



Wesley College Old Boys' Union
Colombo 09, Sri Lanka

NEWSLETTER

PATRON: Avanka Fernando - Principal **PRESIDENT:** Wilhelm Van Dort **GENERAL SECRETARY:** Fowzil Nawaz **TREASURER:** V. Kamaleshwaran



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE OBU COLOMBO

Greetings Everyone, on this 145th Anniversary of Our Alma Mater Wesley College!! Having completed my Second term of Office as the President of the OBU Colombo, I welcome this opportunity to share my sentiments about this great College that we all love so much. My message is not only to those gathered today, but also to the Double Blue Alumni around the world who are Celebrating Founder's Day.

For many of us, our days as students of Wesley was a crucially formative time in our lives. Whether the education we received opened doors for success, or if the relationships we made, created friendships for life, or whether a Principal, Teacher or Coach gave us the encouragement or confidence we needed to forge ahead, or if the College gave us a sense of place that became part of our identity, our time at Wesley made it a part of who we are - forever.

We have all taken different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere. The older the Friendship grows, the stronger it becomes. So let's rekindle friendships and embrace boyhood memories. To reminisce with old friends, a chance to share some memories, and play our songs again. Sometimes, we have to accept the fact that certain things will never go back to how they used to be, but nothing is as comfortable as an old friend. There is a saying that "Old shoes and old friends are best for relaxing!" "A College Friend" is one of the nicest gifts one can have, and one of the best things, one can be. We have learned, laughed, played sports and faced many challenges together. So let's not allow those endearing memories or friendships to fade.

The OBU plays an integral role in strengthening these friendships, ties and loyalty of our Alumni and being a part of the OBU gives us brief moments with another, but sometimes in those brief moments we build memories that last a life time. Through many Activities and Projects, the OBU provides a "home base" for Wesleyites to stay connected, to support our College, now and for generations to come. Participating actively in OBU activities and interacting with fellow Wesleyites, gives us the chance to mingle with friends with whom we were close to, all those years ago, and re-exploring the relationships of the past, with friends who were involved in the important years of our College life. Everyone has a place in the memories we made from the Classroom, the Stage- where we performed music or drama, to the sports field at Campbell Park. It's interesting to see the different paths each one has taken after leaving College.

I must say in the last two years as President of the OBU, I was touched, inspired and deeply impressed by the passion, loyalty and love many Old Boys here and overseas, bear in their hearts towards our Alma Mater - Wesley. Their sense of pride to be a Wesleyite, and their commitment to assuring a strong future for Wesley. It was simply amazing! The OBU today - is alive and active because, many Old Boys have partnered with us to "make things happen." Whenever Wesley's Call sounds many came forward readily, whatever the need may be, to support College by participating in OBU Projects, Activities and Events. Many Old Boys gave voluntarily of their time and talent; some of them placed Wesley as a high priority in their charitable investments. Please know that such passionate Old Boys like you have a positive impact on the present Boys of Wesley, because You are their inspiration.

We have a great College- and we were blessed to have dedicated and committed teachers whose lives revolved around us students, and whose prime concern was to make us "men of grit and industry." I am sure many of you remember many such teachers and the impact they made on your life. As Old Boys let us use all our resources to support the College Academic Staff, so that they in turn are able to educate this generation with the skills and experiences they will need, to navigate an ever-changing world. Let us aim to build a more dynamic, powerful and eminent academic community, who can further bolster Wesley's reputation as Sri Lanka's leading Educational institution. This will serve to increase the impact of our intellectual footprint.

As we are approaching the 150th Anniversary of Wesley, I also invite you all to join us in preparing the Wesley Fraternity for this milestone and future years. To the young Old Boys who have just gained OBU membership, I would like to let you know of the many ways you can be involved and support College through the OBU. Whether you make a monetary contribution or give of your time and talents, it will help us and enable the OBU to support College and make it the great educational institution it is today. The OBU offers opportunities for fellowship and allows you to reconnect with classmates. This is your OBU and we are honored to represent you. So take a look at the opportunities given and consider how you can be more involved in the OBU projects this year. Update your contact information to make sure you get timely information about activities and get-togethers.

If you have ideas on projects which you are passionate about, and which might help the OBU to be Vibrant and be one of the best OBU's among Schools, please feel free to contact me or the OBU Secretary. We would love to hear from you. I call upon you all, to become ambassadors of the OBU of Wesley College. Contribute and bring new members to the OBU and back to our home. Ask them to come back and see, hear and feel the atmosphere of our Alma Mater. Get involved with the OBU and feel the pride of being part of this prestigious College, because it is your Alma Mater, and never has there been a better time to renew your pride, in all that it represents to our local community, to the nation and to the world.

