Wesley 1<sup>st</sup> XV creates Rugby history



Skipper Rahul de Silva holds up the President's Trophy

## From the Editor's Desk

Apologies are in order for the delay in this newsletter. However a bumper edition is in store for your reading pleasure. Some of the news is aged but I am sure well worth reading.

This issue is packed with news from the Cricketers Re-Union and the Class of 68 -72 Re-Union held in September last year, Both events were well organised and those that participated had a great time renewing acquaintances and rekindling memories of their time at Wesley College.

There were a number of events that were held by the OBU, the Dinner Dance, the Cedric Oorloff Golf Day and the Seniors Lunch.

We have not given up on the proposed visit of the Principal – Dr Shanti McLelland and popular former teacher Haig Karunaratne to Australia in the future. Unfortunately the death of the Principal's father in Canada resulted in the proposed visit in April being cancelled. We hope to see many of you attend the

functions planned in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne if they come.

The Re-Unions that were held renewed interest in many Old Wesleyites who had taken a back seat from participating in alumni functions and keeping in regular contact with their friends. The invitation is extended to each and everyone of you to seriously consider attending the many functions organised by the OBUA where you will meet many of your contemporaries and people who share a common interest in our alma mater. You can re-acquaint yourself with many friends you had during time at Wesley that you have not met in years. The feedback from the participants who attended the reunions was unanimous on the positive experience they all had. Many are now in regular communication with friends they have not seen for many years. It is up to you!

You may remember the article on Tyrone Jansz receiving a kidney transplant about 2 years ago. At the

moment Tyrone is facing a serious medical challenges and his progress is slow but improving each day. Please keep Tyrone and his wife Bernadine and family in your prayers. We wish him a swift return to good health.

May I take this opportunity to thank the many Wesleyites who sent good wishes, prayed for me and enquired about my ill health. I was hospitalised for two months with an auto immune disease known as Guillain Barre Syndrome in early March and thereafter for a month in rehabilitation. I recently commenced work and I am slowly getting back to using my limbs, restoring my strength, motor skills and balance. The recovery is going to be long and slow but I am grateful that I was diagnosed early.

Ora et Labora.

Keith de Kretser  
Editor

[keithdek@optusnet.com.au](mailto:keithdek@optusnet.com.au)



### **Wesley College Colombo Welcomes H.E President Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa *As the leader of our nation and a friend of Wesley***

On 27th of September 2012 Principal, staff, students, past students and parents of Wesley College welcomed the leader of our nation in a grand style. A 10 year old student welcomed H.E President in all three languages and students charmed the President by presenting him a book, poem and a portrait of the President. Prof. Epasinghe (Chancellor of Peradeniya University and adviser to President), Mrs. Lalitha Rajapaksa (widow of Hon. George Rajapaksa, son of Hon. D.M Rajapaksa), Hon. Nirupama Rajapaksa (Deputy Minister and the Granddaughter of Hon. D.M Rajapaksa) and Mr. Sam Wijesinghe (Chancellor of Open University, former Secretary General of Parliament), Hon. M.H Mohamed (former Speaker and Transport Minister) and Thilanga Sumathipala (MP) were invited guests at the ceremony. A portrait of the "Lion of Ruhuna" Hon. D.M Rajapaksa who played cricket for Wesley in 1916 was unveiled by the President. Mr. Sam Wijesinha who was a close friend of Hon. D.M Rajapaksa donated the photo.



## From the Desk of Dr. Shanti McLelland - Principal, Wesley College

January 2013

Greetings and best wishes to the pulsating Wesley Community for another exciting and sensational New Year!

Wesley is ready to greet 2013 like the "Rise of the Phoenix" full of confidence, responsibility and commitment to deliver an education that is both first class and responsive to Wesley College that is rapidly changing society to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

In general, Wesley's transformation in the last three years is about much more than ever before. Thanks to the Wesley community, gone are the days when Wesley had to sell the small park and the teachers' quarters to raise funds for salaries and critical renovations that had been stalled for years. We are assured that Wesley loyalists will rally around to take Wesley brand to great heights that we have never seen before.

With your generosity, we have built two aesthetically beautiful new edifices to blend with the old, a flamboyant swimming pool, that was lingering and languishing for many a decade as just a dream, is now a reality. So is the elegantly renovated Hostel, Dining hall with over 1500sq.ft of teak wood and natural wood ceiling, state-of-the-art Washrooms, elegantly remodelled Cartman Library, and the three computer labs rolled-in with over 50 computers. In addition we are pleased to have the upgraded staffroom, main office, and the physics, chemistry and biology laboratories.

The transformation saw, smaller classes, hiring of more teachers and increased number of classrooms. Incredibly, students, staff, parents, old boys, and administrative staff walked into the school with lot of passion and belongingness to inhabit the lush green and clean environment with pride. The Wesley community visited with lot of energy and activity, which made Wesley a more vibrant and lively place to reminisce the wonderful memories of the "Golden Years". Some of the exemplary events were the "Wesley Walk of Grit" and "Junior Revolve Walk", the flamboyant swimming pool, six-a-side cricket, double blue dance, Founder's day celebrations and the Prize Giving that was graced by the President of Sri Lanka.

The transformation was also about the commitment and dedication our staff who made valuable contributions at the grade-5 Scholarship examination, and both the GCE Ordinary Level and Advanced Level Examinations. Transformation led to Wesley's academic standards reach a new high, with nearly 100% passes at GCE O/L and a high level of University Entrants from the outstanding results at the GCE A/L. We can take pride in the fact that these results are unmatched by most of the leading Colombo Schools. The O/L pass rate for English and Mathematic achieved the encouraging 90-100% range. Interestingly, students' interest in non-traditional subjects such as Design Technology, Art, Media, and Aesthetics studies has increased dramatically.

The Year 2012 ended with optimism. We've had phenomenal experiences, both exhilarating and challenging. We owe a lot to a few who worked relentlessly to keep the Wesley's mission intact. On a positive note we celebrated the year end with a grand display of talent at the Festival of Choirs organised by Wesley College. This year we performed excellently well to win the Inter-school Invitation Carol Competition at Temple Trees and delightfully, Wesley teachers' choir was also invited to perform there.

Proudly, our sports teams excelled and performed remarkably well. Two cricketers and two Rugby players won Provincial schools colours, Two hockey players toured Malaysia with the National Schools team. One senior soccer player was selected to represent the Sri Lanka schools team for their tour of Thailand. Wesley Junior Table Tennis players continued to dominate nationally and internationally to win in competitions in Korea and Thailand. Tennis, Basketball, athletics and chess had mixed results.

Wesley's extra-curricular activities, performances on stage in both drama and Sinhala ballet, English oratory and speech craft, library and poetry literary achievements were extraordinary. Our debating teams emerged the best at inter-school championships, and members of the team participated at the Asian and World championships in Philippines, Qatar, and South Africa. The Brass bands, Hewisi bands and Carnatic band, at both senior and junior levels provided amazing performances. It was commendable that the Commerce Union, IT, Arts, Aesthetic groups, and College Prefects organised activities were able to enthusiastically draw more than 50 schools, which is an extraordinary record of confidence in Wesley's friendly relationships with other schools.

In professional development, more than 20 teachers enrolled in a Microsoft organized tutorial on MS Office applications. Another group of 20 teachers volunteered to participate in a discussion on unleashing the power within to be a successful teacher. Thirty four senior students attended a leadership programme in Bangalore.

Seventy students had the opportunity to participate in two leadership training programmes. All these events were organised by the Wesley OBU.

In 2012, we successfully experimented with starting the London A/L classes outside the mainstream classes. We are hoping that this endeavour will help the students to enhance their standard of English and IT. In 2013, we will also invite our primary and middle school students to challenge the London examinations from Grades 3-9 as a no cost option.

Branding, of Wesley's prestigious name will be used as a marketing tool to raise awareness of Wesley's prestigious position as a leader and role-model in the broad spectrum of education. As a benevolent gesture, Wesley's facilities such as the Wesley grounds & pavilion, swimming pool, chapel, hostel, College hall, conference rooms, classrooms and aesthetic bands have been given out to many schools and organizations at no cost to them. Wesley believes in the importance of sharing our facilities particularly with the outstation schools as a means to of developing good relations and give their students exposure to the fine facilities our students are privileged to enjoy.

In the next few years, the visionary governance, is to mould Wesley to become the finest school, to teach, to learn and to play, satisfying the holistic needs of exemplary citizenship, outstanding leadership, self-imposed discipline, trilingual communication skills, and epistemology enabled by information technology, ***Ora et Labora***.

**“Come join the success story – Wesley to the Fore”**

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## **Wesley College GCE O/L results 2012**

O/L – Ordinary Level (Yr 10) A/L – Advanced Level (Yr 12)

I am glad to announce a summary of the 2012 O/L results.

97% passed English with near 50% A's  
84% passed in Mathematics  
Overall, 86% was successful to do A/L's.  
4 students passed in all subjects (9 A's)  
12 students obtained 8 & 7 A's

Comparatively, the previous O/L National pass rates were:

Overall 66%  
Mathematics 55%  
English 44%

### **2012 GCE A/L results**

The 2012 GCE A/L results were better than expected with 56% passes and Arts/Commerce with 62% passes. We expect 14 students to qualify to enter University.

### **2013 January London A/L**

2 out of 18 students attempted the January AS exams. The overall result was good and one student had all A's (3). 34 students were enrolled, 18 are continuing to study for the June exams.

Dr Shanti McLelland  
Principal

## **CONDOLENCES**

**Mc LELLAND - ARTHUR. P (1913 - 2013).** Beloved husband of the late Erin, loving father of Ranjith, Mohan, Shanti, father-in-law of Hester, Kamalini and Sriyani and loving grandfather of Shehan, Serita, Rebecca, Amenda, Joanna, Myron, Christina, Philip, Daniel, Mark, Racheal, Imara, Devina and Aaron, passed away peacefully in Canada. The alumni community in Australia extends our sincere condolences to Ranjith, Mohan, Shanti and families at their loss.



Wesley College (Colombo) OBU Australia  
presents



# A Black n White Allure

The Annual Dinner Dance 2013

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October  
7.30 pm to 1.00 am

@ The Grand - 90 Cathies Lane, Wantirna South

\$75  
per  
person

Pre-dinner drinks  
scrumptious 3 course sit down meal  
Premium Scotch, Wine  
Beer & Soft drinks

Dress: Ladies – Evening /Gents - Formal

Contacts: Ben 0417530027 / Keith 0401140411

Band



The Next Generation

Featuring

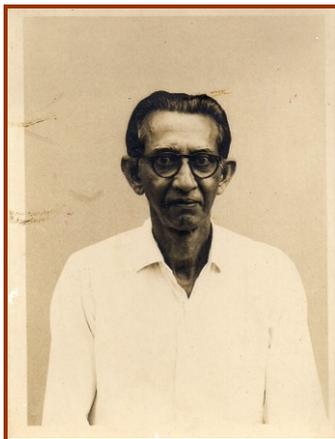


Malcolm De Kauwe

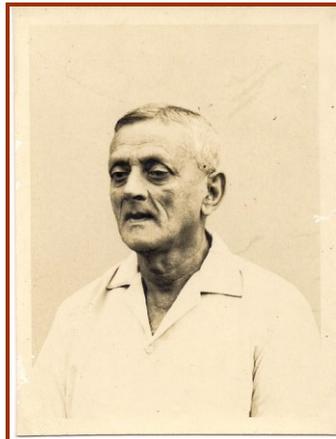
Brian 0409554582 / Tony 0431704299

**Breaking News – Dr Shanti Mclelland, Principal and former teacher Mr Haig Karunaratne will be special guests at the Dinner Dance**

## SOME PHOTOS FROM THE PAST



ERIC DE SILVA



RODRIGO



AT PRIZE GIVING

KEITH DE KRETZER, JERRY KRELTSZHEIM  
BRYAN WIJEYEKOON, JALDIN

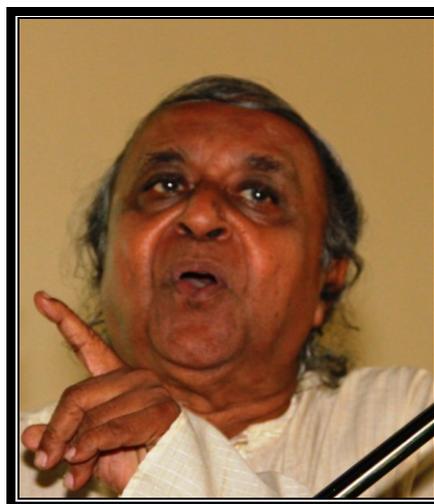


WAHAB, BRYAN W, DAVID HILLS  
ASHROFF ISMAIL & JALDIN

# Visit to Australia by the Principal of Wesley College & former teacher Mr Haig Karunaratne



Dr Shanti McLelland, Principal



Mr Haig Karunaratne

## **ADELAIDE 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Mr Karunaratne will be arriving in Adelaide on 5<sup>th</sup> September where he will spend a week with his niece. As there is no formal Old Boys Association, contact has been made with the alumni living in Adelaide to host him for a function.

## **BRISBANE 16<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER**

The Principal, Dr Shanti McLelland will be arriving on 16<sup>th</sup> September direct to Brisbane where Mr Karunaratne will join him. They will be in Brisbane till the 21<sup>st</sup> when they will fly down to Sydney. For all arrangements to take them out and a proposed function please contact **Bill Deutrom on 0408749949**.

