

The Wesley Times



NEWSLETTER OF WESLEY COLLEGE COLOMBO OLD BOYS UNION AUSTRALIA BRANCH
Winter Edition 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A New Year and a new President for the OBU Australia Branch.

Dear Members

I am delighted to serve you as President in 2018. I would not claim to be the greatest Administrator but with an enthusiastic and experienced team I am confident that the OBUA will continue to look after the members as in previous years. The only changes to the team have been last year's President Bryan Wijeyekoon and Shri Kanagasabapathy who have elected not to stand for re-election. On behalf of the members I thank them for their contribution for the successful year we had in 2017. Bryan has kindly accepted to continue to attend Committee meetings in a non-voting role as Past President to assist and guide the Committee and me.

Finally, I draw your attention to the Double Blue Ball on 6th October 2018. Please reserve the date in your diary. The theme this year Moulin Rouge. Tickets are available now so get in early and reserve a table. Details are on page 35. I look forward to your presence and meeting you.

Ora et Labora

Rienzie Mahamooth

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From the Editor's desk

Since the last newsletter the OBUA has a new President – Rienzie Mahamooth. Rienzie is a very creative and artistic personality and we wish him well in his new role. The most significant change since the last newsletter has been the changes to the OBUA Constitution. The most significant change has been the elimination of membership subscriptions. However if you wish to be a member of the OBUA you need to complete a membership application form which entitles you to vote at an AGM. The other changes to the constitution were in relation to tidying up the rules to reflect the operation of the OBUA.

On a more serious matter, the College has chosen not to release the OL and AL results which raises questions. Under the stewardship of Dr Shanti McLelland the results were impressive and the lack of transparency can only suggest that the results were poor. It is of concern that that after many years of academic malaise, Dr McLelland turned things around. As alumni we can only hope that the results will improve and everything will be done to improve the quality of teaching and future results in the OL and AL examinations.

Warmest regards

Keith de Kretser

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Letters to the Editor

The Editor,
OBUA Newsletter

Dear Editor,

First of all let me say Congratulations for an EXCELLENT NEWSLETTER. It was full of pertinent information and gave all who read it a full and descriptive account of the most recent activities of the OBU in Australia. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!!!

However on reading the news item headed "OBUA End of Year Lunch" I was personally disappointed by some of the sentiments expressed in the article. I have discussed this with a few members and they all agree with me.

The particular sentiment which caused us most concern was the statement that *"Every year for the past 20 years, the OBUA has organized a "Seniors Lunch" for all our senior members-retirees in December with a Festive theme. For the last couple of years this lunch has struggled to create the atmosphere of previous years. There was a need to invigorate and change the format in order to make it an enjoyable occasion and a great time of fellowship for all."*

Those involved in organizing the first few Seniors Lunches remember how the Committee members and partners did all the cooking in their own homes and these home cooked delights were teamed up with string hoppers which were donated. Soft drinks and beer were purchased while the scotch provided was the balance from the Dinner Dance. There was a Christmas tree with gifts for the ladies. Over the next few years this grew to include a piece of Christmas cake for each person. The string hoppers gave way to seasonal fare. The Christmas tree continued to sparkle and the Seniors and their partners received gifts. The invitees now included the "WOWS" – the widows of Wesley old boys who had passed on – it was especially touching when these ladies thanked the Committee for not forgetting them. These Seniors lunches always included a great sing along with spirited renditions of Carols which saw everyone leave with a warm festive spirit. Due to its increasing popularity the function found a new home at Cha's Cabin. The participants had increased from the original Seniors and partners, widows and Committee, to Former Presidents and partners attending by invitation.

The Committee then made a decision to throw the function open to other old boys and their partners as well , the only difference being that these "non - senior" members along with the former Presidents were asked to pay a nominal fee to defray the cost of the meals.

The previous year's function which was held at the BA Hall was well attended and a great time was had by everyone. However the accent and whole focus was on the SENIORS they along with their partners were made to feel special ; in fact the invitations sent out to the Seniors said that the President and Committee invited them *".....in appreciation of the contribution by Senior members of the Wesley College OBU....."*.

We left the BA Hall with a warm glow (partly alcohol and good food) – but more due to the warm appreciation and thanks expressed by the Seniors, partners and the widows. The general feeling was definitely **NOT** that *"For the last couple of years this lunch has struggled to create the atmosphere of previous years."*

I personally feel that the last years End of Year Lunch was a great success in that everybody enjoyed the function and fellowship on the day – it was an excellent Members Lunch and should be a regular feature.

However should it or could it ever replace the Seniors lunch? This last lunch certainly struggled to create the atmosphere of previous years Seniors functions. Looking at the photographs which accompanied the article showed us two of our oldest seniors Douglas Mack and Langston Joseph seated at a table – where were the party hats, the gifts, the bon- bons and the Christmas cake? The end of year lunch saw the Seniors, partners and the widows just there as participants this was not their function anymore the OBUA did nothing to single them out and show them any "appreciation of the contribution by Senior members of the Wesley College OBU".

I suggest we continue with the Members OBUA lunch as a function for ALL members but bring back the SENIORS in its former format AND spirit!

This is my personal opinion but the sentiments expressed are echoed by most of the older members I have consulted.

Regards

Trevor Collette

From the Editor

The letter will be addressed by the OBUA Committee.



Why Teachers DRINK!

The following questions were set in last year's GED examination

**These are genuine answers
(from 16 year olds)**

Q. What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty

A. He says goodbye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.
(So true)

Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'

A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome.

Q. What is a seizure?

A.. A Roman Emperor.

(Julius **Seizure** , I came, I saw, I had a fit)

Q. What is a turbine?

A. Something an Arab or Shreik wears on his head. Once an Arab boy reaches puberty, he removes his diaper and wraps it around his head.

Winter Warm-up

The Annual Winter Warm Up on 12th May was another successful event for the members. A number of Old Wesleyites and their partners joined by friends enjoyed a sumptuous meal by Silverline Catering and danced to the music of Linden Boustead (old Wesleyite) and his band “ Cloud 9”. If there was a negative it was the poor sound system of the band. However this did not deter the 250 revellers as they enjoyed themselves. The Ladies received a long stem rose in respect of Mother’s Day which was the next day. A highlight of the night was the cabaret by Jeremy Kreltzhaim (guitar virtuoso) and Ben Nathanielsz (vocals) tribute to Carlos Santana.

Winter Warm Up 2018



144th Founder's Day 2018

Principal's Message



I am glad to address you all through this note, on this very important day of Wesley College, as we celebrate 144 years of equipping men of grit and industry, men who have labored towards the welfare of the society and men with fine character and true sportsmanship. We remember with gratitude the untiring services of Rev D H Pereira towards establishing a College which would reach out to all irrespective of their race & religion.

As we look back we thank God for His guidance which has sustained us thus far, and look forward to His unfailing sustenance in our journey of ensuring holistic education for the students, as we focus on bringing about an improvement in all spheres of the school, and maintain the standard of the College while instilling core values such as respecting, caring and loving each other irrespective of the situation or the person.

Being in line with the vision of the College which is 'To be the premier Christian secondary educational institute and to provide men of stature and integrity to be leaders in the technologically advancing environment.', and realizing the overwhelming power of the virtual world which is moving towards computer generated sphere, Wesley is focusing on providing an excellent foundation so that its students become more independent and all set to face the competitive world and one such initiative is the introduction to Technology.

We have had some milestones in the past year from which we would like to highlight just two events. One is, a Wesleyite being elected as the District Interact Representative after 17 years in the history of Wesley and the other is, winning the 2nd place at the Inter School Shakespeare Drama Competition in 2017 - for the first time in our history.

We have been in constant touch with the parents to ensure appropriate behavior and ample attention is given towards the education of the children. We strongly believe in the partnership between the College, Parents & Students which would be vital for student improvement. Please be assured of our continued attention on the welfare of our Students which is our prime task. We look forward to the cooperation of our parents as discussions are kept on

implementing strategies which would take Wesley to a higher standard in Education, Discipline and Sports.

The Infrastructure of the College is being improved gradually, as it is one of the imperative aspects while providing a positive and a pleasant environment which is conducive for learning. Our gratitude to the OBU who have generously supported towards providing classroom furniture for the Senior classes.

It is our hope and prayer that Wesley College would move on from strength to strength and become the BEST Christian School which generates true GENTLEMEN.