I wish to thank our Principal Mr. Avanka Fernando who is also an Old Boy, for his support extended to me and the OBU Exco, in our projects and for readily making available the College Premises whenever we need to meet. Thank you very much Sir and I reiterate the OBU is committed to supporting you at all times, to make Wesley College to be the best Christian Boys School in Sri Lanka, in Discipline, Academics, Sports and the Arts. In Conclusion I offer my humble thanks to each and every Member of the Executive Committee of the OBU Colombo for their loyal support, for having worked tirelessly, for sharing and making my burdens lighter, and for fulfilling their assigned tasks. The success of all our projects was because of your loyal support. I take this opportunity to thank Mr. Fowzil Nawaz our indefatigable OBU Secretary whose commitment cannot be measured in words. Mr. V. Kamalesh our OBU Treasurer - thank you so much for your meticulous care in maintaining our accounts. I also thank our Assistant Secretary and Mr. Oliver Rajadurai and Assistant Treasurer Mr. Fazal Yehiya for their commitment and support. To all the Past Presidents and the OBU Colombo Membership, I offer my heartfelt and sincere thanks, for your support. God Bless You All.

Ora Et Labora

Wilhelm VanDort

President OBU - Colombo

Principal's Message



On behalf of Wesley College, let me extend my Greetings and sincere THANKS to the Old Boys Union of Wesley College for your generous support given to the College in 2018. I have found that the vast majority of Old Boys, both in Sri Lanka and overseas are wonderfully supportive and helpful to the College and to me as the Principal.

Throughout the year 2018, different batches of the OBU membership have helped the school in numerous ways. They have provided the School with Furniture, refurbishing of the Chemistry Lab, organized educational Seminars, been there to cheer the students at various events etc. They also helped the support staff of the College.

The beauty of reciprocity first starts by giving. We at Wesley College nurture its students to becoming men of stature, and strive to give back in countless measures. It is my humble wish that the school continues to shine and pray that the ones who pass through the corridors may become caring, productive, responsible citizens and future leaders of the country.

The many significant accomplishments achieved under the guidance and leadership of the OBU President, Mr. Wilhelm VanDort and his Executive Committee is very commendable. My aim is to provide more for the school and so I am therefore appealing to you all to support us in any way deemed important to the school in the future as well.

Avanka Fernando
PRINCIPAL

The Wesley College OBU Colombo - Committee for the Year 2019/20



Seated from left : Peter Peiris (V.P), Rohan Amerasinghe(V.P), Clifford Rodrigo(V.P), R.Thirukkumar, (V.P), Kadir Ishak(V.P), Oliver Rajadurai (Asst.Secretary), B.M.Jurangpathy (Vice Patron), Avanka Fernando (Principal) Wilhelm Van Dort (President) Raja Sinnathuray (Vice Patron), Fowzil Nawaz (Secretary), Fazal Yehiya (Asst.Treasurer), Shimal Thaha (V.P), Riza Azoor (V.P) **Standing 1st Row:** Chitral De Silva, Zaharan Ismadeen, Rushitha Rodrigo, Iresh Siriwardane, H.M.Siddeek, Lakshman Uduwara, Chryshan Rodrigo, Asith Siriwardane, Ranil Thilakaratne. **Standing Back Row:** Rasheed Muthaliph, B.T.Balan, N.Sivaruban, Raashid Riza, Afzal Abdullah, Samad Booso, Divakar Ratnadurai, Edward VandenDriesen, Shaheem Mahir, Razeen Samoon

Wesley Batch of '93 - Educational Development Program

by **Asith Siriwardane** | Batch of '93

This year The Old Boys of the Class of '93' initiated a programme to develop the present education standard of Wesley. A series of seminars covering the entire teaching staff of all 3 campuses were organized. **An eminent panel of lectures delivered lectures covering topics on Child psychology, Ethics in Education, Effective Communication, Child Assessment, Teaching Methods and Development.**

The participating teachers and the school management were very much impressed with the program hence insisted on the continuation of such in the coming year. The entire program was fully sponsored by Class of '93'. Seeing the successful outcome of this program the President OBU Colombo formed a special committee to carry forward the initiative taken by class of '93'.