## **SYDNEY 21<sup>ST</sup> – 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

Dr McLelland and Mr Karunaratne will be attending the OBU NSW Dinner Dance on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Other plans to host them at an informal gathering is being planned. Those who are keen on providing accommodation, taking them around on sight seeing tours and requiring further details on the visit should contact **Rodney "Buster" Harvie on 0409185002**

## **MELBOURNE 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER – 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

Dr McLelland and Mr Karunaratne will be attending the OBUA Dinner Dance on 5<sup>TH</sup> October. Volunteers are sought to take them sight seeing and to provide accommodation for Dr Shanti McLelland and Mr Haig Karunaratne. Those who are keen on providing accommodation, taking them around on sight seeing tours and requiring further details on the visit should contact **Keith de Kretser on 0401 140 411** or by email [keithdek@optusnet.com.au](mailto:keithdek@optusnet.com.au)

A trip such as this costs money. We had a poor response to the earlier request this year when the tour was planned for June. However funds received have been held in Trust and payments acknowledged. We need more funds or a sponsor for some of the events planned. Any donations please *All cheques should be made out in favour of Wesley College Colombo OBUA and posted to*

The Treasurer  
Wesley College Colombo OBUA  
P O Box 123  
Glenway MDC  
Mulgrave, VIC 3170

or BY ELECTRONIC BANK TRANSFER  
Bank details  
BANK: National Australia Bank  
BSB: 083323  
Account Name: WESLEY COLLEGE COLOMBO OLD  
BOYS UNION AUSTRALIA BRANCH  
Account No.: 622965907

Please send an email to [TCAREEM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TCAREEM@GMAIL.COM) when you have completed the transaction so that we can acknowledge receipt. Also when making EFT transfer tag it for PRINCIPAL VISIT

### IN AUSTRALIA

**BOWLES. - CHRISTOPHER GILLMARY** Passed away on Nov. 9, 2012 as a result of a small plane accident. Aged 57 years. Loving husband of Donna and father of Ryan and Jordan. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**CLAESSEN. - JULIAN DOUGLAS** (Doug) LL.B (Lond.) LL.M (Sydney) Retired Liquor Licensing Court Magistrate, 24.6.1925 - 15.9.2012 Best friend and devoted husband of Verna for 62 years. Loving father of Rohan, father and friend of Yolande and Phil, father and father-in-law of Jerome and Victoria. Much loved brother of Mabel, Hector, Bryan and Herman (all dec.) and forever remembered by his brother Radley, and their families. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**VANDEN DRIESEN - IAN HENRY**, (28.4.1926 - 8.12.2012) formerly Associate Professor Economics and Commerce and subsequently Senior Research Fellow, School of Business, The University of Western Australia (1970-2011). Previously Ian also served in the Dept of Economics, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and the University of Ile Ife, Nigeria. Loving wife of Cynthia and father of Nedra, Manik, Maya, Rohan and families. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**DE RUN - VALERIE.** Passed away on Monday Mar. 25, 2013 Loving wife of Ray De Run. Beloved mother of Dave, Bianca, Trudy, mother-in-law of Caroline, Edwin and Gary. Proud grandmother of Taj, Kobe, Ruby, Mykah, Tyson and Jonah. Daughter of Joan and the late Lucien De Alwis. Sister of Damaris, Dilrukshan, Esther and the late Dushyantha. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to the family and friends in particular Ray and Dilrukshan.

**WIJETUNGE - GERALD LEWIS** Passed away peacefully, Saturday, 25th May, 2013, in the company of his beloved Wife Gwen. Aged 90 Years. Dearly loved Father and Father-in-law of Sandra and David, Michele and Chris. Brother of Ivan and uncle of Randy. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to the family and friends.

**MATTHYSZ - HAROLD LLOYD AMOS** Passed away peacefully on July 5, 2013 Aged 84 years Loving husband to Esther. Father to Christine and Michael. Grandpa to Reece, Katrina, Christiaan, Danielle, Charmaine, Jesse, Rhiannon (dec. ) and cherished brother to Maurice and Winifred. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to the family and friends.

### IN SRI LANKA

**ARIARATNAM (ARIA) - Rev. S.** Chaplain to the Bishop of the CSI Jaffna Diocese - Passed away on the 25th of September. He is the son of the late Mr N.P. Sivasubramaniam formerly of the House of Representatives and the late Mrs Enid Sivasubramaniam of Wesley College. Loving husband of Jayanthi (nee Jesudas) and beloved father of Andrew (London) and Priya (HSBC). He is survived by his brothers in Sydney, P. Sivasubramaniam, S. Purushothamar (Kuchchi), Illatharasan (Kuruni), Chevanayagam Sivasubramaniam (Patta), (Manila Philipines) and Yogendran Sivasubramaniam (Bokka). We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**KODITUWAKKU - DON DHAMARATNA** - Dearly beloved husband of Priyadarshani, loving father of Sharmila and Sonali, father-in-law of Ranjith Nugawela, much loved grandfather of Erandathi and Kavindra, brother of Newton, Mervyn, Ranjith, Lalitha, Nimal and Kamani, brother-in-law of Leelananda Wijayawardane, Upali Siriwardane, Kumari, Nihal Jayasinghe, Hiranthi Jayasinghe and the late Asitha Jayasinghe. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**MUNAS - AHAMED FASLEI** passed away in Colombo on Dec.13, 2012. Beloved husband of Nayantara, loving father of Navid, Ashad and Azahn, beloved son of the late M.H.M. Munas and the late Cithy Fathima, beloved brother of Feisal, Nazli, Fasiel, Falies, Zilan, Nilaz and the late Lizna, son-in-law of Ganga Moonesinghe. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**HAMER - MERVYN JOSEPH.** Beloved husband of Claudette, daring father of Jo Anne Asirwatham, Chester Hamer (Late) & Allyson Melwani, Brother of Russel and Granville Hamer, father-in-law of Rowan, Petra & Bharat, loving grand-father of Megan, Rachel, Julianne, Ronan, Daniel & Sarah, passed away in Colombo. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**JANSZ - MALCOLM.** Loving son of late Edward (Ned) & Vita Nee Moore, beloved brother of Patrick Marlene, late Roger & Marianne (Lyceum Wattala), brother-in-law of Molino, Ravi Andrea & Susan, fondly loved by his nephews & nieces Adrian Joanna, Aldred, Melroy, Romaine, Kevin, Kenneth, Marianne, Christopher & Christina. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**RODRIGO - PRIYALAL SENAKA** beloved husband of Ranjini (Lalitha), Youngest son of the late Mudliyar and Mrs. J.A.V. Rodrigo, brother of Surangani, Nalini, the late Carmini and of Vimal (UK), expired. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**AMERASINGHE - SHANTHI** (Mackwoods (Pvt) Ltd) - Beloved wife of Rohan, daughter of the late Margaret and Hemachandra Kalatuwawa, sister of Sunil and Devika, sister-in-law of Sherinne, Mavis, Vernon, Yvonne, Arlene, Ranjith, Francisca, Denzil & Shiranthi. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to Rohan, his family and friends.

**NITHIYANANTHAN - SURESH** - (Proprietor Powermatics). Beloved husband of Claudette, loving father of Megan & Sessa, son of late Mr & Mrs M.V. Subbiah (Panawatta Estate), father-in-law of Shatrugan, darling grandfather of Navyarae, brother of Sundareswary Suthanthiraj & Subbiah Maheson, eldest son-in-law of Chris & Mona Weldt. We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

**DE SILVA – MANEL** Wife of the late Justin de Silva (Teacher) and mother of Kumar and Nirmal (students at Wesley). We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to Kumar and Nirmal, their family and friends. **Kumar may be contacted on email : [bonsoir@kumardesilva.com](mailto:bonsoir@kumardesilva.com)**

**FERNANDO - WILLIAM DUNSTAN MERVYN** - Former Principal, Wesley College, Carey College and Sri Palee College, former Vice President, Methodist Church. Beloved husband of Chinthamani, eldest son of the late John (J.D. Fernando) and Mary, precious father of Dhilanthi and Shanta, Devinda and Dushyanthi, Maheshini and Rajitha, Kavindha and Dishni, loving grandfather of Charith, Devaka and Kalinka, Amali and Perry, Dishara, Shenara, Rashika and Andre, Savindri, Deshan, Mithran, great grandfather of Baby Nayomi, brother of Dorothy, Muriel, Joyce, Leslie, Eileen, Gladys, Clarence - all at rest with Jesus - and Ranjit, brother-in-law of late Quintus, Shelton, Preethi, late Dudley, Terrence, Anna and Nyantha. Donations may be made in memory of Mr. Dunstan Fernando to the Wesley College Scholarship Fund. Mailing address for correspondence : C/o Mrs. Dunstan Fernando, **35, Devananda Road, Navinna, Sri Lanka.** We extend our sincere sympathies and prayers to his family and friends. May he have eternal rest.

### **Celebrating 125 years of Wesley College by Dunstan Fernando**

<http://www.wesleycollege.org/DoubleBlue/principals.html>



The 125th Anniversary of the founding of a school is certainly an important milestone in the her journey, and an event that should be celebrated. Elaborate arrangements are already underway to celebrate it right royally My mind goes back to 1974 when Wesley celebrated her Centenary. I had joined the staff as Vice Principal just a year prior to that. We who were on the staff at that time would remember how difficult the Welfare Society was finding it to pay even the staff salaries. Now that Shelton Wirasinha is no more I would like to take this opportunity to do what he would have done today -- express Wesley's profound gratitude to all who functioned as members of the Welfare Society during those twenty odd years when Wesley was struggling to keep head above water. In 1981 the struggle mercifully ended. The Department started paying the salaries of all "registered teachers". I left Wesley at the end of 1982 having reached the retiring age of 60 years. But the most unexpected things happen in life the retiring age rule was not to apply anymore to the Principal & Vice Principals' posts. I was contacted to fill the vacancy that arose with the resignation of Mr. Kenneth de Lanerolle (1988). I must confess that it was after a great deal of hesitation that I decided to give up my post at Carey College. I was now on the horns of dilemma.

As a Methodist however. I had to agree that my duty right then was to help Wesley in her time of need. I assumed duties at Wesley in June 1989. During those six years I am glad I was able to do a few things I had on my agenda. I was able to arrange the construction of the three storeyed D.H.Pereira Memorial Building, which provided much

needed accommodation for the Junior School. Two other buildings also came up during this period, 1) The Wesley Chapel. 2) The chaplain's Quarters- extensions My main aim however was to improve the standard of work and our results at the OIL and the A/L examinations , which for over a long period had left much to be desired. I did not succeed in this as much I had expected but the examination results did improve. I also laid, I believe, the foundation for good results in time years ahead, by selecting for admission into "year one" children who were, potentially, intellectually good material. Incidentally, another wish of mine was to step up the number of Christian children in the school. When I left Wesley, Christian students formed the majority. I presented my final Prize Day Report in July 1994. That report ended with the last two lines of the shortest hymn in the Methodist Hymn Book. The two lines are: We'll praise Him for all that is past, And trust Him for all that's to come" May Wesley College continue with the grace of God, to send out into the world men of sterling character, imbued with the highest ideals in life and a spirit of service to promote the welfare of our beloved land. Multos Annos ,

Dunstan Fernando B.A. (Cey.)Post Grad, Cert, in Ed. (B'ham) was Vice-Principal of Wesley from 1973 to 1982. He rejoined Wesley as Principal in 1989 and continued in this position till his retirement in 1995

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## **An Appreciation of Natty Prins**

Friends –

We have come together to give thanks to God and to celebrate the life and times of our dear friend Nathaniel James Prins, known to us all as "Natty". He was once described as a tall, dark and handsome guy with a mischievous smile lingering on his face. Of times he was ready, willing and able to participate in any daredevil activity that challenged him.

His early education was at Arethusa School in Colombo and his secondary education at Wesley College. He was first a day scholar and then became a boarder and lived in the school's dormitory. He participated in many of the activities of the school, both indoors and outdoors. He took to sports keenly, playing cricket and hockey for Wesley. He was a house captain and a school prefect. As a boarder at Wesley he was confined within the school boundaries. This was hard during the weekends. Sunday offered an opportunity to explore the world and walk with friends down a long road that led to the Methodist Church. Here there was music, people and girls, and God was so good. Some of his contemporaries at Wesley were Harold Matthysz, Norman de la Harpe, Harold van den Driesen, Harry Tytler, Harry de Vos, Brian Nagel, myself and many others.

He was employed as an administrator of the Lady Lahore Charity Fund and was of assistance to many people. After some time he became a Manager of the Trust Fund and served them well. He was also a member of the Burgher Recreation Club (BRC) in Colombo and played cricket and hockey for the Club. Some of his contemporaries there were Hugh Aldons, Vivian de Kretser and Ken Joachim. There were many social activities at the club and Natty supported them. He loved people, popular music and dancing. In the course of events he was the Best Man at our wedding. He later met and married Margot Cameron and migrated to Melbourne in 1967. They enjoyed a happy married life for 47 years and had two lovely children, Elaine and Colin.

In Melbourne he worked for Australia Post and later joined the Public Service and served in the Education Department. He enjoyed his work there and made many friends. He was able to maintain those friendships even after he retired. He was also a member of the Wesley College OBU and supported them by attending functions whenever he was able to do so. The spirit of those meetings and luncheons was warm and friendly and Natty always enlivened the atmosphere and joined Harry de Vos's group in lustily singing many songs, especially the "Band of Double Blue".

As the Melbourne summers became warm and the temperature high and climbing, there was a need for coolants and what better than a refreshing cold beer at the Waltzing Matilda. There were a few friends who sometimes felt the same need. At other times he worked in the garden and sometimes played golf.

He unfortunately met with a motor accident which set him back quite a bit. He became quite ill and never fully recovered. On medical advice he was sent to a nursing home where he spent a few years and was cared for lovingly till the end came. And it is now with a sense of sadness that the time has come to say goodbye to a sincere old friend. May his soul rest in peace.

**Gerald de Zilwa**

## P.S. Rodrigo Remembered by Rohan (RL) Wijesinghe

<http://wesleycollege.org/DoubleBlue/whatsnew.html>

I got to know 'PS' at Wesley College mainly through playing badminton. He was once our captain. Together with my two brothers and I, we formed the Wesley College Badminton Team. Mr. Wilfred Wickremasinghe was the Master in Charge. PS was also a Tennis and Table Tennis player of no mean repute and with the knowledge and experience from all three racquet games he had superior court craft and experience. Nimal, my elder brother, PS and I played the three Singles matches in inter-college tournaments while I partnered him in doubles and my two brothers, Nimal and Prasan formed the other doubles pair.

In those early years (1957-58) when Badminton was considered a new competitive sport, our school did not have adequate funding to promote inter-college tournaments. But a few years before, those who were interested in the game had been able to get permission to use the college hall to play the game. When tournament play began the team usually with the help of a minor staff person had to clear the space in the hall, sweep and set up the court for play. Although much of our energy was already spent we managed to do fairly well in these tournaments. In 1958 both PS and I entered the YMCA Novices Badminton Tournament. PS was seed No.2 while I was unseeded. I had an extremely good run and by defeating several seeded players I reached the finals and faced PS for the crown. It was an all Wesley Finals. Mr. Edmund Dissanaike, Prefect of games and Mr. Wilfred Wickremasinghe graced us with their presence. Before the match they spoke to PS and me and encouraged us to play our best and show everyone what "Wesley College" is made of. PS was confident as he was a superior player and I tried hard to find a way of defeating him. The entire gymnasium was full of people for the event. Then I remembered that PS's only weakness was that he is a crowd pleaser. As I was in very good form I let PS win the first set by allowing him to dominate and play all manner of exhibition shots. Very soon, he had the entire crowd cheering for him. But he was getting tired quickly. I won the other two sets easily. Being a true sportsman he was magnanimous and gracious in defeat. Such is the spirit of a true sportsman. That tournament helped us form a strong bond of friendship and mutual respect.