ORA ET LABORA

Avanka Fernando
PRINCIPAL

President of the Wesley College OBU Colombo

Good Morning Everyone –



Principal Mr. Avanka Fernando, Co- Vice Principals, Members of the Tutorial Staff, Members of the Non- Academic Staff, Members of the Old Boys Union, and Dear Boys of Wesley.

I greet you all this morning - today the 2nd of March – which is a day that is sacred to all Wesleyites!! It is both a day of Commemoration, and A day of Celebration... it was on this day -2nd March 1791 the world bid farewell, to the Good and Faithful servant – John Wesley who returned to his Maker, having accomplished on earth the Divine Mission entrusted to him.

Today is also a day of celebration - because our Alma Mater Wesley College named after John Wesley - was founded in the City Mission buildings at Dam Street Pettah on the 2nd of March 1874.

Reflecting on the inheritance we have received from our first Principal - Rev. Samuel Wilkin, and our first Vice-Principal Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira, I must emphasize that the base and foundation, on which they built Wesley College Colombo, were the beautiful traditions and Christian values, which stood the

test of time during its 144 years existence. These values and traditions have guided and inspired thousands of young lives that have passed through the corridors of Wesley, to become Men of Grit and Industry in the world.

On this 144th Anniversary of Wesley, let us reflect on all that we have inherited from the great man of God, Rev. John Wesley, - the founder of Methodism after whom we are privileged to call ourselves Wesleyites.

As you know Methodism is of British origin, and it began in the early 18th century as a revival movement within the Church of England. Rev. John Wesley, who was a clergyman in the Church of England, directed the Methodist movement, because **he disapproved of the trivial and frivolous lives of the rich, and he cared deeply for the poor. He lived frugally and gave away a large part of his income. He went begging from door to door on behalf of the starving.**

Under John Wesley, Methodism exercised a humanizing influence over a large section of the British people. He was a pioneer of Education, and his love for Education, is the legacy he left behind in the world and for all of us in the Wesley family in the last 144 years.

We have heard of that famous Welshman, by the name of - Rev. Dr. Thomas Coke who was chiefly responsible for establishing the Methodist missions, in Sri Lanka. Despite opposition - Dr. Coke forged ahead, winning the approval of the conference and set out for Sri Lanka. As you know, unfortunately his dream was not fulfilled, because he became sick during the voyage, and died at sea. His death, took away the leader of the missionary group, and deprived them of all their financial support, because the funds were written in Dr. Coke's name.

On June 29, 1814 James Lynch and four others arrived in Galle bringing Methodism to Sri Lanka. **They journeyed into unknown territory without giving up, or looking back, amidst many challenges and difficulties, braving the storms and dangers at sea, because they were courageous, and had strong faith and conviction in the mission entrusted to them.** Can we ask ourselves honestly - if we have the same faith and courage that they had, and are we able to do the same things they did?

Education has had an important role in the Methodist Mission and the Church established many schools in many places. A very Significant lesson we can learn from our history is, that even though the vision and desire of the Founding Fathers was, for Wesley to be a "distinctly Christian College," they were guided

and inspired by the example of Lord Jesus who didn't discriminate anyone. So the Methodist Church in a very generous gesture opened the doors of Wesley, to students from other religious and ethnic backgrounds. As a result we Wesleyites are Blessed and privileged, because today we have the opportunity to show the world that – "Boys of Wesley together stand, Bound by one fraternal band, the Band of double blue," and that we treat all those who enter the gates of this great institution as Brothers where **the barriers of caste, creed, race and ethnicity does NOT exist among us.**

All of us – have a huge responsibility because we carry on our shoulders, traditions and values of 144 years. We must be examples in everything we do and say, and achieve high standards in the field of Education, Discipline, Sports, and the Arts. Like our founding fathers we must be fearless and forge ahead with determination and courage, able to overcome all obstacles and challenges, stand for truth and righteousness show respect for each other, whether it is in the classroom or sports field, - these will reflect the spirit of our founders and we will become a beacon of light to all those around us.

I also would like to share with you another important heritage Wesley College has received from John Wesley!!!- **That is a proud and rich singing tradition!!** My dear Boys, our College Song is a reflection of the Spirit, the ideals, and the traditions of Wesley. So, on this founder's day recalling the words of John Wesley, I invite every Wesleyite present here, **Make it your duty to engrave the words of our College Song in your heart, so that whenever or wherever you sing our College Song, sing it with pride, and make your voices vibrate with passion. Sing powerfully from your heart and soul, by which you will touch the hearts and command the respect of all those who hear you.** This is a great and wonderful tribute you can give our College.

I invite the Members of the Staff who are gathered here today - every teacher serving in this institution – it does not matter whichever grade or whatever subject you teach - **be guided by the vision and spirit of the Founders of Wesley!!!** Teaching is a vocation and God has entrusted these boys to your care, so I appeal to all the teachers present here today, remember that **you are guiding young boys, who belong to a centuries old Prestigious School, based on British Public School Tradition,** where the inner strength of the Founders came **from the pursuit of a devout Christian life that - God comes first!!!** Therefore you must inspire love and loyalty in the hearts of these young boys - and guide them to **uphold** this 144 year old tradition and values of Wesley, and pass it on to the next generation.

To the Students I say - Dear Boys of Wesley!! - **Cherish your days at Wesley, make the best of every moment and every opportunity you have, and consider yourselves blessed to be bearers of this Double Blue flame and Spirit.** You must take up the challenge to become Men of Grit and Industry. Try to reach the highest level in whatever career you choose in the future, by your good example of the values and virtues which you learned at Wesley, be a light to all those around you. - It is your mandate to pass on these values and traditions with passion and zeal, to all those who will come after you. So my dear boys, - Do your best in mart or hall, do your best with bat or ball, So that when Wesley's call shall sound, Ready aye shall all be found, in duty and in honor bound - **Wesley to the fore.**

It is a unique time at Wesley now, that we have A Principal with a combination of a strong Methodist Background and **who has Double Blue Blood** in his veins – My wish for you - on this founder's day is, that you will take Wesley to where its founders wanted it to be, and we have Confidence that with God's grace and guidance you will succeed in this mission. I assure you Mr. Avanka Fernando, that the OBU will be there to support and assist you, to reach the highest standards in every sphere – be it Education, Sports, the Arts, Music and Drama.

Ora Et Labora.....

Thank you and God Bless you All...

Sports Report

SPORTS REPORT - PRIZE GIVING

This update on sports at Wesley contains a brief overview of the major activities and events, together with highlights and outstanding performances, for the period 1st July 2017 to mid-May 2018.

CRICKET

We ended a poor Cricket Season in February this year, by recording only two outright victories in the 16 matches played, while we led 5 matches on 1st inning in the games that were drawn. The most disappointing feature was our outright defeat in as many as 6 matches.

A couple of concerted measures were initiated soon after the season to obviate a repetition.

Special mention must be made of the following outstanding performances recorded during the season.

SENIOR CRICKET

- Movin Subasinghe scored the only century of the season. He had a match haul of 8 wickets in our match against Royal and has been a consistent wicket taker during the entire season.
- Two captains innings by Thisuraka Akmeemana who scored 91 against St. Thomas and 85 against Nalanda.
- A fine all round performance by Sakuntha Liyanage who scored a dashing half century including 6 sixes and followed up by taking six wickets in our final encounter against St. Sebastian's.
- Hasith Geesara scored 97 against St. Joseph's.

JUNIOR CRICKET

We tabulate below some highlights of significance achieved by our Juniors.

- Our under 13 bowler Sabith Farhan was a regular wicket taker and also recorded a magnificent bowling performance by recording of 8 for 8 and 8 for 9 runs in the 1st and 2nd innings of our encounter against Presidents College Kotte.
- In the same match, Rukshan Tharanga who captained our under 13 team scored a century in 104 balls.
- Our under 15 team entered the second round where we had one win against Richmond and 2 drawn and 1 loss.
- The performance of Sahil Dias and Muftee Myson must be commended as each of them scored 2 centuries during the season.
- Sidath Dharmasiriwardane also scored 153 not out against Ananda Shastralaya.
- There was also a partnership of 285 between the two centurians Muftee Mysan and Sidath Darmasiriwardane.
- Scoring a century in junior cricket is always considered an excellent performance. It is in this context that we are proud to mention that as many as 5 centuries and 9 half centuries were scored by our under 15 team.