This OBU Committee went forward in strengthening this educational development program by organizing a series of seminars to educate the parents of the middle school of Wesley. A special lecture was also organized to the parents of the newly admitted students to grade one at college. The feedback from the parents pertaining to this program was very positive.

It is learnt that the parents have requested from the college authorities to conduct such programs at least on an annual basis. The committee also organized a special seminar for the year 11 students who sat for their O/L exams in 2018 to prepare them psychologically for this crucial exam. The seminar was conducted by renowned Child Psychologist Dr. Chaminda weerasiriwardena

Ora Et Labora

Renovation Of The Chemistry Lab Of Wesley College

by **Lakshman Uduwara**

A long felt need of our school was fulfilled when a passionate old boy, Nalin Karunatileka ('Batch of 87') sponsored the complete renovation of the Chemistry lab at a total cost of Rs. Rs.833,750/=. Nalin made this initiative in memory of his father, late Mr. B.J. Karunatileka who was a distinguished Old Boy of Wesley.

All senior science students stand to benefit from this timely move to renovate and upgrade the equipment and fittings of the lab. The project idea was mooted by the OBU President, Wilhelm VanDort, who has, during his tenure as the President, initiated much school development work for the benefit of his beloved Alma Mater. Nalin was glad to take ownership for the project and was behind it from the blue print to the time it was dedicated to the school. A brief ceremony was held at the site on 3rd January to mark the above occasion which was graced by the Principal, Mr. Avanka Fernando, OBU President Wilhelm VanDort and the Donor - Nalin Karunatileka. We, the old boys of Wesley are grateful to Nalin for his philanthropic gesture and are sure that many more duty conscious old boys and well-wishers will take a cue and come forward to assist our school in numerous ways.



Wesley College Alumni Middle East (WCAME)

by **Sharman Mouffer**

Wesley College Alumni Middle East (WCAME) had an eventful 2018 with a plethora of events being hosted and many accolades being won. The "Strikes of Blue IV" bowling tournament was hosted by WCAME for the fourth year running. The tournament was sponsored by "Date Crown" and was well attended by more than 25 Sri Lankan schools with each team vying for the coveted "Date Crown Challenge Trophy". Date Crown was also the proud sponsor of Wesley's 1st XV Rugby Team in the year 2018 under the directive of Mr. Feroze Kamal who is a prominent member of WCAME's steering committee. In understanding the importance of standing with the Wesley fraternity in Colombo and beyond, WCAME supported the "Double Blue Ball" as a Bronze Sponsor and thereby contributing to its success.

The class room refurbishment project was another activity that WCAME took pride in contributing towards with the hope of supporting the educational achievements of College. The UAE boasts a vibrant community of Sri Lankans and is a melting pot where school camaraderie is still strife. Wesley College Colombo is well represented through WCAME in all of the college centered social events held in the UAE.

WCAME fielded two teams at the annual tag rugby tournament organized for Sri Lankan schools in Dubai and walked away with the bowl championship trophy. This year too a recent college graduate rugby player was invited and sponsored by WCAME to take part in the schools tag rugby tournament. Under the patronage of WCAME, Three Old Wesleyites were picked to represent the Lanka Lions Club at the regional inter club tournament conducted in parallel with the Emirates Airlines Dubai Rugby Sevens. They were instrumental in contributing to the teams' progression along the course of this three day tournament. As we have and always will be "bound by one fraternal band" WCAME wishes college all the success and will continue its efforts to always lead "Wesley to the fore" devoid of geographic restrictions.

Ora Et Labora.

Who will Break CT's Record???

In the fifties and sixties Wesley College produced exceptionally good Cricket teams, along with many Records of outstanding achievements. Incidentally in the sixties Wesley won the Cricket Award for the Best School's Cricket Team on two occasions. However there is one Record which may never be broken.

Clifford Rodrigo (C.T. to many of his friends) when playing his first full season in 1963 recorded a phenomenal Bowling Performance when he took 8 Wickets for 9 runs against Ananda College. That particular year Ananda College was considered to be the school that had the best Batting side, with stalwarts such as Sarath Wimalaratne, T.D. Rajapakse, Palitha Polonowita and A.G. Perera.

What is unique is not the fact that C.T. took 8 wickets, but the fact that he took these wickets in just 4 Overs. So it's left to be seen – Who will break this unique Record of C.T. Rodrigo, who has been a great Cricketer produced by Wesley. He is also the present Prefect of Games at Wesley.

