



St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA

Melbourne, Australia

P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Newsletter 17

July 2012

Dear Fellow Patricians

I am delighted to write this message for the 17th edition of our newsletter. This year is the 20th anniversary of our Melbourne OBA, and we are in very good company with our Canadian brothers celebrating their silver jubilee and the Colombo Alumni Association celebrating its centenary year.

Our Patrician year commenced on 17th March with St Patrick's Day Mass followed by AGM and the traditional string-hopper and puttlu meal. The AGM was well attended with many members making constructive suggestions for the continued success of the Association and its activities. The Treasurer reported that the association earned a net income of \$264 for the year 2011/12. The expenses included a remittance of \$1,500 to the College to support its ever thriving cricket activities.

Our next major event is "Patrician Nite 2012" scheduled for Saturday, 15 September, to be held at the Glen Waverley Community Centre, 700 Waverley Road, Glen Waverley. This year, the smorgasbord dinner will be provided by 'Mango Tree' with entertainment provided by our very own 'SHAMROCKERS' - Yes, the boys and girls have grown up and with them their artistic talents. The Community Centre hall is large enough to accommodate more patrons than in the past with more room for everyone to move about and meet other Patricians and friends. Trophies for the winners and runners up from the cricket / rounders matches played on Australia Day will be presented at this event. As always, it is open for all Patricians, their families and friends. If you have not been contacted by one of our Committee members for this event, please call me on 9551 6918 (AH) and I will be glad to arrange your tickets.

The Global Reunion of Patricians has now become a more regular event with Norway holding a reunion last July and Jaffna getting ready to hold a mega global reunion in August this year. Many Patricians from around the world are gearing up for this super event, and Dr Anton Mariampillai, the Founding

Continued on page 4

SPC Jaffna OBA—Melbourne

Established : 1992
Current Membership:..... 21
No. of Patricians in Vic : 112 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 — 2012/13

President: Philip Ravindraraj
Secretary: James Joseph
Treasurer : William Nimalraj
Committee Members: Jeevaranjan Fernando
 Angelo Fernando
 Chris Gunanayagam
 Jeyandra Antonipillai
 Vincent Pius
 M R I Cherubim
 Noel Rajiv
 Anandarajan James

Rector's report on the progress of cricket
at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna
Since 2009

The game of Cricket at St. Patrick's is gaining momentum in the recent times. The students are doing well and their performance is remarkable.

The **under 19 team** (1st Eleven) of 2009 was adjudged the best team in Northern Province by the Sri Lanka School Cricket Association and it got promoted from Division III to Division II. In 2010/2011, the team played six tournament matches and five friendly Matches and participated in the Murali cup – limited fifty overs cricket tournament and became 2nd runner up. We emerged champions in the All Island Invitation 6-A-Side Cricket Tournament conducted by Maristonian Sports Club. In the T/20 cricket tournament organized by Jaffna College, our team emerged champions. In 2011/2012 in Division II 1st XI cricket team played 6 Tournament matches won 4 matches by 1st innings lead, one by outright win and one by out right innings win. Three players were selected to play for the North-East Provincial Cricket team.

At the Battle of the Golds 95th Cricket Encounter held on 24th & 25th of February, the Patricians won the match after 5 years. It had been a draw for the past five years.

The 24th 50 overs, Rajan Kadirkamar Challenge cup too was won by the patricians. Out of the 24 encounters held so far Patricians have won 18 times.

The **Under 17 Team** emerged champions in Jaffna District in 2009 and in 2010. Consecutively for four years the under 17 team had been the champions in Jaffna District.

In 2009 three Patricians played for the Jaffna District selected team and among them one was selected for the North-East Provincial Team. In 2010 the Under 17 team played 15 limited fifty overs, won 13 and lost two and became the runner up of the Under 17 All Island Cricket Tournament (Division III) conducted by Sri Lanka Schools' Cricket Association and got promoted to Division II for the 2011 Cricket tournament. In 2011 the Under 17 team played three matches in the 1st round won two and lost one and got selected to the Second Round. It played 3 matches, won one and lost two.

