

DOUBLE BLUE BULLETIN

Newsletter of Wesley College(Colombo) Old Boys' Union Australia Branch Incorporated

2003 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gentlemen,

The year 2002 has drawn to a close and we are now well into the New Year of 2003. The OBU (Australia) has had a good year and I wish to take this opportunity to thank you the members for making it an extremely fruitful year.

We have had a dedicated and enthusiastic Committee, which has enabled us to plan and coordinate the Curry Nights, the Annual Dinner Dance and the Seniors Dinner.

There has been very willing participation by our members in these events, which has ensured the success of these functions, with great camaraderie and fellowship, enjoyed by all. It is my intention to step down from the President's position and hand over the helm to new hands to continue to guide the OBU next year.

To the Committee members and their partners as well as all the members who have made the OBU in to the successful fraternal organisation it has become. I say "THANK YOU" and please continue the good work and support in the years ahead.

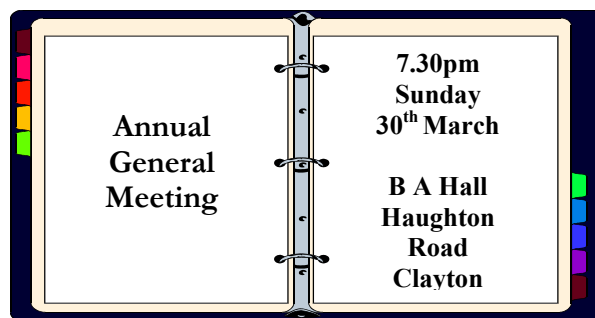
Ora et Labora

Reg Bartholomeusz

Your Committee

President	Reg Bartholomeusz
Vice President	Bryan Wijeyekoon
Secretary	Trevor Collette
Treasurer	Nelson de Silva
Editor	Alister Bartholomeusz
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Date to Remember



AIMS OF THE OLD BOYS' UNION AUSTRALIA BRANCH INC.

1. To unite in one fraternal band those who were educated at Wesley College, Colombo.
2. To afford an opportunity of bringing together past and present pupils of Wesley College.
3. To assist in meeting the needs of the College as they arise.
4. To do all things necessary to preserve the honour and dignity of the College.



EDITORS VIEW.....

As 2003 comes to life and our thoughts focus on what this New Year holds in store for us and our families, I would like to reflect on the year that was.

This year has seen many highlights in the activities of the OBU, Australia Branch. The most notable in my mind was the recent social extravaganza of the annual ball. This continues to be a great success with opportunities to catch up with old friends, reminisce about our glory days, establish new friendships and further enhance the relationship between our band of brothers linked to and created by our Great College.

Other events that come to mind are the warmth and fraternal feeling of our Seniors Night, the camaraderie of the quadrangular cricket tournament involving Wesley, St Johns, Jaffna, the Royal College and St Thomas College, Mount and the relaxed, happy atmosphere of the "Curry Nights" in winter.

One of the vehicles that adds to the cohesion of our extraordinary group is the regular publication of the Double Blue Bulletin. It has been an honour for me to have been able to contribute to a quality journal that effectively keeps us all up to date on the activities of Wesley College, Colombo and those associated with it.

Whilst I believe that there is great value generated by this, it cannot go unnoticed that there is still an untapped potential and the potential lies with you the members. Contributions to the Double Blue Bulletin from sources other than the editorial committee have been rather disappointing this year. It is only by your contributions that we can maintain the quality, interest, information and the threads that bind us all. I would strongly encourage you all to think about what the Double Blue Bulletin means to the Old Wesleyites community and what we can do to further enhance that.

Your anecdotes, thoughts, information and feedback will enable us to continue to grow as an Old Boys Union for now and the future for all Wesleyites throughout the world.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and prosperous 2003.

My sincere thanks to Trevor Collette and Marie Dromart for the preparation and professional layout of the Double Blue Bulletin this year.

WESLEY TO THE FORE.

Your views & Ideas

We encourage letters to the Editor on any issue.
Articles of interest. Births, Anniversary etc..
Suggestions and new ideas we would like to hear

CRICKET

"It is a science, the study of a life time, in which you may exhaust yourself, but never your subject. It is a contest, a duel, a melee, calling for courage, skill, strategy and self-control. It is a contest of temper, a trial of honour, a revealer of character. It affords a chance to play the man and act the gentlemen. It means going into God's out of doors, getting close to nature, fresh air, exercise, a sweeping away of mental cobwebs, genuine recreation of tired tissues. It is comfort care, an antidote for worry. It includes companionship with friends, social intercourse and opportunities for courtesy, kindness and generosity to an opponent. It promotes not only physical health, but mental force".

Sir Fredrick Toone

This topic is now open for debate and we invite your opinion on how you view cricket is played in the contemporary period, in comparison to the good old days. Your anecdotes, comments and feedback are eagerly awaited.

Inter – collegiate cricket matches.

Our oldest match is against the Royal College the centenary encounter was played in 1893.

The inaugural match between Wesley and St Thomas' College Mount Lavina was played in 1897, but due a dispute between an Umpire and the Warden of STCM this important fixture was not played from 1898 to 1903.

Other inaugural dates, 1895 vs Prince of Wales. Trinity and St Benedict's.

In 1904 against St Joseph's College and in 1910 against Amanda College.