S. Renganathan - Appointed Managing Director & CEO of Commercial Bank



Distinguished Old Wesleyite and Senior Vice President of the OBU Mr. Sivakrishnarajah Renganathan was appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Commercial Bank in July 2018.

S Renganathan is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, UK (FCMA), Fellow of the IFS School of Finance, UK (Fifs) and a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers Sri Lanka (FIB). He is also an associate member of Financial Services Institute of Australasia. The Double Blue Fraternity is proud of his Achievement and the OBU wishes him all the very best in his future endeavours.

Recalling Memories of A True Double Blue

by **Peter Peiris**



Shelton Peiris to past and present Wesleyites, can boast of a connection with Wesley spanning nearly 70 years, which one may surmise is without precedent. Perhaps, it was not entirely co-incidental that he was born on March 2nd, which is also celebrated at Wesley as Founder's Day, and throughout his school career, his birthday was also Wesley's birthday, and has remained a special day for him, and he had the added privilege of a school holiday to celebrate it. Shelton entered Wesley on the 9th May 1934, admission No 8812, when Rev John Dalby was the Principal.

In April 1942 during the 2nd World War, Wesley's Buildings were commandeered by Military Authorities, and Wesley was literally dis-banded except for a small number of pupils, which included Edmund Dissanayake and Shelton who had to move to improvised accommodation at Kitiyakkara. In this time Shelton, now a senior student was assisting the newly arrived Rev. James Cartman in 1945, taking on teaching tasks in the lower classes. Due to the efforts of Rev Cartman, Wesley was able to re-gain its legitimate premises, and Shelton along with Edmund Dissanayake, led the march back to hallowed original premises, on the 3rd December 1945 that was in a state of considerable dis-repair. They assisted the Principal in overcoming numerous problems encountered whilst settling into the re-gained premises.

Shelton was a leader, and was the Senior Prefect in 1945. His academic ability and all-round performance resulted in his being the first recipient of the Highfield Merit Award, initiated by Rev. Cartman. In the mid 1940's, two persons stood out from among the students, and that was Shelton Peiris, standing tall in his clean white starched suit as Senior Prefect, assisted by Edmund Dissanayake his Lieutenant and Cricket Captain. Many a boy froze with some fear when they encountered Shelton's disciplining stare through his bottle rimmed glasses! Upon leaving School Shelton was persuaded by Rev. Cartman to join the College staff and He functioned as the first Secretary of the Parent Teacher Association. He took charge as master in charge of Boxing, Prefect of Games, and functioned as the Chief Librarian. He was also the Scoutmaster 14th Colombo Group.

With regard to Anniversary Souvenirs, Shelton occupies a unique position, in being associated closely with the 75th, 100th and 125th, a record few will equal. Shelton had a long and abiding relationship with Rev. James Cartman, who was one of the great post war Principals of Wesley. Rev. Cartman entrusted him with numerous duties. After his school career, Shelton enrolled at the Law College to follow studies in Law, but Rev. Cartman decided otherwise, and visited him at home and convinced him that his true vocation was to teach at Wesley. Shelton could not resist this call of duty and joined the Wesley staff. He has been an active member of the Old Boys Union for several decades as a Vice President, and a Vice Patron. He represented the OBU as a member of the College Governing Board. Shelton's wife Dolores has been his support over the years, and they have been blessed with two children, Peter who is a Wesleyite, who was an active sportsman and athlete in College. Daughter Therese Rosanna, who is an old girl of Methodist College. Peter's Son Sushendra currently studying at Wesley is a third generation Wesleyite exceling in Drama, choir debating and Cricket. Shelton has a legendary status at Wesley as a student, Senior Prefect and Teacher. He passed away on the 9th of May 2018 coincidentally the very date he Joined Wesley College in 1934. – **May He Rest In Peace**

Reflections on Founder's Day

by Keith de Kretser (1959 – 1970)

March 2 has always been a "special day" in the life of a student at Wesley College, Colombo. It is the date on which the school was founded in 1874 – the birth date of Wesley College. Birthdays are very special days in our lives therefore it is only fitting that Wesley celebrates her birthday each year. I recall when I was in the Primary school, it was special day of celebration. We did not know much about the history of Wesley's beginnings other than it was the school's birthday. We had to be dressed neatly and well behaved at all times as there would be visitors passing throughout the day. Some were lucky to attend the Founder's Day Service as a member of a junior choir that performed an item at the Service. As one progressed through to the senior classes the significance of the day, the formalities and events gave more meaning to why it was such an important day in the life of Wesley College.