The **Under 15 Cricket Team** in 2009, played 5 matches won 3 and lost 2. Three Patricians played for Under 15 Jaffna District Team and North East Provincial Team. A. Ajith Darwin who led the team was awarded as the best Bowler in the Inter District Tournament held at National level. W. C. L. Livingston scored Century (125) against St. John's College, 'B' team. In 2010, the Under 15 Cricket team played 6 matches won 4, lost 2 and came up to pre quarter finals stage. In 2011 played 8 Matches won 6 and lost two. Two players played for Un-15 North East Provincial Team in 2010 and 2011.

The **Under 13 Team** played 4 Matches in the 1st round and 2 matches in the Second round in 2010. In 2011 played 5 Matches won two and lost One.

Fr. M Jero Selvanayagam
Rector

Mr F.N.C. Saverimuttu: To Sir with Love

by Prof Charles Santiapillai

Of all the teachers whom we were privileged to study under at St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, Mr F.N.C. Saverimuttu was the most refined, erudite and dignified. He was also an enigma and a puzzle. He was an extremely private person who guarded his privacy fiercely. In the class room, he was one of the most mesmerizing teachers who could keep the students with his mastery of Queen's English. He was the quintessential teacher of the English language, instructor of its grammar and interpreter of its literature. It was FNC (as he was known to all) who introduced us to the poetry of Rudyard Kipling, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Lewis Carroll, to name a few. I still remember the collection of poems we had to study from that great book, 'On Freedom Way'. It was from FNC that we learnt to our utter delight that the English grammar had a 'dangling participle'!

FNC inspired love and respect in all those who had had the privilege of studying under him. Beneath his bemused detachment was his passion to teach English to anyone who showed even a passing interest in the subject. A thorough gentleman to his fingertips, FNC abhorred the very idea of corporal punishment, for which SPC was very famous in those days. While other teachers beat the daylight out of us using the palm, 'pirambu' (cane) or knuckles, when words failed them, to bring into line those who tried to be a smart ass, FNC would simply use his mordant wit, undiluted sarcasm and sense of humour to get the desired result. His technique never failed, and sometimes we found the beating by other teachers more preferable and endurable to the humiliation suffered while being deflated by FNC in the presence of other students.

Of all the teachers who gave us an English education at College, FNC was perhaps the closest we got to a model teacher. When it came to dressing, FNC was quite a dandy. He always came to College in coat and tie and a hat on his head. He believed that if you were a teacher, you should be a role model and dress appropriately and well so that you did look like a teacher and not a cleaner. His clothes made a statement. He did not own a car and he considered riding a bicycle unbecoming of a scholar, and so he always walked to and from College, whether it rained or shined. The very best things in life always leave you wanting for more. It was the same with FNC classes. They were so interesting and rewarding that we never felt the time passing. He would always engage the whole class and keep the students motivated with his lively approach.

He would encourage us to read, read, and read (His constant exhortation to us was "You must read books and swallow newspapers!"). He always insisted on the correct use of grammar. He welcomed the students who wanted to know the meaning of difficult words. While we stuck to the words we found difficult in our text books, another more intrepid and indomitable student, who I'd just identify as Jay, would burn the midnight oil to search the dictionary for the most intriguing, unfamiliar and unpronounceable words (e.g. Antidisestablishmentarianism, Armageddon, Phantasmagoria to name a few) and bring them to the class with the view to stumping FNC. And FNC would know it. One day Jay got his comeuppance. FNC once showed Jay the essay that he had corrected; it was so full of mistakes that FNC had the full use of his red pen to highlight them. The script was so red, that FNC teased Jay that he could stop the Yarl Devi (that famous Colombo-Jaffna express train) just by waving it! Although the entire class erupted in fits of uncontrollable laughter, Jay did not find that funny. That night, after watching a late night movie at the Regal Cinema, which ended at midnight, Jay rode back home on his bicycle. En route, along Chapel Street where FNC lived, he had an epiphany and decided to get even with him and as he came close to the house, he shouted at the top of his characteristic deep, husky, baritone voice "Addo FNC". Before he could say Saverimuttu, came the reply from within the house, Good night, Jay. During the entire class the next day, while Jay remained as quiet as a mouse, there stood FNC grinning from ear to ear like a Cheshire cat.

