



St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA

Melbourne, Australia

P.O.Box 574, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Newsletter 8

August 2009

Dear Fellow Patricians

It is with great pleasure I pen a few words for the August 2009 edition of the newsletter of St Patrick's College Jaffna, Melbourne OBA.

Since our very well attended AGM and the St Patrick's Day celebrations on 21 March 2009, your Committee has been 'hard at work' planning the next year's activities. As stated at the AGM, our membership has continued to increase and this meant that we have been able to organise 3 functions during the last couple of years - the Patrician Nite in September, the annual cricket match and other sporting activities during the Australia Day weekend and the St Patrick's Day celebrations and the AGM in March. These functions are a great success, in no small measure due to the tireless efforts of the many Committee members and other volunteers as well as their hard-working spouses and other family members. We feel immensely proud to have in our midst so many of the volunteers and our thanks for their selfless contributions.

I would also like to make a special mention of Jeevaranjan who was the Association's President for the past 2 years and led the committee in organising the various activities. Many thanks also to Jeeva's spouse, Bernadine who is a great supporter of the Association and continues to provide invaluable assistance - not the least of which her insistence that the Committee members, who invariably meet at Jeeva's house, are well fed while planning the Association's activities.

Our next function is scheduled for 24 October 2009 - this year's "Patrician Nite" to be held at St Scholastica's Primary School Hall, Burwood. For various reasons, it was decided to limit the night to an informal get-together and dinner and make it a fundraising event to support the College, especially to contribute towards the funds

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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

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

Committee— 2009/10

President: James Joseph

Secretary: Philip Ravindraraj

Treasurer : William Nimalraj

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

Former Vice Rector of SPC Jaffna, Fr. Philip Jesunesan, OMI, passed away on 13 Aug 2009, aged 69. His funeral took place on Monday, 17 August, at St Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna.

We join the thousands of Patricians who mourn the loss of another great servant of our Alma Mater. RIP

My Dear Patricians,

Warm Greetings to you from your Alma Mater in Jaffna.

I am much pleased to bring to your kind information that in the midst of many barriers and limitations, our students have done extremely well in sports as well as in studies.

Thirty students have gained admission to Sri Lankan Universities for various courses of studies.

3 for Medicine

1 for Engineering

2 for Information an Comm. Technology

7 for Bio Science & Agric. Science

3 for Physical Science

1 for Sidda Medicine

3 for Management

4 for Commerce

6 for Arts & Literature

At the Northern Provincial Sports Competitions concluded recently, the Patricians have performed extraordinarily well. All Patricians selected at District Level and participated at the Provincial Competitions, have won places and qualified for the National Level Schools Competitions which will be held in Colombo in September.

I give below the performance of our students at the Provincial Competitions.

A. Gavaskar	Under 17	100 Metres Race	First
		110 M Hurdles	First
		400 M Hurdles	First
PROVINCIAL LEVEL UNDER 17 CHAMPION			
J. Prathaap	Under 19	110 M Hurdles	First
		400 M Hurdles	Second
		800 Metres	Second
C. Jecson	Undere19	400 Metres	First
W. Livingston	Under 17	Javelin Throw	First
A. Nitharsan	Under 19	Triple Jump	First
		Long Jump	Second
R. Jenin	Under 21	110 M Hurdles	Second
B. Michael	Under 21	200 Metres Race	Second
Under 17		4 x 100 M Relay	First
		4 x 400 M Relay	Second
Under 19		4 x 100M Relay	Second
		4 x 400M Relay	First
Carrom	Under 15	Champions	
Tennis	Under 19	Champions	
Soccer	Under 19	Runners-Up	

The Patricians have secured **16 Gold Medals** and **15 Silver Medals** including the 4 Relay competitions.

It is my great pleasure to submit these outstanding achievements to the Alumni. – **Something to be proud of.**

Yours at the service of the College,

Fr. M. Jero Selvanayagam — Rector

July 2009

Extracts from the Rector's Tribute at the Funeral of Late Fr. P Jesunesan OMI

A fine living example of a true Patrician has disappeared from our midst. Thoroughness being the moving power of his activity, Fr. Jesunesan gave the prime time of his priesthood to St. Patrick's College.

It was a time of dark clouds continuously hovering and gloomy situation persisting in and around Jaffna. Terror, torture and abductions were the common phenomenon of that time. In that frightening situation Fr. Jesunesan shared our suffering and grief. It was in 1987, during the time of the IPKF, that Fr. Jesu, as the Warden of the hostel, in safeguarding a student wounded by a stray bullet, was interrogated and subjected to trauma, threat and humiliation.

No words of mine can sum up the sentiments of love and loyalty the then students had towards their Vice-Rector. The eagerness with which he looked after their moral and religious training, his empathy with them and his competence in developing their dormant potentials are the qualities that adorned the personality of Fr. Jesunesan.