On my recent attendance at Founder's Day in 1999(125th Jubilee) and in 2010 there was a more ceremonial feel as the drummers and dancers led the official guests and teachers in procession up the driveway to the hall. This ceremonial process upped the ante in terms of formality and the raising of the College flag outside the hall lifted one's spirits and pride of being a Wesleyite. I had the privilege of giving the Founder's Day address in 1999 and 2010. Sitting on the stage and looking down at the guests and students cast my mind back to when I was a student. It was a very special occasion in my life and I will treasure the memories forever.

Founder's Day is also an occasion when past students can join the present students in celebrating the school's birthday. As the second verse of the College song reminds us...

*"Past and present kindly meet,
Each the other proudly greet,
Hearts n'er cool that once have beat,
'Neath the Double Blue."*

Other festivities in celebrating Founder's Day such as the past versus present cricket, hockey and soccer matches add to the celebrations. The Annual General Meeting of the Old Boys Union also brings together Wesleyites of generations past. Founder's Day is a tradition that underpins are gratefulness and gratitude to the founding fathers of the College who had the vision in 1874 to start up Wesley College in humble beginnings in Maradana to where she presently stands strong and proud on the Karlshue Hill as a beacon of light educating the community. May the tradition continue and the torch burn brightly and be passed on from generation to generation.

OWSC/OBU Double Blue Ball - 30th Of November 2019

Swimming At Wesley

Wesley's Swimming is in the able hands of our very own Edward Vandedriesen who is the Head Coach. Edward is a renowned National Swimmer. He won the Best Life Saver Award in 1974, and Represented Sri Lanka in Water Polo in the same year, He represented Sri Lanka in World Master's Games in Sydney and came in the 1st ten and became the 1st in Asia in 2009.

The College Pool was opened in March 2012 – and since then Wesley has come a long way. According to Edward almost all Students can now swim. There is a squad of 55 students from different ages participating in Aquatic Meets at all Age Groups. Wesley Swimming has had noteworthy performances with Achievements at National Level –

THE MOST OUTSTANDING

Adeetha Siriwardana:

- Under 11 / 12 National Age Group
Champion 2018 with 2 Gold's & 1 Silver,
- Sri Lanka Schools 2 Golds & Silver
- Presently holds the 100m Back Stroke
National Age Group record Under 11

Other Notable Performances :

- Athiq Ahmeer - Presently under 18 includes National Age Group within the first five.
- Akash Kumerson - Presently under 15 /16 including National Age Group within the first five.
- Rithesh Segar - Presently under 15 /16 including National Age Group within the first six.
- Ramika Perera -Presently under 13 /14 including National Age Group within the first Seven.
- Aakif Ahmed -Novices Championship Gold medalist at 2018 under 15 Breast Stroke.
- Keshan Bandara -Presently under 13 /14 qualified finalist in All Major Meets.
- Eemann Firdouse - All Island Novices Championship Silver medalist in the 50m breast stroke.

'Batch Of '87 Conducted A "My Health, My Wealth" Campaign

Batch of 87' conducted a "My Health, My Wealth" campaign for Past and Present teachers at the college on the 14th December 2018. **Over 50 batch mates participated including 14 residing overseas. We had over 250 teachers and other staff attended the event and following health checks were done.**

- Check height/weight, BMI, total body composition.
- Random blood sugar • Blood pressure
- ECG • Dental check-up by 2 dentists
- Eye check-up and free spectacles given on need basis
- Lung function test and advice given by 2 Consultant Pulmonologists
- Diet counseling by 6 Clinical Nutritionists and 3 dieticians.

All the information was recorded on a personalized health record book for future reference. The event concluded with a lunch buffet and a sing song at the college hall which all the participants enjoyed. Batch of 87's continued the fun and laughter during the weekend at Laya Leisure Resort – Kukuleganga where we all celebrated our 50th Birthdays! The Batch of 87 thanks all who participated and helped in numerous ways to make this event a success.

Ora Et Labora

by Nalin Karunatileka | Batch of '87



OBU Fundraiser- Musical Show - 6th September 2019



with Annesley Malawana at Bishop's Auditorium (Hits of the 60's and 70's)

Wesley College has experienced 64 golden years of rugby, since it officially started chasing the oval ball in 1956. Rugby at Wesley has grown tremendously in stature and popularity to make Wesley College one of the top rugby playing schools in the country. I quote an excerpt from an article from the Rugby 50th anniversary magazine written by Eddie Buell, Wesley's inaugural captain, to illustrate the humble beginnings. And also an excerpt from late Peter Christie Casie Chitty from the same magazine.