Any further information is invited in order to assist us to update our cricket records.

Navin de Silva excels at World Finals

The former skipper of the Wesley Cricket team and now Sri Lanka Air Bus Captain, on taking to golf just fifteen months ago has done the country proud by being the "B" category runner-up at the Amateur World Golf finals held at Stuttgart Germany.

His performance was largely responsible for his three member team, East Asia, comprising Singapore, Brunei and Sri Lanka, winning the "Nations' Cup".

This tournament sponsored for the 12th consecutive year by Mercedes Benz draws around 40,000 amateur golfers through the year, from about 50 countries, which narrows down to 120 at the finals. Navin did will to be first runner-up in Colombo, to be eligible to participate at the Asian finals in Brisbane – from where he qualified with five other Asians to proceed to Stuttgart, to take part in the world finals. He was runner-up in the "B" category having scored Stableford points 37, 35 and 40 respectively.

Playing with a handicap of 13, his final round in rainy cold weather to register 40 points proved decisive to clinch the Nations' Cup.

RD

RUGBY

Wesley College U 15 Rugby Team 2002

- All Island Schools Champions
 - Premier trophy Champions
 - Western Province Schools Champions
- Total matches played - 19 , points scored 689, points against 0 (Zero)



Seated L-R : - Mr. N.J. Mudannayake(Master in charge), Mr. Dishantha Priyadarshana (coach), Samantha Lakshan, Rev. Shehan Fernando(Vice Principal), Yomal Ameratunga(Captain), Mr.M.A.P.Fernando(Principal), Shanaka Peris(Vice Captain),

Mr. Nalin Nanayakkara(Master in charge juniors), Mr K.V.De Silva (Prefect of Games).

Standing Middle Row: Andrew Jegan, Amal Pathirana, Indeewara Ratnayake, Yasas Nonis, Rumesh Perera, Malinda Yapa, Danushka Navaratne, Niroshan Karunaratne, Viraj Perera.,

Standing Back Row:- Dexter Juriansz, Niranjana Wickramaratne, Mohamed Riza, Lakshitha Prabath.

" The year 2002 is certainly the best year for the U-15 team. In the Western province tournament they won all 9 matches, defeating Royal College 5/0 to emerge champions. They went one better to also clinch the all island schools championship 2002 winning all 6 matches with a convincing 22/0 win over St. Sylvesters Kandy in the finals. In both tournaments they played 15 matches and scored an amazing tally of 619 points. They also set up a record that could never be broken of not conceding a single point to their opponents in all the matches played. In November 2001 our U15 team emerged runner up at the Malaysian rugby union invitation schools tournament held in Kuala Lumpur. The fine leadership qualities of our U15 captain, Yomal Ameratunga, were recognised when he was selected captain of the western province U15 team that toured Bangkok in August 2002. Our U15 'B' team also played very well to win the western province championship in the 'B' group. Our sincere thanks for the splendid results at rugby go to Mr. Dishantha Priyadarshana - senior coach and Mr. S.W. Chang - consultant cum junior coach "

Principal's Prize Day Report Oct 4th 2002.

** After Oct 2002 our U15 team went on to win the Premier Trophy defeating Royal College 12/0 in the finals.

** Photo and details given to us by Mr. K. De. Silva (Prefect of games, Wesley).

** Well done to Mr. N.J. Mudalnayake too, dedicated and tireless master in charge of rugby for many years.



THE WEBSITE

www.wesleycollege.org

Our website continues to grow and new features appear on a regular basis. Recent additions to the site are:

Newspapers and Shopping.
Magazines and Movies.
Airlinks/Car Rentals, Financial/Stockmarket.

By the time you receive the Double Blue Bulletin, the site will have received over 32,000 hits from 50 countries worldwide.

Messages of goodwill, constructive criticism and suggestions are being received from the Worldwide Wesley College Fraternity and it is now our intention to use the medium of the website to spread the aims of the OBU Australia to cover Old Boys throughout the world.

Your committee has decided to go ahead with accepting advertisements for display on the website. Old boys, who are interested in advertising are requested to contact us in the first place by e-mail obu@wesleycollege for details.

Comments received

From: Victor Melder

Dear Mahendra,

Many, many thanks for this. The page has been done very well. I just love it. Thank you for your comments on the library web site. It is currently being re-vamped and getting bigger and better. Is there any way please you could have the Wesley OBA post this library their newsletter, where it will be preserved for posterity along with all the other newsletters from other groups?

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Kind Regards

Victor

Monday, November 4, 2002, 10.32pm AEST

BRAVO ... HATS OFF TO THE GREAT WESLEY WEBSITE.

From: Thanushka Jayasundera

Proud! Yeah! That's the work for it. It makes me really proud to browse this website as a Wesleyite cos' this is the best website of all schools in Sri Lanka.

I think, I am the first present Wesleyite to post a message to this website. Since I'm one of the present senior "cops" at Wesley I had the chance of attending school even after my A/L'S. But unfortunately, have just got another couple of weeks left at heaven

(Wesley). I think I spent the best days in my life at Wesley. At Wesley we learnt a lot not just studies. Especially the value of commitment, sacrifice, qualities of a good leader, time management and the value of sticking together at any cost.

