

St Patrick's College Jaffna Old Boys Association

Melbourne, Australia

Established 1992

P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Website: www.spcaustralia.com

Email: secretary@spcaustralia.com

Newsletter 30

Facebook: www.facebook.com/spcobamel

March 2017



Our Objectives

Socialise and share the Patrician spirit with benevolence.

Support our Alma Mater in meaningful ways.



Hail Glorious St. Patrick



President's Message

Dear Fellow Patricians

Thank you for the honour and trust you have placed in me to serve as the President of your OBA, particularly in the year we celebrate our 25th anniversary. I was indeed surprised to learn that I was a member of this great association from its inception in 1992. Being part of this association with a lot of older members had taught me many things that are of great value to my personal life. For that I thank all the members and office bearers of the past Committees who have worked tirelessly with passion and commitment.

Our *Jubilee Organising Committee* (JOC) has done a great job so far in planning and organising several special events such as Australia Day Cricket & BBQ (Family Day), St. Patrick's Day celebrations (18/3), Silver Jubilee Commemorative Diary (release date to be finalised) and the all important Patrician Nite (18/11) at which Rector Fr. Jero Selvanayagam will be a guest of honour. Many ideas have been floated, including a weekend of the 'Reunion of Australasian Patricians' with participants from interstate and Australasia, and possibly a mid-year function too! All these are work-in-progress, and I thank all the JOC members and its Chairman Jeeva Fernando, for their untiring efforts to make the year a memorable one.

Furthermore, the Perpetual Fund has reached its target, and our new Secretary also has some exciting news for you all (see next page). In short, I am so privileged to serve as your President this year, and I ask your wholehearted support to make the silver jubilee celebrations a great success.

William Nimalraj

Silver Jubilee Perpetual Fund

As advised in our previous newsletter, the Silver Jubilee Perpetual Fund Appeal initiated in our 2016 AGM has been a great success. Many patricians have come forward to donate generously over the past 12 months to set up this fund. This will soon replace our Cricket Fund that we have been remitting annually to the college for the last 10 years. This special project – undertaken on the 25th anniversary of the OBA – is seen as a solid way of helping our Alma Mater to meet part of its annual cricket expenses in the years to come.

Every dollar donated to this fund will be invested for the said purpose. The success of this fundraising reflects the trust our members have in the OBA Committee. Further, the Perpetual Fund will be held in trust by the current and future administrators of the College for the OBA. A Memorandum of Understanding between the OBA and the College administration will be signed in due course, making the arrangements clear between the two Parties.

As informed at the AGM this year, the Silver Jubilee Perpetual Fund (currently Sponsorship \$20,750 + Cricket Fund balance \$4,380) will be invested in a Term Deposit in a bank in Sri Lanka, and the interest earned will be paid to the College directly. This will self-fund our annual commitment made to the former Rector and now Bishop Most Rev. Justin Gnanapragasam eleven years ago.

The Silver Jubilee Organising Committee is very grateful to all the sponsors for their generous donations to this worthy project.

Silver Jubilee Organising Committee

For detailed information please visit our website <http://spcaustralia.com/25th.html#sponsor>

Next Function — St. Patrick's Day celebrations — March 18, 2017 @ 7.15 pm

St Luke the Evangelist Church, Blackburn South.

Message from the Secretary

Dear Patricians

It gives me immense pleasure to reach you via this edition of our newsletter.

We are making improvements to the way communications are being sent to you by introducing “SPCOBAMEL” SMS and “spcaustralia.com” Email accounts. Also you may have noticed our brand new website www.spcaustralia.com, has improved in all the aspects of look and feel and user friendliness. We are excited to let you know that our ‘Spcoba Melbourne’ Facebook page is at its initial stage and will be available soon.

Regarding upcoming St. Patrick’s Day 2017 celebrations, we sent a quick survey form (target audience was smart phone users) via SMS on 18th Feb 2017 and email on 19th Feb 2017 by James Joseph (on behalf of committee). Thank you very much to all those who responded promptly. Though the responses so far were overwhelming, we were expecting more patricians to respond. We sent a follow up email on 25th Feb 2017 from secretary@spcaustralia.com. If you haven’t responded yet, please do so, with a “Yes, I will be there” or “Sorry, I can’t make it”. We just need your response. Your responses will help us make the arrangements accordingly.

AGM 2017 was advanced to mid- February, in order to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day in a relaxed atmosphere. So, this St. Patrick’s Day celebrations is a great opportunity for patricians to reminisce college memories, while enjoying live music and traditional food.

As you are aware, we are in the 25th year of the formation of our OBA and the ‘Silver Jubilee Patrician Nite’ will be held on **Saturday, November 18, 2017**. But we just don’t want to stop with that. We want to add some exciting fun-filled activities to this weekend event, such as **Tour/Sightseeing/Camping and Odiyal-kool**, etc., **with wider participation of Patricians from Australasia!** And there are so many of them. We will let you know all the details as soon as they are finalized and look forward to your kind cooperation.

Our SMS will be from “SPCOBAMEL” and emails “SPCOBA Melbourne” (secretary@spcaustralia.com or info@spcaustralia.com or spcaustralia25@gmail.com). Please ensure that these emails are not automatically marked as “junk” or “spam” in your email account. If you haven’t received any SMS and emails, please send your details to info@spcaustralia.com as early as possible.