EARLY BEGINNINGS FROM EDDIE BUELL

"In the early 50's I had not seen a Rugby match, a Rugby ground or a Rugby ball. Then some friends coaxed me to seeing a Rugby match with them. It was Havelock's Vs CR&FC. I was completely intrigued & taken up with the game. For 02 years I watched many games as possible & in the process learned the rules & g of some idea of how the game was played. The urge to play Rugger was now strong in me but there was NO Rugby at school & the only option was to join a club. With much uncertainty I joined CR&FC in 1954 as a student member & from then on got involved in the game, like a duck taking to water. At that time only Royal, Trinity & St. Peters played Rugby. St. Thomas started in 1955 & St. Anthony's Kandy & St. Josephs came in about that time.

In 1955 whilst attending Rugger practices at CR & FC, I was also playing Hockey for Wesley & Mr. D'Aberea was the hockey master. I spoke to him about starting Rugger at Wesley and he was very supportive and agreed to speak to Mr. Oorloff, the Principal who gave the green light. I spoke to Mr. Alfie Koelmeyer of CR & FC and sought his support. Mr. Koelmeyer arranged for Mr. Fred Kellar to coach us whenever he could and also obtained some used balls from CR&FC for us. e then measured out a Rugby ground at Campbell Park and arranged for the rugby kit whilst at the same time finding & encouraging boys to come for Rugger. In the late 1955 we started practices, drilling in the individual & unit skills, fitness training & teaching the rules. Then the 1956 season was on and we had a team ready. We played about 04 matches that season and the 1st match was against Royal at Campbell park, whilst we lost narrowly by 03 points."

WESLEY'S LOVE AFFAIR WITH RUGBY - BY PETER CHRISTIE CASTE CHITTY

"Wesley College officially chased the oval ball around in 1956 we are told. Eddie Buell, who later skippered Air Force was outstanding, led Wesley's chase. By the early 60's with Nigel and Michael Christoffelsz, the clubs were interested in Wesley after Ranjith Abeydeera was making headlines for the Airmen. Ranjith Abeydeera was the 1st Wesleyite to represent the national team. Darrel Maye known for being the schoolboy cricketer of 1963 and Reggie Bartholamuze who later captained Sri Lanka were two other outstanding players. Mention must be made of "Jaadi" Silva (J.A. de Silva) who as captain brought the best result. Wesley had produced players like Cavan Gamier (Havelocks" Hooker), Peter Smith, Haig Classen (wing forward), William Deutrom (full back). They all took off to Australia and Wesley changed attitudes. Kalu Cader and Asoka Jayawardena), the Dorai brothers, Zubair and Farcy had all played club rugby and shone. Bashurdeen Musafar who later played for Army as full back was also Wesley's."

RUGBY REVIVAL

In 1988 under the leadership of Shalan Rupasinghe and Shiraz Jaldin Wesley revamped the ability to be among the top league. In the early 90's Kishan Musafar played the big league representing CR & FC and captaining the club, is the longest serving national player for Wesley. Since the revival in 1996 with the involvement of Ransiri Sahabandu, Clive De Silva and the Class of 90's, Wesley produced national players in the likes of Zulfikar Halimdeen and Junior Tuskers in Razil Doray, Lahiru Boteju, Ziard Tahir, Steve Perera and Mahes Samarasinghe.

In the millennium Wesley reached the pinnacle by being within the top four on many occasions in the league, and became finalists in the Knock-outs resulting in clinching the knock-out championship under the captaincy of Rahul De Silva in 2013. Furthermore, the millennium paved the way to produce many Junior and Senior nationals in the caliber of Lahiru Boteju, Kasun De Silva, Henry Terrence, Samantha Lakshan, Niroshan Karunanayake, Dulanjan Wijesinghe, Dulaj Perera, Rahul De Silva and Joel Perera. Niranjana Wickramaratne, Shehan Dias and Sithum Pieris who represented the shorter version by being members of the National 7's team.

