



# St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA

Melbourne, Australia

P.O.Box 574, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Newsletter 4

May 2008

## College News.....

### Results of the G.C.E. (O/L) Examination - 2007

#### English medium

1) J. Joy Mathavan 10A (EM)	2) M. Mithilan 10A
3) T.Franklin Niraj 9A, C	4) P.Barath 8A, 2B
5) T.Nirojith 7A, 2, B, C (EM)	6) V.Richy Donald 7A, 2B, C
7) Leslie Janarthan 7A,B,C,S (EM)	8) M.Gastonraj 6A,4B (EM)
9) P.V.R Rajeevan 6A, 4B	10) J.Shantharuban 6A, 3,B,C (EM)
11) M.John Xavier 6A,2B, 2C (EM)	12) P.J.T Thanos 6A,2B, 2C (EM)
13) A Clemenson 6A, 2B, 2C (EM)	14) Valantine Morris6A,2B,C,S(EM)
15) James Colington 6A, 2B, C,S	16) V.Deluxan 5A, 5B, (EM)
17) K.Premnath 5A, 4B, C	18) F.R. Nitharsan 5A, 4B, C
19) S. Ansley Philip 5A, 4B, C	20) Duglas Sathees5A, 3B, C, (EM)
21) John Calistus 5A, 2B, 2C,S	22) S.C Ajanthan 5A, B,3C,S(EM)

144 students sat the above exam and 113 have got through the exam. Thus 79 % have qualified to follow Advanced Level Classes.

#### SPECIFIC FEATURE OF THIS YEAR'S O/L BATCH

Twenty Six Students from our College sat the G. C. E. O/L 2007 exam, offering Major subjects in English Medium. They had been following this course system from Grade Six (2002) onwards. They offered the other subjects namely, Technical Subjects, Aesthetics and Religion in their native tongue which is deemed necessary. This is the First and the Only Batch of students from Jaffna District to sit for the above exam. Upholding the pride and glory of their Alma Mater, all 26 students have got through the exam with remarkable achievements. Many of these students are keen to study further in English Medium. Hence, we have started to teach Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Mathematics in English medium in the Advanced level from this year onwards. I am certain that the Alumni will be supportive to this venture.

Fr. M. Jero Selvanayagam

RECTOR

The Melbourne OBA congratulates the former Rector Fr. Justin and Rector Fr. Jero, teachers and students of SPC for their outstanding achievements in the GCE (O/L) last year, particularly in the English Medium.

### SPC Jaffna OBA—Melbourne

Established : ..... 1988

Current Membership:..... 25

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

OBA Locker : St Pascal's Church  
100, Albion Rd, Box Hill.

### Committee— 2008/09

**President:** Jeevaranjan.Fernando

**Secretary:** Antony Gratian

**Treasurer :** Philip Ravindraraj

**Social Secretary:** Nimal Augustine

**Committee Members:** Angelo Fernando

Cornelius Sebastian

Jerad Jogaratnam

Anton Newton

Guna Arulanantham

Alfred Reynold

William Nimalraj

### Cricket Team Captains—2008/09

**Matthews Team :** Ranjan Gunaratnam

**Long Team :** Isidore .F. Manoraj

**Dunne Team :** Terry James

**Bonjean Team :** Dilip Manuelpillai

### Friendship, Support, and former Patricians in Australia

This article is about looking at our life in Australia, with the sad incidence of the passing away of a former Patrician recently. Almost everyone of you would have heard about the passing away of Anton Raviraj under tragic circumstances, and the eulogies that followed from his numerous close friends. I was in the same class as Raviraj, right from Primary school. He was a great sportsman, and I was not. So our paths did converge all the time during our school days. But I can still remember his smile and easy going ways, even after 30 years. During the 10 odd years at school with him, I had never seen him upset. I remember stopping over at Suresh Chellappa's house on Main Street. Normally you could find Ravi, Deva & Joachimpillai standing outside with their bicycles, and we usually have a long yarn. The other thing I remember is that anyone excelling in sports, got the full brunt of Sam Master's wrath during Chemistry lessons, and Ravi was no exception to this, maybe also due to his keen interest in Physics. Ravi was married to our Physics teacher Gnamam Master's second daughter.

Ravi was the Captain for St. Patrick's College cricket team - under 17 and under 19 in 1979. Later, he became the Jaffna University Cricket Captain and played at Young Patrician's Cricket Team. He also played basketball for St Patrick's College and young Patricians. It is a great tragedy such a person has passed away so early in life. It is sad thing to say, that even though I have lived in this country for so many years, we never met after leaving school. I have been to Sydney hundreds of times, but never had the opportunity to catch up with my former classmates. I take this opportunity to convey my deepest condolences to his family.

I also want to take this opportunity to provide my view of what I think is important for our OBA in Melbourne, and our life in Australia.