Daya Perera, Sarath Wickramaratna, Lakshman Jayasinghe and I were in the sixth form science medium and PS pursued studies in the Commerce medium. Daya, Sarath, Lakshman and I had already become close friends and PS was introduced to this circle and we then called ourselves the "Big 5." Sarath, Daya and PS being residents of Colombo shared an interest in the entertainment and social life Colombo offered. I cherish the fun and friendship we shared as good friends. PS was fun loving, light hearted and enjoyed life. PS had a wide circle of friends and was quite popular because of his excellence in other racquet sports as well.. PS also had a reputation playing the card game Bridge and later participated in the National Bridge Championships.

I met PS again in 2006 when I visited Sri Lanka. He still had his easy going, fun loving nature about him. Distance of sea and land and years had not diminished a warm bond of friendship I had with PS. His mischievous laughter continues to ring in my head even now.

I salute PS as a good friend and as a sportsman of no mean repute!

## A tribute to Chris Bowles

*By Braden Koch*

Dear Friends.



Most of you may already be aware that unfortunately one of our batch mates Christopher Gillmary Bowles is no longer with us. He left this world as a result of a tragic plane crash in Lismore NSW on Friday 9/11. Chris and his wife Donna attended the 'Wesley - Class of 68-72 Re-Union' on 15/9 in Colombo and is present in many of the photos that were taken.

I was in absolute shock and filled with emotion and extreme sadness when I received the tragic news from Keith de Kretser. My immediate reaction was... *"someone please tell me that this is NOT true"*. But unfortunately I then received an email from his sister Kathy that confirmed the sad news.

I mixed with Chris and his siblings in Sydney during the early 70s. We were family friends as well. Our families lived in Nawala in the 60s. We travelled together sometimes by bus and sometimes in my dad's Mini Minor. We then lost contact for 30+ years but the Wesley Reunion brought us back together again. Chris loved cars and was fondly referred to as the CAR NUT. he later chose to Christen his own business with the same name.

I am so glad that I was able to bring this Reunion to his attention personally. This was more by a chance meeting rather than good management. I was so happy that Chris chose to attend and participate. He was not in the early

email loops but he did not take offence. He received very short notice but he simply jumped at the idea to my surprise and made an immediate commitment to attend. That was great support indeed and that was the character of the gentleman !!! Chris and Donna also made a very generous \$\$\$ contribution towards the school hall project.

Chris and Donna certainly enjoyed all the Reunion celebrations and they took back many wonderful memories. It was clearly evident that he was having a great time. They were so happy to have participated, and described it as one of the best times of their lives. I cannot count the number of times that Chris and Donna thanked me personally for having informed them of this event. They were also very appreciative of Roger Koch's assistance with all their SL travel arrangements.

Yes it was a wonderful and memorable day for all of us and Chris was so happy to have had the opportunity to meet many of his friends/batch mates again. Chris was nervous that most would not remember him but he was overcome by the emotion, camaraderie, and the euphoria of the day. We can take some comfort that he was able to share in that glorious day with all his friends/batch mates before his departure from this world. Such is life !!!

Chris was a wonderful, decent, humble, gentlemen. I became close to Chris and Donna during the reunion planning and we also spent a lot of time together at the functions in SL. I will treasure those special moments. Chris shared with me the tremendous support he had received from Donna over the years and also how happy and proud he was of his two boys. He was enjoying the fruits of his labour and was looking forward to retirement. We had many common interests and we planned on meeting regularly into the future. Unfortunately, this will not happen with Chris but I will continue to support and comfort the family in whatever way I can.

Chris has now left us forever... but we will continue to remember him with fondness and love !!!

Goodbye my Friend... Thanks for the Super Memories... Rest in Peace.

Trust this will also serve as a warning for those of us who take life for granted. Life is obviously very precious and we must try to make the most of each moment of every day. Time just passes by....

### **Mervyn Hamer an old boy Wesley cannot forget**

*By Peter Casie Chetty*



Mervyn Joseph Hamer is someone I have to thank for whatever I did since a dull day in February 1964 brought me the headlines in the national newspapers two days "running". The papers described us as being a combination that would be the downfall of many school-boy batsmen. He was the brains in the combine.

His flat baggy Australian style cap at a cocky angle "Salmon" as Mervyn was called would walk; take his stance then belt a lot of new balls past and over ropes. He was stylish and what people did not understand was that he was an "instinct batsman" and his way of playing could not be curbed in any way. Coaches and captains from other schools seemed to have worked him out; after all he was part of the school cricket first XI team from 1961. Somehow he did not make the hundreds everyone expected him to do for that was what

his talent should have provided.

He joined Wesley midway in 1957 – sat with Robin Riemers, Bashu Musafer, cousin Tony Musafer, Bill Deutrom, Layton Vanderput, and Joe Gunasekera a.k.a "Goluwa". Mervyn was at home at Campbell Park throughout the year representing the cricket, the soccer and even the rugby team. He was a "must" to include and never let anyone down.

In 1963 I was the youngest of the team led by Milroy Muthuvaloe. In those days the seniors and juniors did not mix. We formed two blocks and Mervyn was our link. He did what he could to welcome us and was re-assuring when the dreaded "rag" was about to come about after the Saturday night dinner at Chinese Restaurant at Ward street. Although younger than the other seniors he was instrumental in seeing that everything went without too much incident and when I returned shivering from the cold showers he was the first one to see if all was "aw rite".

I felt that moving to the lower sixth I moved up the ladder socially speaking. I was now a friend of the gang that had Bill Deutrom, the late Robin Perera and Mervyn Hamer. I spent a lot of time in the library irritating the poor librarian. Mervyn would then shoo me down. Billy was involved but as all three were prefects I had to take the cosh once in a while. If ever they caught me late to school, I was reported. No favours then. I missed out sitting in the 1964 photograph because I said out loud "Amen" when 'Walking Bible' de Saram was praying like a chugging slow train with his arms outspread for everyone and everything. I had not completed some Sinhalese homework and each minute wasted on the prayer meant I was going to be found out by "Ravula" Felix Premawardena. That would have been "torture by pinch". Mervyn glared at my irreverence and later I was summoned to the prefects guild and "given the works"... by my friends. This lesson is not about a betrayal but about fairness. I did wrong and no matter what or who I was; I had to answer.

Mervyn left school and was employed as were many other good cricketers by the local authorities having to represent them at cricket. There he wasted his talent – in fact all those who represented Nomads CC did then. It was the employment. Sportsmen with less talent and qualifications were employed as “creepers” with knowledge that they would be planters and run their estates. But the tight knit family they were, Granville and his two older sons chose the Municipality. Chances of getting to the top were minimal and when that episode was over they joined another company where success was equally compromised.

I visited Mervyn in hospital when his health started to deteriorate. Seeing the sturdy man turn to a skeleton I appealed to the Old Boys and there was limited response sadly. It seems that many people had forgotten that the school song talks about; “past and present kindly meet, each the other proudly greet- fraternal bands”. Were these just only words?

My friendship with Mervyn Hamer continued after his illness worsened and it was heart rendering to see him or even get news of him. I last visited him in July 2012. He did not limber up any more. He was in shorts and his legs showed more bones than muscle. But he was cheery and chirpy. He swore he was on the mend and I believed him. He had a few less teeth than he had before but his smile and his crackling laugh was still evident. I planned to get him a ticket for the dinner so he could meet all those cricketers who were there before and with him. I called him once and he was delighted that many of Wesley’s iconic cricketers had taken the time to visit him. It was just so simple to please the man and I was happy for him. Then I got his daughter Jo-Anne’s emotional message to say “Dad died today” .....

Gone... Brian Claessen, Abu Fuard, Lou Adhietty, Nalendra Abeysuriya, Upali Samararatne, Daya Koddithuwakku, Robin Reimers, Rodney Perera, Tyrone Maye, Daya Koddithuwakku, Francis Schoorman, Donald Thurairatnam and now Mervyn Hamer... Wesley will never ever forget these names. They are star dust; they are golden.

## Former Wesley Hockey Player Suresh Nithyananthan no more by Jeremy Brohier

<http://wesleycollege.org/DoubleBlue/whatsnew.html>



As the sun began to rise on Sunday the 19th Of May 2013, the shocking news on the demise of our dear friend Suresh Nithyananthan began to filter amongst the old boy fraternity of Wesley College.

Shocked and in a state of daze as we were it was indeed a day of sadness amongst his close friends who associated with him since his school days and thereafter. Suresh who was better known as “Niththi” was a very passionate old boy who loved his school as much as anyone did. He was a very popular hosteller and a superb hockey player who belonged to an era of some of Wesley’s finest hockey players as well as great champion teams. He was also good athlete excelling in the short distance events. Suresh played an integral part in the affairs of the Wesley College OBU and was a Vice President of the OWSC some years.

Since the Old Wesleyites Sports Club was revived in 1990 Suresh has been involved with the club participating in many of its projects. Recalling the years when Suresh was fully involved with the Sports Club he use to always be there when the call was sounded for any of its events.

In 1994 an ambitious project to build a club house was undertaken by a committee of dedicated past Wesleyites. With barely any funds in the kitty, Suresh the philanthropist that he was readily agreed to do the electrical work of the entire complex free of charge. That was Niththi, a man who gave his heart for his school. In fact that was one of the many contributions he made towards his alma mater. More interestingly he even created history by being the only Wesleyite to celebrate his daughter’s wedding by hosting a reception at the Old Wesleyites Sports Club.

Niththi who enjoyed life to the fullest was always game to have fun at any time. Remembering his wife and him to be champion baila dancers there was a time when he and his wife were requested to be judges at College Dances just to ensure that they did not participate since they almost won every baila competition. Strangely enough Niththi breathed his last while on the dance floor at a function last Saturday and knowing him he would be only too happy to leave this world that way.

Suresh leaves his loving wife Claudette who was always there by his side, his two daughters Megan and Sesha, his son in law Shatrugan and granddaughter Navyarare. *As the busy world is hushed and his work on earth is complete may Niththi’s Soul Rest in Peace.*

***“Friends are forever; you might loose them but never forget them”.***  
***Wesleyites will miss their good friend Niththi.***

## Wesley to the Fore! The Oldest College Song in Sri Lanka

Below is a scanned copy of a page from the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Magazine of Royal College, Colombo

### COLLEGE SONG

Royal College the oldest Public School in Sri Lanka lagged behind other Colleges without a College Song until Principal H. L. Reed composed and set to Music the SCHOOL OF OUR FATHERS in the Third Term of 1927. The Music was later revised by S. Schmid.

In the following year when Royal College won the MEADEN SHIELD in the Schools Singing Competition for the 8th year in succession SCHOOL OF OUR FATHERS presented at the competition was a 'hit tune'. Much credit for the magnificent performance of the College Choir goes to Mrs. H. L. Reed who was assisted by R. C. Edwards. The College Song made its public debut on 13th July 1928.<sup>1</sup>

A College Song provides inspiration, a fervour and attachment to one's old College. To the Old Boys its nostalgia, of the years that were, the happy carefree boyhood days. To the young 'Uns' who now bear the torch the College Song is something for every conceivable occasion. They sing themselves hoarse. They sing with pride—their own "anthem". One has to witness them rendering the College Song with gusto—there's happiness written on their faces.

Every Public School boasts of its Song. In Sri Lanka the credit for the first College Song goes to Wesley College—with "Wesley to the Fore" composed by H. J. V. Ekanayake. Next comes our Century old rivals St. Thomas' College with "Esto Perpetua" composed by Edmund de Livera in April 1916.<sup>2</sup>

The College Song in English is as follows:—

### AMAZING TRUTH

Letters 'a', 'b', 'c' and 'd' do not appear in the spelling of numbers 1 to 99

Letter 'd' appears in hundred

Letters 'a', 'b' and 'c' do not appear in the spelling of numbers 1 to 999

Letter 'a' comes for the first time in thousand

Letters 'b' and 'c' do not appear in the spelling of numbers 1 to 999, 999, 999

Letter 'b' comes for the first time in billion

Letter 'c' does not appear anywhere in the spelling of English numbers

# The Impossible Dream

SOURCE: DOUBLE BLUE INTERNATIONAL

<http://wesleycollege.org/DoubleBlue/whatsnew.html>

## Wesley College Cricketers Reunion – September 2012

by Dr Nihal D Amerasekera

School days mean many things to many people. No one will forget the harsh discipline, unremitting homework and the stress of Term Tests. Then cricket at Campbell Park took over our lives. We played the game at intervals and after school. When we were not playing cricket we talked about it. That was the passion we had for the game. Friendships at school meant everything to us and they were established and firmed in the playing fields and classrooms of Wesley. They are indeed strong enough to last a lifetime as we see from the success of the myriad of reunions, OWSC and OBU's. Whilst grappling with these and other issues we then acquired the skills to read, write and add. I like to think we left school with an all round education and the tools needed to get on in life. The story of the Reunion is a personal one. It is seen through my lens of nostalgia of an era now long gone. It is a narrative drawn from the observations, conversations and experiences of those priceless few days together. Modern technology helped me to record events and people and freeze them as images in real time. The exotic mixture of heat, sweat and noise helped me to connect the past with the present. Colombo has changed beyond recognition. Many of the old landmarks have been crowded out or have disappeared. The few that are left helped me to orientate myself in the city that I knew like the palm of my hand only just a few decades ago.

It all began in 2009 when Senthil Sinniah and the 1st XI team of 1960 had a get-together at the OWSC. Initially it started with a bit of small talk. When the nostalgia of the occasion was fuelled by the amber nectar it was decided to have a reunion for all veteran cricketers. The idea was tossed around and it was finally taken up by LCR (Lalith) Wijesinghe. UK and Australian old boys were contacted who gave their support and made efforts to make it an all encompassing reunion for all the old boys. It has always been a dream of mine to meet my school friends from way back before it was too late. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Lalith Wijesinghe who was the driving force and his hard working committee for their superb organisational skills and gracious hospitality. Committee Members were assigned roles to take charge of finance, administration, venue selection, entertainment, communications and logistics. As usual there were heated debates but common sense prevailed. Despite the odds the reunion became a reality. We salute their passion and commitment to the cause.