I will be failing in my duty if I don't make mention about the ever vibrant late Mr. N. J. Mudannayake. In 1985 when Wesley's rugby was at a dismal level, no staff member was willing to be in charge of it. Many players begged Mr. Mudannayake to take it on and he did even though He didn't understand a forward pass from a late tackle. Though he lacked knowledge of the game he compensated for it with his administrative skills, and put us on the School Rugby map. We owe a great deal of gratitude and sincere appreciation to this unsung hero of Rugby at Wesley.

With the introduction of Paul Toia (A New Zealand Maori) as the consultant cum Head Coach there is transformation of attitude among players and we are beginning to notice the change gradually. Being "humble" has been the main theme of the transition. Thanks to the utmost support and blessings of our Principal Mr. Avanka Fernando who is a great enthusiast in promoting great values and keeping up to traditions and Wesley's rich culture through sports.

This year together with the Principal the Rugby Development committee will launch the Wesley College Official Rugby Ball to coincide with the 145th Founder's Day on March 01, 2019. The event will be graced by the ex -All black Rodney So'oialo. Launching of an official rugby ball itself will be a land mark as it is done for the first time by a school in Sri Lanka. While making history the event will be used as a fund raiser by presenting the limited edition memorabilia balls in the category of Platinum, Gold and Silver autographed by Rodney So'oialo to our generous old boys and well wishers. This ambitious undertaking will be to raise funds in aid of a multipurpose training facility for all sports, comprising a modern gymnasium, physiotherapy centre, meeting room and an office room for all coaches.

The 2019 rugby season is scheduled to commence on March 03, 2018 with Kingswood College for the L.E. Blaze trophy. This is the year Wesley will field a formidable team led by Murshid Zubair, son of old Wesleyite, and Ex National and CR player Zubair Doray. We request the whole fraternity to rally around the team in every possible way to encourage and motivate the Double Blues to create history.

"Wesley To The Fore"

COLLEGE WALK **"WESLEY WALK OF GRIT"** | 5th of October 2019

The Miracles of God Experienced at the Wesley College Chapel

by **Preethi Ratnayake**

A Testimony by Mrs. Preethi Ratnayake (Wife of Former Principal - Mr. Upali Ratnayake)

WESLEY COLLEGE CHAPEL:

- An Interim Principal Mr. Upali Ratnayake is appointed - & comes to live with his wife on the premises – and this is what happens immediately after.....
- Chapel Prayers before school: started the day after arrival of the new Principal. - On the 1st day only about 5 boys & 2 or 3 teachers were present for service in the morning. Within a week it started to swell & grew & grew with students' birthdays being mentioned & special prayers made for them during the service. The birthday boys were given a small token from the SCM.
- Bibles in 3 Languages: A Buddhist Old Boy footed the complete bill. [Donated by Navin de Silva]
- Hymn/song books arrived for Praise & Worship [A donation]
- Brass Lamp about 6' [Donated by Parents]
- 2 large Brass vases to brighten the chapel [Donated by Parents]
- 2 Brass Altar Vases [Donated by Parents]
- Brass Bell to be rung as Call to Worship, At the Start to Worship & to End Worship [Donated by Parents]
- Clavinova Organ [Donated by Buddhist Parent-Old Boy]
- Wooden case for this organ: [Donated by A parent]
- The Old Organ which was supposed to be impossible to repair was repaired.
- Cross on the wall behind the altar: When Rev. Asiri saw the old Cross he sent a carpenter to make a Cross worthy of the Chapel. This was the result, a beautiful, totally unusual, internally-lit cross. Only one other cross has been made like it but that too not for a school.
- Altar railings were also done by the same carpenter [Donated by Parents]
- Speakers and Sound System [Donated by Wilhelm]
- Altar cloths [Donated by A Teacher]
- Leslie Keegal's Healing Service & SCM P&W team came into being for this. I believe this was the 1st School to form a Praise & Worship group.
- Students began to lead worship in the mornings [Daily: 2 or 3 students from the group would play, sometimes they even led worship]
- 3 or 4 of SCM boys & some staff began to share the message off & on in the mornings
- Boys began to come for individual prayer soon after the morning service & to the Principal's Bungalow
- The garden as good as dead came to life with money from Australia [spear-headed by Bill Deutrom]
- Sunday services were started. A few present boys & 2 or 3 Old Boys attended. 2 or 3 times there were teachers from Havelock Rd & even Katunayake
- The chapel was painted & pews repaired. [When Ben came he painted it again!!]
- Christmas Tree with decorations & lights [Donated by Bill Deutrom]
- Lights on the tall trees by the side of the chapel [Donated by A Muslim Old Boy]

The SCM boys had prayed from the previous year for the church to be opened for services. All the above miracles took place within about 3 to 4 months after our arrival. Most of these didn't need long daily prayers. Even when thoughts of some new item needed/to beautify the chapel crossed our minds, before we knew it, it came to pass. We can only give our God the glory for all these miracles -- some clearly so, others not so obvious. May Wesley have God's Shekinah glory over her ALWAYS!!