We need to get together more as former patricians and provide support and friendship to each other. We do not have to do what other Patrick's OBA's are doing around the world. They have the numbers and facilities to do quite a lot of things. But we are a very small community here in Melbourne. Every one has their personal commitments and pressures in life.

The main reason for belonging to an OBA, in my view, is to meet in a relaxed environment, to talk of school days, and also talk of the current issues we face here as migrants. In my view, we do not need to have big functions such as dinner dances. Simply meeting say once in two months, for a Mass, followed by some eats, would satisfy our needs. We should re-ignite the memories of school days, which will provide us mental satisfaction to tackle life here in Australia.

**Valentine Manuelpillai**

### *In Memory of a dedicated Patrician*

March 10, 2008

On behalf of SPC OBA Melbourne, we express our thanks for giving us this opportunity to send this message for the publication in memory of Rev Fr. Packiaranjith, an old boy of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka, on his death anniversary.

The SPC OBA Melbourne voice revulsion over the brutal claymore attack that killed Rev. Fr. Packiaranjith, the coordinator of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Mannar District and the founder and charter president of St. Patrick's College OBA, Mannar, Sri Lanka.

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since Fr. Ranjith's death as we are still trying to come to terms with this shocking news. During this period I've come in contacts with people who had been very close to him. Though they all have had many moving stories to share with, the underlying reflection was that Fr. Ranjith had been a real Patrician who is a noble man.

As young as an eight year old boy, Ranjith had a dream of serving the God through the priesthood to the extent of climbing the hierarchy by serving God's wishes. In his dedicated journey he took God's words "Not my will, but your will be done" (Luke 22:42) as his motto. Life of Fr. Ranjith had already proved that he has made his boyhood dream come true.

We, members of the Patrician family are really proud of him. We are saddened to realize that he is no more with us to witness his imminent achievements. In that sense, we have lost a valuable member of our family.

We mourn in a special way as we commemorate the death anniversary of Fr. Ranjith. He is one of the humanitarian aid workers who died in defense of human rights. His name will forever live in our hearts. His contribution to the long-drawn work on humanitarian advocacy will never be forgotten.

Needless to say, the world has become a better place to live in because Fr. Ranjith had once walked closely with the people he served in this life's journey! Let these noble thoughts on him somehow console his loved ones and co-workers who are left behind.

We applaud you, Fr. Ranjith's mother, brother Packiareginald, family members, friends and Mannar diocese, for the publishing of the remembrance magazine. May this homage always remind us of the utmost self-giving of Fr. Ranjith and inspire us to give our best in our human rights work especially when we tend to be discouraged by the glaring difficulties and challenges of today.

Yours sincerely,

Angelo Fernando.

Secretary,

St. Patrick's College OBA, Melbourne, Australia.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA Melbourne - Annual Dinner	—	23 August 2008
St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA Melbourne - Cricket & BBQ	—	25 January 2009
St Patrick's Day Mass , Celebrations & AGM	—	21 March 2009

*Dear Fellow Patricians,*

Hope you all had a great St Patrick's Day.

It was very encouraging to note that the attendance to St Patrick's Day celebrations has increased by 50% compared to last year.

As in the past, Our Patron Saint's Feast was celebrated in style, starting with cake cutting by Fr. Gnanarajah. The beautifully made cake was sponsored by Guna Arulanantham.



As usual the fantastic food was cooked and sponsored by few patrician families. Wine was served as appetizer. While being grateful to those who contributed to celebrate the day, I invite all patricians to consider sharing in the preparation of food in the future.

The past year's committee was commended for their work by the members and encouraged by past presidents and committee members of the OBA. As you would have noticed the new committee for the year 2008/09 comprise six members from the past year's committee and five new members.

### Focus

This year the committee's focus will be on increasing membership and building a solid financial foundation for the OBA Melbourne. Our annual membership fee is just \$20, which is used for administrative expenses and for St Patrick's Day celebrations. For the past few years approximately 25 patricians paid their membership fee. I kindly urge all patricians to promptly pay your membership fees and be part of the OBA. Together we can do great things for our Alma Mater that made us who we are today.

### Patrician Perpetual Trust Fund (PPTF)

The PPTF was an initiative by Former Rector Fr Justin Gnanapragasam. The idea was to build a perpetual fund which will not be used but the returns of the fund will be used to supplement the college needs. The fund will be administered by Trustees, and the College Rector can request for assistance through Trustees.

We published the mail we received from Mr. M.D. Jesuthasan (Secretary of PPTF) in our newsletter in the past. As you would have noticed Jaffna, Colombo and Toronto OBA are sending funds to PPTF. The OBA UK has started their own fund in the UK with a target to build up 250,000 Pounds.

The Melbourne OBA has not made any contributions or commitments to the PPTF. However, as the PPTF Secretary requests, if any patricians wish to contribute

to the fund you are encouraged to do so by contacting PPTF directly .

