

WESLEYITES IN THE NEWS

To move heaven and earth

Wednesday, July 26, 2017 - 01:00

[Ishara Jayawardane](#)



After a community service with the rest of the prefects. Head Prefect of Wesley College Joshua Siriwardena has many aspects of his life that work for him such as faith in his God, the people who have a positive impact on his life and faith in himself. Perfect Prefects features Siriwardena a leader who leads others with peace and purpose in his heart and mind.

"In times of adversity I read my favourite verse Psalm 121:1 -2 –"I look up to the mountains, does my help come from there? My help comes from the lord who made the heavens and the earth."

I always carry a key in my pocket, and when I hold that key I realize that I have the key to my life. I am responsible for my success and failure. If I fail it is all my fault. I could have done better," explained Siriwardena.

Real privilege



"In school I look up to my chaplain Rev. Obeth because he has a lot of experience and knows how to tackle each and every situation in the right way. Then there is our principal, Avanka Fernando, a great leader who knows how to tackle every situation in the right way. Being in touch with them and working with them gives me much wisdom. Seeing them tackle the situation makes me learn so much. It is a real privilege working with them.

When I am in real trouble then I pray. If it is a really tough problem I face, I would consult my mom. She is a very practical thinker. She knows how to get stuff done in the right manner. To solve a problem I would stand by my ground. I listen to everyone and make sure I make the right decision. If I am not sure about the decision I would consult someone or pray about it. Whatever I decide I would stand by my ground. I will stand my ground and make sure the proper thing is done," elucidated Siriwardena.

Wesley College has a long history and a proud culture. "We all treat each other as brothers. We are all very united. No one leaves the school gates with an angry heart. There is a strong brotherly culture in Wesley. I thank Wesley for all I am.

Educational system

As a Head Prefect you have to play more of a brotherly role in Wesley College. Because that is the culture that has been passing on. Being a leader cannot be taught by any book or educational system. You need to get out there. It is more or less a practical lesson. You can't read a book and learn leadership. The experiences you go through day by day is what makes you a good leader," said Siriwardena. Siriwardena has so many role models to look up to.

"I have had so many heroes that have impacted my life. My dad is my first hero. I guess every boys first hero is his dad! Then there is our Chaplain Bro. T.R. Obeth who has helped me grow spiritually and gave me a whole new perspective of life. Then another leader I look up to is Nelson Mandela. 27 years in prison. But he just forgave and gave love. That takes a lot of courage. He was a very strong leader," stated Siriwardena.

Living in the moment is one message he gives to the youth.

"One message I wish to give the youth is to live in the moment. Live in the present moment. Do what you have to do at that time. If you are in the classroom then do your studies. If you are on the field then do your sports. Because these days unlike those days life is not a run anymore. It is a sprint. Life is like a Marathon and you got to sprint the whole marathon. I treasure each moment in life because I will never get it back again. There are ups and downs, and days I want to put behind me, but I gain an experience out of it. But one day that was really special for me was the day I was appointed senior prefect. Being appointed Senior Prefect happened so fast. My mom and dad were in tears that day. I consider that the happiest day of my life," pointed out Siriwardena.

Another message he gives the youth is to correct their attitudes.

"I think the attitudes some people have make a huge difference in this world. You should be able to treat the janitor the same way you treat the CEO. I should be able to treat the Grade 1 student or the support staff the same way I treat the principal. This I say in terms of respect. I should be able to respect each and every one equally. When I respect you, you give me respect back."

Pride and ego

In order to change the world today what I feel is, you need to change the attitudes of the people. You should be down to earth. These days' people have more pride and ego. I have the title of Senior Prefect and I can become arrogant about it. But that is not how it should work. I should be humble and treat everyone equally. I should be who I am after getting the title as well.

If we want to change the world then we have to change our attitudes and thinking patterns. In other countries you see young people working in McDonald's and places like that. So the thinking pattern should be – 'He is trying to lay his foundation in life. He is doing it part time to come up in life'. The attitude should not be to look down on jobs like that," elucidated Siriwardena.

Wesley College is a special place for Siriwardena. "I have been at Wesley from Grade 1 and all the other boys in the school get home by 2.30pm or 3.00pm. But Wesley College is nicest before 6.00am and after 6.00pm. That is the time you get to interact with nature a lot.

Also the Chapel is the most peaceful place I have ever been. Whenever I am in trouble or whenever I feel down, this is the place I come to. Before and after six it is really silent. The chapel is where I come to meditate and do my prayers and then I feel totally different. I am a person who has a lot of patience. I listen to what everyone says. Because they may be right at some point. When the work has piled up and I just feel like giving up, the chapel is where I come. This place is really magical to me. It takes the stress out of my head. It brings me back to a whole new level," added Siriwardena.