So as you see Wesley was not just our school it was more than that. It was our life for last couple for years. Even when I was facing a load of troubles, even when I was feeling really down, I could smile when I enter the gates because Wesley absorbed all our sorriest moments and fears, and in return gave me a smile.

So how come I have to leave this place. The whole idea is strange to me. Because each and every tree at Wesley is precious to me as they carry the messages to the future generation that we smiled with them. Each and every classroom is precious to me. They taught me how to live up to the standards of Wesley. Even the wind which blows across Wesley is precious to me as all my colleagues at Wesley and I shared the same breath. And chances are I won't even meet them after I leave. But immaterial of these facts I have to leave Wesley, but until I die I walk with my head held high, knowing that I hail from the finest school in the universe.

Wesley to the fore

Thanushka Jayasundera

From: Nanda Gunaratne

Hi Mahendra,

I have read your nicely done OB news bulletin with interest. I like Rugby but I don't agree with your news item Rugby became the main sport at Wesley (from just one good season). If that is the case then Hockey and Badminton should have been the main sports at Wesley for the past 30 years. We won (Div1) Badminton/Hockey championships many times. Cricket is the most popular sport in the sub continent. Very few Asian schools could boast 110 years of cricket history. This is the view of the other Wesleyites in Canada too.

OB page is outstanding.

Keep in touch

Nanda Gunaratne

Trans Am Piping Products Ltd -Calgary, Alberta

From: Cynthia Vanden Driesen

Allister hi!

Ian will be in touch later today. We met Mahendra at the event in Melbourne promoting the book Celebrations. I must say I am very impressed with the drive and initiative of the Wesley College OBU in Australia!

Regards

Cynthia Vanden Driesen



PEN PORTRAIT

Trevor Van Rooyen - Champion
Athlete

Trevor was a student at Wesley college from 1939 – 1948 and had the privilege of serving under Principals, John Dalby, David Izzet, William Holden and James Cartman.

Trevor was an outstanding athlete. He was the College's champion (Moscrop House) and held the school records for both the Hop Step and Jump and 120 yds High Hurdles.

In 1947 Wesley College was placed third for the Tarbat Challenge Cup. Trevor was placed second in both the 100yds High and 200yds low Hurdles, narrowly beaten by Walter May of STCM.

1948 was the golden year for Wesley athletics. In that year the college was placed third for the Obeysekera Challenge trophy, a remarkable performance for schoolboys participating at a national level. Other members of that champion team were Harold Matthysz (pole vault/javelin) Mohammed Sheriff (hop step/long jump), Bertus Perera (220/440yds), Norman De la Harpe (high jump/putt shot), Trevor Van Rooyen (120 yds High Hurdles and Ian Campbell (high jump).

At the National AAA meet held in 1950, Trevor established a new Ceylon record for the 120 High Hurdles in 15.6 secs. He was awarded the Wilton Bartlett cup for this achievement and was selected for the Asian Games 1951, in New Delhi.

At the Asian Games, Trevor qualified for the 120yds high hurdles final and was a certain medal hope, but unfortunately he had to pull out of the event due to an injury just prior to the running of the final. Trevor was a member of the Wesley College champion Hockey Team in 1948, he also played cricket (U 16).

Trevor is full of gratitude, praise and respect for that outstanding school master Mr Dick Honter, who was his mentor, teacher and friend. Mr Honter *“had the amazing knack of motivating and producing Wesley Champions with the limited resources available to him at that time”*.

Trevor was handpicked by the IGP Ceylon for a career in the Police Force and spent some time in training at the Police Academy. However, after a brief spell with the Ceylon Police, he decided to join the Shell Company and participated with great distinction at the Ceylon Mercantile Athletic meet in 1950. winning the 120-yds

hurdles and the Hop Step and Jump for which he was awarded the Col. Griffith trophy for the best performance at the meet.

Trevor recollects with glee his foray into acting whilst at college. In his own words *“in 1947, a revival of dramatics was orchestrated to give aspiring actors an opportunity to develop ones talent. The theory was to introduce an inter-house competition. My faction MOSCROP House under the guidance of Messrs B.R. Blaze and D.A. Weerasooria put on a modified version of “THE BISHOPS CANDLESTICK”. Moscrop easily accounted for the interlopers in the contest. My claim to fame? The judge at the contest, reported that Van Rooyen in the role of the Bishop is highly commended for his brilliant acting. For a good maximum of 60 seconds, I had this vision of playing Rhett Butler in a remake of Gone with the Wind. Oh the joys of a dreaming schoolboy. Alas the next day it was back to class. Doing the show was great fun, with the likes of Natty Prins, Pete Mendis, Shirley Rodrigo, K.D. Abmat and others”*.

In 1952 Trevor immigrated to Australia and joined the RAAF as an education officer. He continued with athletics and also played Cricket and Rugby for the RAAF whilst stationed in Victoria.

Trevor is so proud to be a WESLEYITE, in his words *“what accolades I received, would not have been, if it wasn't for the great educational institution that is Wesley College, Colombo. My love and unqualified devotion to my College goes without saying. GOD bless Wesley and all who walk through her Portals”*.