Hewisi Band at the driveway



Assembly

A return to Wesley always rekindles special memories. The programme commenced with an Assembly in the Great Hall on the 6th of September 2012. As the participants began to arrive, the school gate and drive was the scene of countless handshakes and backslappings as old friends greeted each other. There was a fizz of excitement when we were ushered in by the rhythms of the Hewisi Band. As I took my place in the audience I was suddenly overcome by a familiar yet completely unfounded brief sensation that transported me back half a century to the days of CJ Oorloff. My time there in the 1950's suddenly seemed so real. It was a sublime feeling of nostalgia. We had all gathered in the Great Hall to honour our teachers, celebrate our friendships and praise our school.

The session kicked off with a lusty rendition of the School Song. Lyric sheets were provided to jog failing memories. What we lacked in musical finesse we amply made up with volume and enthusiasm. The lyrics and the melody sent a tingly feeling and a flood of memories. The Principal's salutation was met with raucous cheers from the old boys. After the speeches a young lad read out a passage and the school choir sang. On the stage was the Principal, President of the Methodist Synod and prominent old boys. The sheer presence of legends like Edmund Dissanayake and Norman De La Harpe lit up the stage. Each of the old boys from abroad was given an award and the cricketers were presented a scarf donated by Senthil Sinniah. I was delighted and humbled to receive a most

generous award for starting and maintaining the Double Blue International website. The Website is my thank you to Wesley. I hope the Double Blue International can unify Wesleyites and become the glue that binds the school's past with the present.

We were pleased to see P.S. Rodrigo who was a Cricketer, a fine Badminton and Tennis player of the late 1950's. He was visibly unwell and we admired his courage and determination to be present at the Assembly to receive his award. There was something wonderful about the unifying sense of Wesleyites. As the old boys went up to get their awards they were cheered without inhibition. Of course, nobody would deny that the Assembly has had an uplifting effect on everyone who was present. It was about the present linking with the past, about honouring history, excellence and legendary achievements. I guess I am not alone in having felt jarred by the sheer experience of being in the Great Hall.

All the old boys were then the guests of the Principal for breakfast in his 150 year old house. It is awe inspiring to think each of the Principals since the school was moved from Dam Street Pettah occupied this majestic bungalow. Its elegant columned front veranda was transformed into a temporary kitchen. Hoppers and egg hoppers had a great "pull factor" and never tasted better. The Marquee in the Principal's lawn was lavishly decorated for the occasion. It was wonderful to sit with old friends and teachers many of whom we haven't seen since leaving school. There were warm exchange of greetings amidst scribbling of email addresses and phone numbers. Many graced the occasion despite their troubles, infirmities and distance. It was a wonderful nostalgic occasion. Our grateful thanks to the Principal for arranging the Assembly and the function on the Principal's lawn. The mystique and the enduring curiosity we had as students about the Principal's Bungalow was broken on that beautiful sunny day.



The Marquee in the Principal's Lawn

As I walked through the school office I paused for awhile to reminisce. Much has changed and it is only vaguely reminiscent of the good old days. The Fifties were an interesting time at school. The office then was run and managed by the Bursar Mr Eric De Silva and the Stenographer Miss Bertha Weerapass. The gentle affable couple helped the Principal, teachers and students with politeness and calm. We all respected them enormously. I can still picture Mr Silva make entries in that large book called the Ledger, when we paid our school fees. The sound of the typewriter and the smell of the Gestetner ink from the cyclostyle machine is gone. Now the office is a hub of activity. It has gone digital with many desks and people manning the PC's and telephones. To us in those days a call to the office meant just one thing - 6 of the best !! Now the students are more relaxed and go in and out of the office without any fear. Perhaps that's progress. But without that inseparable clerical duo a bit of the sunshine has gone from that office. It is true the past is a foreign country and it's best not to dwell in it too long, to avoid disappointment. After all that was the golden summer of our youth.

### **BMN Jurangpathy**

On the 6th of September BMN Jurangpathy (1st XI Cricketer 1953) held a dinner at the Senior Police Officers Mess in Havelock Town for the cricketers and the organising Committee of the Reunion. The Mess was built in 1928 for the Senior British Officers of the Police Force. Its magnificent dining hall, exquisite furniture, panelled walls and grand bar shows the opulence of that era. I was unable to attend but was told it was a sumptuous buffet and a fine party held in lavish surroundings. The four piece band that played Sri Lankan music brought back many happy memories to the guests. The rhythms of the baila music were a special favourite which made some guests dance and gyrate providing much amusement and merriment. Friendships flourished and connections were made and firmed. The bar was open until the wee hours of the morning when the guests departed. We thank BMN Jurangpathy and his wife for their generosity and commitment to the Reunion. It was wonderful to see him again after those glorious Claessen years of cricket.

## **The Dinner at the Galle Face Hotel**

On the Friday night (7th Sept) was the Gala Dinner at the Galle Face Hotel. Rain did not dampen the spirit of the occasion. The Hotel was built in 1864 and its Victorian architecture gives its elegant façade a colonial feel. We were ushered in for cocktails prior to the dinner. Many of the old boys were present with their wives. Although the dress code was smart casual many displayed their sartorial elegance with snazzy suits. As the cocktails kicked in the voices became louder and old acquaintances and friendships were revived amidst much emotion and nostalgia. By now a few had already levitated up to cloud nine. We all have changed. Many were unrecognizable and a few had aged much beyond their years. Anyhow it was indeed a great occasion and the spirit of the old days rang high

There was a distinguished gathering of Principals, Teachers, Politicians, Accountants, Philanthropists, Bankers, DIG Police, Doctors, Civil and Mechanical Engineers, Directors of Charities and of Financial and Business Institutions. My claim to fame is that I once walked amongst them! The diversity in career paths, social status and ethnic differences melted away as we reconnected with friends. When old boys come together they move into recollection mode recalling those beautiful, quirky moments of their youth. There was never a dull moment. Voices were imitated, mannerism mimicked and idiosyncrasies were enhanced. As the wine and conversation flowed we got transported back many decades. There was a glow and a shared warm feeling of times past. Those years at school were our impressionable formative years. Then our world was young, full of hope and promise. We were innocent and wide-eyed and saw the world in vivid technicolour. It was wonderful to return to those days again.

The evening saw a rare gathering of past Senior Prefects and Prefects mixing unashamedly with the rioters and smokers that puffed "3 Roses" behind the cycle shed. Prefects natural belligerence seem to have deserted them. They all were talkative and warm. Ironically a guy who regularly dodged Prefects and bunked off school to watch films in the bug infested gallery for 50 cents became an important organiser for this Reunion. No, I can't mention names. They were horrible teenage years and many were rampant with hormones. They needed discipline and received it in good measure. Now that we have had a taste of the real world appreciate the need for law and order. Past Cricket Captains and players recaptured the combative games they had won and lost and how they performed. There were tales of triumphs and tragedies. Missed catches and the golden ducks remained a sore point even after the passage of 50 years. I was particularly pleased to see Glen Reimers. We last met in Melbourne at a dinner hosted by the OBUA. As always his speech and actions are measured but so very sincere. Ageless Everard Schoorman (Cricket Capt 1964) has maintained his shape since his school days. The inability to recognise some of the old boys being heavier, broader and wiser brought about much amusement and hilarity. What they lacked in appearance they made up with their enthusiasm and integration, sharing anecdotes and recalling hilarious experiences. There are those episodes which have become timeless favourites that have now entered the folklore of the school. They couldn't believe the camaraderie they still had after all this time.

Who can forget the lovely Gillian Leembruggen. She lived in the Principal's bungalow during the Oorloff era. Gillian was present at the dinner looking stylish and elegant and seated with George Siebel. SK Seneviratne (Stalwart of the SCM) and his brother Ranjit joined in the dinner with Rienzie Wijetilleke (respected banker and a loyal old boy). Nick-names were the bane of our school days. Almost every school boy had a nick name whether they liked it or not. Even now we seem to recall the nick names more easily than their real names. It is as if the nick names are tattooed on their foreheads. I had forgotten Jardi's real name. I haven't seen Jayantha "Jardi" De Silva (Rugby XV Captain 1963) Priyanath Fernando (Cricketer) and CT(Clifford) Rodrigo since I left school.. CT was a year junior to me but I remember him because of his exploits as a fine leg spin bowler. He mesmerised the Anandians taking 8 wickets for 9 runs giving us a fine win against a strong side. Clifford remains a loyal old boy and is ever present at reunions and school functions. It was a magical evening filled with fun and laughter. We had a good time together reminiscing.

We deeply appreciated the time, effort and perseverance of those old boys from the Cartman-Oorloff era who graced the occasion despite their difficulties. Shelton Peiris (School historian) , Mr. Edmund Dissanayake (Teacher and Cricket Coach), George Jayatunge (1st XI Cricketer 1952), Norman De La Harpe (All round Sportsman), DBC Mack (1st XI Cricket Captain 1950/51 and Teacher), Spencer Mack (1st XI Cricketer) and HB Tamitigama (Senior Prefect-1953) attended the Gala Dinner at the Galle Face Hotel. .The suave HB Tami was sporting an elegant pony tail. S MUSAFAER the wicket keeper and MN Samsudeen (All Ceylon fast bowler), Neil Gallaher and Arthlow Chapman from the Claessen years 1952/53 were present at the Reunion. Ajitha Wijesinghe (Capt Rugby XV - mid 1950's )who lived in the lovely quaint house at the top of Karlshue Gardens on the left as you walk towards Campbell Park. Also present were Prof Mahroof Ismail (Former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Colombo) and Neville S Weerasekera (Former Project Manager and Senior Director of Petromin in Saudi Arabia) . We thank them for their presence and gratefully remember them all for their contribution to the life of the school.



DBC Mack



Darrell Maye

It was indeed a great privilege to see the full 1960 1st XI Cricket Team at the gathering except for Milroy Bulner who has sadly passed on. Senthil Sinniah (Capt 1960) , LR Goonetilleke (All Ceylon Cricketer), KD Kodituwakku (Capt 1961), LCR Wijesinghe (Capt 1962), Glen Reimers, Erroll Smith (scored 199 against Richmond at Galle. His aggressive batting defied the orthodox) , Kenneth De Silva, Sarath Wickramaratne, Darrell Maye (Best Schoolboy Cricketer 1963), Milroy Muthuvaloe (Capt 1963) and MN Mihar. They lost no time in grouping together for photos and a chat. The team spirit was still present and they continue to enjoy the friendship and the fun of cricket. The group rejoined for the dinner hosted by Senthil Sinniah at the 80 Club on Saturday the 8th of September. During the Reunion decades-old friendships were re-kindled and rejuvenated.



1960 Team without Sarath Wickramaratne and LCR Wijesinghe- at the Galle Face Hotel

There were many past hostellers at the Reunion and it was wonderful to see them all. In the hostel we were in the premises 24x7. Being away from home brought us closer together. The camaraderie and the unity in the boarding was amazing and we managed to recreate some of that closeness seeing all those friends again. Much time has passed since those days. The boys who were timid and shy then have become as brave as lions. Neil Gallaher, Arthlow Chapman, Allan Pathmarajah, Upali Perera, Ranjit Alwis, Nigel and Michael Christoffelsz, Ransiri De Silva, Nihal Peiris, Sarath Alagama, Wimal De Silva and Iyar Muthu were some of the hostellers I had the good fortune to meet. Meeting Michael Christoffelsz again since I met him by the Sydney harbour bridge in 2009 with Harris Anthonisz, was special. We have remained close since those days of famine in the hostel in the fifties. RM (Raja) Peiris was with me in the boarding for many years. He qualified as a solicitor and reminded me that lawyers never retire they just fade away!! Well, age is catching up but the fervour still burns in us.

On a personal note, I was overjoyed to see my old 6th Form colleagues many of them for the first time since leaving school in 1962. I was naive enough on that fateful final day in April 1962 when I stood up on a lab stool to announce that we are going to meet exactly in 20 years in that biology laboratory. Our youthful arrogance and inexperience of the real world prevented us from seeing what lay before us in the years ahead. Little did I know then what careers, marriage and children could do to our lives. It took us 50 years to meet again but without Daya Perera (Senior Prefect 1961) who sadly passed away in November 2003. If he was alive he would have been the life and soul of this great party. Life's injustices and disappointments and also progress and prosperity has changed us all. I have always tended to follow a wandering star and have made my home in a delightful suburb in rural England. Over the course of my life I have had my ups and downs too. In the main destiny has been kind to me. Harold De Alwis Jayasinghe knew the St Matthews Gospel by heart getting a distinction in Scripture at the GCE. He then became a Director of Agriculture (I still cannot see the connection). Lakshman Jayasinghe is a prosperous Radiologist in Brisbane. Lakshman came to Wesley from Kingswood College Kandy in the 4th Form. Sarath Ranasinghe joined Wesley from Veyangoda Central College and added a 4th dimension to our preparation for the University Entrance Examination. He won the Hill Medal in 1962. He is a much sought after practicing Physician in Kandy. Sarath Wickramaratne is a businessman and can sell freezers to Eskimos. Lalith Wijesinghe had a successful career in the Middle East. He worked for McDermott International in the Oil and Gas industry until retirement in 2007. Sheriff Fallil (Rugby XV 1959) is in the Plantation Industry in Monrovia, the capital of the West African state of Liberia. He wanted to join in the Reunion and paid up in full but was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. He made a donation to pay the band that played at the dinner in Galle Face Hotel. As always he still does things on the hoof. Hamilton Amerasinghe retired as an Executive in the Katunayake Airport. He now shuttles between Melbourne and Colombo seeing his grandchildren in Australia. Milton Arandara is the only honest Gemmologist in the murky world of the gem industry. I have always kept in touch with Ranjit Alwis. Our connections were strong being a hosteller. We spent a happy few days together in Adelaide and also in London. He has his own Accountancy firm in Adelaide and is a respected Citizen of Australia. Seeing them all was indeed a special treat. Their sheer presence meant so much to me.

We must remember absent friends and we did in all our events. There were many who could not attend due to ill health. Some have departed this life. Our good wishes go to their loved ones. The list of dearly departed seemed to be getting longer every year. It was a great pleasure to see Trilby (wife of Robin Reimers), Jennifer (Wife of Hilary De Vos) Sharma (Wife of Nalendra Abeysuriya) Hissy Casa (Brian Claessen's daughter) and Radley Claessen's son Robin. Radley was the Cricket Captain and Senior Prefect in 1952 and was unable to attend due to ill health. We appreciate their efforts to attend the Reunion from Australia. Mrs Louis Adihetty had declined the invitation to attend the function due to personal reasons but his sister (Mrs Malini De Silva) received the award on behalf of the family. Lou was a fine all round sportsman, a teacher and also the Principal of Wesley. Dr. Derryck De Silva (Senior Prefect -1957) has bought a ticket for the Reunion but due to illness was unable to attend. He is a Consultant Radiologist in Essen, Germany and has always been a true blue Wesleyite. AP Batuwitige (1st XI Cricketer 1953) who lives in UK and BCRN(Ranjit) Fernando (School Basketball Team) living in Denmark too were unable to be present due to poor health.