May God shower his blessings on you and your family.

Berchmans Tennakone

Secretary

SPC Jaffna OBA, Melbourne

The newly elected Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2017-18 are as follows:

William Nimalraj - President	Jeyandra Antonipillai - Vice President
Berchmans Tennakone - Secretary	Rukshan Theophilus - Assistant Secretary
Noel Rajiv - Treasurer	Patrick Rajaratnam - Assistant Treasurer
Anandarajan James - Social and Events Secretary	

Committee Members:

Dr Sanjeev Alfred, Angelo Fernando, Jeevaranjan Fernando, Antony Gratian, Chrys Gunanayagam, James Joseph, Vincent Pius, Philip Ravindraraj and Dr Florentine Singarayar.

Advisory and Support Panel:

Alfred Reynald, Anton Newton, Dr. Anton Mariampillai, Basil Patrick, Edward Arulnesathasan, Guanaratnam Arulanantham, Francis Manoraj Isidore, James Premanandarajah, Jenith Jesuthasan, Jerad Jogaratnam, Joseph Vijayaratnam, Reg Cherubim, Parthiban Vivekanandan and William Rajendram

Jubilee Organising Committee:

Jeevaranjan Fernando (Chairman), Anandarajan James, Angelo Fernando, James Joseph, Philip Ravindraraj, Jeyendra Antonipillai and William Nimalraj.

St Patrick



St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God and wrote his memoir, *The Confession*. In *The Confession*, he wrote: "The love of God and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family. A few years after returning home, Patrick saw a vision he described in his memoir: "I saw a man coming, as if he were from Ireland. His name was Victoricus, and he carried many letters, and he gave me one of them. I read the heading: 'The Voice of the Irish.' As I began the letter, I imagined in that moment that I heard the voice of those very people who were near the wood of Foclut, which is beside the western sea-and they cried out, as with one voice: 'We appeal to you, holy servant boy, to come and walk among us.'"

The vision prompted his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained by St. Germanus, the Bishop of Auxerre, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to Ireland.

Patrick arrived in Slane, Ireland on March 25, 433. There are several legends about what happened next, with the most prominent claiming he met the chieftain of one of the druid tribes, who tried to kill him. After an intervention from God, Patrick was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland. There, he converted many people - eventually thousands - and he began building churches across the country.

He often used shamrocks to explain the Holy Trinity and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message. Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for God in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died on March 17, 461.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing - not even death.

Nostalgic Memories of



St. Patrick's



Day



Celebrations



Notice Board

Events in 2017 - Our OBA's 25th year

A year in which we all can make a difference



At this point in time, the following events have been planned for the Jubilee Year:

St Patrick's Day Celebrations - Saturday, 18th March 2017 @ 7.15 p.m.

Venue: **St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Blackburn South.**

46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South VIC 3130

Annual Mass followed by Dinner. Mass will be concelebrated by three priests: Rev Fr Anthony Gnanapragasam, Rev Fr Jeyaraj Rasiah (visiting priest from Sri Lanka) and Rev Fr Albert Yogarajah.

Silver Jubilee Commemorative Diary

The Silver Jubilee Commemorative Diary is nearing completion and arrangements will soon be made for printing. The release date for this exciting motivational perpetual diary is still being worked out. It is likely that the ceremonial release will take place around mid-year. In the meantime, we thank all those who helped with donations and advertisements to make this project a reality.

Silver Jubilee Patrician Nite - Saturday, 18th November 2017

Venue and other details will be advised in due course. As advised elsewhere, this will be held in conjunction with the 'Reunion of Australasian Patricians' - a weekend event that is anticipated to include many joyful activities such as Tour/Sightseeing/Camping and Odiyal-kool, etc. Details are yet to be worked out. Watch this space and let your Patrician friends know of this one off opportunity to reminisce about their good old school days with us, here in down under!

This year the **Australia Day cricket match** was entertaining than previous years. The short form to participate and enjoy. A number of things as BBQ, Tennis, rounders and a Tea Shop run at his tea-makers. We are thankful to Dilip and his tennis games for the kids.



very successful and much more of cricket made it possible for everybody made this Family Day very special such the end of the games by Jeeva Anna and wife Catherine for their help to run the

As most of you know the Bonjean House won the final match against Mathews House and the names of players who won the individual trophies are as follows:

Best Bowler: Daniel Jeyanathan

Best Batsman: Dinesh Francis

Best Fielder: Barath Raj

Man of the Match: Michael Augustine

The ladies teams played the rounders with great enthusiasm. Sherin Fernando's Team won the game.

Trophies for all the winners will be awarded at St. Patrick's Day Celebrations on Saturday, 18 March.

Thanks heaps to all those who made the day so enjoyable.


Jeyandra Antonipillai - Sports Secretary (2016-17)



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தேத்தண்ணிக் கடை

Friendly Reminder

We call on the nearly 100 Patricians who haven't paid/renewed their membership to kindly do so .

Annual subscription:  ONLY

Contact Treasurer Noel Rajiv on: **0421839197**

Traditional St. Patrick's Day badges from the early twentieth century