WESLEY TO THE FORE

Abec

Membership Subscriptions

The Subscriptions for the calendar year January to December 2002 are due and should be paid as soon as possible, to the

Treasurer

**Wesley College (Colombo) OBU
Australia Branch Inc
Box 123 Glenway MDC
Mulgrave 3170**



CELEBRATIONS

FIFTY YEARS OF SRI LANKA (AUSTRALIA) INTERACTIONS

Edited by C.A. and I.H. vanden Driesen

Wesley College OBU was represented by Trevor Collette, Mahendra Dissanayake, Keith de Kretser and Nelson de Silva at The Celebrity Night to mark the promotion of the above publication.

The book was co-edited Dr Ian vanden Driesen and his wife Cynthia.

Dr Ian is an old boy of Wesley College, Colombo. He completed an Honours Degree in Economics at the University of Ceylon, later, a Ph.D. at the London School of Economics. In 1967 he took up a Senior Lectureship at the University of Ife, Nigeria and moved to a similar position at the University of Western Australia in 1970 retiring as Associate Professor in 1991.

His research interests cover Sri Lanka, the economics of the Indian Ocean islands, labour and the labour market in a number of countries. Dr Ian has published several books, articles and essays on these themes. He is currently Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Organizational and Labour studies at the University of Western Australia.

The book is informative and is a must for your bookshelf.

Membership Rates

Full - \$12
Pensioners - \$10
Seniors - Voluntary

Members over 70 years of age are to inform the Treasurer of their age to qualify

Poems by Nelson A. de Silva

Our Hony Treasurer appearing in this publication.

THE GIRL AT THE BUS STOP

She does not smile
She needing not
A stranger entertain
A friendly refrain
But yet my soul beguiles
My thoughts chase wild

She does not look
But glances shy
Oblivious to my fire
My inert desire
So crude, intense, sincere
Distill her fear

She does not speak
Mute she stays
While the pangs of desire
Fuel my fire
And innocent she remains
Still pure, unstained.

CONSCIENCE

In the solitary stillness of the night
On the door of my conscience
With moonbeams grinning in the windows
Then frightened doors creak open
Sleeping in the ghosts of my misdoings
In cold feet that crawl over my night.

When the winds mourning with the willows
And owls hoot at the shadows
Drowned in a graveyard long silence
My rarer thoughts tramp stalking
Stretching the cords of my memories
Till memories recall no more.



THE COLLEGE CREST

How it evolved

In this note an attempt is made to trace the evolution of the College Crest, adorned every school books, his blazer, and document originating from Wesley College. There appears to be two stages in the development of the crest.



attempt is made to of the College Crest, adorned every school books, his blazer, and document originating from Wesley College. There appears to be two stages in the development of the crest.

The cross and the shells are derived from the Coat of Arms of none other, and indeed quite appropriately from that of John Wesley. On the other hand the origin of the shield of the crest is not known, as it is not featured even in any of the designs of the College of Heraldry.

The Motto, "Ora et Labora" which is an integral part of the crest was originated by Rev Arthur Shipham (1880-1883), and John Dalby, commenting in a later time said Worship & Prayer are the salt of life.

There is a generally accepted interpretation of the crest. The twelve (12) shells are symbolic of the journeying Pilgrim, seeking and searching ahead, with no complacency. One could compare them to the twelve wandering tribes of Israel. Within the Shield of Faith is placed the rugged Cross of Sacrifice. This was the first arrangement which composed Wesley's crest, and included Shipham's motto. It is not certain when this design of the crest was first introduced, but it is evident on stationery used by Rev Henry Highfield.. This same crest is incorporated into the art frame of the Farewell Scroll presented to Rev Henry Highfield by staff and students, on his departure from Wesley in 1925.

We have evidence of the continued use of this crest during Rev Albert Hutchinson's time (1925-1928) when he commissioned the Head Baas – Cormelis – to construct the time hallowed stately chair, used by Wesley's Principals, and on the back head is carved the College crest. This chair still adorns the stage of the hallowed College hall.

It then becomes clear that during the Head ship of Rev John Dalby (1929-1934) a further addition was made to the crest, when it was embellished with the scallops circularly fringed around the shield, giving the present form of the shield. Prize books and College exercise books of 1933 have this crest.

Thus we see how the crest, a means of readily identifying Wesley, has truly a rich inheritance, and Wesleyites of all generations will continue to be inspired by this remarkable crest and will proudly wear it as the occasion demands.

Shelton Peiris

CONGRATULATIO

60th Wedding Anniversary
Stanley Vernon Nugara and Myrtle Elaine Sansoni were married on 12th December 1942 in the Kollupitiya Methodist Church Colombo, Ceylon

Inspirational Verses Contributed by Maurice Juriansz

"How little it costs if we give a thought
To make some heart happy each day!
Just one kind word or a tender smile,
As we go on our daily way.

Perhaps a look will suffice to clear
The cloud from a neighbour's face,
And the press of a hand in sympathy
A sorrowful tear efface.

It costs so little, I wonder why
We give it so little thought,
A smile, kind words, a glance, a touch,
What magic by them is wrought!"

.....
"Is anyone happier,
Because you passed this way?
Does anyone remember
That you spoke to him today?

Is a single heart rejoicing
Over what you did or said?
Does a man whose hopes were fading,
Now with courage looks ahead?

As you close your eyes in slumber,
Do you think that God would say,
'You have earned one more tomorrow,
By the way you lived today?'"