Attention to discipline

A love and sense of gratitude towards his school are his guiding principles in life. "In Wesley we give more attention to discipline. But we give ample opportunity for all students to excel in their talents and strengths. Being the Head Prefect of Wesley, I get the opportunity to represent the whole student body. So a Head Prefect should be able to treat everyone equally. His vision should be to uphold the school's name in every possible way. He should be able to rally the other prefects to be able to work towards one goal and uphold the school's name," stressed Siriwardena. As he said before strong and positive role models are what any young boy or girl needs.

"In any stage in a person's life you need proper and strong role models or something strong to believe in, otherwise your path starts to deviate. It is not your fault because you think you are doing the right thing. I feel that the youth need to use their time in a productive manner. Again I think the biggest problems in this world are due to the attitudes. Ego plays a huge role and having an ego will not get you very far. Not forgiving the other person and the ego are the main two causes for all the problems in society," shared Siriwardena.

"I watch inspirational movies like 'Invictus' and the 'Miracle'. I watch more or less motivational movies. It is not action movies as such, but if it is about a sport and motivation, then that would be my kind of movie. I even watch comedies. I am fond of Adam Sandler movies," summed up Siriwardena



With parents and sister



With parents at the annual prize giving.

DAYAAN BAHARDEEN

Congratulations to Dayaan Bahardeen who won a Silver Medal at the 2nd Muay Boran World Championship (2nd International Thai Martial Arts Championship) which was held in Bangkok, Thailand from the 12th to the 16th March 2017.

Around 56 countries participated in this Championship. Dayaan was the youngest participant to represent Sri Lanka in the under 19 (54 Kilos) category. His final match was against Indonesia. Although the fight was a tie until the end, the final decision was based on technical points and awarded to Indonesia and Dayaan emerged as the Silver Medalist. Indeed, it is a remarkable achievement for the 18 year old, at his first World Championship.

Wesley is tremendously proud of his achievement. Dayaan represented our 1stXV rugger team last year. He is expected to make a come back to the side for 2nd round matches.



MURTHAAZ BARRY

We reproduce below an article regarding Murthaaz Barry a young Wesley Swimmer who has excelled in a presentation on importance of swimming.

Murthaaz Barry delivers speech on 'Importance of Swimming'

Sunday Times (Sri Lanka) 27 Nov 2016

Murthaaz Barry, a Grade 9 student of Wesley College Colombo, delivered a speech and power point presentation on 'Importance of Swimming' at the Colombo International School Auditorium in Colombo. This is a rare achievement for a young swimmer and Murthaaz has reached all the credentials for his age to earn what he delivered during his speech and presentation. He was just two years old when Murthaaz first took his swimming lessons under the guidance of Coach Kakulandara at the Thurstan College Swimming Complex. He then joined the Aquatic Academy at the age of four before kicking off his successful swimming career at Wesley College. He was trained by Sri Lankan Olympian Conrad Francis and won his first medal, a Silver, at the St. Joseph's College Swimming Scout Meet at the age of seven on his debut. He won a Gold medal at the age of nine at the S. Thomas' College Swimming Scout Meet held in 2011.



When Wesley College declared open its Swimming Complex in 2012, Murthaaz was a member of school's inaugural swimming squad. The firstever Wesley College Swimming Gala was held in 2013 and Murthaaz become the first ever Under-11 champion. In the same year he participated in the Novices Aquatic Championships 2013, organised by the Sri Lanka Sports Union later in 2014. He and his brother Nabeel Barry grabbed 14 medals in the Wesley College Swimming Meet establishing a new record in the 50-metre Backstroke event.

In the National Intermediate Age Group Swimming Championship held in 2016, Murthaaz was placed 7th overall in the 100metre Backstroke and 6th overall in 100-metre Butterfly stroke events. His ambition is to represent Sri Lanka one day besides having other goals of being a presenter, writer and a motivational speaker.



Rahul de Silva made an impressive debut in his first game for the Box Hill "Broncos" in the opening round of the Premier Division rugby union Competition in Melbourne. Rahul arrived in Melbourne late last year as a student to undertake a course at Swinburne University and he was keen to continue his Rugby career locally.

Box Hill RUFC is a leading Premier Division club in Melbourne fielding three senior teams, a veterans team, a women's team and juniors from U6 to U18. Box Hill has had a long association with the Sri Lankan community from the 1960's in players, coaches and administrators enhancing the cultural diversity of the Club. I have been a member for 46 years having played juniors, seniors up to Premier Grade, President for nine years and a Life Member. When news reached me that Rahul was keen on continuing his rugby in Melbourne, I made it a point to get in touch with him and secure his talents as the club was after a good scrumhalf. Rahul attended his first practice about three weeks ago on his return from Colombo to start the first semester of his studies. He was impressive at training and the practice matches displaying excellent skills, speed and fitness that earned him selection in the Premier Grade team which is a credit to his talent.