RUGGER

Fielding a very young outfit consisting of nearly a dozen fresher's, our 1st XV rugger team began the Premier League having to face a formidable St. Peters team who are heavily backed to win the league. We shocked the Peterites by scoring 2 tries within the first few minutes. However their experience enabled them to beat us by 33 points to 17.

We have since fared exceptionally well by defeating a heavily built D. S. Senanayake team under rain soaked conditions favoring our opponents. In our next outing against Zahira we put up a clinical performance by defeating them by 26 points to 7, despite heavy rains in the second half. In the final match of the 1st round we beat Dharmaraja by 23 points to 15.

The most exciting match was against our arch rivals Isipathana. After trailing 22 - 0 at half time, Wesley put up a gallant display by dominating the entire second half scoring 17 points.

We were very unfortunate not have won this match when a legitimate try scored during the dying moments of the game was disallowed.

In the second round matches played thus far Wesley lost to St. Josph's 26 / 15 after having led them at one stage in the first half. In the second match our team put up a gallant show against an all-conquering Royal side by losing to them in the narrowest of margins 18 to 17. The interruption to the game for a prolonged period went against us.

What is of importance is that we have reached the Super Eight of Schools Rugby.

The following ruggerites from Wesley earned representative honours by being selected to represent the age group National teams as reflected below :

Under 19 Asian Championship in Hongkong

- Dayan Sabar
- Shashika Ashan
- Deshan Vimukthi
- Thimira Amanda
- Avishka Lee - Selected, but did not participate.

Under 18 Junior Commonwealth 7's in Bahamas

- Dayan Sabar

Under 21 Asia 7's in Hong Kong

- Avishka Lee

SWIMMING

During the period under review some outstanding performances were recorded by a few of our swimmers.

- 10 year old Adeetha Siriwardane achieved the following exceptional feats.
National Age Group Meet 2017 (Gold and Silver 50m back stroke /100m back stroke)
Sri Lanka Schools 2017 (2 Golds and 1 Silver individual medley 100m back 50m back stroke)
Pentathlon 2018 (Overall Silver medalist)
- Akash Kumaresan is presently among the 6 fastest Swimmers in the under 15 age group category.
- Athik Ahmeer is presently among the 6 fastest swimmers in the under 18 age group.
- All Island Novices Championship 2018 - Under 15
Aakif Ahmed - Gold (50m breast stroke)
Eemann Firdouse - Silver (50m breast stroke)

HOCKEY

We have had to completely revamp Hockey due to lack of interest among the senior players. In order to arrest this trend we have appointed Mr. S. R. Tony our Soccer Master in Charge to

handle Hockey as well. He has presently taken up the challenge of introducing Soccer players to play Hockey as well. To date he has had reasonable success.

FOOTBALL

In the All Island under 19 tournament which was conducted at Hameedia College, Wesley reached the quarter finals by defeating Ananda 5 / 0 and drawing our match against Thurstan. Eventually they lost to St. Benedict's on a penalty shootout. In the All Island Inter School under 19 Tournament played at Zahira grounds Gampola, Wesley qualified for the quarter finals but was prevented from playing due to a technical conflict.

Mr. S. R. Tony our Soccer Master in charge has worked tirelessly to keep the interest of Soccer alive, especially among the seniors. He has enlisted many juniors to participate in soccer, so much so, that our junior teams are well fed.

BADMINTON

Our under 19 and under 15 teams are practicing vigorously in preparation for the Western Province Tournament which is expected to be held in June, July 2018.

Meanwhile, about 35 young ones attend practices at the Havelocks Primary where the facilities need to be improved. This matter will receive our attention in the 2018.

BASKETBALL

Although we have begun to participate in all tournaments conducted by the Schools Association we have failed to progress and our results have not been promising. This matter will receive our active attention in the second half of 2018.

TABLE TENNIS

We have in the recent past highlighted the fact that our under 19 Table Tennis Team had, for the first time reached the "A" division. The competition in the premier division is intense and the standard is also much higher. Yet our senior team reached quarter finals in the all Island Schools tournament this year.

We have also made reference in our recent report to our new find Ishan Faleel the 8 year old who continues to impress. We should hear more about him in the near future, if his interest continues without disruption.

We are fortunate to have the services of Mr. Jothipala Samaraweera the former Sri Lankan Champion as our Coach. We need a little more space for practices. This matter too will have our attention later this year.

Meanwhile Table Tennis has now been introduced to Havelocks Primary and the interest shown by the boys is gradually increasing.

CHESS

The interest and enthusiasm especially among Junior kids remain high. Rahel and Ravish Karunarathne the two brothers from Havelock Primary continue to impress and should reach the pinnacle in Chess. It is the vision of the Principal who was also good at Chess, to broaden the scope of Chess and popularize it among all ages.

ATHLETICS

The numbers from Wesley participating in meets and in consequence the numbers reaching the qualification times in their respective events keep increasing. Evenso, it is not good enough to merely qualify. It is about time that we produced at least a couple of athletes who get placed in the Public Schools Meets.

Meanwhile we continue to conduct colourful Sports Meets befitting Wesley, thanks to organizers of our Senior and Primary School meets.

TENNIS

Tennis 10's the version applicable to kids was introduced over an year ago to Havelocks Primary. A recent evaluation of the progress made has shown a couple of deficiencies which need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Meanwhile we have introduced Tennis proper to the older boys at Borella. It is premature to comment on the progress of a around 12 students who attend practices during weekends.

HAVELOCK PRIMARY

Our vision to develop the Havelcoks Primary which has about 800 young kids, to be the Nursery from which talent is identified, nurtured and developed was further strengthened with the introduction of Table Tennis, Basketball and Rugger. Our inability to freely use the ground at Havelock is an impediment to pursue our aspiration and will need to be dealt with as soon as possible.

DOUBLE BLUE LIVING LEGENDS

The Wesley College Old Boys' Union has instituted the 'Double Blue Living Legends' Award to confer recognition and honour upon the distinguished Old Boys who have excelled in their respective professions with national/international acclaim, bringing honour to their 'Alma Mater.'

The OBU Colombo endeavours to make this event a night to remember in the history of the Union and the College. The awards ceremony will be held in the College auditorium, which holds nostalgic memories to all Wesleyites who have walked through its hallowed portals - thereby making it the perfect ambience to celebrate the contribution of distinguished recipients of the 'Double Blue Living Legends Award', in recognition of their services to the nation and the world.

Nominations could be submitted by any Old Wesleyite, if the criteria for selection spelt out on our website are met. The nominator and the nominee could be either resident in Sri Lanka or domiciled abroad.

Full further details of the selection criteria, nomination forms and other conditions could be downloaded from our website: www.wesleyobu.lk

Nominations close on July 31.

PRIZE GIVING DAY 2018

Gratitude and Humility extolled at Wesley College Prize Day 2018



Chief Guest Kumar de Silva with Rev. Asiri Perera, President / Bishop of the Methodist Church and Manager of Wesley College



Speech made by Chief Guest Old Boy Kumar de Silva at the annual Prize Day of Wesley College on 14 June 2018

I stand before you here today extremely proud yet deeply humbled. It was exactly 50 years ago in 1968 that I was admitted to Grade 01 and that makes me 50 years a Wesleyite.

On this stage I have acted, danced, sung, spoken, got prizes and even cried. This stage holds a vast ocean of memories for me.



Boys of Wesley, my journey in life was not an easy one. It was one with a lot of financial difficulties but Wesley College taught me never to give up. We were taught to Pray and Labour On.

As a Wesleyite I'd like to share with you my philosophy of life – the triangle I worked out for myself and which has made me what I am today.

The three points of my triangle are : Empowerment with Education, Personal Branding as a Wesleyite and finally Gratitude and Humility.

Empowerment with Education:

Boys of Wesley you all have a diamond inside you. A diamond is a piece of carbon but with great value. When you are born, it is a raw, uncut diamond. You then go to Montessori, Grade 01, OLs, ALs and as you go on, you learn, you educate yourself. In the process you keep cutting and polishing that diamond which is yourself.

When you come to your ALs, your diamond has far greater value than it had when you were in Grade 01. It is cut, it has facets, it is polished but you don't stop there. You would go into University, into some kind of higher education or vocational training. You learn even more. You then get into a job, get married and have children. All of that too is a learning experience.

Your entire life is an adventurous learning experience, very hard at times. But through it all you are cutting and polishing your diamond to give it greater and greater value. Your diamond having great value means that you will have great value wherever you go.



Remember that your education is something that no one can ever steal from you. It is all yours and yours alone and it will take you to great heights.

