



St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA

Melbourne, Australia

P.O.Box 574, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Newsletter 10

March 2010

Dear Fellow Patricians

It is a great honour once again to write this message for our newsletter.

We celebrated Australia Day 2010 by reviving the "Battle of the Old Golds" - playing a keenly contested Twenty20 cricket match between our team and Jaffna College OBA, followed by a Barbeque. Over 70 Patricians, Jaffna College Old boys and families attended on the day. Our team put up a brave fight but fell short by just 8 runs in the last over. Many thanks to Shan and Chris (for organising the Jaffna College OBA team), Fred Bonney (for donating all the trophies including the Perpetual trophy), Angelo, Jeeva, Ravi, Newton, Nimal, Jeyandra, Antony and others, their spouses and families for organising the day which was a big success. Photographs from the day have been published in the website - www.spcaustralia.com

The annual mass to celebrate St Patrick's day, AGM 2010 and the annual dinner will be held on Saturday 20 March 2010 at St John's Church, Heidelberg, mass to commence at 7.15 pm. The December 2009 newsletter also enclosed a nomination form - for members to volunteer to serve on the Committee for the next Patrician year. The names of the members who have volunteered are published elsewhere in the newsletter including those who have agreed to be the office bearers. The AGM can formally elect them as well as others who are nominated at the AGM as Committee members and office bearers. To meet the cost of the hall and the food, those who attend are invited to make donation of \$10 per adult. I look forward to seeing all our members on the day.

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SPC Jaffna OBA—Melbourne

Established : 1992
Current Membership:..... 46
No. of Patricians in Vic : 100 Approx
Annual Membership Fee: \$20.00

Our Objectives:

- Socialise and share the Patrician spirit with benevolence
- Support our Alma Mater in meaningful ways

Website:

www.spcaustralia.com

Committee— 2009/10

President: James Joseph
Secretary: Philip Ravindraraaj
Treasurer : William Nimalraaj
Committee Members: Jeevaranjan Fernando
 Antony Gratian
 Anton Newton
 Angelo Fernando
 Dr Anton Mariampillai
 Chris Gunanayagam
 Jeyandra Antonipillai

Cricket Team Captains—2008/09

Matthews Team : Ranjan Gunaratnam
Long Team : Isidore .F. Manoraj
Dunne Team : Terry James
Bonjean Team : Dilip Manuelpillai



*Happy St Patrick's Day
 From all of us in the
 Melbourne OBA Committee*

St Patrick's College Jaffna is celebrating its 160th year in 2010

Below is a brief summary of its origins

In 1834, after nearly 300 years when Ceylon was part of the Diocese of Cochin (India), His Holiness the Pope Gregory XVI established Ceylon as a separate Apostolic Vicariate. About 1839 when St Mary's Catholic Church was being built, the Catholics of Jaffna petitioned the Holy See to send a few European priests. This resulted in a small band of Italian priests, of whom Fr. Bettachini was the first to arrive in 1843. In 1847, Dr. Mazenod, the founder of the Order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) sent another band consisting of Fr. Semaria at the request of (who was by then) Bishop Bettachini. Thus, the beginnings of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka is closely linked with the First Vicar Apostolic of Jaffna, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Horace Bettachini.

In 1850, the Jaffna Catholic English School was founded by Bishop Bettachini. Fr Mauroit was the first manager and Mr Patrick Foy, an Irish gentleman, was the first principal. The teachers were Mr William Marsh, Mr W. Santiagupillai, Mr G.S Ariyanayagam Pillai, Fr Xavier, Mr. MacDonnell, Mr. Paul & Mr. Veeravagu. In 1857, Rt Rev Dr John Stephen Semaria, Bishop of Olympia, succeeded Dr. Bettachini.

In 1860, the Ceylon School Commission, after representations made by Fr Bonjean, gave an annual grant of one hundred and fifty pounds and also renamed the school, the Jaffna Boys Seminary. In 1861, Bishop Semaria went to Europe and returned with (among others) Brothers Conway and Dowling. With the appointment of Brother Conway as principal of the Boy's seminary, a new era of progress began in the school with ten members of staff. Brother Conway managed the school for 8 years and died on 22 February 1870. Dr Bonjean who had succeeded Bishop Semaria as Vicar Apostolic of Jaffna took great interest in developing the Jaffna Boys seminary.

In 1879, the Very Rev Fr Soulier, Visitor General of OMI came on a visit to Jaffna. Bishop Bonjean had left for France in 1879 for the General Chapter of the oblate congregation. On his return to Jaffna in 1880, he decided to amalgamate the preparatory ecclesiastical seminary and the Jaffna Boys seminary under the title of St. Patrick's College and applied to the Department of Public Instruction for registration of the College as a complete High School under the Revised Code. The College under its present name was opened on 10 January 1881 and Rev Fr J R Smythe was the first principal of St Patrick's College. Rev Fr Patrick Dunne was the 5th principal. During his time, the College came to be regarded as the best in the island for its academic achievements.

