



St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA

Melbourne, Australia

P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Newsletter 18

December 2012

Dear Fellow Patricians

Once again I take great pleasure in writing this message for the December 2012 newsletter to all members of the Melbourne OBA and families. The highlight of the Patrician year to-date was the Patrician Nite held on 15 September 2012. A Big Thank you to all the members who purchased the tickets, attended the function with families and friends and made the night another memorable event in our calendar. Fifty-three Patricians took to the stage and sang the College Anthem - the "alma mater". The entertainers on the night were our very own "Shamrockers" (who first showed off their talents in 2008) - the boys and girls have since grown up and the ladies and gentlemen – all of whom attended many practice sessions over many weeks and 'put on' a great show on the night and did us all proud. Special 'Thank You' to the members who organised the show. Photographs from the event have been published in our website – www.spcaustralia.com

Our next function is the Australia Day cricket & Barbeque scheduled for Sunday 27 January 2013 to be held again at Wattle Park. The Tennis courts have been booked for the children and the ladies are invited to play a game of rounders. The day will commence with the Barbeque at 11.30 am to be followed by the games. This way, we can ensure that all can take part in both the BBQ and the games.

From the SPC Cricket Fund, \$1,500 is being sent to the College for the school's cricket activities. The annual cricket day is also the day when members contribute to the SPC Cricket Fund which is remitted to the College annually to support its cricket activities. The names of the members who contributed this year are published elsewhere in the newsletter. Thank you again for all the contributors – without you, there will not be a SPC Cricket Fund.

As we have done in previous years, printed on this newsletter is a nomination form for the members to volunteer to serve in the Committee and/or to nominate to hold a position for the next Patrician year. The names of the members who have volunteered will be published in the newsletter before the AGM which, as usual, is expected to be held on the St Patrick's Day weekend in March 2013.

Hope to see all Patricians and their families at the cricket / barbeque day. On behalf of the Committee Members, I wish you all and your families an enjoyable and safe X'Mas and happy New Year.

Philip Ravindraraj

President



SPC Jaffna OBA—Melbourne

Established : 1992
Current Membership:..... 21
No. of Patricians in Vic : 114 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
 Chrys Gunanayagam
 Jeyandra Antonipillai
 Vincent Pius
 M R I Cherubim
 Noel Rajiv
 Anandarajan James

Rev Fr John-Mary – a teacher for all students

All of us were influenced by our teachers in one form or another during our school days and all of us have fond memories of some of our teachers. It takes a special kind of person to leave a lasting effect on one and Fr John-Mary was one of them.

Rev Fr Jean-Marie Couchouron (or Fr John-Mary as he was known), was the Vice Rector at St Patrick's between January 1960 and April 1965. He was born on 4 April 1922 in Rosneen, France and entered the Junior Seminary in 1933 and the Oblate Seminary (i.e. Oblates of Mary Immaculate - O.M.I.) in 1941. He was ordained a priest on 29 February 1948 and arrived in Sri Lanka as an Oblate missionary on 17 September 1948. After a short stint at St Joseph's Institute, Columbuturai (Colombogam), he served as Assistant Parish Priest at Point Pedro for 2 years and Naranthanai, Kayts for 3 years and was then appointed as the Parish Priest of St Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna, in November 1955. He learnt to speak Tamil fluently and was very efficient, enthusiastic and was a great motivator. In January 1960, he was appointed as the Vice Rector of the College.

Fr John-Mary's dedication to improving the College in all aspects was remarkable and even today many students remember him with gratitude. He combined discipline with kindness and paternal concern and his solicitude for the welfare of the students extended beyond the College. He used to communicate with parents of many students about their progress and the students found in his person a loving father who was available to them at any time.