.....
These inspirational verses are synonymous with the spirit of "Sharing with" and "caring for" others. These sentiments are worthy of being "passed on" because "NONE OF US SHALL EVER PASS THIS WAY AGAIN"!!



WESLEY'S FIRSTS

The following is a list of Old Boys of Wesley College who have been the first Ceylonese/Sri Lankan to achieve or attain the position or honour stated.

H.E. Oliver E. Goonetilleke

First Officer of State in the State Council, First Ceylonese Auditor General, First Civil Defence Commissioner, First Leader of the Senate, First High Commissioner to the Court of St James (United Kingdom), "First Ceylonese Governor General, First Ceylonese to be a Member of Lloyds of London.

Sir Don Baron Jayatilleke

First Ceylonese Leader of the State Council.

Sir Gerard Wijekoon

First president of the Senate, First to gain a distinction in drawing at the Cambridge Senior.

Professor E.F.C. Ludowyk

First Winner of the Latham Prize on three occasions at Cambridge University.

Sir Claude Corea

First High Commissioner to the United States of America.

M.W.H. de Silva

First High Commissioner to the Republic of India.

Sir Mohammed Marcan Markar

First Muslim Knight.

Hon H.S.Ismail

First Muslim Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Zubbay Gaffoor

First Ceylonese Air Pilot who obtained an Air Pilot's Certificate issued by the Air Ministry in the UK.

M Sathasivam

First Person to Captain two countries at Cricket, Ceylon and Malaya.

Hon M.H. Mohammed

First Muslim Mayor of Colombo.

Elmer Mack

First in the World in the Cambridge Junior Examination.

M.A.M Sherriff

First Ceylonese to win the Athletics Blue at Oxford University.

Graham Dissanayake

First Sri Lankan to secure the Diploma in Development Administration (Manchester).

Dr Louis Adhietty

First Sri Lankan to win the Hockey Blue at Cambridge University.

Captain Navin de Silva

Captain of the first Ceylon School's Cricket Team to U.K. in 1981.

Neville S Weerasekera

First Sri Lankan Refinery Manager C.P.C. Oil Refinery, Kelaniya.

Compiled by ED

VALE

Robin Errol Carnie

Robin was one of three brothers who were at the Wesley boarding in the fifties. He had a fine dry sense of humor and a rather lighthearted attitude to life and studies. He was well liked in the boarding taking an active part in sports. I still recall playing I-Spy on Sunday afternoons with him and his many friends. It was often the highlight of our weekends in the boarding. Robin was a fine cricketer and it surprised me not to see him in the 1st XI team. I remember the many softball cricket matches at the small park where he often made his mark in the fiercely competitive house matches, at the boarding. His spin-bowling ruined the dreams of many softball cricketers. At these matches Robin's umpiring was often hotly debated but he stood his ground despite strong arguments to the contrary. I recall once when he said he did not raise his finger but was just picking his nose - (I was the batsman and agreed with him on principle). I cannot believe he will not be there to play those elegant cover drives again at the small park which too has been taken away from us.



He was famous for his pranks. Although perceived as a hard man I have seen his kindness too. Robin and Hilary were good friends and were inseparable. They knew all the loop holes in the Hostel Rules and also where the ripening papaws were within the school boundary. Robin was the author of many of the hostellers' nickname. Getting thosais from the Thambikadey without being seen was an art they had mastered to perfection. He had 1001 excuses not to attend Sunday School at the Maradana Methodist Church which was a chore no one liked. When he left the hostel he left a void that was never filled.

His father worked for CGR. After he left the boarding I saw him at the Dematagoda Railway Housing Estate where they lived. He left school soon after the SSC to join an Estate (Carolina Estate Watawala) as an upcountry Tea Planter where he worked for many years. Our lives took different paths and we never met again.

Our condolences go to his immediate family and to Hilary and John who shared the highs and lows of boarding life all those years ago.

GRANT HIM O LORD ETERNAL PEACE

DR N. D. AMERASEKERA

Edmund Dissanayake

A Tribute by Dr N D Amerasekera

*A Guru is far more than a teacher in the ordinary sense of the word. A teacher gives knowledge, but a Guru gives himself.
Anagarika Govinda 1898 – 1985*

All teachers are not the same. Some can teach but others, despite their degrees, diplomas and teacher training just can't. In Edmund Dissanayake I found a great all round teacher. He put across his arguments in a logical way we all could understand and had the kindness and the patience to repeat it all for those who were slow to learn. I came to know him first in Form 1 when he taught us Maths. Though he never resorted to physical violence he had the attention of the class and also had its respect. He had a great sense of humour which helped to breakdown barriers and reach the students who needed his help most. Above all I remember his genuine smile and find it hard to recall a time it wasn't there on his face. Although a Buddhist he was ever present at Christian worship in the Hall because he loved to sing those wonderful Hymns from

the School Hymnal. No one I know has contributed so much to Wesley College, in the Post War period, than

Edmund Dissanayake and feel we ought to acknowledge it now. As a teacher he was a dignified and forthright man who detested sham and chicanery. He was admired for this work ethic, thoroughness, and frankness. Edmund had an unswerving loyalty to school, family and friends. Plain spoken, sometimes blunt, he was nonetheless sympathetic and compassionate. Many respected and gravitated to him as a counselor and mentor. As a teacher he was successful many times over. He brought honour to himself, his family and his profession. He was a unique man in the finest sense of the word and now that he had moved away from its precincts he will be sorely missed at Wesley by those who had the good fortune to share his life and times.