Despite many decades of decline the wind of change and progress has finally reached Wesley College. The restoration took a lot longer than we hoped, because the damage was far greater than we feared. Many spoke warmly of the new dawn at the school with Dr. Shanthi McLelland as the Principal. He is knowledgeable, urbane and humane, but tough in negotiations. Dr McLelland has brought to Wesley a perfect blend of modernity, coupled with a healthy respect for tradition and heritage. The Principal has demonstrated his loyalty, resilience and management ability in the three years he has been in office. The buildings looked pristine and in good repair. The academic standards have improved beyond measure. Once again Wesley was a school to be feared and respected in Sports. In the eyes of the public it was a good school fit for a prince. A new Swimming Pool is the icing on the cake.

Welcome speech is the most important speech in any function because it sets the mood of the event. This task fell on Senthil Sinniah and he didn't disappoint us. We had Alston Koch who is an International Singing Star to spread a little star dust on the occasion leading us with the singing of the National Anthem. After the speech we took our places in the dining Hall. It was most elegantly decorated in our school colours with dim blue lights to suit the occasion. While a band played we enjoyed the dinner and continued our conversation meeting and greeting old boys. All through the evening we were entertained by the fine singing of Shanelle (Priyanath Fernando's daughter) and Ricky Bahar (BJH Bahar's grandson). They sang the all time favourites which struck a chord among the old boys. After the formal dinner it was time for musical chairs when we moved from table to table meeting friends. We had to look beyond the gray hairs (or no hair), the extra pounds and the increased lines on the face, to find our friends. But finding them we did to make it all worthwhile and it was truly a pleasurable nostalgic journey. Flashes were popping everywhere as groups posed for photos. It was a great evening of entertainment and fellowship.



The Principal



Allan J Pathmarajah



L R Goonetilleke

Speeches by the Principal, The Guest of Honour Allan J Pathmarajah, LR Goonetilleke and the Chairman of the Organising Committee Lalith Wijesinghe concluded the event after a lusty rendition of the school song. On behalf of the old boys who attended the Reunion I wish to thank Lalith Wijesinghe and his Committee for the wonderful Reunion. All those who attended the event will carry with them fond memories of their *alma mater* and their friends. Our sincere thanks to Afghar Mohideen for securing the Galle Face Hotel for this event.

### Senthil Sinniah

The night after the formal dinner (8th of September) Senthil Sinniah hosted a dinner for the cricketers and friends at the 80 Club, Colombo7. The Club was started by 80 members of the British Raj and has remained an exclusive institution ever since. Despite its location, with its green lawns, sweeping driveway and imposing edifice it still has a country-club feel of old. There was the familiar figure of Mr. Edmund Dissanayake, the doyen of Cricket at Wesley. He spoke warmly of the 'pain' and pleasures of being a teacher at school. We admire his flair for remembering so many cricket stories in such great detail. Michael Dias, Nanda Senanayake and Sarath Samarasinghe who are Royal Cricketers of the late 1950's contributed to the fun and the laughter. At this informal occasion we had the great privilege to speak with and listen to Allan J Pathmarajah, who was also the guest-of-honour at the formal dinner at GFH. Behind his unaffected modesty lay a stern determination and ambition. He reminisced about his days at school and in the hostel. He spoke warmly of the long family association with Wesley where his father was a teacher and his brother also a student. The function was well attended and was a happy occasion with a delicious buffet of spicy curries with rice, hot hoppers and a tempting dessert of "*Watalappan*". Drinks flowed freely as did the conversation and friendly banter. The renewal of 'ancient' comradeship was visibly moving and joyous. Our thanks to Senthil Sinniah for inviting us and Afghar Mohideen for choosing the venue and organising the event.

On Sunday afternoon (9th of September) there was a softball cricket match at Campbell Park. It was a warm sunny day. Despite the effects of the night before of heavy heads and leaden legs they were happy to be a part of it to rekindle old memories. After all reputations were won and lost in those hallowed grounds. The younger cricketers mixed well with the seniors in the true Wesley spirit. In the evening there was a fine dinner for all the guests. It was good to see Neville Perera brother of late Denzil and Late Bertus Perera at the OWSC. Neville is the same laid back guy. The long evening gave the guests the opportunity once again, to re-connect with their friends. The decades fell away as we reminisced. The evening ended with exchange of business cards, hugs and promises to meet again. We thank the President of the OWSC, Richie Sappideen, for his efforts to make it a memorable event.

The urge to meet was so great several mini reunions blossomed spontaneously in private houses and in the plush lobbies of Colombo Hotels before and after the main official functions. This showed the strength of feeling to meet old school friends and spend quality time together. Bill Deutrom was in good form rallying the troops including Reggie Bartholomeusz, Christoffelsz brothers, Nihal Peiris, Peter Christie, Leyton Vanderput and Ramakrishnan visiting old boys in Colombo and causing mayhem in the lobby of the Cinnamon Grand Hotel. Their laughter could be heard outside in Galle Road. Bill has been a regular visitor to Wesley and a generous benefactor over many decades.

### "Wesley's Cricketing History 1892 -2012"

There was a book of Wesley Cricket on sale during the Reunion. It was titled "*Wesley's Cricketing History 1892 - 2012*" and was available for Rs 2500.00. The bound volume was compiled by Jeremy Brohier. It is well researched and very readable. Some photographs although old are very good indeed. Do go out and buy the book as I am sure you will be happy to own one. This volume is a fascinating wander through the past. There are several written by Mr Edmund Dissanayake, now a national treasure. All of the ingredients for a decent book of cricket history are there -big names, triumphs and disappointments on and off the field, intrigue and some revelations too. It is an

easy book to recommend and is a great tribute to its many authors and the Editor, Jeremy Brohier. I sincerely hope it will be on sale in Australasia, UK and North America for the many old boys who wish to have a copy. In all the functions of the Reunion the drink of the Gods was available in great abundance. Many were jolly perhaps with a bit of slurred speech. Everyone is pleased that there were no unsavoury incidents caused by drink throughout the festivities. Drinking reinforced social bonds and we all had a wonderful time and managed to stagger home at the end.

At this time when we remember our friends let us praise the wisdom of our parents who sent us to Wesley College . They gave us life and love, rejoiced in our success and comforted us when we failed. We thank them for all they have done for us. In my mind there is something bigger and deeper at work. On a personal level having lived most of my adult life in England this journey is a return to my roots after having been swept away by the tide for a better life in the West.

Reunions are a shocking reminder of the time that has passed since our schooldays. Life is a roller coaster ride and survival without illness, physical exhaustion or mental breakdown has to be celebrated with extra compassion for all those who have not been so lucky. I marvelled at how life has panned out to so many of my good friends. There were some whom I met after 50 years. Some of them lived in SL and the others much further away from me. It was quite unbelievable to see them all again. We always had a lot of fun together. When I said goodbye after the reunion I realized I will not see many of them again. The thought did upset me a great deal. They were my soul-mates at school and we had much in common. The warm hug, the long handshake and the fond goodbye said it all. This Reunion has raised the bar many notches above previous ones. Scenes of rekindled friendships were a tug at the heart-strings. Those who did not attend missed out on something very special that money can't buy. Finally my heartfelt thanks go to Nigel Christoffelsz, Neil Harvey and Peter Christie who sent me stunning and candid pictures of the Reunion. They graphically illustrate the great moments to help us jog our memories as time goes by.

So, this is my story. The fulfilment of a life long yearning which I often thought was an impossible dream. This experience will be etched deep in my heart forever. Once again, as in 1962, I left Wesley lost in my own thoughts. These thoughts clung to me heavily during my long journey home to the UK.

**“Bonds of friendship forged in childhood days,  
Ties that bind us to our happiest time;  
Which in strange and miraculous ways  
Keeps alive days that were once yours and mine.” A Poem by Bryan Claessen**

#### **The Organising Committee of the Reunion**

LCR Wijesinghe (Chairman)	Lucky Goonetilleke	Kenneth Honter
Jeremy Brohier	Navin De Silva	Ivor Maharroof
Richie Sappideen	Dharshana Liyanage	Senaka Ameratunge
Maithri Withanage	Fowzil Nawaz	Senthil Sinniah
Afghar Mohideen	Bill Deutrom	Upali Perera
Dr ND Amerasekera	Dr Shanti McLelland	

#### **Here are some important Statistics of the event**

- There were 240 participants at the Dinner at GFH.
- Approx. 25 participants from the UK + Europe.( Denmark, Netherlands, France & Germany)
- 3 participants from USA.
- 2 participants from NZ.
- Approx. 70 participants from Australia.
- A total of just over 100 participants in all from overseas.
- Nearly 90 past Cricketers inclusive of 30 "veteran cricketers" & 20 past Captains of Cricket participated.

## Reflections of Nigel Christoffelsz(Perth, WA) on the Wesley Cricketers Reunion September 2012



Since early 2011 when the proposal of a past cricketers reunion was floated my interest was aroused. Even though I never played cricket for the first team in College I had a lot of good friends that did, and this was an opportunity to rekindle friendships and walk down memory lane.

Visiting the UK and meeting with some of the old Wesleyites in London thanks to the hospitality of Wimal de Silva made it a must to attend the reunion. To this end I knew that brother Michael and Darrel (to a lesser degree, he was 12 years when we left for OZ) could be talked into joining me in this adventure. At first the youngest was keen but the older had reservations. But thankfully his wife saw the light and asked me to make the necessary arrangements. Darrel had other commitments and had to cancel, so Michael and I were booked to attend the reunion.

Our trip to Wesley was nothing other than a good old trip down memory lane and rekindling of old friendships. It was great to catch up with our entire friend's, classmate's, boarding school pals from fifty years ago. It was like we had never been apart. I was lucky that I had met most of them in 2011 when we visited the UK and Sri Lanka.

The assembly on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of September brought back so many memories of my school days but from a different perspective. We had swapped places with the students, we were the guests. The way we were treated left me with a sense of pride in my school. To see the difference from our days, when the only boys who had blazers were the cricket team, to see the prefects perform their duties in a well drilled manner dressed in their blazers would make any old boy proud.

The assembly was conducted in the manner we were used to, with a few exceptions from our time. The entertainment was great, it is good to see that the College has expanded the cultural curriculum to include bands, choirs, traditional culture, while we only had a choir, the two different bands at breakfast was a delight to see, as there was pride in their performance.

The presentation to all the overseas attendees was a pleasant but welcomed surprise, always wanted to be presented anything at assembly. And the finale of the College song sung in gusto by all present, followed by Zum Zum Zacky from the boys at the back made the hairs on the back of ones neck stand up in pride.



The Friday night dinner was another highlight and meeting my very good and old friend Conrad Fernando made the whole trip worthwhile, not saying meeting all my other mates was less of a highlight. The big event again was the College song when Reggie Bartholomeusz in his wisdom inviting the entire old boys on to the stage for the rendition. We all were just hoping the stage would hold the lot of us and not collapse. Our wish was granted. The most relieved person after the dinner was Afghar who relaxed with friends over a few drinks?

The cricket match and the camaraderie shared after were also enjoyable.

Our trip had come to an end and the memory will last with me and I am sure with Michael till we part this life.

Off the College scene it was good to get together with the Australian and English contingent and relax over a bit to eat and a lot to drink and share our stories. The hospitality of the Sir Lankan old boys were second to none, we had entertainment for the whole of our stay. It is good to know that a Wesleyite is never with out a friend where ever they go on this planet; it is a part of our heritage and culture.

Lastly huge thanks to Lalith, Afghar and committee for their efforts to make it happen.

*“The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.”*  
Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Reflections from the Class of 68 - 72 Re-union

*By Neil Harvie(Brisbane, Queensland)*

The Class of 68 -72 re-union was held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012.



The reunion commenced with a greeting of old boys at the famous Campbell Park grounds which brought so many fond memories to so many of us gathered there. My mind flashed back to the hours, days and months that I as a boarder had spent on these grounds for 10 years. I remembered the anxious wait for the afternoon tea bell to ring so that we could get over with the formality of afternoon tea and make a dash to the grounds. The faster you got there the better the piece of grass strip you could stake out for your group to play their softball cricket. I was happy to meet Vincent Perera and Charlie the ground staff who were always so helpful to us as youngsters.

When my prowess at hockey was noticed Vincent would have a hockey stick hidden away for me to use. I could not afford an expensive hockey stick of my own and relied on Vincent to help me out. As my gaze wondered around the ground I could see the great flowering shade tree right across from the Karlsruhe gardens road corner and the broken fence from under which we would slide down into the grounds. In my minds picture I could see us cheering on the College cricket team with our war cries and College flags. We were always lead by that terrific motivator of youth our Vice Principal L A Fernando (LAFa) and the "Percy Abeyasekera" of Wesley Cricket - Laksiri de Silva shouting themselves to a whisper. Ara Ara Ara Ara hatarey ekak Ara, Zum Zum Zee Ishuba Ishuba Oo aaaye. The memories kept flooding on.

Once everyone had registered for the event with difficulty we were all corralled to assemble in line to march along the road to the College. I recalled the daily activities at College where we were always lining up for assembly, for sports and for the movement from class to class.

I was indeed honoured to be asked to lead the procession along the way with fellow head prefects Patrick Edema and Tennyson de Silva. It was an emotional and impressive parade with a young College Hewisi band and dancers performing in front and leading us up along the Punchi Borella road and turning into Baseline road. By luck the traffic seemed to have stood still for us this Saturday as we walked our way into the College premises.

We were welcomed inside the gates of the College by a gathering of former teachers, present students, parents, well wishers and the principal Dr Shanthi McLelland. It was exciting to see among the formers teachers Mr Basil Mihiripanne, Mr Pakianathan, Mr Haig Karunaratne, Mr AK Suppiah, Mr MUDS Kalupahana, Mr WK Premadasa, Mr Dharmasena, Mrs VS Fernando, Mrs B A Fernando, Ms Norma de Silva, Mrs Luxmi Amaratunga, Mr Marshall Fernando, Former principal MAP Fernando and Wife Ranjani Fernando Nee Wijetunga, Mr Edmund Dissanayake, Mr N Welaratne, Mr Nimal de Silva all who were teachers from my time at school and had an influence on my life in some way or another..