Once FNC asked us to write an essay on a cricket match that we had been to recently. While every one of us racked our brains and scribbled vigorously to compose a credible account, Jay finished his essay in a jiffy, handed his paper to FNC and walked out triumphantly for a well-earned rest. FNC saw the piece and was astounded by its brevity. It simply read "Heavy rains, match cancelled". It was brilliant, on par with the shortest verse in the Bible - Jesus wept (John, 11:35). FNC gave him the highest mark.

During the time we studied at St Patrick's College, we were extremely fortunate to have had the pleasure of learning under a variety of talented and dynamic teachers and FNC was one of them. They had that undefinable, mystical property known as class. They not only cared about us, but promoted enthusiasm for the subject they taught. As long as people remember them, they are not really dead. As Thomas Hardy observed we have two deaths: The first is when we die, the second is when the last person who knew us dies.

Charles Santiapillai (Class of 1962)

Editor's Note: The above is extracted from an article written by Dr Charles Santiapillai, Professor, Dept of Zoology, University of Peradeniya. Charles has written and co-authored many books and academic publications. Charles's father - Mr S.F.Santiapillai - was also a great teacher at SPC and taught English in the middle school. Both FNC master and "Santiapillai master" also taught Latin to the seminarians and every priest who studied at St Martin's Seminary in the 50's and 60's studied under them. SPC is blessed to have had the services of such dedicated and wonderful teachers.

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President of the Melbourne OBA, will be representing our Association in the official functions of the event. An eight day tour around the country and the 'Centenary Celebration of the Colombo Alumni' following the global reunion is set to revive pleasant memories of our formative years.

In 2010, we despatched 18 boxes of books to the College Library for the use of Primary School children. We have been trying to collect from our members and friends more books that are appropriate for a school library. Some members have suggested that we also send study materials - 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. This is a great opportunity to support the educational activities of the College and if members can contribute books and other study materials, please contact one of the Committee members. Books of all kinds, fiction, non-fiction - books such as those bought for our children that are most probably gathering dust and get thrown out - would be appreciated.

The annual subscription of \$20 subsidises the three main events organised by the Association as well as pays for the administrative costs involved with the newsletter, printer, website, P.O. Box, etc. We urge our members to pay their subscription so that the Association will continue to grow in friendship and support our Alma Mater in more meaningful ways.

P Ravindraraj

President

The Tamil Catholic Association of Victoria is celebrating its **Silver Jubilee** this year on October 21st, with mass at St Andrew's Church, 76 Springs Road, Clayton, at 4.30 pm, followed by gala dinner.

Melbourne Archdiocese Auxiliary Bishop Most Rev. Peter Elliot will be the guest of honour and concelebrate the holy mass.

TCAV organising committee cordially invites you and your family to participate and grace the occasion.

Notice Board

Patrician Nite 2012

Saturday 15 September 2012



20th Anniversary Special

Venue: Glen Waverley Community Centre

700 Waverley Road, Glen Waverley (Mel 71B4)

Early start at **6.30 pm** (to accommodate musical entertainment)

Music – SHAMROCKERS—Our very own boys and girls

Smorgasbord – provided by “MANGO TREE”

Wine and Soft Drinks provided

BYO liquor

Raffles

Presentation of Australia Day Cricket / Rounders Trophies

Tickets - \$35 (Children under 12 - \$15)

The members and families attending the Patrician Nite have been increasing every year. Following request by members for more spacious accommodation, the function is held this year in a large hall and is open to all Patricians, their families and friends. Each table can seat 8 people and members are welcome to invite their friends to come along and spend an enjoyable evening – dining and dancing as well as meeting other Patricians and make new friends. It is a once-an-year occasion for Patricians to celebrate and foster fellowship amongst their lot. A Committee Member will be in touch with every Patrician. If you have not been contacted, please call the President on 9551 6918 (after hours) to obtain the tickets.

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.