Edmund's contribution to Cricket at school is legendary. He captained the school in 1945-46 with great distinction and his magnificent performances and achievements during that period have been incorporated into the folklore of the school. His 107 runs against Royal College and 6 for 14 against St Thomas' College remain as his best achievements in those years as an all round cricketer. Edmund's head injury during a school cricket match, even now, is a topic of conversation at College sports gatherings and has had a write-up in the centenary souvenir. Danesh, his only son, followed closely in his footsteps to become an exceptionally talented cricketer at Wesley and was unable to represent the country due to manoeuvres beyond his control. Edmund Dissanayake was the Senior Prefect in 1947-48 period when he made strong links between the students and teachers. For many years he had been an asset to generations of cricketers at Wesley. The unbeaten team captained by LCR Wijesinghe in 1962 was the climax of Edmund's successful years. Edmund has written many erudite and comprehensive articles to the Daily papers about sports at Wesley.

I recall most vividly going on one of this school trips to the deep south. It is a trip that is etched in my memory as a great success. It brought this bus load of students closer together. He had a tremendous knowledge of the towns and hamlets

beyond Matara, their history and their legends. Edmund hails from Hambantota. He took us to a spot where the sea water shot-up 80 feet into the sky, with every wave. We stayed a night at his parents'



Disclaimer

house in Hambantota, a large sprawling mansion, not far from the sea. In front of the house was a marsh with a fringe of tall palm trees. I remember singing old favourites like The Ash grove and Brown Eyes, wonderful memories of schooldays made possible due to the teachers like Edmund who believed education extended well beyond the confines of the classroom. Living in the Wesley College flats Edmund was ever present at school. In my last visit to Wesley he took me on a conducted tour visiting the Hall, library, hostel, laboratories, famous tuck shop and the many classrooms. The nostalgia was too much to comprehend. He knew everything about the school that was worth knowing from its humble beginnings to its glory days, the personalities, Principals and Parsons who have made Wesley so special.

After retiring from the school after over 25 years as a teacher he qualified and pursued a career in Law at Hulftsdorf Courts. Despite his other duties he is always available for the school and remains a walking archive of the history of Wesley. Edmund has been a stalwart of the OBU in the later half of the century and with his calm clear thinking helped to steer the school through some torrid times. He has ridden above the petty politics of the OBU which has sometimes been its scourge. Edmund Dissanayake has been an excellent ambassador for the school in all those years as a student, teacher and in retirement. He now spends his retirement at Thalawatugoda with his family.

I remember Edmund Dissanayake as a teacher and a friend and have the greatest respect for him in all the years I have known him. He overcame the setbacks of his early life with courage and dignity. His close family is an immense source of support and encouragement to him. Lately ill health has prevented him from taking part actively in school affairs. I wish him and his wife many more years of good health and happiness as the likes of him are just one in a million and irreplaceable. His honesty, integrity and loyalty to the old school will remain a beacon for us all.

All round cricketer, raconteur, distinguished old boy and Guru we salute you for your invaluable services to the school.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure correctness, the Wesley College (Colombo) Old Boys' Union Australia Branch Inc. does not accept responsibility in whole or part for views, contributions or advertised products or services included in this publication.

All correspondence should be sent to:

The Editor
Double Blue Bulletin
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VICTORIA - AUSTRALIA

An American Tourist

An American tourist in Colombo found himself needing to take a leak very badly. After a long search he just couldn't find anyplace to relieve himself. So he just went down one of the side streets to take care of business.

Before he could even get unzipped a Colombo police officer said, "Hey you, what are you doing?"

"I gotta go, man," replied the American tourist.

"You can't go here. Look, follow me," the policeman offered.

The police officer led him to a beautiful garden with lots of grass, pretty flowers, and manicured hedges. "Here," said the cop, "whiz away."

The American shrugs, turns, unzips, and starts right on the flowers. "Ahhh. Whew. Thanks. This is very nice of you. Is this Sri Lankan courtesy?" asked the tourist.

"No. This is the American Embassy."



NEWS FROM SRI LANKA

Swimming Pool Project

The major project for this year would be the construction of a Swimming Pool for Wesley. Like a true old Wesleyite Hon M. H. Mohamed, Minister of Western Province Development took immediate action to send officials of the Urban Development Authority. The officials having inspected a number of sites have now selected the Western side of the Campbell Park to put up a 55 metre pool with six lanes. Hon. Minister Mohamed has always assisted Wesley in its development. The exclusive ownership of Campbell Park and The Railway Carriage of the Old Wesleyite Sports Club were some of the many. It is also to his credit that he never openly flaunted these services to Wesley to the outside world, as some are (specially the politicians) prone to do. He has also promised to help and assist in the construction of the pool. If we are to successfully complete the project, Wesley needs the help and assistance of every student. Old Boy, Parent, Teacher, Well-wisher (the likes of late Sir Frank Gunasekera) and Wesley's neighbours. **We make a special appeal to our overseas branches to collect finances for this project. Wesley's old boys in the far off lands have always held their school dear to their hearts** – a recent contribution of Rs100,000/- from the OBU branch in Sydney. NSW is one good example. We are sure the others will follow. Let us Ora et Labora for the successful completion of the swimming pool.