The formal proceedings commenced with the hoisting of the College and national flag in the presence of all those gathered with the College prefect guild smartly at attention in front forming a of guard of honour. The hoisting of the flags were respectfully done by the Principal, Dr McLelland, and Mr Dharmasena the most senior former teacher representing the staff. It was a solemn and moving occasion with everyone rendering their best of the National Anthem.

It was very nostalgic for all of us to once again be assembled in the middle of the College hall looking up at the assembly of staff and distinguished visitors on stage. We were of course students once again facing the stage with the imposing picture of Rev Henry Highfield looking down watchfully on the proceedings and be embraced as if it were once again by those great ex Wesley Principals and trail blazing students of the past who had made their mark on the fabric of Sri Lankan society adorning the walls around.

The MC for the day was my contemporary Mr Shafeek Wahab who did a splendid job in controlling the proceedings for the day when the enthusiasm of the occasion at times seemed to take over the speakers. The school Senior Choir, Junior choir, Brass band and the traditional dance troupe entertained us showcasing their talented performances. It was great to note the revival of arts that has taken place in the College. I could see the great enthusiasm and admiration on the face of all of those present, particularly on the faces of Haig Karunaratne and Basil Mihiripanne doyens of the Arts and Drama at Wesley in the years gone by.

Presentations were made to past teachers and travellers from afar with addresses from Dr Shanthi McLelland (Principal), Mr Haig Karunaratne, Mr Braden Koch, Carlyle Wells Peiris and Neil Harvie along with a vote of thanks by Wilhelm Van Dort.

I was very moved and honoured to be asked to speak a few words on behalf of all past Wesleyites and I would like to record the speech that I made that day:

***" I would like to express on behalf of my wife, myself and the entire school cohort of the 1960's and 1970's who have gathered here in large numbers - a very sincere and gracious thank you to the Principal Dr Shanthi McLelland and the hard working organising committee for affording us this wonderfully exciting and jubilant occasion. What a fantastic great gathering of the 'fraternal band - the Band of Double Blue' this is.***

***I am and have always been an unashamedly proud and loyal Wesleyite and like most of you gathered here today had the privilege to be a Shelton Wirasinha era product. It was our good fortune that his fortitude and vision kept our flag flying high during the most difficult and trying periods and taught us so many important values for life. As I look around here today I am reminded that we at Wesley did not have the highest paid teachers, did not have the teachers with the biggest reputation in the media and society but what we had was dedicated, loyal and hard working teachers who considered it their vocation to provide the best for the youngsters in their care and I applaud you all for that love and compassion. Looking further around all of you gathered here today I can surely say that we have indeed taken it 'cool what ever befall, prayed and laboured on, and for our dear land we'd be men of grit and industry with honour bright and loyalty Wesley to the fore.'***

***The past 2 weeks have been a wonderful experience where the 'past and present kindly met each the other proudly greeting hearts near cool that once had beat 'neath the double blue.' It has been a pleasure to see the wonderful success that all of you have achieved, making a rich contribution to the fabric of Sri Lankan society and to the wider world society in the many countries that some of us are domiciled in.***

***Wesley and its students are fortunate to have at its helm Dr Shanthi McLelland a very distinguished and great Wesleyite. As a 15 year old I had the privilege of being selected to play for the under 20 Hockey team of which Shanthi was the captain. I can still remember the guidance, leadership and inspiration he gave me and the rest of the team. It was the start of a Golden streak for Wesley Hockey. I continued to be closely associated with Shanthi for a number of years and the self belief that he instilled in us resulted in us punching above our weight. We were not a team of stars but we certainly were a team that starred.***

***Today boys of Wesley we have the opportunity to rally round Shanthi and the College to give the strength and support to revitalise and re-invigorate Wesley and to bring it the forefront of building and sending the finest gentlemen out into society.***

***Let us all put aside the divisions of the past and forge ahead as a united collaborative, constructive, leadership team for the future development of Wesley with a vision to move to the next level of excellence. Let us one and all look to the positives, work as a team, set ourselves ambitions and then find the path and means to meet those targets.***

***I believe it was that great artist of the renaissance Michelangelo who said "if you jump for the stars you may at least reach the tops of the trees".***

***We will always succeed if we are united and harness the collective resources of talent, aspirations, and hard work which will take Wesley forward with the guidance, enthusiasm and vision provided by our Principal Dr Shanthi McLelland.***

**ORA ET LABORA**

**Thank you"**

Mr Haig Karunaratne made an unplanned yet welcome presentation of a publication to 5 old boys as a memento from him to those students who had left an impression on him during his period at Wesley. The proceedings came to an end with the singing of the College song and the national anthem.

After the formal proceedings were complete a group photograph was taken with as many of those present which will be lasting memento for everyone. As we all moved over to the Principal's lawn and bungalow to enjoy a very sumptuous meal we were taken down memory lane seeing the Kadala Achchi, Amba, Veralu and Divul achcharu and Pineapple sellers vending their tasty tid bits in all its traditional hygienic condition. I did miss the Gal Siyambala which was out of season.

We were felicitated and entertained by a wonderful array of College musical and dance ensembles who performed so graciously for us in the sweltering heat. The meal was a wonderful example of an atmosphere of camaraderie

and reminiscence. Stories were told, jokes made and memories relived some selective, some factual and others creative and many a photograph was taken.

The evening function was a more relaxed and casual gathering with many wives, partners, children and in some instances grand children all getting together. It was a fantastic time and well worth the travel from Australia for us. It was enjoyable meeting so many of my contemporaries and age was no barrier with the differing era's back slapping and certainly enjoying each others company.

The band on hand next to the OWSC Kochi Pettiya was outstanding and kept everyone spirits up right throughout the night, and the revelling continued for some hours with the bold taking to the floor and displaying their prowess (or otherwise) in the fine art of modern and classical dancing. Photo opportunities were many and reaction to meeting your friends of old quite a sight to behold.

There were raffle draws and dance performances, with plenty of drinks at hand for those who enjoyed the occasional tippie. Towards the end the organising committee had put on a wonderful display of fireworks that lit up the sky as it lit up the spirits of all of who were privileged to be there. As I walked around meeting and greeting my fellow Wesley friends I was reflecting on the absurdity of language, religious, ethnic or age divides that have separated our fellow countrymen and stood there in great satisfaction that these divisive issues have never and will never interfere with the binding commonality that makes us one Fraternal Band. My wish was that all of us Wesleyites will by our example of practice play our part in advocating for the healing of the divisions in the wider Sri Lankan Community.



The formal presentation of a cheque for 2 Million rupees was made to the Principal by the organising committee to much applause and satisfaction.

I am now suffering from a Wesley withdrawal and hope that these sort of occasions will come more often. I hope that the guidance and support for the school will be ongoing. In concluding this longer than expected reflection of mine, I must emphasise that the rejuvenated spirit at Wesley owes it to Shanthi as he has indeed been able to bring out the dormant interest and longing for inclusiveness of all old boys with their Alma mater to the surface in a comprehensive manner.

I have not mentioned names of individuals I met or those present as I feared that I may inadvertently miss some of you and I felt that everyone of you whether you were there on the day, watched via Skype, heard from your friend or participated through any other manner of communication you were all a valuable key partners in this historic process.

Ora Et Labora





Editors comment

*Thanks to my dear friend Mahendra Dissanayake I was able to participate in the re-union via Skype and the advancement of modern cyber technology.*

*It was interesting to see the ravages of time on the physicality of the many students over the past fifty years. The enthusiasm with which the Old Boys dressed in white shirt and blue shorts brought back memories of the schoolboy still in each one of us.*

*The assembly was a moving ceremony and the many speakers reflected on what a fabulous experience we had at Wesley and also expressed our deepest gratitude to the many men and women who taught us and molded us into "men of grit and industry" that we are today. The mood of the meeting was electric and as an observer thousands of miles away, this was the feeling that came through with a buoyant group of middle aged men acting like schoolboys as in the days of our youth. I am sure after having spoken to many that emotions ran high and the chance to meet so many friends and contemporaries would have had a big emotional impact and drawn a tear or two and watery eyes. I am sure that many who had lost touch with the school will re-kindle their interest and be drawn back to support Wesley.*

*I for one am most thankful that I had the opportunity to participate indirectly and even though I was extremely disappointed that I could not be there and savour the celebrations and press the flesh of my friends and colleagues, I went to bed at 3 a.m. Melbourne time after being on Skype participating in the function at the OWSC, content with myself after speaking with so many old friends.*

*I am overawed by the financial support of Rs. 2 million raised to re-furbish the College Hall and I hope that it will take pride of place as the meeting place that served many generations from the time Wesley moved to Karlsruhe in 1906/07. The vision of Henry Highfield to find a permanent home on the Karlsruhe Hill has served his dream with diligence and has been a beacon on the hill shedding light and educating thousands of youth over the past century. It was the turn of the Class of 68 -72 to add to that radiance on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Wow! They sure did a wonderful job.*

## Subscription Reminder!

**Your membership subscription is now due and payable. The annual fee is \$20 and if you have not paid for this year - 2013, please make payment as soon as possible. All cheques should be made out in favour of Wesley College Colombo OBUA and posted to**

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## Radley Claessen's visit to Wesley College on 18th April 2013

by LCR (Lalith) Wijesingha

SOURCE: DOUBLE BLUE INTERNATIONAL

<http://wesleycollege.org/DoubleBlue/whatsnew.html>



We all looked forward to the announced visit of Radley Claessen and family to Sri Lanka with much anticipation and excitement. In his own words it might be his last visit to the country of his birth. The visit was bound to be filled with nostalgia and emotion. He was to spend just eight days in the island with his two daughters, Debra & Patsy, his son-in law and two grand daughters. Radley is the only surviving member the famous Claessen Brothers of Wesley who has made an indelible mark in Wesley's cricketing history. The late Brian, Herman and Radley were cricketing legends of Wesley.

A get-together was held on 18 April 2013 at 7.00pm at the OWSC to welcome Radley and his family, by many of his past Wesley contemporaries and well-wishers. It was a hot and humid evening and the lawn of the OWSC was arranged exclusively for this event. Present amongst his past colleagues were Prof. Mahroof Ismail and his charming wife Jezima, Neville Weerasekera and his wife, Fred Abeysekere and wife, Colonel S Musafar and wife, Edmund Dissanayake and wife, Herby Felsingar, M.N.Samsudeen, P.B. Herat, H..B.Tametigama, Richard Dwight together with

B.M.N.Jurangpathy, Vivian Jayaweera, O.K.Hemachandra, Neville Perera, M.N.Mihilar, Kenneth De Silva, Lucky Goonetilleke, Derrick Ingram, C.T.Rodrigo, Milroy Muthuveloe, Sarath Wickramaratne, M.A.P. Fernando ( former Principal) and L.C.R Wijesingha.

Once the initial pleasantries were over and guests well settled the evening commenced with a speech by P.B. Herat who welcomed Radley and family to the Club. He recounted many anecdotes during their schooldays referring to this very special attribute of Radley being the 1st XI Cricket Captain, Senior Prefect and Games Club Secretary of Wesley in 1952.

Next to speak was Richard Dwight who traced Radley's performances at school and thereafter. It was well researched and provided many details of his achievements. Edmund Dissanayake next spoke about the contribution Radley and his brothers made to make the early 1950's to be remembered as the Golden years of Cricket at Wesley. Radley made an emotional response and thanked everyone for being present that evening. It was a trip down memory lane for him and was most likely his final trip to the land of his birth. He also stated that the years he spent at Wesley were the most formative and enjoyable periods of his life. Once the speeches were concluded there was much camaraderie and good cheer with a free flow of food and wine. A tasty Sri Lankan dinner of Hoppers, Stringhoppers and spicy curries were on offer prepared by the OWSC chefs. Vivian Jayaweera provided part of the "good cheer." A special thank you to him. Also a thank you to the OWSC staff and management for making all arrangements.

Everyone present enjoyed this special evening spent with one of Wesley's past Cricket legends. In his own words this get-together at the OWSC was one of the highlights of his farewell trip to Sri Lanka.



Radley Claessen with his daughters Debra and Patsy

## NEWS ROUND-UP

### Double Blue Ball 2012

The Double Blue Ball 2012 was held on 6 October at the Grand on Cathies Lane. About 400 revellers made up of old boys and their partners and friends once again supported the event.

The music for the night was provided by Ben Nathanielsz (old Wesleyite) and his band "Midnight Mist" who played a wonderful selection of music for all ages. Also featured was Desmond de Silva who did three sets of classics from his days with the *Spitfires* and "*Desmond and the Clan*." He ended each set with a classic Baila hit by that he is famous for. The floor was packed for each bracket as the revellers got into the swing of things.

A delicious and beautifully presented three course sit down meal, washed down with one's favourite drop of wine, ale, Johnny Walker Black Label or soft drinks for the gentler types complimented the meal. Victor de Silva and family who run the Grand on Cathies Lane must be complimented for once again providing a wonderful ballroom, attentive service, good food and a beautiful ambience for another year.

The patrons were also entertained to a surprise cabaret artist named "Mario lasagne – the Singing Chef" who had the patrons engaged. A trained professional tenor he moonlights to make a living by singing light operatic songs and some popular classics. Dressed in Chef's uniform the patrons were convinced he was from the kitchen and he had the crowd singing with him and hollering for more. He finished to a standing ovation after singing the Puccini classic - *Nessun Dorma*.

Bouquets to the Dance Committee of Bryan Wijeyekoon, Darryl Koch, Ben Nathanielsz and Rienzie Mahamooth for the decor. The Ball was a great success and for the cost of \$75 per head which included the food, unlimited supply of alcohol and drinks, great music and a fun filled evening of fellowship it is good value for a night out.

The great patronage by the alumni this year in these difficult times was an encouraging sign and it was most evident when the Old Wesleyites gathered at the front of the stage to sing the College Song and War Cry. With "Zum, Zum, Zaki..." echoing in our ears the Ball was over for another year. Ray Anthonisz(QLD) and Gamini Kulasooriya(NSW) were in attendance. Refer photo gallery page 36 & 37

### CEDRIC OORLOFF GOLF TROPHY

The twelfth Annual Golf Encounter between Wesley College and Trinity College Old Boys was held on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012 at the Morack Golf Course. Each of the teams had eight players and the

sunny weather on the day was welcome after rainy conditions in previous years.

As is usual at these encounters the game was played in a spirit of friendly competitiveness, with but a hint of gamesmanship easily overlooked by the now familiar faces we see each year, and the friendships cemented at these and the foregoing Friday night get-togethers. The final adding up of the best three Stableford scores of each team, revealed a difference of two points. Wesley 90, Trinity 92. Poor scores were the order of the day and incorrect marked cards meant that the best three scores were considered only. Arden Joseph was the best player on the day for Wesley.