The Parents certainly felt a sense of satisfaction and security that their children were placed under his soothing, watchful, zealous, protecting and loving guidance, because Fr. Jesu considered character formation as the bed-rock of true education.

To the teachers, he was a rock of refuge, sharing their burdens and sorrows, participating in their joys and anxieties. He used his talents and genius to promote their welfare. His wise guidance, ready sympathy, enlightened outlook and magnetic personality enabled the teachers to maintain an atmosphere of cordiality among them.

Vanni IDPs live under appalling condition: Sri Lankan Chief Justice

Addressing a public meeting on 2 June 2009, Sri Lanka's Chief Justice Sarath N. Silva who retired at the end of June said:

"I visited 'relief villages' where Vanni IDP families are sheltered. I cannot explain their suffering and grief in words. It is an utter lie if we continue to say that there is only one race and no majority or minority in the country. I visited Cheddiku'lam camps where IDP families live. I cannot explain the pathetic situation they undergo. I was unable to console them. They survive amid immense suffering and distress.

"We construct massive building on our side. But these IDPs live in tent-shelters. Ten IDPs live in one tent-shelter. They could stand straight only in the centre of the tent shelter. Their neck will break down if they move to aside of the tent-shelter.

"IDPs are seen waiting in queues, extending from 50 to 100 yards to take their turn to answer a call of nature. This is the life of Vanni IDPs in Cheddiku'lam camp.

"I attempted to smile at these IDPs. But it was without success. I failed to express my feeling towards them. I was unable to tell them that we also were crying with them for their suffering. I was unable to tell them that I would supply new clothes to them.

"They should be provided with enough relief. We would be blamed if we fail to supply them with enough relief.

"They cannot expect justice from the law of the country. Their plight and suffering are not brought to the court of law in our country. I openly say this. I will be penalized for telling this".

The Patrician Spirit demands that we care for these refugees.

Some of these refugees' children are students of SPC.

To make a special donation, please contact our committee members.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA Melbourne — Annual Dinner —

24 October 2009 at 7.00 pm

St Scholastica's Primary School Hall, Burwood

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required to educate students affected by the recent events in the Vanni area. Towards this end, we have been in communication with Fr Rector and he has been very supportive of our endeavours and has given his blessings for a successful night. More details elsewhere in the newsletter.

In March 2009, the Committee made an annual contribution of \$1,500 towards St Patrick's cricket fund. Fr Rector has provided reports on the College's achievements, including details of 30 admissions to the various Universities and many gold and silver medals in the sporting fields - all achieved in the midst of many barriers and limitations. Brief details are also provided later in the newsletter.

The Committee is planning a website to provide a forum to publicise our achievements to date as well as to provide information to past students who are aware of the Melbourne OBA but have not joined. This will also make it easier for the new arrivals who would like to join and participate in the activities organised by the association.

Once the website is launched, the association will have its own email address and an electronic version of the newsletter and other reports sent by the College can also be forwarded by email. While the hard copy of the newsletter will still be sent to the members' addresses, some members may also prefer the electronic version which can be saved and read later. Members who would like to take advantage of this service are requested to send their email address to my personal email address. Once the official site is launched, I will transfer the addresses to the official address, which can also be used by members, others and organisations wishing to contact the Melbourne OBA. My personal email address is jamesjoseph@bigpond.com.au

Members who have not paid the 2009 membership fee (\$20) are also kindly requested to do so as soon as possible. The subscription can be paid by direct crediting the OBA account number or by posting a cheque to our postal address. Membership fees are the only medium by which the activities of the OBA are funded and it is hoped that we can continue to organise the various functions for the benefit of our members and their families. I also encourage members to publicise the existence of the association to other past students of the College in Victoria who would like to join us and help us help our Alma Mater.

Looking forward to meeting you and your families at the Patrician Nite on the 24th of October.

James Joseph

President

Notice Board

Annual Dinner

'**Patrician Nite 2009**' will be held on Saturday, 24 October, at St Scholastica's Primary School Hall, 348 Burwood Hwy, Burwood (Melway:61D6). The program will begin sharp at 7.00 pm with the singing of College Anthem.

In view of the profound sufferings of our people in the Vanni and other refugee camps, this year's program has been watered-down to essentially a fundraiser. While the event will foster friendship among Patricians, it is hoped that participation in great numbers will help out the many students from the Vanni who have lost parents, relatives and homes, and now look to their Alma Mater for succour.

Tickets are available from committee members.

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Annual subscription

Have you renewed your membership?

If not, please contact our Treasurer William Nimalraj on 9436 4124 or Anton Newton on 9440 1960 and help us help our Alma Mater.

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

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 Mater