Remember also to follow your heart and do what you like to do. It is only then that you will do it well, very well.

My Father was a Science teacher at here at Wesley College Colombo. My Mother was a Maths teacher at All Saints College, across the Campbell Park. My OL grades very good.

The fashion at that time was to become a Doctor, Lawyer, Engineer or Accountant and so everyone expected me to do Maths or Science for the ALs. I was a freak and I chose otherwise.



I chose English, French, German, Economics. Everyone thought I was off my head.

I remember my teacher Mrs. Ranjani Fernando almost freaking out at my parents for agreeing to my wish.

But I knew myself. If I had done Maths or Science, I would not be on this stage here today. I promise you

!

Similarly I let my two children follow their heart and do what they love to do. My son Rahul is in University in Japan and my daughter Anarkali is in her first year ALs at Visakha Vidyalaya.

So empower yourself with education. Keep learning until your dying day. You are the winner at all times. No one else but you.

PERSONAL BRANDING AS A WESLEYITE

Wesley College IS Revd. Asiri Perera, the Bishop of the Methodist Church. Wesley College IS Mr. Avanka Fernando the Principal. Wesley College IS also the President of the Wesley OBU and the President of the Old Wesleyites' Sports Club.

Wesley College is also each and every one of you. Whether you like it or not, YOU are all the Brand Ambassadors of Wesley College. From Grade 01 to ALs you wear the College crest on your shirt pockets. You are branded visibly. Everyone sees you and knows you as a Wesleyite. This is called Visible Branding.

You then leave school and do not wear the College crest on your shirt pockets, but you are still a Wesleyite. This is called Invisible Branding. You are more of a Wesleyite out of school, as an old boy, than in school. Believe me, out in the world, you are first judged on your packaging and branding. Before one gets to know who you are and what your qualifications are, one first sees your packaging.

What is your packaging / branding? It is the way you behave, the way you talk, the way you conduct yourself in both private spaces and public spaces, anywhere and everywhere.

A classic example is the recent Wesley – Royal rugby encounter. All Wesleyites were branded as thugs and hooligans. Boys of Wesley are we thugs and hooligans??? NO we are not. BUT the behavior of one, two, three old boys made us all that. The media went to town. Social media went to town. Some other schools also went to town. You saw the videos. We hung our heads in shame and Wesley College wept that evening.

So please remember Boys of Wesley, you are a Wesleyite in school and even more so out of school, until you drop dead. We pride ourselves in being men of Grit and Industry bound by one fraternal band.

Alma Mater is an old Latin word. Alma means nourishing, kind, fostering, nurturing. Mater is mother. Your Alma Mater is the Mother who nurses, nourishes and fosters you. Let us do this College proud and never ever let her weep in shame. One never makes one's Mother cry. Hence the importance of your branding as a Wesleyite for life.

GRATITUDE – HUMILITY

Most often in life, people often forget their beginnings, their past and those who've helped in their journey up in life. This to me is unforgivable. To have gratitude and to show it to those who deserve it, makes a man a gentleman. You don't need to go far. Start with your teachers, your school. When you are old boys one day, come back to Wesley College and ask her how you can help. There is so much you can do for Wesley College as a young old boy, as a middle aged old boy like myself and even as a very old, old boy. Gratitude and Humility are two beautiful words.

The story I'm now about to share with you, happened in this hall 44 years ago. No one knows this story except for my late parents and myself. Not even my two children. I got their permission last evening to make it public.

In 1974 when Wesley celebrated her 100th anniversary, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike was Chief Guest at Prize Day that year, on this same stage. Everyone who got prizes wore new clothes – new shirts, new trousers and new shoes. Even their parents wore new outfits. After all this was the grandest day in the Wesley College calendar.

I was in Grade 07 and was getting about six or seven prizes that year. My parents couldn't afford to buy me new clothes. So they got me borrowed clothes from a neighbour's son, my age – long sleeved shirt, white shorts and a pair of black shoes. My mother also sat in the audience that evening also in borrowed clothes – saree, gold earrings, gold chain, two zigzag gold bangles and a pair of slippers.



And so when my name was called up, I came on stage and collected my prizes from a beaming Mrs. B. My borrowed shoes were ill-fitting and loose and as I walked down those highly polished steps I slipped and fell and went sliding down. Most of the boys in the choir laughed out loud. I cringed in embarrassment and shame. It was not easy. My point is that even to this day I'm grateful to

that neighbour, **Rohan Sourjah**, whose borrowed clothes I wore, AND, to that

All Saints College teacher **Malini Indraguptha** whose borrowed clothes my mother wore at Wesley Prize Day 44 years ago.



In as much as I am grateful to all my teachers at Wesley College for what I am today and with due respect to all of them, some of whom are present here, I'd like to single out one teacher who laid a foundation in my education and in my life which opened the doors of the world to me – **Mrs. BA Fernando, my French teacher.**

Mrs. Fernando, you're here today representing not only yourself but also my late parents. I don't think even you ever realised that the French you taught me for my ALs, in the Bio Lab above the Principal's office, surrounded by all those dead snakes and frogs and toads and horrible animals in jars of formalin, would take me on a journey even I never dreamt of. I stand here on this stage today, also because of you. The French you taught

me 40 years ago, opened the doors of the world to me. I am grateful to you until my dying day.



Mme Fernando. Permettez-moi de vous remercier au bout de mon coeur pour tous ce que vous avez fait pour moi pendant mes années d'étudiant avec vous. Comme vous le savez le français que vous m'avez appris a ouvert les portes du monde pour moi. Je vous remercie infiniment.

Boys of Wesley my triangle of Empowerment with Education, Personal Branding as a Wesleyite and finally Gratitude and Humility has never gone wrong for me. It won't go wrong for you either.

As I close now, I'd like to leave with you three lines that were said on this same stage at around 5pm on Monday 15 January 1962 exactly 56 years ago. These were lines said by Arthur Shelton Wirasinha at his induction that evening as Wesley's 15th Principal. He went on to be Wesley's second longest serving Principal after Rev. Henry Highfield.

Those lines spoken that day, more than half a century ago, are STILL relevant and pregnant with meaning even to this day

"Education does not end with the gaining of jobs. It is much more than that. Education is the training and disciplining of the entire person"

May you be blessed by the Triple Gem! Theruwan Saranai!
Thank you!

PROFILE – CHIEF GUEST

Chief Guest Kumar de Silva is one of Wesley’s distinguished old boys. He had both his primary and secondary education at Wesley College and was the winner of Wesley’s coveted ‘Hill Medal’ for academic excellence in 1980. He then graduated with an Honours Degree in English and French from the University of Kelaniya, where he subsequently lectured at the Department of English. De Silva has been knighted by the Government of France as Chevalier in the Order of Arts and Letters (Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et Lettres) for his longstanding contribution to the propagation of the French language and culture in Sri Lanka. In November 2017 Wesley College was honoured to have Kumar de Silva deliver the inaugural ‘Shelton Wirasinha Oration’ in honour of one of Wesley’s legendary Principals.



OBITUARIES

SRI LANKA

WIJEYSINGHE, SRILAL PRASAN APRIL 2018

ABEYDEER, EARDLEY RANJIT MAY 2018

PEIRIS, SHELTON MAY 2018

Mr. Shelton Peiris - a very Distinguished Senior Old Boy who was a Founder Member of the Teacher's Guild of Wesley, He was a Member of the Governing Board, and a very loyal member of the OBU. He is the father of Peter Peiris a Vice President of the OBU Colombo.

UNITED KINGDOM

KULATUNGA, RANJIT DOUGLAS JUNE 2018

AUSTRALIA

FALIL, SHERIFF DEAN AKA SHERAN DE ALWIS DECEMBER 2017

TRIBUTES

(SOURCE DOUBLE BLUE INTERNATIONAL)

Tribute to Sheran De Alwis (Sheriff Fallil, 1942-2017) **by Dr Nihal D Amerasekera**



It is with great sadness I received the news today that Sheriff Fallil passed away after a brief illness at his home in Perth, Australia. To me this is an end of an era. As I write this on a cold wind swept winters day in London I can hardly contain my emotions as a myriad of images flash through my mind. We Joined Wesley College together in Standard 2 in 1950. He went to the English stream and I to the Sinhala but we were both in the boarding which brought us closer together. I recall the many cricket matches we played in the blistering heat and the soccer in the driving rain in that dust bowl we called small park. Our quarrels raised the temperature, but our bonds always remained strong. I remember so well his father who was a Police Inspector visiting him in the boarding with his mum and five pretty sisters.