"Trinity College won the CEDRIC J OORLOFF trophy for 2012"

### Visit to Melbourne 15th - 19th November, 2012 by Ranjit Aaron (NZ)

It all began when Robin visited Sri Lanka in 2006. I met Robin with his family at the OWSC. Where I casually told Robin that I had put in my papers to migrate to New Zealand. He told me, once I was in New Zealand, I should visit him and spend a few days with him in Melbourne. It always gave me immense pleasure whenever possible to catch up with my past school buddies. But I could not fulfil his invitation due to his untimely death. At the time of his death, I wrote to Trilby how sad I was to hear that he had moved to his final resting place. Trilby said although Robin would have loved to have had me in his home, during his heydays that invitation was still open. She also wrote to me whenever I made it to Melbourne, she would take me to visit Robin's grave. From then onwards I made up my mind that someday I will visit his grave and pay my respects.

On 15th, November, 2012, my wife and I arrived at Melbourne Airport and were picked by Trilby and taken to her neat & tidy home. We spent the next 4 days, enjoying the wonderful hospitality. We felt so homely at her place. That same day Trilby had invited Harold Juriansz and Everard Schoorman to visit us. It was almost 40 years since I last met Harold, that too was when he was in school. The following day we were taken by Trilby to Robin's grave. My heart skipped a beat, when I stood in front of my dear sincere friend's grave. At least I had the fulfilment of having made it. My thanks to Trilby.

The following day Trilby had arranged for us to grace a dance floor. A dance that was organized to raise money for the Transit Home of the Cancer Hospital, Maharagama. At this dance I was privileged to meet a few more Old Wesleyites. Jackie John Carnie now a leading doctor in Melbourne, George Seibel, who was much senior to me at school. William Deutrom, Trevor

Collette, two very close buddies of mine. The other old Wesleyite was Beverly de Niese.

18th, November will be a day I will remember for a long, long time. Trevor Collette, William Deutrom, Keith de Kretser and Trilby had organized for me to meet with many more Old Wesleyites over a luncheon at one of the Malaysian restaurants in Melbourne. My wife Rita & I enjoyed the wide spread of delicious food and the array of drinks. Those of whom I met since leaving school were, Annesley Young, Lucian Fernando, Keith de Kretser, George Seibel and Glen Reimers. Others present were Reggie Bartholomeusz and wife, Glen Reimers & wife, George Seibel & wife, Trevor Collette & wife, William Deutrom, Annesley Young, Lucian Fernando and Trilby.



GEORGE SIEBEL, REG BARTHOLOMEUSZ, KEITH DE KRETZER, LUCIEN FERNANDO, RANJIT AARON, TREVOR COLLETTE, BILL DEUTROM, ANNESLEY YOUNG & GLENN REIMERS

### The Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Carol Service 2012

The Service was held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 at the Reformed Church in Dandenong, Victoria. Reg Bartholomeusz, Felix Berman, Keith de Kretser, Dayantha Makalanda, Haig Maloney, Lorensz Stork and Brindley Vanderwert represented Wesley.

Marlon Willenberg read one of the lessons.

The offertory collected was in excess of \$2,200 which was donated to charities in Australia and Sri Lanka.

### Quadrangular 20 – 20 Cricket Carnival

for the

W.O. Nathanielsz & Tita Nathanielsz Trophy

The third year of the tournament was held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February between Wesley, Kingswood, St John's College Jaffna and a Richmond/Mahinda College Combined team. A sunny day greeted the players and spectators who had turned up for what promised to be an entertaining outing at the Mulgrave Reserve in leafy Wheelers Hill in the South Eastern suburbs. The winner of the tournament last year, Trinity College did not participate this year. A small gathering of supporters from each College were in attendance to support their teams. A Sri Lankan caterer provided the tasty snacks

and lunches and a papparappa band entertained the crowd.

### RESULTS

Kingswood in 20 over's 213 / 5 Hans Nathanielsz 3/27  
Wesley 163 /6 in 20 over's  
Ryan Achilles retired hurt 71  
Gahan Nathanielsz 24  
Kingwood won by 50 runs

St John's College Jaffna vs Richmond / Mahinda College

St John's in 20 over's 243 / 3  
Richmond / Mahinda all 66  
St John's won by 177 runs

### Losers Final

Wesley College Vs Richmond / Mahinda  
Wesley College 143 in 20 over's  
Jade Kanagasabapathy 57  
Warren Bartholomeusz 22  
Richmond /Mahinda 110 all out  
Jade Kanagasabapathy 2/28  
Sanjeev Wijesinghe 2/ 19  
Wesley College Won by 33 runs

### Final

Kingswood College vs St John's College Jaffna  
Kingswood College in 20 over's 195 /5  
Malinda 50, Susantha 47  
St John's in 20 over's 151 Bahee 49

Kingswood College are the winners of the 2013 Tournament by 44 runs

Best Batsman: Kingston Alfred

Best Bowler: Gihan Ekanayake

Player of The Tournament : Gihan Ekanayake

Runners up Trophy won by St John's College Jaffna  
Winner of the Losers Trophy won by Wesley College



## THE SENIOR MEMBERS LUNCH 2012

The Senior Members Lunch was held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at Cha's Cabin in Hallam where our hosts Lorenz "Chubbo" de Kauwe and his wife Yolande were perfect hosts. The attendance by our special invitees – "the Senior Members and their partners plus widows of our members was great with 33 in attendance. The Committee and their partners and a few other old Wesleyites and their partners also attended. The sense of Christmas was very much in the air as members of the Wesley family mingled and chatted. It is not often that we see these Senior Members attend our functions so it presents a great opportunity meet up with them.

President of the OBUA Ben Nathanielsz welcomed the guests and then invited George Robertson to receive a token of appreciation for the many years co-ordinating the Senior Members Lunch.

Langston Joseph led us in saying Grace before we had our meal. Our hosts put on a fine spread of food with the traditional roasts, ham, curries, rice, seafood and trimmings for the season. After a splendid feast, the 'Wesley choristers' led the patrons in a session of Carol singing. This was followed by a traditional sing-a-long much to the delight of the "oldies" and the tone of the party lifted. After singing the College Song the party came to a close as we locked arms to the strains of Auld Lang Syne. Refer photo gallery page ...38

## Winter-Warm –up Curry Nite 2013 was Hot! Hot! Hot!

It is a nice position to be in when you can put up the "SOLD OUT" sign as an organiser of any event. So it was by popular demand and the quality of previous functions of this nature resulted in the Winter Warm up having sold out before the function. Three critical elements will guarantee such a success, being Good Music, Good Food and Good Value for your money.

The Annual Winter Warm-up Curry Nite held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May was a great success. Tickets sales leading up to the event were good and after past experiences of too large a crowd, the full house sign went after 250 tickets were sold. The hall was beautifully decorated with a yellow and black colour scheme for the evening to brighten up the dreary winter blues and warm blue and red hues washed the walls to create a night club atmosphere. As patrons arrived they soon warmed up to the occasion as the band The Clan set a cracking pace from the very first bracket to lure the patrons on to the floor.

As the evening moved along there was a great buzz around the place . A sumptuous dinner by Cha's Cabin

where a selection of dishes fed the hungry diners. After a welcoming speech by the president, Ben Nathanielsz and the usual raffle draw, the pace picked up as the revellers danced the night away. The alumni gathered in front of the stage singing of the College Song and the War Cry "Zum, Zum, Zake".... Refer photo gallery pages... 39 & 40

## MOHAMED IQBAL FELICITATED

Mohamed Iqbal, a loyal Wesleyite domiciled in New Zealand was welcomed by the Minister of Plantations, Mahinda Samarasinghe at the Tea Board auditorium, in Colombo recently. His services to promoting Ceylon Tea and Trade in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands for 42 years was recognized with Mr Iqbal receiving a letter from the Minister.



<p>මහලයාගේ කාර්යාලය අංක 55, වූස්හාල් ලාය, කොළඹ 02.</p> <p>Office No. 55, Vushhall Lane, Colombo 02.</p>	 <p>මහලයාගේ නම (Mr. M.) <b>MAHINDA SAMARASINGHE (M.P.)</b> රජයේ කාර්යාලය මහලයාගේ නම (Mr. M.) <b>MAHINDA SAMARASINGHE (M.P.)</b> Minister of Plantation Industries</p>	<p>දුරකථන / Telephone 0112314116</p> <p>දුරකථන / Office 0112314119</p> <p>දුරකථන / Fax 0112318235</p> <p>දුරකථන / Residence 0112397275</p> <p>දුරකථන / Fax 0112549795</p>
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### Mr. Mohamed Iqbal

Mr. Mr. Mohamed Iqbal, Barrister-at-Law (Lincoln Inn), held the post of Honorary Tea Commissioner, New Zealand, from 1991 to 2012. Prior to this appointment, he held several assignments under the Sri Lanka Tea Board in Australia and New Zealand from 1970 to 1990, culminating in the appointment as the Tea Commissioner for Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

Mr. Iqbal has a distinguished record of service in the Tea Promotion work in various capacities for a continuous period of forty four years. During this long period, he promoted Ceylon Teas in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji with passionate zeal. His technical competence in all aspects of tea promotions coupled with his enduring personable qualities have gone a long way for Sri Lanka to secure a sustainable foothold for Ceylon Teas in the Australian and New Zealand markets. He has also played a significant role in bilateral negotiations on tea, both with the Corporate and Government sectors in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji.

I wish him well in his retirement.

  
**Mahinda Samarasinghe MP**  
 Minister of Plantation Industries/  
 Special Envoy of H.E. the President on Human Rights

Mahinda Samarasinghe  
 Minister of Plantation Industries  
 Ministry of Plantation Industries  
 55 / 75, Vushhall Lane,  
 Colombo 02.

12.06.2013

## St Thomas College OBA Invitation Golf Event 2013

An invitation Golf competition conducted by the St Thomas College, Colombo OBA in Melbourne was held on Sunday 10 Feb. 2013 at the Glen Waverley Municipal Golf Course.

The event attracted players from seven Sri Lankan schools, of which five schools entered teams in the premier event on the day, the four person team event for the 'George Arndt Memorial Shield'. Since many of the participants to these events do not have recognized Golf handicaps, the scoring method adopted for all players was the Callaway system of golf handicapping.

The weather on the day was perfect for playing Golf. The Wesley team, *the only team that fronted in team colours*, (see photos), consisted of Reg Barthomeusz, Tyrone Rode, Sri Kanagasabapathy and George Siebel. We played great golf to finish close runners up to our hosts St Thomas College in the team event. There were various other individual prizes on the day, best gross score, best Callaway score, nearest the pins on all Par three's and a Longest drive.

St Thomas OBA had conducted some similar events in the past. As I understand this is a new format with the new team Trophy, 'The George Arndt Memorial Shield', donated by the family of old Thomian George Arndt and presented for the first time, by our very own Bryan Wijeyekoon.

Following the Golf we were provided with a hearty repast of soft drinks and finger food, including Pan rolls and a selection of meats and cheese.

We salute the work done by John Rodie and others for an event well conducted. I understand this event is to be held each year and commend Wesley's participation and support.

George Siebel



**SRI, GEORGE, REG & TYRONE**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 32<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at the Burgher Association Hall, Clayton, Melbourne. Twenty two Old Boys were in attendance, some with their partners. Apologies were received from six members.

The President Ben Nathanielsz welcomed all those present and then summoned the house to observe a minute's silence in memory of those Wesleyites that had left this earthly life in the past year.

The President then provided a brief report on the year. He thanked his Committee and their partners for their support over the year and extended his thanks to the members for their support. He also acknowledged the contribution of Bryan Wijeyekoon, Darryl Koch and Vernon Weerappah who decided on having a break from the Committee.

The Secretary's Report which was circulated in advance gave a more detail report on the year's activities. The Treasurer's report showed cash at bank of \$8,654 with the Double Blue Trust holding a further \$200 for Wesley College.

The election of Office Bearer's was next and Langston Joseph performed his annual duty as Pro-tem Chairman to conduct the election.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair and a rousing rendition of the College Song and War Cry. Lunch followed as members shared a time of fellowship with each other.

## Your Committee 2013

<b>President</b>	Ben Nathanielsz	9799 0365
<b>Vice President</b>	Trevor Collette	9706 1084
<b>Secretary</b>	Brian Azoor	9799 1026
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tony Careem	8751 3031
<b>Editor</b>	Keith de Kretser	9560 0074
<b>Committee</b>	Nelson de Silva	9704 8971
	Marlon Willenberg	9706 3805
	Curk Solomons	97032996
	Kaushi Boteju	0402893541
	Ubeid Hamit	0409337236

**All correspondence**

**Wesley College Colombo OBUA  
P O Box 123  
Glenway MDC  
Mulgrave, VIC 3170**

## End of year Christmas round-up

Wesley staff had a great evening for the teachers at the Hilton with over 200 attending which included spouses and kids and a few invitees who have been helping the school over the year.

The College Choir entertained the guests and the good news to add is that the Festival of Choirs was a great success and to cap it off the Choir won the Temple Trees Carols competition. The First Lady gave away the prize of Rs.100,000 to the choir and I am sure the boys like the photograph with her. The teachers choir of 20 voices also performed at the function as invited guests.

## WESLEY RUGBY 2013

This Year Wesley College will be skippered by 4<sup>th</sup> year coloursman, scrum half Rahul DeSilva. He was the Vice Captain last year. Rahul's father Capt Navin De Silva captained the College 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Cricket team in 1981 and 1982 and also captained the Sri Lanka Schoolboys team in 1982 which toured England. This is the first time in Wesley's 120 year Cricket and 67 year Rugby history that father and son have captained Cricket and Rugby respectively.

The Vice Captain this year is burly 4<sup>th</sup> year coloursman number eight Gavin Siegertz. Gavin is one of the best forwards in the Schools Circuit.

Colours have also been awarded this year to 6 foot 4 inch gangling flanker Sithum Pieris and Fly Half Ishan Madhushanka both of whom are representing Wesley in their third Year.

### The Coach - Henry Terence

The 2012 inter club league winning Havelock's SC skipper and former Wesley College deputy skipper (2005), Henry Terence will be the head coach for the lads from Campbell Park this year.

Henry started off his club career at CR&FC before shifting to Havelock's sports club where he led his team to a league win after a 30 years old drought. The big made front rower has been a regular in the National side playing for a number of 15 aside tournaments.