In the season opener yesterday, Rahul displayed those skills to the fullest with consistent and accurate passing from the set pieces and the breakdown giving his back line clean and quick ball. His

positional awareness in attack and defence was exceptional marshalling his backs in defence. He scored two tries (17, 75). The first was a classic scrumhalf try from a five metre scrum he ran around the blind side to score. The second was testimony to his fitness and pace when he backed up his winger to receive the pass to score the equaliser under the uprights. Rahul has adapted well to playing against players with larger physique and weight. Speaking to him after the game he commented on the pace the game was played at and the contact. Slightly sore for his efforts he relaxed over a cold beer. He was one of the better players for the Broncos who snatched victory in the dying stages of the game. If Rahul continues his form, he will have a stellar year and one he can truly be proud of.

Keith de Kretser

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO MASTER ADEETHA SIRIWARDANE

Adeetha Siriwardane a young Wesleyite from Colombo brought glory and honour to College by winning the **Under 11 Gold medal in the 100 meters Backstroke and the Silver Medal in the 50 metres Backstroke** at the National Swimming Championships held recently.

A great achievement from a Wesleyite since the pool was opened, and after Mr. Edward Vandendriesen's feat in the early 1970's.

Well done Adeetha the Wesley fraternity is proud of you, keep the Double Blue flag flying.

The President and committee would like to thank Marie de Kretser and Keith de Kretser for all their help in compiling this newsletter

Links to Wesley OBIA sites

Our new Web page: <http://www.wesleycollege.org/>

New features include:

Future Events information

Interactive Membership renewal and new member forms

Photo gallery & more



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wesley-College-Colombo-OBIAustralia/296647643739345>

“Winter Warm Up”

The Wesley College Melbourne OBUA hosted its traditional “Winter Warm Up” at the Good Shepherd Hall Mulgrave on 24th June 2017.

A record number of guests turned up at the event, which was a sell out.

The evening was very lively, with guests both young and old enjoying themselves in a friendly ambiance; thanks in no small measure to the great music provided by none other than Wesley's own Ben Nathanielsz and his band Midnight Mist Trio.

Creative table decor by another of Wesley's sons, Rienzie Mahamooth ably assisted by the committee members and their wives further enhanced the atmosphere of the venue.

The Raffle was drawn by a past cricket captain Everard Schoorman

Pleasing to see was a high number of "young" former Wesleyites attending the function with their families, as a consequence of children being welcome to this informal gathering. The kids were seen to thoroughly enjoy themselves, with many of them trying out their first dance moves in the company of their parents

The smorgasbord catered by Silver Line Caterers was delicious and well received by everyone.

The event was a resounding success and sets the tone for the annual dinner dance themed "The Great Gatsby" which will be held on Saturday 7th October at The Grand on Cathies Lane.

A great night was had by all.

Congratulations to the great work of the social committee:
Darryl Koch, Ben Nathanielsz , Norton Abeydeera and Brian Azoor

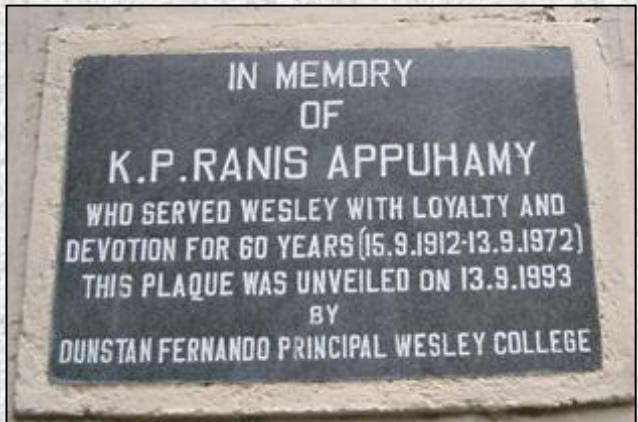






REMINISCING FROM THE PAST

K. P. Ranis Appuhamy



“For whom the Bell Tolls, It tolls for thee.”

John Donne

When the Double Blue snapped in the breeze, and the College Bell pealed on the 2nd of March 1974, in celebration of the Centenary, there was one whom we missed and that was K.P Ranis Appuhamy, who died on September 13th 1972 at the grand age of 88, and just two days less for sixty years at Wesley. Of more than average height for a Sinhalese, his dignified mien was emphasised by his ramrod straight carriage, stern visage, magnificent bristling walrus moustache, framing aristocratic high-boned checks.