Classroom Desk and Chair Project from 2017 to Date

Number of Desks and Chairs Already Completed: 920 Desks and Chairs Cost- Rs. 5,232,600.00/=

Donors of Project:

- President OBU Colombo
- Mr. Divakaran and Classmates
- Mr. Bill Deutrom
- Mr. Sideek, Mr. Farman Cassim and Batch
- Batch of 2006
- Mr. Buckman and batch of 2003
- Mr. Haleem Hussain
- Pasan Karunaratne
- Mr. Chris Swan (President OBU Sydney Branch)
- Mr. Sharman Mouffer and OBU UAE Branch

- Mr. Carlyle Wells-Peris
- OWSC – Profits from the DBB
- Mr. Lakshman Uduwara, Mr. Shanthilal Mendis,
- Mr. Oscar Dissanayake and the Batch of 73'
- Mr. Mahesh Nanayakkara, Mr. Dilip Bandaratileke,
- Mr. Shiraz Jaldin and the Batch of 87'
- Capt. Navin De Silva
- OBU Australia - Melbourne Branch
- Group of Old Boys from Brisbane Australia
- Mr. and Mrs. Upali Ratnayake



New Desks and Chairs

OBU PROJECTS Completed for 2018 /19

- The Classroom Refurbishment Project - 920 Desks and Chairs Done (Rs. 5,232,600.00/=)
- Entire AL Science, Commerce and Highfield Block has been completely furnished with new Desks and Chairs, The Labrooy block is being done.
- The OBU Donated 3 Smart boards to the Resource Centre - Total Cost of -Rs. 750,000/=
- The Highfield Block – Painting, Replacing of Fans, and cementing floor- Cost Rs. 750,000/=
- Renovation of Chemistry Lab - Rs. 833,000.00/= Initiated by the OBU and Cost of renovation was Donated by an Old Boy in memory of his father.
- The Special Academic Development Programme for Parents organized and spearheaded by the Batch of '93 in Collaboration with the OBU Colombo
- Training programs for Teachers, Parents and Students initiated by the Batch of 93'
- Batch of 87' supported by the OBU conducted a "My Health, My Wealth" campaign for Past and Present teachers at the College.

- Successful Double Blue Ball "OSCARS" organized by the OWSC/OBU.
- Gift Vouchers for the entire Support Staff of the three Campuses – Borella, Havelock Town and Tampola at Christmas.
- Well attended President's Dinner at the Club house with Members and their families.
- The Annual OBU/OWSC Christmas Party was well organized and one of the best attended.
- Donation of School books and Shoes to needy students by an Old Boy who wishes to remain anonymous.
- OBU helping Old Boys who are sick and in need of financial assistance.
- OBU initiated a fund for a College student Jenon Sinula who had Cancer and was supported for his medical treatment by the OBU and the College until he passed away.
- OBU donated a Bat to an outstanding Cricketer, and also cash donations to Cricketers who have done well. It is heartening for the OBU that the Cricketer Kavindana Perera who received the bat has done justice and brought honor to himself and the College by his consistent performance.
- 3 Education Scholarships given by OBU President to three needy students.
- Donation of Rs. 150,000/= by Mr. Jeremy Brohier towards the ongoing Smart board project.



Members of the support staff being Given Gift Vouchers for Christmas 2018



The corridors in the highfield block after renovation

Projects Planned for the Year 2019/20

- Sick Room Project
- Classroom Desk and Chair Project
- A Few more Classes to be completed - (Donors needed)
- Bio Lab (Donor found)
- Physics Lab (Donor needed)
- Ventilation of the College Hall
- Improvements to the College Library – (Donor Found)
- Annual Christmas Party – (Date to be finalized)
- Providing more Smart boards to College on the request of the Principal – (Donors needed for the Smart Board Project)



President of the OBU and Exco Committee Members handing over the three Smart Boards for the Highfield block

Old Boys Union of Wesley College Website | <http://www.wesleyobu.lk>

For any OBU News and Information please contact the General Secretary of the OBU Colombo **Mr. Fowzil Nawaz** on:
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