Sheriff was a studious guy and won prizes every year until he left the boarding in 1958. His parents then lived in Hampden lane, Wellawatte. . He always dressed well in brilliant white and turned out impeccably groomed with his Elvis Presley hair. Sheriff cycled to school everyday with a happy band of Wesleyites including Senthil Sinniah and Mohan Seneviratne. After leaving the boarding there was a sea change in his attitude to academia. Sheriff lost the focus on school work and preferred to enjoy the good life attending parties and going to the cinema with his many friends. At the GCE he got the necessary 5 credits to move to the 6th form and apply to enter medical school. We were together in the 6th form and that was without doubt the best years of our lives. As many of us were prefects we had the privilege of going in and out of school at will. We often sloped off to roam the streets, chase girls, go to the matinee, and enjoy a thosai feed at Saraswathy Lodge. Sheriff was a prefect (1960-62) and a good one whom everyone respected. He was a fine sportsman and captained the school Tennis team. He played 1st XV Rugby and was vice captain to Daya Perera. Sadly, his good life caught up with him and he didn't get the grades to enter University.

Sheriff left Wesley in 1962. His father was keen for him to go into medicine although his heart wasn't in it. He joined Aquinas College for another attempt at the university entrance examination without success. He then chose to be a planter and Joined Whitall Bousteads as a trainee in 1964. Sheriff now had found his calling in life. He became a General

Manager at the age of 27 and a Visiting agent at 37. He had a meteoric rise in the profession to become a Senior Director in the Agriculture Development Authority under the late Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne Minister of Plantations. The trouble and turmoil in the plantation sector in the 1970's was unsettling. Many planters left the profession. Sheriff weathered the storm for some years but found it was a futile struggle. He left Sri Lanka in 1982 accepting an appointment in Sabah Malaysia where he worked until 1986. He moved again this time to Perth, Australia and took Australian Citizenship in 1988. Then he returned to Asia doing plantations management working for a large international conglomerate based in Indonesia as Director of Operations with the Forestry Division of Sinar Mas Group.

Sheriff married a Sri Lankan Sinhalese girl from Havelock Town and divorced after 30 years of marriage. He has a son and a daughter from his first marriage. They both live in Perth with their families. While working in Sabah he met Mui Lan, a Malaysian Chinese, when she was a teacher in a local school. They soon got married. She survives him with his children from his first marriage.

After Malaysia Sheriff wanted a change. That was typical of the man. He wanted to experience Africa. He started work in Ethiopia and then moved to Liberia. After a few years he decided to call it a day. Sheriff's final rest was Perth. He was fond of the social media like Facebook, WhatsApp and email. He sent some interesting and amusing stuff – some naughty but nice and others deeply philosophical and religious. We often communicated using WhatsApp chatting about the world we live in and reminiscing those halcyon school days in old Ceylon. He was always good fun. Whenever there was a terrorist attack in London he was the first to call me to ask if I was ok. This was the same kind and considerate Sheriff I knew from school days.

Bringing up families and caring for them, while managing our careers, consumed our time. We seemed to have lost contact until I caught up with him in the new millennium when he was managing a plantation at the foothills of Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, East Malaysia. Sheriff asked me to stay with him but I was still too busy with work and never made it. He bought a plush pad by a golf course in Perth and asked me to use it whenever I could. Sheriff was generous to a fault. He still loved the good life of visiting night clubs and enjoying himself. When I called him he related his most recent exploits in vivid detail.

I heard of his illness at the end of October 2017. When I spoke with him on 1st of November he indicated he wasn't ready to go yet and would fight it all the way. His last words still echo in my ears "Nihal please pray for me". He was terminally ill. Although the doctors wanted him to move to a hospice he preferred to be with Mui Lan and end his days at home.

She was his strength and love who cared and looked after him all through the illness. I send her my condolences at this most difficult time.

Of one thing I am certain, he lived his life to the full right through school, his professional life and retirement. He was fun to be with. When Sheriff was around there was never a dull moment. He was a fine raconteur and the life and soul of any party. He had a tremendous store of amusing anecdotes which he related with such verve and vigour. I have lost a genuine friend. The world will be immensely poorer without him.

On behalf of the Worldwide Brotherhood of Wesleyites I thank him for his contribution to the life of the school.

Postscript

My thanks to Dallas Achilles for his input and inspiration to put together this appreciation.

**GRANT HIM O LORD
ETERNAL PEACE**

An Eulogy – H. Shelton Peiris (1924-2018) From the Memorial Service held on 26th of May 2018 at the Wesley College Chapel. Read by Neville Shelton Weerasekera



The Hon. Principal of Wesley College, Mr. Avanka Fernando, The Chaplain Rev Kadirgama, Staff Members of Wesley, Old Boys of Wesley and Present Boys of Wesley, Ladies and Gentleman.

We are gathered here today to remember and to celebrate the life of Shelton Peiris, who departed this life on the 9th of May. Shelton surely had destiny with Wesley College because he was born on the 2nd of March, which is also the Founders day of Wesley College. His birthday and Wesley's was celebrated simultaneously. A school holiday for him on each of his birthdays.

My first encounter with Shelton Peiris was in 1946, when I entered Wesley having transferred from Kingswood in Kandy. Those were happy days when one could by oneself gain admittance, and I just walked into Wesley having met the gracious Rev. James Cartman. Shelton was the Senior Prefect at the time and he cut an imposing figure in immaculate white tussore suit and tie at Assembly. One look from him through his bottle rimmed glasses instantly demanded the required level of behavior of any student. He was ably assisted by his lifelong companion and friend

Edmund Dissanayake . It was the dawn of the Cartman Era a golden period in which Wesley shone in sports and academia. Shelton and Edmund were worthy lieutenants to the Rev Cartman, whose huge task was to rehabilitate Wesley having just emerged from the wartime occupation of its buildings.

Shelton had a lifelong destiny with Wesley and he played many roles in the course of time. First as a student, Senior Prefect, then a Teacher, a Scout Master, a Member of The Governing Board, and as loyal and energetic Member of the OBU. He was a Life Member of the Wesley OBU, and was its Secretary for a period. He regularly attended and participated in its meetings and was moderating yet outspoken voice. At the College Annual Prize giving in 1974 the Chief Guest was Hon. Sirimavo Bandaranike, Prime Minister, and it was Shelton Peiris who delivered the vote of thanks. One of Shelton's outstanding contributions was being the Editor of three Wesley's Anniversary Souvenirs, the 75th Year, the 100th Year and lastly the 125th year. For the 75th year Souvenir he collaborated with Rev. Cartman, the 100th Year Souvenir was almost by himself, except all the typing was done by his daughter Therese. It was for the 125th Year Souvenir I came into the picture, as the Principal Mr. N A B Fernando nominated Shelton as the Editor, and Edmund Dissanayake, Fred Abeyesekera and myself as part of the team. It began for me a period of very close collaboration with Shelton and in the six odd months of its gestation we met almost on a daily basis. It was indeed a proud achievement to publish a Souvenir worthy of Wesley's 125 year existence. As a part of the 125th Year celebrations Shelton also wrote the script for a Tableau entitled " From Dam Street to Karlsruhe". This tableau was superbly choreographed by Mrs. Ranjani Fernando, (In Shelton's own words) and was staged successfully to appreciative audiences in many locations culminating in a performance at the BMICH at which the distinguished Guest was the Chief Justice G S P de Silva. The tableau which was in ten sets, comprised the major milestones in Wesley's History from 1874 to 1999. From the modest beginnings in Dam Street with 12 students, to its march forward to the imposing mansion at Karlsruhe was graphically demonstrated. Rev Highfliers " 300 Days of Begging in the Tropics" which produced the funds for the edifice at Karlsruhe was prominently featured. Shelton indeed displayed his outstanding gifts as a playwright and directed the Tableau production closely.

Shelton maintained a long and endearing relationship with Rev. James Cartman and his family. His daughter Christine was at Wesley in her early years, and whenever she visited Sri Lanka, in 1999, 2002, 2011 and 2014 mostly for Wesley College celebrations, their unfailing host was Shelton Peiris aided by Edmund Dissanayake. Therese told me how later on in life Shelton, in 1985 he had stealthily visited the Cartman family in England after a visit to the Holy Land unbeknown to his own family. Shelton was a

man of many parts, he was Teacher at Wesley and Christian College , Kotte.