### Cricket Sponsorship

Last year 30 generous Patricians committed to support the college cricket annually. According to the survey we received, majority of the sponsors are supportive to build a Cricket Fund in OBA's name and for now send \$1500 to the college, annually. One suggestion is that if all the 90 members in our list contribute a \$200 one-off payment to the cricket fund, then the interest alone would be enough to satisfy the annual sponsorship amount. This will potentially ease everyone from having to make annual contributions for cricket in the future. The alternative is to raise additional funds via other means until a substantial amount is saved.

### Patricians Family and Friends Music Band

At the AGM, members expressed their views regarding the Annual Dinner and requested to accommodate Patrician's friends and families to maintain a non-formal atmosphere. The committee will endeavour to fulfil this request.

In the meantime the committee is looking to establish a **'Patricians Family and Friends Music Band'**. While providing opportunity to the talented patricians and their young ones to display their musical skills, the band can be very useful to our association to both save and raise funds. Those who have relevant talents and like to be a part of this 'BAND', please contact Jerad Jogaratnam on 9404 4126 before 30 May 2008. This year our Annual Dinner is scheduled for August and you will have limited time to prepare for the night!

*Jeevaranjan Fernando*

## Notice Board

### Cricket

Thank you very much for your email. The staff and students are really motivated with your words of encouragement and appreciation. I am much pleased to note your commitment towards the welfare of the College. Under 15 and Under 17 cricket teams emerged champions in Jaffna schools' Cricket Association's tournament for the year 2007. First time the both teams became champions in the same year. **We thank the Patricians of Australia for their support for the Game of Cricket.**

I give below the details of the College Cricket News.

1. S.P.C Vs Union College -S.P.C won by an innings and 132 runs
2. S.P.C Vs Skandavarodhaya College -S.P.C won by 3 wickets
3. S.P.C Vs Mahajana College -Match drawn
4. S.P.C Vs Jaffna Hindu College -S.P.C won by an innings and 4 runs.
5. S.P.C Vs Kokuvil Hindu College -Match drawn
6. S.P.C Vs St. John's College -S.P.C won by 3 wickets
7. S.P.C Vs Jaffna Central College -Match drawn
8. **Battle of the Golds**  
S.P.C Vs Jaffna College -Match drawn
9. **Limited over match ( 50 overs)**  
S.P.C Vs Jaffna College -S.P.C 127 in 44.4 overs  
-J.C 128 in 41.5 overs.

**Fr .M Jero Selvanayagam—RECTOR**

### **Rev. Dr. Bennet Constantine**

25 May 2008

Fr Constantine was an old boy of SPC Jaffna in the 1930's—40's

Thanks giving Mass will be celebrated at St Peter's Catholic Church, Michigan

SPC OBA Melbourne wishes our former Rector Fr Justin Gnanapragasam **Many Happy Returns** on his 60th Birthday on 13th May 2008.

Fr Justin's birthday celebrations in the UK is organised jointly by SPC and St Henry's old boys which will be held on Saturday, 24th May.

Want to be in touch with our SPC Community around the world?

Please join Ferdi's email list by sending your email address to:

[e\\_ferdinand1@ekit.com](mailto:e_ferdinand1@ekit.com)

### **+++OBITUARIES+++**

Mr. Albert Santhiapillai's (former teacher SPC) sister Mrs. Concy Thurairetnam passed away under tragic circumstances on 1st May 2008 in Wellawatha, Sri Lanka. Funeral was held on 6th May in Colombo.

Mr. X.P.P. Raj Fernando, father of Angelo Fernando (Former Secretary and current committee member OBA Melbourne) passed away in Colombo on 29th April 2008.

Pakianathan Anton Raviraj passed away in Broulee beach on 26th April 2008. He was a fine athletic and a superb sportsman. He lead the college cricket team in 1979/80, and later lead the Jaffna University cricket team and athletic teams. His funeral was held in Sydney on Saturday 3rd of May 2008.

Mr. Francis Innocent Gunasingham, father of Victor St. George (ex Secretary OBA Melbourne) passed away in Melbourne on 23rd April 2008. Funeral was held on 26th April 2008 at the Fawkner Cemetery.

Mrs. Mary Alexander, mother of Brian Alexander (ex. President SPC OBA Melbourne) passed away in Sydney on 24th March 2008.

### From Our Rector

Here in Jaffna, we are saddened by the news of the demise of Patricians as well as the loved ones of the Patricians. Please communicate to everyone concerned our deepest sympathies and prayers.

They are all remembered in the assembly prayers here. The teachers and students join me in communicating this message to you. Please convey my deepest sympathies.

Fr Jero.

### From The Melbourne SPC OBA Committee

The last few weeks have been with full of bad and sad news for the Patrician families. Many Patricians acknowledged their shock and disbelief on Raviraj's tragic death.

The committee wishes to pass on the thoughts, sympathies and prayers of the many Melbourne Patricians to the relatives and loved ones of all the bereaving families.