Wesley College Old Boys' Union Executive Committee 2002/2003

Patron Mr M A P Fernando

Vice Patrons

Rev Shehan Fernando, Hon M H Mohamed, Prof Mahroof Ismail, Dr Lou Adihetty, M/s Denzil Perera, Halim Ishak, P B Herath, Shelton Peiris, Jehan Cassim, Kingsley T Wickremaratne, Dunstan Fernando, Raja Sinnathurai, Mervyn Peiris, Edmund Dissanayake, Tyrone Maye.

President Mr Rienzie Wijetilleke

Vice Presidents

M/s, Upali Samararatne, Lasantha Fernando, L V Jayaweera, Alfred K David, BMN Jurangpathy. NS Weeraseskera, S Renganathan, Timothy Sela, Sam Soundravel, Hilary De Alwis, Ranjan Abeydeera, Navin De Silva, Parakrama Wijemanne, L R Goonetilleke, Deepthi Perera, M A Razak and Shimal Thaha.

VP Designate Mr K Dwight

General Secretary Mr Lalith Peiris

Treasurer Mr Aswan Bangsajayah

Assistant Secretary Mr Ivor Mahroof

Assistant Treasurer Mr K Udayakumar

General Committee

M/s Ramzeen Razik, Riza Azoor, Riaz Ousmand, Isthiaq Rasiq, Rohan Amerasinghe, Ranjith Dassanayake, Senaka Amarakoon, P Gajendiran, Brian Weeraperumal, Wazeer Hassim, Thilanga Fernando, Rohimal Senanayake, M Balakrishnan, Imran Ghouse, Fazly Faleel, Sazleen Saleem, T Muralidaran, D Bandaratilake, Kadir Ishak and Shahul Hameed Mohamed.

Old Wesleyites' Sports Club 2002/2003

President Mr Tyrone Maye

Vice Presidents Messrs Ivor Mahroof, Parakrama Wijemanne, Rohan Perera, S Renganathan and Rajah Sinnathurai.

Secretary M Imthisham

Asst Secretary Ramzy Razick

Treasurer Sudath Kannangara

Asst Treasurer A Ranasinghe

In addition, a committee of 14 members was also elected to assist the above office bearers.

A decade's partnerships between OWSC and CCS

by - Richard Dwight

Ten years is a fair slice in the life of any institution, all this and more annually, was given unstintingly by Ceylon Cold Stores (CCS) as sole sponsors of the Old Wesleyites Sports Clubs (OWSC) Schools Six-a-Side Cricket Tournament.

The 62 year old OWSC with the generous assistance of CCS, has done well to maintain this tournament without interruptions since its inception in 1993.



Viewed in the context of Clubs managed by old boys of other schools, this sustained partnership between the OWSC and CCS, to score in the name and cause of school Cricket is, whilst being exemplary also a rare achievement indeed.

Since it is a landmark event in the annals of the Club, it does merit a brief narrative here. Right at the outset, without any reservation it must be said, that this tournament was the brainchild of former Wesley Cricketer, Eric Gauder, who is also a sports promoter, a radio and TV Commentator.

The thinking at that time, was that there should be a tournament with a difference. Unlike the league and limited over games conducted by the Sri Lanka Schools Cricket Association - it was to be a competition that will bring about 25 to 30 schools teams from different parts of the island, to converge on the Wesley College grounds for a duration of two days.

The main aim of this farsighted exercise was, whilst promoting healthy rivalry to also foster a spirit of camaraderie, bonhomie and afford opportunities for fellowship - especially with the young in mind from lesser known schools in the different district. For the OWSC held the view, that no longer is sports confined to the Urban areas only, but as well to the rural and village of our country. It is with this uppermost in mind that the Club sought to provide exposure for young cricketers, who will be the future stars of Sri Lanka.

Seen in all its entirety, it did not take long for the President of the OWSC, Prof. Mahroof Ismail and the Committee, with the all important financial assistance from Ceylon Cold Stores as sponsors, to appoint Gauder as the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the inaugural OWSC's Schools Six-a-Side Cricket tournament that was held on the College grounds on the 25th and 26th of September 1993. Daunting as the challenge was, members of the Committee spearheaded by Gauder and motivated by President Ismail rose to the occasion to relentlessly work in pursuit of success, which the tournament achieved in great measure to the satisfaction of all.

The salient features of this first ever tournament, was that it was meticulously planned and well executed. There were the billboards, buntings and banners that gave it a festive air, with the decorative school tents, which proved attractive enough. From the point of co-ordination, things were worked off in slick precision in keeping with a tight schedule, which was very salutary. The College prefects and the marshals looking ever so impressive, liaised with the teams and yet other officials

on their walkie - talkies. There was no shortage for food and drink, with Elephant House chipping in, not forgetting the toilet facilities for the many who flocked on to the grounds. And to cap it all on the final day there was the colourful awards ceremony that witnessed the entire committee smartly dressed for the occasion.

There was undoubtedly much finesse and style in the way in which this major undertaking was executed.

Needless to say that it lifted the stature of both the Club, as well as the tournament, with Radio and TV coverage too. So much so that through the years, it has become a much looked forward to, increasingly popular event for many.