Fr John Mary was also in charge of Sports and could not understand why St Patrick's does not play any matches against St John's Chundukuli, our nearest neighbour. Matches (both cricket and football) between the two Colleges had been abandoned some 30 years previously when a fight erupted between students (and others) from the two Colleges at the annual football match and had resulted in many getting injured. After lengthy negotiations between Fr John Mary (leading the way) and the Principal of St John's, the first recommencement cricket match was played in the 1961 cricket season. St John's won the encounters in 1961 and 1962. The 1963 match was thus a "grudge" match and was played at St John's grounds. Fr John Mary visited every class room to address the students to let us know that strict rules would be enforced – no sledging, no boo-ing, no slow hand clapping and we were to be on our best behaviour throughout the match. School closed early on Friday afternoon and all the masters were required to attend the match and supervise the students from SPC. The match, as usual was played over 2 days, and was a classic encounter. St John's needed to make 2 runs to win with 4 wickets in hand. *The legend goes* that Anthony Pillai (who represented the College in cricket and football) was keeping wickets and shouted from behind the stumps to the bowler (pace bowler Jeyasingham) – so that the batsman can hear – "mandaikundu podu, matchan!" (in other words "bowl a bouncer"), Jeyasingham steamed in and bowled a bouncer, the batsman hooked and was caught at deep mid-wicket. Jeyasingham went on to take a hat-trick. Rasaiya - who was the captain - bowled the next over which was a maiden. Theiventhiran, who had opened the bowling with Jeyasingham bowled the next over and took the final wicket, without the addition of a single run to St John's College's total and SPC won the match by one run. Gnanam master told the class on Monday that he could not watch the last 2 overs – he had his eyes tightly shut until the last wicket fell!. In the subsequent traditional procession back to the College, Fr John Mary and many of the heroes were carried on the shoulders of the celebrating senior boys for most of the way!

One day, Fr John Mary came to the class making inquiries about the whereabouts of a certain student and was told by a wag from the back of the class "He is on French Leave, Father". Quick as a flash, Fr John Mary (being a Frenchman) growled "We call it English Leave". It was left to FNC master - who was taking the class at that time - to explain that "being on French Leave" was a derogatory term used by the English against the French and means "taking leave of absence without permission". (One assumes that the term "French cut" in cricket has similar origins!)

In April 1965, Fr John Mary was sent to Kuala Lumpur, as the Superior of the pioneer batch of Oblates who had been sent there to open the first foreign mission of the Sri Lankan Oblate Province. When Fr John Mary left, ½ the school and much of Jaffna must have turned up at the Jaffna Railway Station to wave goodbye – most people could not get onto the station platform.

Fr John Mary passed away in Singapore on 18 August 1995, at the age of 73. He was an extraordinary missionary and an inspiration to all who came into contact with him.

Note: Details of Fr John Mary's early life were obtained from an article written by Manuel Jesudasan, Canada - in the souvenir of Patriarchs Global Reunion, Bergen 2011.

A Classic Cricket Match

A classic cricket match was played in March 1963 between St John's and St Patrick's. SPC won the match by one run. In 1961, cricket and football matches between the 2 Colleges had re-started after a 30 year absence. A.C.T. Rasaiya (Christy Rasaiya), the Captain of the SPC First Eleven cricket team describes the last few moments of the match (to James Joseph):

The match was a low-scoring affair. A.E.Jeyasingham and K.J.Theiventhran were the opening bowlers and I was the third seamer. Both teams played very well.

St John's was on the verge of winning and had to score only 6 runs with 4 wickets in hand. 2 stalwarts from St John's were bowling – the captain of St John's, D.J.N. Selvadurai and the vice-captain, M. Theivendran (both of whom went on to become doctors) – when I tossed the ball to Jeyasingham and suggested that he bowl as fast as possible. The first ball was a bouncer and was hooked to the boundary. 2 runs to go. Jeyasingham was furious and bowled another faster bouncer. The batsman went to repeat the shot, top-edged it and was caught at deep mid-wicket by Anandarajan. That was the turning point in the match. Jeyasingham took the next 2 wickets – thus taking a hat-trick - and finished the over without conceding any further runs. S.N.J.Anthonypillai, who was one of the best wicket-keepers at that time, told me (I was standing in the slips) that they were the fastest balls he had kept to in his life. I bowled the next over which was a maiden over. Still 2 runs needed for St John's to win the match with the last pair at the crease.