He was a Warden of Christ Church in Mirihana and Kotte, and a lay preacher who entranced the audience by his wit and charm and above all by his deep commitment as a practicing Christian.. He worked in the Ports Commission as a Personal manager.

He became for a time the President of Gideons International. He was full time Secretary of the YMCA (Religious Work & Membership). He gave freely of his time to help others in distress, and did not hesitate to dip into his pocket when needed. His funeral was widely attended and was a testimony to his life and work.

Shelton was fortunate to have a very happy family life. A devoted wife, Dolores ,a doting daughter Therese, and dedicated son Peter. It must have given Shelton a lot of pleasure that his son Peter and grandson have followed his footsteps at Wesley. The demands of geriatric persons when they cross 90 years can be daunting, but the love and affection showered by his daughter Therese, shared by Peter and Dolores, made his life in the latter years more than happy.

Shelton Peiris was a devout Christian, and a dyed in Blue Wesleyite and a loyal and law abiding citizen.

We will miss his engaging conversations and the wit and laughter that he could always engender.

What matters in life is not what happens to you but what you remember and how you remember it. **Gabriel Marcia Marquez**

I have many fine memories of working with Shelton.
May Shelton Peiris' soul Rest in Peace.

A Tribute to Shelton Peiris by Dr Nihal D Amerasekera



I feel greatly honoured to write an appreciation for the life of Shelton Peiris whom I respect enormously. Credits are also due to Shelton's longterm friends, Mr Neville Weerasekera and Mr. Edmund Dissanayake from whose memories I drew much inspiration to compile this eulogy.

It is with great sadness, and an enormous sense of loss I heard the news of the demise of our dear friend Shelton. He has a legendary status at Wesley where he was a student from 1934-46. He was the Senior Prefect in 1945 and 46 and then became a Teacher at his old school. For a tall man Shelton was surprisingly soft spoken. As a leader he could be impatient and liked to

get his own way, but he was witty and charismatic with a vigour and energy that were contagious. He got things done. After leaving Wesley he joined the OBU and was enrolled as a life member in 1947 where he remained an active member and an official for many years. With the passage of time Shelton bowed out gracefully from the hot seat of running the affairs of the organisation. He left the OBU to the younger old boys without any recrimination, hard feelings and sniping. This has enhanced his reputation as one of the most loyal, genuine and competent old boys of his generation. He was never ambitious for power or fame. Shelton had a genuine desire to serve Wesley. His commitment, honesty and dignity touched all those with whom he worked. The eruption of nonsense that ensued in the OBU in later years shows the inherent complexities and problems in running the organisation. Shelton is a gregarious and affable personality who had no interest in grumbling and complaining about people. This enhanced his popularity as a person. Combining his genuine loyalty and a fine writing style Shelton became a prolific writer about the school, its legends, its history and its people. These have been published in the daily newspapers, School magazines and the many websites including the Double Blue international. His deep knowledge of Wesley's history benefited from Shelton's inexhaustible curiosity. He edited the school's Centenary Souvenir with great distinction. Shelton's time at Wesley during the war years, the move to Kitiyakkara and its many hardships have now been well documented. His anecdotes and of course its inevitable fables have been recounted in graphic detail in his writings. It's still lovingly remembered, and chuckled over, decades later. His writings will remain as a lasting tribute to a lifetime of service to Wesley. He speaks volumes of the great Cartman era and the resurrection of the school from the doldrums of the War years. It was Wesley's great good fortune to have a Principal of the calibre of Rev James Cartman to revive the school. Shelton became the 'historian of the school'. He was held and cherished as the guardian of the history, the archives and the principles of its founding fathers.

Shelton had a wonderful way with words and was a great debater at school. There are many stories of his debating methods and skills. Once he had debated in sarong to stress a point. As a student his poems and lyrics became popular which thrust him into the limelight. It was Shelton who spearheaded the Wesley "War Cry" at Cricket matches "Zam Zam Zakay Zam Zam Zay, Ishuba Ishuba Ooh Ah Eh! As a part of the 125th College Anniversary celebrations, a tableaux " From Dam Street to Karlsrhue" was staged with Shelton as the playwright. It was successfully performed at the BMICH to an appreciative audience. He also composed a 125th Anniversary Anthem which is set to music.

With his long years and avuncular style Shelton became an integral part of Wesley and as they say "part of its furniture". He had legendary status at Wesley, which is indeed very well deserved. Despite his years and

infirmities Shelton never failed to attend its many functions. I had the great good fortune to meet him again at the Great Reunion of September 2012 with Mr Edmund Dissanayake who was his friend and confidante. Even then he was passionate about the school and also quietly confident it would emerge from its well publicised decline. Such attachment and loyalty to an institution is a rarity nowadays. The overwhelming focus has now shifted to acquiring power and wealth. I hope Wesley will continue to produce people like Shelton who are willing and able to show loyalty and gratitude. At present some students leave their loyalty behind the school gates as they start their careers. It is increasingly harder to get old boys to be a part of the network.

Shelton and his wife Dolores have been a part of Wesley and all its functions. They are blessed with two children, Charles Peter who is a Wesleyite, who was an active sportsman and athlete in College, and daughter Therese Rosanna, who is an old girl of Methodist College. She did much of the typing and secretarial work for Shelton when he was the Honorary Secretary of the OBU. We thank the Peiris family for their support for Wesley over the years.

Shelton showed the new generation what it means to be a Wesleyite. We all admire his quiet and reserved personality, sense of duty and integrity, courteous manner and sense of humour. He had passion, determination and simple human decency in greater measure than any person I have ever known. He was an inspiration to work with, and a joy to be near. Shelton was the most wise of counsellors, the most loyal and supportive of colleagues, and the best of friends. In the end, what gives a life meaning is not only how it is lived, but how it draws to a close. Shelton had a quiet and peaceful end to his life. If one can have a beautiful death Shelton had one. He would live in the hearts and minds of everyone who knew him. He remained a fiercely loyal Wesleyite right to the very end.

- [The begging Saint of Karlshue by Shelton Peiris](#)
- [Highfield of Wesley by Shelton Peiris](#)
- [Rev. James Cartman by Shelton Peiris](#)
- [Edmund Dissanayake by Shelton Peiris](#)
- [Neville Weerasekera by Shelton Peiris](#)
- [HJVI Ekanayake- Composer of the school song by Shelton Peiris](#)
- [M.S.M Saleem by Shelton Peiris](#)
- [HSAT Peiris- a dyed in Blue Wesleyite by Neville Weerasekera](#)
- [A Drive Down Memory Lane by H.S.A.T.Peiris](#)
- [The Centenary Year Prize Day by Shelton Peiris](#)
- [The School Crest](#)
- [Wesleyite - Shelton Peiris by Edmund Dissanayake](#) Inserted 12th October 2015

Our Sympathies go to his family
May his Soul Rest in Peace.

On behalf of the Worldwide Brotherhood of Wesleyites I thank him for his contribution to the life of the school.

**GRANT HIM O LORD
ETERNAL PEACE**

SRILAL PRASAN WIJESINGHE (Nov.02, 1945 – April 27, 2018)

By Rohan Wijesinghe



“So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”
Isaiah 41:10

Prasan was the youngest of us three brothers, Nimal, Rohan and Prasan. Prasan began schooling at the Royal Primary School and then joined Wesley College in Grade 6 (Form 01). All three of us were greatly encouraged into sports by our father, who died early in life. From his youngest days Prasan developed a deep insight into life. He had an affectionate personality, and a strong understanding of right and wrong and the courage to live by his convictions!

At Wesley College, all three of us excelled in Badminton and were members of the college Badminton team. The next year a Junior Badminton team was established with Prasan’s leadership. Earlier Prasan also excelled at the Junior National Badminton Championships by becoming its Juvenile Triple Crown champion, a very rare accomplishment!

Prasan was an outdoor adventure lover and many have been the expeditions he had embarked on to explore the hidden beauty and places of Sri Lanka. In particular one that was memorable was a tour he made of the hill country and especially to Nuwera Eliya on a motorbike with his son.

Prasan became a trained teacher and taught at Wesley College and Trinity College and then worked at the U.S. Educational Foundation and at the U.S. Embassy. After that he became a Baptist Minister, trained in the Philippines, and served at the Mattakkuliya and Kandy Baptist Churches. During this time Prasan engaged in the study of Buddhism which enabled him to develop a deeper and more profound understanding of his own Christian faith.