A neat tight knot held his greying hair in position. Ranis belonged to that rare breed of men almost extinct today-who, without preaching, exemplified in their life and work the very highest of moral and ethical standards. His character became clear in the very first days of his service at Wesley. On September 15th 1912 he was engaged by the Rev. Henry Highfield as a "School servant" at a monthly salary of Rs. 8/-. On his first pay-day Ranis went up to Rev. Highfield and said that there had been an error in calculating his pay. "Error?" demanded Highfield. "You were taken on for Rs. 8/- a month and you have received Rs. 8/- not one cent less. Where is the error?" Ranis pointed out that, since he had worked for only half the month he was actually entitled to only half a month's pay Rs. 4/- instead of Rs. 8/-. Such a man was Ranis.

In fact so devoted to Wesley was he that in all his nearly 60 years of service, he was absent from his duties for only 60 days an average of one day's leave a year for well over half a century! That included the time he took off to get married!

In 1962 Ranis celebrated his Golden Jubilee at Wesley. Or rather Wesley celebrated the event despite his proud and aristocratic bearing. Ranis was the most modest of men. Wesley really out did itself on that occasion. Ranis was feted as no "domestic servant" of a major educational institution has been before or since. A prominent article in the Ceylon Observer of October 15th 1962 recorded the event in banner headlines "RANIS OF WESLEY GOES ON." The "Observer" story noted that when Ranis joined Wesley, among others on the teaching staff of the School were, O.E.G., S. J. V. Chelvanayakam. F. J. Labrooy and Lionel Fonseka. Among the thousands of small boys who scurried along the corridors of Wesley every morning in a desperate effort to beat the inexorable peal of Rani's bell were the future physician, Dr. J. R. Wilson, the future theologian, the Rev. Dr. D. T. Niles, M. H. Mohamed, a future Mayor of Colombo, and Sam Silva, Chairman Air Ceylon and Chairman Petroleum. The article added; "Ranis was Guest of Honour at a garden party given by the Staff Guild of Wesley and friends and Old Boys. School closed half a day for the occasion, and Ranis was given a purse." Old Boys bringing their sons for admission to Wesley treated Ranis with the deference due more to a former teacher than to a school servant-with good reason.

There was always the fear that, if not handled with care, the old man with the phenomenal memory would spill the beans to the son about some embarrassing prank that the father would sooner forget! For what father could dismiss his son's pleas for more pocket money or criticise his table manners when reminded by Ranis of the day he ate 75 hoppers on a bet! The hero of this particular gastronomic feat vouched for by Ranis was an elastic-stomachache boy called Francis Jayawardena; and the incident took place somewhere during the time of the First World War. Jayawardena went on to become one of Wesley's most outstanding sportsmen in the pre 1920 years.

Many years ago, when I was a little boy in the College Hostel, about the year 1949 or 50 Ranis took me to the rear door of the boarders' dining hall and pointed to something carved on it. Puzzled, I bent down and read the crudely carved inscription "K. P. R. - 1912". **Gordon Tytler**

This article is taken from the 125th Jubilee Souvenir recorded in the Double Blue International website www.wesleycollege.biz

The Great Gatsby

Saturday
7th
October
2017

7.30pm
to
1.00am



Wesley College Colombo OBU (Aust.) Inc.

ANNUAL GALA BALL

at

THE GRAND on CATHIES
90 Cathies Lane, Wantirna South

Music for Dancing by: NEXT GENERATION
★ 3 COURSE SIT DOWN MEAL ★

Unlimited Premium Scotch, Beer, Wines and Soft Drinks
Dress Code: Gent's Formal ~ Ladies Evening Wear \$85 per head



WESLEY COLLEGE(COLOMBO) OLD BOYS UNION AUSTRALIA BRANCH INC.
ABN 64 824 324 821 Reg. No. A0007280C

Application for Membership and/or Remittance of Subscription
Please complete appropriate section. Note the Proposer & Seconder must be current members of the OBUA
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: \$20 Full \$10 Pensioner

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

SURNAME (caps)		TEL. PRIV:	
GIVEN NAMES		MOBILE:	
ADDRESS			
EMAIL	Renewal for Year:		

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SURNAME (caps)		TEL. PRIV:	
GIVEN NAMES		MOBILE:	
ADDRESS			
EMAIL			
Years at Wesley		Preferred way of receiving newsletter (Tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/> post
I desire to be a member of the Wesley College (Colombo) Old Boys Union Australia Branch Inc., In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being inforce.			
SIGNATURE		DATE	
		TYPE (Tick)	<input type="checkbox"/> FULL <input type="checkbox"/> PENS

PROPOSER'S NAME (caps)					
PROPOSER'S SIGNATURE				DATE	
				<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	
SECONDER'S NAME (caps)					
SECONDER'S SIGNATURE				DATE	
				<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	
OFFICE USE ONLY	Date application received			<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	
President's Signature				<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	
Secretary's Signature				<input type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>	
Fees received	Joining	\$	Annual	\$	
				Total	\$

*Membership Application/Renewal Notice with payment must be sent to:
Secretary, WCOBUA, P O BOX 123, Glenway MDC, Mulgrave VIC 3170*