K.J.Theiventhran, then offered to bowl the next over. The first ball was a perfectly pitched ball and struck the batsman, which we all thought, was “plumb in front”. We all appealed, but the umpire said “Not Out”. I told Theiventhran to bowl a similar ball again. He bowled another “beauty” which was perfectly pitched and struck the batsman again in the same spot. This time Umpire Thambiah (who was the sports master at Hartley College) gave the batsman “Out”. We had won the match by 1 run. Fr John Mary rushed on to the field, embraced and actually kissed me. The boys would not let us get into the College bus to return to the College and carried most of us on their shoulders in a procession back to the College. Fr Jeevaratnam, our Rector at that time, met us at the entrance to the College, congratulated us and gave me Rs 100 (which was a lot of money those days) for us to celebrate with. The team members met the next day at Subas Café and spent the money on ice cream.

Note: K.J.Theiventhran (who was the son of Kaneshapillai master) joined the Air Force and served with distinction. A.E.Jeyasingham became the Assistant Commissioner of Excise. Both have now passed away and died relatively young. Both Theiventhran and Packyanathan (who regularly fielded at “close to the wicket” positions such as short leg and silly point) were named as “Northern Province Island Cricketers of the year” in their fields – bowling and fielding respectively. Our three-pronged pace attack and some of the best fielders and batsmen formed one of the most successful cricket teams of the College that year and we won most of the matches that season (except the last 2 including the “Battle of the Golds”, which is another story for another day!)

Editor's note: Christy Rasaiya worked as a banker in Colombo and is now happily retired.



Contributors to the SPC Cricket Fund - 2012

Pillai Mariasegaram	Isidore Manoraj
Vincent Pius	Dr Anton Mariampillai
Nimal Augustine	William Nimalraj
Jeyendra Antonipillai	Philip Ravindraraaj
Angelo Fernando	Joseph Vijayaratnam
Jeevaranjan Fernando	Terry James
Antony Graian	Noel Rajiv
Chrys Gunanayagam	James Joseph
Ranjan Gunaratnam	Patrick Rajaratnam
Jerard Jogaratnam	Anandarajan James

NOTICE BOARD

Annual Cricket Day & Barbeque

Australia Day cricket match and BBQ will be held on Sunday, 27 January 2013 at Warle Park, 1012 Riversdale Road, Burwood (Melway ref: 60 J2)

Time: 11.30 am – Barbeque to be followed by cricket and rounders matches.

It is a fun day for all members of the family.

- Tennis courts have been booked for the kids. Please bring your racquets.
- A game of rounders for the ladies. Trophy to be presented to the winning team. Ladies, please come prepared!
- Members and families who would like to participate in the cricket match (T20 format) , please contact Jeyandra (0404 108 659)

Cost: Barbeque - \$10 (\$20 for a family)

Eddie Ferninand 1Ferdii who lives in Perth and Joe Aloysius 1Sathii in Canada have linked Patricians around the world in cyberspace by creating "Intersector" and publishing articles, celebrations, obituaries about Patricians in special bulletins which are circulated to over 1,600 members. You can have yourself included in this mailing list by sending an email to: e_ferdinand1@ekit.com

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.

St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA Melbourne

Nomination Form

Nomination for the election of Management Committee Members for the year 2013/2014

Full Name of Nominee :.....

Position Nominated for:.....

I, volunteer to serve in the Management Committee in the abovementioned position.

To be completed at the AGM

Full Name of Proposer:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

Address:.....

Full Name of Seconder:.....

Signature:..... Date:.....

Address:.....