Prasan then served in the Galle Arch-diocese of the Anglican Church. The compassion with which he cared for the poor earned him their respect and love and they referred to him as “Father Prasan Devikenek!” He then went on to teach English at the Royal Institute and at The Inter Cultural English Education Centre in Eldeniya, Kadawata. Again his compassion and genuine care for students was such that they also said of him, “Prasan sir

Deviyek." Before long his expertise in teaching spoken English was recognized by some businesses and Prasan accepted many contracts that were offered by certain Banks, Toyota Sri Lanka and even the Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya (Union) itself to teach spoken English to their employees.

Suddenly his health began to fail and his journey of life ended a few months later. At the age of 72 years, Prasan, saying that he has lived a good life, embraced death with peace, tranquility and profound faith.

From Nihal D Amerasekera

Prasan's photo brings him back to life. I remember him at Wesley with his brothers, Rohan and Nimal, who were fine badminton players representing the school. Prasan was a quiet, thoughtful and kind person at school. Our paths never crossed and I never met him after leaving Wesley.

On behalf of the Worldwide Brotherhood of Wesleyites I thank him for his contribution to the life of the school.

**GRANT HIM O LORD
ETERNAL PEACE**

FEATURE

Navin de Silva schoolboy cricketer par excellence

Tuesday, May 15, 2018



Sri Lanka had played Test cricket and one day cricket for more than 30 years but have yet to produce an all-rounder even faintly resembling guys in the calibre of Kapil Dev, Imran Khan, Sir Ian Botham or Sir Richard Hadlee.

We certainly would have had one if Navin de Silva decided to extend his excellent school cricket career in the eighties. Built like a mini battle tank he used to tonk the ball at will in the pocket sized Campbell Park. When the news got around that Navin was at the crease all the cricket enthusiast be it spectators watching in adjacent grounds like Campbell Place, Bloomfield grounds or even wandering schoolboys after school would make a beeline to watch the wonder boy in action at the tiny Campbell Park where it was packed to the hilt. His lusty hits landed many a time at Campbell Place the adjacent road bordering the park. He was not only a mauler of the red ball but also had

finis and technique, mainly due to Milroy Muthuvelu's guidance (Muthuvelu played and shone for Wesley during the early sixties).



1982 – Sri Lanka schools team which toured England : SQUATTING (first from left) – Ashley de Silva, Seated Navin de Silva (third from left) – Arjuna Ranatunge, (second from right), Rumesh Ratnayake (second from left). STANDING – Aravinda de Silva (first f

Due to his outstanding efforts with the bat and the ball for Wesley College in 1981, Navi was named the captain of the Sri Lanka Schools cricket team. They toured England and this was the very first tour undertaken by a Sri Lankan schoolboy cricket team to play an English schoolboy cricket team.

The team was a star studded outfit which consisted of Arjuna Ranatunga, Aravinda de Silva, Rumesh Ratnayake, Graeme Labrooy, Ashley de Silva etc. who adorned Sri Lanka cricket with distinction later on. Arjuna and Aravinda fitted into the world class category like ducks taking to water. As they all played under Navin and had he continued he would have been a huge asset to Sri Lanka cricket as an all-rounder.

When inquired about why he refrained from continuing where he let off, he informed me that his father wanted him to pursue a professional career according to family tradition. As a result he opted to become a pilot with Air Lanka, now known as Sri Lankan Airlines where Navin became the youngest captain of Air Lanka at that time.

Before Sanath Jayasuriya came to the scene, Navin was quite a revelation and he showed that he could thump the best of fast bowlers over cover for six. He was also a fantastic fast medium bowler who was fair skinned and broad in build and looked a bit like Ian Botham although he was closer to earth than Botham by about six inches.

It has to be mentioned that 1962 was the year when late Minister Gamini Dissanayake was making a bold bid to attain Test status for Sri Lanka. As a precursor to this the Minister quite judiciously arranged this strong schoolboy outfit to tour England soon after the senior Sri Lankan team led by Bandula Warnapura which was another talented outfit then. The senior team nor the junior team let the Minister or the Sri Lankan cricket fans down because they shone well enabling us to gain Test status. As a matter of fact Navin's team won all the matches bar one.

School cricket in my time from the sixties to the eighties when Navin played, the spectators attended the matches in hordes. They were from all ages and different strata of society. Nowadays the scenario had changed so much that most of the grounds where schools first eleven matches are played, only the teams and the umpires are left to be seen. When inquired about this pathetic situation Navin was of the view that there were too many schools matches being played. It used to be 9 matches per season in his day Navin pointed out that nowadays this has shot up to about 20 and as a result the player quality has dropped drastically.

Navin also noted that tuition classes had misguided the youth into neglecting sports and yet another valid reason was the cricket coaching “kades” where every Tom, Dick and Harry donning track suits and looking like “Manning Market mudalali’s” have joined the band wagon to earn their fill in lining their pockets which is the name of the game in this unfortunate country of ours! No wonder the quality of schoolboy cricket has gone to the dogs. However mechanisms are to be installed in future and if they are to be properly streamlined and effectively executed we should be able to get quality schoolboy cricketers in the calibre of Arjuna Ranatunga, Aravinda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Asanka Gurusinha, Ashley de Silva and the list goes on.

FEATURE

Extract from the Daily News “Features” Section part 1 on 30/01/2018 and part 2 on 31/01/2018

**THE LEGACY OF PROFESSOR E.F.C. LUDOWYK AND AN OVERVIEW
OF THE PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
CEYLON**

Intellectual seat of inspiration

Part 1

[The Ludowyk Memorial Lecture delivered by Tissa Jayatilaka at the University of Peradeniya on January 17, 2018.](#)

“Elegy for Peradeniya” – Ashley Halpé

*Ah, chaste permitted wilderness below our house
complete with winding walks and warbling stream
designed to breed debate and poetry
nursery of our love, it has come,
the never-expected, unimaginable
date of our departure. You will remain,
symbol, monument, and not you alone
but all this involuted dream,
apt replacement for the finest bit of tea land*

*in the Midcountry. Symbol, monument,
 not, please, of us –
 we go to build elsewhere –
 but of
 those sage dreamers, our progenitors;
 Jennings, walking these hills early and late
 sheering past lovers, sending mischief scuttering,
 benign headmaster; Adonis Rodrigo
 first genial paterfamiliar dean,
 Ludowyk, magister magistrorum, perhaps
 somewhat unwilling,
 considering the metropolis; Attygalle, who whipped
 the scientists and professionals here into the hills,
 all are gone, most
 dead. They barely lived to see
 trees tall where the slopes were bare
 debate sharpening into clamour
 demagogues seeking beachheads into the future
 pathetic dons disclaiming responsibility.
 The guns are silent again
 the rare helicopters only objects of derision:
 and this bucolic, unwonted quiet,
 is it a pulling in of heads into their shells
 or a retraction of claws?
 But now we, your firstborn,
 must not await the event, must
 be gone; what remains of your history
 will not be ours. In our twenty-first year
 by foul extrusion thrown upon the world,
 your world all lost, we will accept the World
 with glad eyes and still untired hearts
 we will weave your lessons into tight new songs,
 strange eyes widening at our onset
 shall own your power, quicken to fresh clamour;
 the rash new mandarins dabbling in change
 might hear at last what they should never forget,
 in crooked suburb and in crowded street
 the rising thrum of history's hurrying feet.*

This beautiful and moving elegy, I consider a fitting prelude to my words and thoughts in memory of the *magister magistrorum*, Evelyn Frederick Charles Ludowyk, Professor of English of the Ceylon University College and the University of Ceylon from 1936 – 1956. I did not have the good fortune of being a student of the great man but nearly all of my teachers at school and University and several of my close senior friends are those who directly benefited from him during what is now nostalgically looked upon as the heyday of our *alma mater*. Hence I could claim to be a product of the Ludowyk legacy.



Prof. E. F. C. Ludowyk

During the next several minutes I propose to piece together a sketch of the life and career of Professor Ludowyk on the basis of all that I have learnt from some of his students and colleagues, and then explore the impact of Professor Ludowyk on the country as a whole besides nourishing the University of Ceylon and the fortunate few there. In conclusion, this being soon after the 75th anniversary of our University founded by his colleague Sir Ivor Jennings, in the building up of which institution, they both played such invaluable roles, I shall give you an overview of the promise and performance of the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya, this '... dear perpetual place', that was 'designed to breed debate and poetry' to use Ashley Halpe's apt and expressive words to describe the beloved institution.

