



St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA

Melbourne, Australia

P.O.Box 574, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Newsletter 13

March 2011

Dear Fellow Patricians

Once again it is a pleasure to write this message to all the members of the Association and families. Our next function and meeting is the Annual General Meeting which is scheduled for the 19th March 2011 to be held at St Paschal's Church hall, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill. The meeting will be preceded by the Annual Mass to celebrate St Patrick's Day said by Rev Fr Anthony Gnanapragasam, Chaplain for the Victorian Tamil Catholic Community at 6.30 pm, and will be followed by the traditional string-hopper meal.

At the AGM, the members will elect a new President, other office-bearers and Committee members. As I step down from the Presidency after 2 years, I can say with great pride that the last 2 years have been very successful with the great support of the members who served on the Committee and very enthusiastic participation of many of the members in the activities of the Association. My predecessor as President, Jeeva Fernando, supported ably by many members who have continued to serve on the Committee, revived the Association after some dormant years, and the last 2 years have continued this success. Very entertaining "Patrician Nite" events have been held and this event - which is the annual show-piece of the Association - has gone from strength to strength each year. On Australia Day, the members have participated in an all day cricket match and barbecue for the last 5 years. Last year, we played a match against the Old Boys of Jaffna College. This year, the teams representing the Bonjean and Dunne Houses played the annual cricket match. We commenced a tradition at the last "Patrician Nite" when 47 members took to the stage to sing the "Alma Mater" - the College Anthem.

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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

Email:

secretary@spcaustralia.com

Committee— 2009/10

President: James Joseph
Secretary: Philip Ravindraraaj
Treasurer : William Nimalraj
Committee Members: Jeevaranjan Fernando
 Angelo Fernando
 Dr Anton Mariampillai
 Chris Gunanayagam
 Jeyandra Antonipillai
 Dilip Manuelpillai
 Valentine Manuelpillai
 Vincent Pius
 Canisius Gnanasooriar
 Antony Gratian



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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

St Patrick's Day Mass , Celebrations & AGM — Saturday, 19 March 2011 — 6.30 pm

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The AGM is very well attended with many members participating and making many wonderful and constructive suggestions for the continued success of the Association. We also launched a website which also publishes photographs from our various functions - and from the feedback and other emails received - has been accessed many times by members and newcomers. We have continued to publish 3 or more newsletters in a calendar year and it is sent by mail to all the members who have provided their mailing addresses and is also emailed to the members who have provided their email addresses. I am very honoured to have served the members as the Association's President.

During the last Patrician Year, our current Rector, Rev Fr Jero Selvanayagam celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Priesthood. One of our former Rectors, Rev Fr Alston Mathuranayagam - under whom many of our members studied - passed away and the members attended a Holy Mass offered for the repose of his soul at St Scholastica's Church, Burwood. We were also pleased to welcome Rev Fr Justin Gnanapragasam, former Rector and currently the Vicar General of the Jaffna Diocese, who was in Melbourne on a private visit, to the annual cricket match in January. He was instrumental in the Association starting the annual cricket match and had also donated one of the trophies. Brief details of his talk at the event are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Last year, due to the efforts of Jeeva and his wife Yaso, we despatched to the College Library 18 boxes of books for the Primary School children. The members have suggested that we continue to collect books - which are appropriate for a school library - from our members and friends and send them to the College. Other members have suggested that we also send study equipment - such as stationery, calculators etc. We had a discussion with the Rector and he welcomes donations of more books for the Library. Every year, all classes have a library week when many activities connected with library, reading, etc are scheduled. Each week, they also have library classes and any addition to the stock is appreciated. Books of all kinds, fiction, non-fiction - books such as these bought for our children and most probably are

now gathering dust and eventually get thrown out. This is a great opportunity to support the educational activities of the College and if members can contribute books and other equipment, please bring them to the AGM or contact one of the Committee members. We have also purchased a set of cricket equipment through Angelo and the plan is to send the books and the equipment - hopefully in April 2011.

The December 2010 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 listed in the 'Notice Board' of this 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. Similar to last year, to meet the cost of the hall, a charge of \$10 per family is proposed. Most of the food is very generously provided by the Committee members and their spouses. Talking of spouses, certain spouses of Committee members rate a special mention, as they are not only present at all the functions, but also take a very active part in organising the event and ensuring everyone is well-fed and looked after. Well done, Ladies, you are a tower of strength to the Association.

The annual subscription of \$20 subsidises the three main events organised by the Association as well as pays 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 can continue to provide a forum for the alumni to meet and enjoy as well as provide assistance to our dear College.

James Joseph

President



Excerpts from the speech by Rev Fr Justin Gnanapragasam at the presentation of the annual cricket match trophy on 26 January 2011

1. Rishan Tudor - the First XI wicketkeeper-batsman who was selected for the national squad for the Asia Cup is the first Tamil to be selected for any similar honour since the Ceylon Schoolboys Team was captained by Paramsothy, another Patrician, many many years ago.
2. Dr Bala from the Education Ministry has assured that the SPC grounds will be developed into a premier ground for hosting top-level cricket matches for the Northern Province. The project is expected to get the green light once the cricket World Cup is finished, as at present all efforts are towards ensuring its success.
3. At the invitation of Fr Justin, Kumar Sangakkara, the Sri Lankan Cricket Captain, visited the College in June 2010 and addressed the students. This gave a much needed boost to the students, and Sangakkara has promised to do more to promote the game of cricket at SPC. (Pictures are in the OBA website).
4. Dr Arulraj Joseph and his wife Dr Teresa were the chief guests at the Annual Prize-giving for the year 2010 which was held on January 11, 2011. They praised the College for its many achievements in spite of all the hardship and problems faced by the students.
5. Rev Fr Michael Joseph - former Rector of the College - is still missing and no news is available as to his whereabouts.
6. The Kandy Road to Jaffna, after Vavuniya, is in very poor condition and while work is continuing to repair the road, recent floods have hampered the construction efforts.

Notice Board

Annual Dinner

The AGM of St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA Melbourne will be held on Saturday, 19 March 2011, at St Paschal's Church hall, 100 Albion Road, Box Hill. The event will follow the Holy Mass at 6.30 pm. A donation of \$10 per family will be appreciated to cover the hall hire.

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

Philip Ravindraraj – President;

James Joseph – Secretary;

William Nimalraj – Treasurer;

Other Committee Members:

Jeevaranjan Fernando, Angelo Fernando, Dr Anton Mariampillai; Chris Gunanayagam; Jeyandra Antonipillai; Dilip Manuelpillai; Valentine Manuelpillai; Vincent Pius.

Books & Stationery to be sent to College

Books appropriate for a school library, stationery, calculators, pens – anything which can be given to students. Please bring them to the AGM or contact James Joseph on 9702 4884

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.