He will be assisted by Dennis Amal Pathirana while the Physical training will be conducted by George Illangaratne.

Wesley performed admirably and ended up 4<sup>th</sup> in "A" Division behind Dharmaraja College, Trinity and St Peter's. Dharmaraja won "B" Division last year and were unbeaten. They repeated their success this season and were unbeaten. Wesley lost two close games against Trinity and St Peter's in the dying minutes of the second half or they would have ended the season higher up the ladder.

## Results

- Beat Isipathana 25 - 23
- Beat St. Anthony's Katugastota 32 - 17
- Beat St. Joseph's 38 - 24
- Lost to Royal 12-31 after leading handsomely at half-time
- Lost to Trinity 19 - 22
- Lost to Dharmaraja 24 - 36 in a close game
- Beat Science College 25 - 14
- Drew with Kingswood 8 - 8
- Lost to St. Peter's 29 - 30

Wesley qualified for the Milo President's Trophy which is a knock-out competition.

Quarter Final - Beat Science College 20 - 17

Semi - Final - Beat Dharmaraja College 22 - 13

Final - Beat Trinity College 34 - 21

Sports Headlines from the Sri Lankan newspapers

**Daily Mirror** - ZAM ZAM ZAKE'.....ZAM ZAM ZAY  
**Daily News** - Wesley in thrilling win over Trinity 34 -21  
**The Island** - Brilliant Wesley down Trinity  
**Ceylon Today** - Wonder of Wesley

The team and their supporters were a credit to the College and their behaviour and attitude were complimented by many comments on a sports blog..

**Well done Wesley.. you deserve the title for consistency and hard work. Your boys always play a clean game in a gentlemanly manner. Your crowd behaviour is exemplary. People who think hooliganism and arrogant crowd behaviour are part of the game should take a feather out of your cap. Cheers.. A Trinitian**

**Rohan**

**It was one way traffic . Hats off to Wesley who played superb rugby sans foreign coaches, foreign trip to boost breathing pattern so on... they were backed by a well behaved crowd. May be we all should take a leaf out of their hat.**

**Prasanna**

**And from Bill Deutrom(Brisbane) ...**

**At the end of the day Rugby is a game and we should support it wholeheartedly but with restraint. The rugby crowds at school games have been disgraceful and I am so proud that our guys were well behaved. Discipline is not only for the current batch but for all of us. I think the small support base of Farman, Nizam, Flavio and Gavin have done a wonderful job. The support from the Principal was excellent and I congratulate you guys in getting him to be so generous. I know it took some in depth conversations!!! It is a credit to the team and the coaches that they won this tournament without all the highly paid coaches etc. but with pride in their school and a desire to win. I**

*think Shanti's approach has been vindicated. A great day for Wesley and lets capitalise on it. The Wesley brand is getting well known and publicised. All of us in Aus. are delighted and very proud of our alma mater. Ora et Labora*

## Wesley wins President's Trophy

Daily Mirror Monday 15 July 2013

**By M. Shamil Amit**

It was Zam Zam Zakè, Zam Zam Zay all the way as Wesley hit the daylights out of Trinity with a rousing 34 points to 21 win in the final of the Milo President's Trophy knockout rugby tournament played at the Royal Sports Complex ground in Reid Avenue yesterday (14/07).

In the process Wesley clinched their first ever major schools rugby title in the history of six decades.

Interestingly the two major school rugby titles this year was won by two schools which were promoted to the top division with Dharmaraja who were the Division 1B league champions last year lifting the league title and Wesley who were the runner up in the Division 1B taking the knockout title.

In fact Wesley came back in the second half after having given a 8-13 lead to Trinity as they ran circles around the Trinity defence to rattle them in the second half. Wesley made up their points through three goals, two tries and a penalty as against to a goal, a try, two penalties and drop goal by Trinity.

It was Wesley who drew first blood in the very first minute with their diminutive No 8 Gavin Siegertsz going over for an unconverted try. From there on the game was closely contested. Trinity had an opportunity of reducing the lead in the 20th minute but fly half Tharinda Ratwatte from whom much was expected was off colour as his kick went astray.

But he made amends five minutes later when he made no mistake with another penalty offered. Trinity took over the lead when centre Ryan Weerakoon went over for a try and Ratwatte adding the extra points. In a ding dong battle that ensued Wesley skipper and scrum half Rahul de Silva succeeded in booting over penalty while in the dying stages of this session Ratwatte's drop goal saw Trinity increasing the lead to 13-8 which score stood at the short whistle.

The resumption saw Wesley getting their act together and it seemed that they had come into the game well prepared with a plan and everything turned in their favour.

A three try burst within a space of eight minutes by the Wesleyites spearheaded by skipper Rahul de Silva saw the complexion of the game change completely. Winger Ishaq Jurangpathy was the first to score. The try was followed by Thisara Maduwantha's try and then a third by centre Joel Tilekeratne sent the Wesley

supporters wild. Skipper Rahul too was in top form as he converted two of these as Wesley led 27-13. Trinity left with a daunting task of making another 14 points was given little chance by the Wesley defence. With just over ten minutes of play Ratwatte succeeded in booting over a penalty for Trinity but Wesley counter attacked with a try scored by second row Ishara Madushan.

With time running out for the Trinitians Winger Rukshan Sasmin went over for a consolation try before the long whistle was blown giving Wesley a rousing victory.

Referee – Nizam Jamaldeen



Some of the joyous supporters  
Photo The Papare.com



Photo The Papare.com



Some of the joyous supporters  
Photo The Papare.com

## Wesley Swimming Gala

**RUZAIK FAROOK**  
*Daily News 4/07/2013*

Wesley College will stage their first ever swimming Gala which is being organized by the 'Batch of 93' in grand style. This event is so well timed that in the run up to it, Wesley's champion swimmer was placed fifth in the 2013 All Island Swimming Meet which is no small feat for the Borella lads who just got their toes wet in the new swimming pool constructed less than a year ago. This beautiful pool is located next to the Principal's Bungalow which is geographically the highest place in Colombo.

To promote and facilitate this new and promising activity which has already paid dividends at Wesley College, the 'Batch of 93' under the guidance of the Principal Dr. Shanthy McLelland has set about organizing the 1st Wesley Swimming Gala in the school's proud 139 years history. One needs to add that Wesley owes its appreciation to the Principal's vision.

The honoured Chief Guest would be Mr and Mrs Richie Sappideen for this momentous event, an ardent old boy who to his credit led the old boys brigade as the chairman of the Swimming Pool project. The mission of this annual event is mainly to encourage every single Wesleyite to learn to swim, and thereon, to become champion swimmers. It is yet another avenue for budding Wesleyites to show and prove their multiple

talents to the world. Last but not least, the vision of this Swimming Gala is to excel in the spirit of sportsmanship and competition for building healthy bodies while building healthy minds.

The event will feature under 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 respectively covering the skills that the boys have picked up within the last year in Free style, Butter fly stroke, Back Stroke, Breast Stroke Medley Relay for juniors and seniors covering distances of 25m, 50m 100m and 200m.

The event will also see boys from the two primary wings in Havelock town and Katunayake participating in full strength.

Overall, the batch of 93 expects around 2,000 boys to participate over 2 days of heats which are planned well before the final event. Wesley College has taken to water with full steam and will be a gale force to reckon in the future of swimming in Sri Lanka.

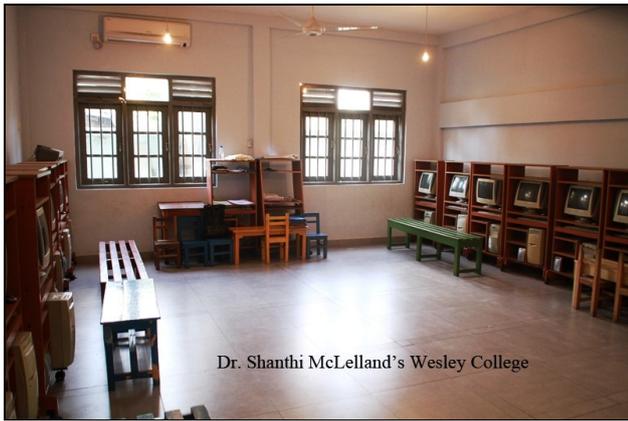
## WESLEY COLLEGE PRIMARY SCHOOL HAVELOCK TOWN

Wesley Primary is in its 3rd year at the Boys Industrial Home (BIH) site. Children from Grade 1 to Grade 3 receive their education at this branch. A total of 364 children are presently enrolled with a staff of 20 handling the work.

From 2010, a bilingual system of education is being followed. General subjects are taught in mixed medium classes after which the students break-up into the three mediums (English, Sinhala and Tamil).

At present there are five Grade 1 classes, two Grade 2 classes. The original batch of students that started their education at Havelock Town campus comprises the two Grade 3 classes.





Dr. Shanthi McLelland's Wesley College



WESLEY COLLEGE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
HAVELOCK TOWN



## CRICKET RESULTS

**Vs Moratu Vidyalaya** – Won Outright by 9 wkts  
1st inning: MoratuVidyalaya 132 all out.  
Wesley College 183/9 dec

**Vs St Anthony's Katugastota** – Drawn  
1st innings: St.Anthony's 244 all out & 127 for 5  
Wesley College: 1<sup>st</sup> innings 172 all out and 139 for 6

**Vs Ananda College** – No Decision (bad weather)

**Vs Trinity College at Kandy**– No Decision  
Wesley College 186 all out –  
Trinity College 125/6.....stopped due to rain

**Vs St Thomas' MTL** – Drawn  
1st innings: STC 300/6,  
Wesley 130 all out and 2nd innings 195/7,

**Vs Kingswood, Kandy** – Drawn (1<sup>st</sup> innings win for Wesley)  
Wesley College 1<sup>st</sup> innings 137.  
Kingswood 1<sup>st</sup> innings 114 all out and Kingswood 50/3

**Vs Royal College at Reid Avenue** – Drawn  
Royal 221/5d (56) & 112/7d (27.5)  
Wesley College 149 all out (48.3) & 127/8 (46)

**Vs Nalanda** – Did not play (bad weather)  
**Vs Prince of Wales** – Did not play (bad weather)

## New Wesley College Primary School at Katunayake opened 1/12/2012



**Vs St. Sebastian's, Moratuwa** Match drawn (1st innings tied)  
St. Sebastian's College 179/all out (80.3) & 73/5 (32)  
Wesley College 179 all out (75.5)

**Vs Holy Cross, Kalutara** Match Drawn (Wesley College won on 1st innings)  
Wesley College 257/9d (64.1) Vs  
Holy Cross College 82 all out (44.5) & follow on 138/8 (75)

**Vs St Benedicts** (rescheduled game) – Lost outright by 10 wkts  
Wesley College 74 all out (37.1) and 133 all out (75.2)  
St. Benedicts College 191/ all out (65.5) & 18/0 (1.5) -

**vs St. Josephs at Maradana** - Match drawn (Wesley College won on 1st innings)  
St Joseph's 150 (56overs) and 100 for 7 (43overs)  
Wesley 265 for 8 dec(80.1overs)

**Vs Thurstan College** Match drawn (Wesley College won on 1st innings)  
Thurstan College 181 all out (62.4) & 14/1 (3.4)  
Wesley College 191 all out (61.3)

### Under 19 Limited Over Tournament for the Lemonade Trophy

**1<sup>st</sup> match Wesley College vs Royal College, Panadura played at Panadura**  
Royal College Panadura - 105 all out (41.3 overs)  
Wesley College 106/5 (31.5 overs) 7  
**Wesley won by 5 wickets**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Match Wesley College vs St. Anne's Kurunegala played at Campbell Park**

St Anne's College – 167 all out (47.1overs)  
Wesley College - 170/4 (36.1 Overs)  
**Wesley won by 6 wickets**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Match Wesley College vs President's College, Rajagiriya played at Campbell Park**

President's College – 119 all out (36.5 overs)  
Wesley College - 122/4 (21 overs)

**Wesley won by 6 wickets**

**4<sup>th</sup> Match Wesley College vs D.S. Senanayake MV played at Campbell Park**

D.S. Senanayake – 103 (35.1 overs)  
Wesley College – 105 for no loss(15.4 overs)  
**Wesley won by 10 wickets**

**Quarter Final Wesley College vs Prince of Wales College, Moratuwa played at Kotahena (St. Ben's ground)**

Prince of Wales College 72 (38 overs)  
Wesley College - 73/6 (21.5 overs)  
**Wesley won by 4 wickets**

**Semi Final Wesley College vs St Benedict's College played at Premadasa Stadium**  
St. Benedict's College 232 / 7 (50 overs)  
Wesley College 173 (42.1)  
**Wesley lost .**

### Inter-School U-19 Cricket – T 20 Kotmale Chox tournament

**Wesley College vs Ananda College played at Campbell Park**

Ananda College - 124 all out (19.4 overs)  
Wesley College - 125/6 (20 overs)

**Wesley won by 4 wkts**

**Wesley College vs St. Josephs played at St. Benedicts grounds, Kotahena.**

St Josephs, Colombo - 68 all out (18.2 overs)  
Wesley College - 72/8 (16.1 overs)

**Wesley won by 2 wkts**

**SEMI FINAL Wesley College vs St Peter's College played at Bloomfield's Ground Reid Avenue**

St Peters College, Colombo 158/8 (20 overs)  
Wesley College, Colombo 161/6 (18.4 overs)

**Wesley won by 4 wkts**

**FINAL Wesley College vs St Sebastian's, Moratuwa played at Bloomfield Grounds Reid Avenue**

St. Sebastian's College 122/7 (20 overs)  
Wesley College – 80 all out (16.4 overs)

**Wesley lost by 3 wkts**

Best Batsman : Jonathan Caderamanpulle – Wesley

### HOCKEY RESULTS

**Colombo Schools Hockey Tournament U19**

2<sup>nd</sup> Round

- Lost to Royal College 0-2 in the semi finals
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place play off Wesley College beat Ananda 1-0.

**Wesley College placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Colombo schools qualified for All Island Competition to be held in Jaffna**

**All Island U-19 Hockey Tournament held in Jaffna Semi-finals**

St Sylvesters College beat Dharmaraja College, Kandy 2-1

St Thomas College, Matale beat Wesley College 2-0

Finals - St Thomas College, Matale beat St Sylvesters College, Kandy 1-0

3<sup>rd</sup> place play-off - Wesley College beat Dharmaraja College, Kandy 2-0

# Double Blue Ball 2012



# Double Blue Ball 2012



# Seniors Lunch Dec 2012



# Winter Warm-up 2013



# Winter Warm-up 2013