Mr S Abraham who had been a student of the Jaffna Boys' Seminary and had been appointed a teacher in the sixties, retired in May 1901. Maths was his favourite subject. In October 1901, Rev Fr Dunne retired and went back to Europe. When the College decided to form Houses, it was decided to do so using the 1st 4 letters of the alphabet – Abraham, Bonjean, Conway & Dunne – named after the various luminaries in its development. Around 1951, "Conway" was renamed "Matthews" and later "Abraham" gave way to "Long".

Rev Fr C.S. Matthews joined the tutorial staff in 1905 and Rev Fr T M F Long joined the staff in 1920 and both subsequently became Rectors. The Matthews Long era from 1905 to 1954 was the College's golden era. In 1954 the missionary era came to an end and Rev. Fr. S.N. Arulnesan, a past student of the college became its first indigenous Rector.

This article was compiled from an article titled "The Birth-pangs of St. Patrick's College" by the former Bishop of Jaffna, Rt. Rev. Dr. B. Deogupillai, and the book "Notes on Jaffna – Chronological, Historical, Biographical – From 1505 onwards" by John H. Martyn – a historian.

Australia Day Cricket Match and BBQ—26 January 2010

Battle of the Golds in Melbourne



Mr Chris Arulnayagam raised the College Flag and participants joined in the singing of the college anthems of both SPC & JC



A thrilling match on a glorious day was followed by a fantastic BBQ



The winning Team's Captain receives the trophy from Fr Eugene Francis (Chaplain for the UK Tamil Catholics) who was the honorary guest at the Event.

Meanwhile, in Jaffna, the **93rd Battle of the Golds** (the Big Match) was held on 26th & 27th February 2010.

Although it ended in a draw, the Patricians had a new record for their credit.

Highest Total Score of St. Patrick's College – 1st innings – 324.

Breaking the earlier record of 1975 – 320 by Jaffna College.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

St Patrick's Day Mass , Celebrations & AGM —

Saturday, 20 March 2010

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I also want to record my grateful appreciation to our Committee members, who - and in many cases their spouses and family members - have made immense personal sacrifices in time, money and effort to make our several events successful.

The annual subscription of \$20 pays for the subsidies for the 3 main events organised during the year as well as for the administrative costs involved in the newsletter, website, P.O.Box, etc, and we hope members will pay their subscription so that the Association - which has grown tremendously in the last few years - can continue to grow and provide a forum for Old Boys to meet and enjoy as well as provide assistance to our dear College.

James Joseph

President

Senior Patricians

are invited to **Share your Experience, Stories and Memories of the Good Old College.**

You have many fabulous stories of the 40s, 50s & 60s.
Write to us or ring us.

It could be a joke, an incident or a great achievement that can add flavour to our newsletter!

Let us share the collective memory of the

Glory of our Alma

Have you visited our website lately?

Why not today?

Let us know what you think about it.

Notice Board

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA Melbourne will be held on Saturday, 20 March 2010, at St John's Church, 52 Yarra Street Heidelberg. The meeting will follow the Holy Mass that will be said by Fr Anthony Gnanapragasam, the newly appointed Chaplain for the Tamil Catholic Community in Melbourne. The Holy Mass will begin at 7.15 pm.

The following people have volunteered to serve in the Management Committee for the year 2010/11:

James Joseph – President; Philip Ravindraraj – Secretary;

William Nimalraj – Treasurer

Other Committee Members:

Jeevaranjan Fernando, Angelo Fernando, Antony Gratian, Dr Anton Mariampillai, Chris Gunanayagam, Jeyandra Antonipillai, Dilip Manuelpillai, Valentine Manuelpillai, Vincent Pius & Canisius Gnanasooriar

These members will be formally proposed and seconded for the relevant positions at the AGM. Of course, any other members who would like to serve in the committee can be proposed, seconded and elected for any position in the usual manner at the AGM.

No doubt this will significantly cut down the time taken to elect office bearers at the AGM thus allowing ample time to enjoy the celebrative nature of the night with children.

As with all events, there is a cost involved in organising a social night like this with dinner, in particular the hall hire. So we are asking for donations of just \$10 per adult, which we are sure won't be deemed unreasonable.

A good number of you have already indicated your presence at the event. If you know of any other Patricians, please let them know of this event and bring them along. We look forward to seeing more of you to celebrate the night with fun and Patrician spirit.

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Annual subscription

Have you renewed your membership?

If not, please contact our Treasurer William Nimalraj on 9436 4124 and help us help our Alma Mater.

You can also pay your subscription by direct crediting our OBA account number: 063000 11520575 with CBA.