Professor Ludowyk was an outstanding product of Richmond College, Galle, where he acquired most of his primary and secondary education. He spent two years at Wesley College, Colombo, prior to entering the Ceylon University College. As my wish is to not let this moment pass without basking in a little bit of reflected glory, I note for the record that I had the better part of my own secondary education at Kingswood College, Kandy, which together with Richmond and Wesley are the three premier boys' schools in the island established by the Wesleyan Mission.

First Ceylonese Professor of English

Professor Ludowyk entered the Ceylon University College having, as he himself put it in his reminiscences of *The English Department, 1921- 1956*, 'had the good fortune of working with the Rev. H. Highfield, a Wordsworthian if ever there was one'. Rev. Highfield known to Wesleyites as 'The Saint of Karlishrue' was the legendary 7th principal of Wesley College for three decades (1895 - 1925). 'To have been a student of Highfield's', Ludowyk continues to tell us, 'was to have been conducted almost personally, into the literature of 18th century England which was Wordsworth's true background'. At University College the young Ludowyk came under the tutelage of Professors Leigh Smith and David Hussey. Having secured a first class from the University of London, he proceeded to Cambridge in 1929 to read for part 11 of the English Tripos, where he achieved a first in English and won the Oldham Prize for Shakespeare in 1931. This was a time of momentous change in English Studies at Cambridge introduced by three scholars of great originality, I.A. Richards, Mansfield Forbes and F.R. Leavis, which in turn had an impact on all university courses in English.

Having come under the influence of these notables, he returned home in 1932, taught briefly at Richmond College before taking up duties as lecturer in English at the University College, Colombo. With the departure of Leigh Smith, David Hussey was now Professor. Later on, having secured his Ph.D. from Cambridge, Ludowyk became, at thirty, the first Ceylonese Professor of English in 1936. He was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1940. Having served in the post of professor for 20 years, he resigned and left for England in 1956. It is interesting to remember that both Sir Ivor Jennings and Professor Ludowyk left Peradeniya almost around the same time.

Qualities as a teacher

His students have spoken glowingly of Lyn Ludowyk the teacher and the man. The material from his students is plentiful, and I was tempted to let them speak for themselves. I have tried not to resist the temptation. My Principal at Kingswood and later a member of the Council of our University, the late Kenneth de Lanerolle, one of Professor Ludowyk's earliest students, tells us that,

The arrival of Lyn Ludowyk into this homely scene [of University College of the early 1930s] was an event. As you enter the Arts Block, on the right of the porch is a row of classrooms, whose partitions could be collapsed to make a sizeable hall. Here, you found it easy to get a friend to answer to your name at roll-call. Here J.L.C Rodrigo traced the outlines of Roman History and when this proved dull (as it often did) we would turn our attention to the flocks of sparrows on the window sills and wonder at their unashamed amours. And here it was that Ludowyk made his debut.

David Hussey was good and Hector Passé was correct, but we found Lyn Ludowyk an altogether new experience. When he spoke that day, and on subsequent days to us, Inter-Arts and B.A students, whether it was on Chaucer or Shakespeare, we found his message winged with meaning. He put us on our mettle and gave us undergrads a sense of dignity.

Ashley Halpé has spoken eloquently of the modesty, generosity and civility of the man and testified to Professor Ludowyk's wonderful qualities as a teacher, who was at one and the same time, 'the most demanding and the most appreciative of tutors'.

Ian Goonetilleke, in his Preface to Ludowyk's *Those Long Afternoons. Childhood in Colonial Ceylon*, tells us of his "honesty, compassion, and an attractive, often mischievous, sense of humour—virtues he possessed in abundant measure [that] shine through these pages'. Ludowyk's sense of humour is aptly demonstrated in two anecdotes that Fred Abeysekere shares with us. Abeysekere writes: Ludo had set us one of his weekly tutorials and we were left to our own devices, to do or perish! A colleague of mine had gone to town, snaring up volume after volume of *Scrutiny* to the consternation of Librarian Enright! His, had then to be a very comprehensive answer.

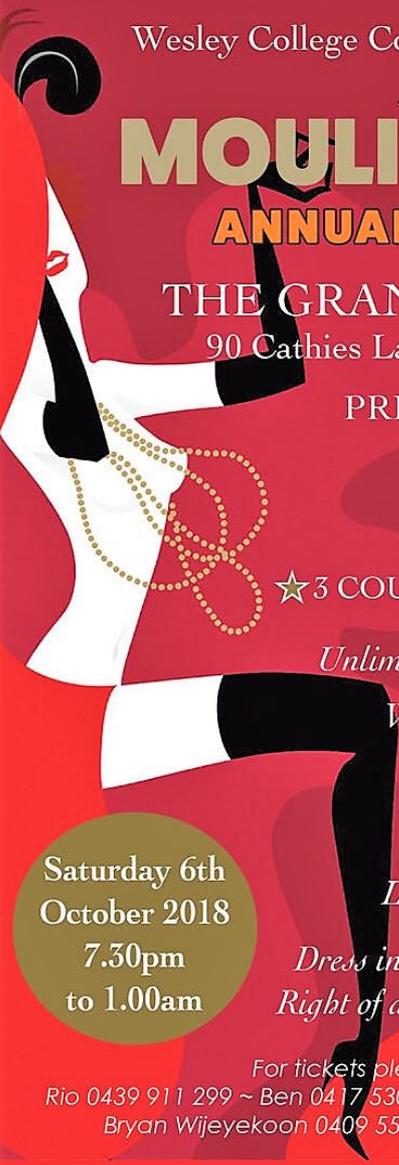
There was no doubt about it. A day or two later Ludo, in characteristic style, read out our grades - most of us oscillating between Cs and Bs with a dramatically announced solitary A+! There was much excitement as an A from Ludo meant that one was almost of the calibre of F.R. Leavis! Loaded with drama, he went onto explain that this was truly great, a very excellent effort and continued, as at the climactic point in a play, that he was not aware until then that Mr. Allen Tate was a member of his class! Mr. Allen Tate had scored an A+, and my colleague (the *Scrutiny* man), naught. (Not even a D-, which usually put us in the dog house).

On one occasion when the dashing Gregory Peck was at the Royal Botanical Gardens, taking part in a film which was being shot there, some feminine admirers decked in their 'Sunday best' had dared to cut Ludo's stute class at 8.00 am. They returned around 8.45 am and gingerly tiptoed their way to the back of Ludo's class, mercifully unseen by him as he was scribbling something on the blackboard. Suddenly he twirled his spectacles, faced the class, smiled a most benevolent smile and merely pronounced: "Ladies! One must choose between Lyn and Peck."

Godfrey Gunatilleke tells us more about Prof. Ludowyk's particular style of teaching in which reading out some passage of poetry or creative prose was a crucial part. They were, Gunatilleke tells us, 'as it were, "moments in and out of time". . . . 'Listening to him', adds Gunatilleke, we participated in the primal sorrow in Hardy's 'The Voice', the irreparable loss of the loved one, "heard no more again far or near", the infinite sadness at the transience of beauty and self in Hopkins' 'Spring and Fall'; the tragic self-realization of Lear "bound upon a wheel of fire"; the mature comedy in a passage from Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales', restoring us to a wholesome sanity, giving us the emotional resilience to face life. . . Through his reading we became intuitively aware that good literature chastened and purified the inner self, that it was life-giving and brought us closer to the well-springs of human experience. It is indeed a great pity that we have no recording of Ludowyk's readings. Having listened to many readings by world-renowned actors and famous literary personalities—whether they be of Shakespeare or T. S. Eliot or other poets—I still recall Ludowyk's readings as unrivalled in

their capacity to unfold the intricate pattern of meaning and the inner drama of a poem or piece of creative writing.

As fulsome as is the praise of his students, the beneficiaries of Lyn Ludowyk were not just the fortunate few who read English at the time. His influence and reach were University-wide and spilt over to the wider community outside as well. Bernard Soysa, a close associate of his and a notable politician of an earlier period in our country when our parliament was not so full of mediocrities and dishonest men and women as today, has written warmly of Ludowyk's contribution to the national politics of the day. Ludowyk was too scrupulous and sufficiently fastidious as to not seek membership of any political party but, on available evidence, one could conclude that he contributed to political causes he believed in from his particular vantage point. (more to Part 1)



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Dates for your Diary 2018

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