Heartening it was, that in the year 1994 a team from Maldives in Majeediya School came down to take part. It was touching as well, in keeping with the them 'Peace for all' that in 1998 with the help of the Army and Lion Air, three teams from the North/East in, a combined schools team from Jaffna, Methodist Central College from Batticaloa and R. K. M. Hindu College from Trincomalee were here to participate.

Two Principals of the College, viz. Dunstan Fernando and N A B Fernando, in accord with their respective periods of office, lent patronage to the tournament. The present principal M A P Fernando who is a keen promoter of Sports at Wesley, is a source of encouragement to the OWSC and is very supportive of the Six-a-Side Cricket competition. The Presidents of the OWSC, who were associated with the tournament during their tenure in office were Prof. Mahroof Ismail, Denzil Perera, Lucky Gunetilleke and Capt. Navin de Silva. The current President Tyronne Maye has been involved with this tournament from last year, in his official capacity. The Chairman of the Organising Committee from the inception of tournament in 1993 to the year 2000 was Eric Gauder. The present Chairman of the Organising Committee, is former Wesley Cricket Captain Sunil Fernando, who also steered last year's tournament as Chairman. Sunil also played cricket for the Colts Cricket Club and a Mercantile firm. He has sufficient experience in organizing Six-a-Side tournaments, having done so for the Tea Shippers tournament for quite some time.

Those who have assisted the tournament at different intervals from the Ceylon Cold Stores, the sponsors are M. D. Sumithra Gunasekera, Directors Billy Walpola, and Laksiri Wickremage Managers Nalin Jayasuriya, Ashan Wanduragala, Neil Samarasinghe, National Sales Manager.



Billy Walpola and Ashan Wanduragala, have been very keen followers of the progress made by the OWSC in relation to the tournament. The adjudicators at these competitions have been past Sri Lankan Cricketers, while the umpires doing duty have been picked from the panel of Sri Lankan Umpires.

The Champions at this year's tournament will receive the Lemonade trophy, with individual awards for eight members, while the runner-ups will be presented with individual awards for eight members. There will in addition be special awards for the Best Batsman, Best Bowler, Best Fielder and Man of the Tournament.

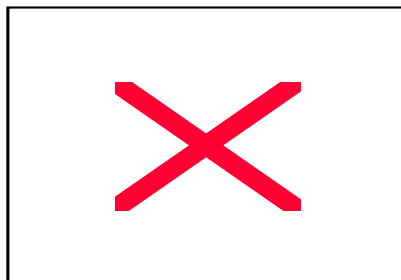
The past champions of this tournament winning the Lemonade Trophy were 1993 Royal, 1994 Kalutara MV, 1995 Thurstan, 1996 Nalanda, 1997 Prince of Wales, 1998 Nalanda, 1999 St. Josephs, 2000 Nalanda, 2001 Royal.

May this partnership between OWSC and CCS in the next ten years, be even more brighter than the past ten years.

Improving discipline in Lanka's schools

by *Karunasena Koditibuwakke, Minister of Human Resource Development, Education and Cultural Affairs*

Address made as chief guest at the annual prize giving of Wesley College, Colombo on October 4.



We all are aware that Sri Lankan education system has benefited immensely from the Christian influence. Wesley College manifests one of the many contributions

of the Methodist Church in this respect in Sri Lanka. Wesley College was in fact established by the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society in 1874, that is, 128 years ago. It continues to-date, as a prestigious private non-fee levying school serving students now numbering 2250 with equal opportunities to develop their skills. The national curriculum is delivered in both Tamil and Sinhala media up to the university entrance from the kindergarten.

The school which continues to be managed by the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka apart from providing a holistic education preserving the multi-racial, multi-

religious harmony within the school culture has made a profound contribution with a conscious effort and through a deliberate process to the formation of its students to be disciplined and responsible citizens. This is what makes Wesley College great. This indeed is significant and salutary given the unfortunate developments that we now witness in our society. The parents who seek admission to their children to the Wesley are primarily guided by the discipline and the leadership oriented education imparted by the college. I congratulate the Principal, the Board of Management and the parents for their active involvement in this respect.

With this distinguished gathering I would like to now share some of my thoughts concerning an unfortunate development in the education system. That is the apparent breakdown of discipline in the schools. Even today the print media carry news items on some incidents. It seems that clashes between schools or different factions within schools, the mobilisation and the use of students to achieve ulterior political ends or the inciting and grouping of teachers to resort to protest campaigns happening far more frequently. This trend undoubtedly is not only disturbing and is very unfortunate. It is through serious warnings and to some extent mobilizing the police that the government was able to prevent an attempt as recently as August/September this year by some political groups under the guise of 'Maubima Surakeema' to bring to the roads the children of schools in the Western and Southern provinces. These developments cannot be condoned with under any circumstances. And it shall not be. Party politics should be kept out of schools. It needs quick remedial action without compromising in any way the aims and principle of good education. I can assure to you as the Cabinet Minister in-charge of the portfolio of education that the Government is unreservedly committed to do so.

In my view the deterioration in discipline is only a tip of the iceberg. It would be very naive on our part to think otherwise. It is only a part of the overall crisis in governance that has been shaking the whole edifice of this society. Let me place before you briefly some factors, which have caused this deterioration.

* The introduction of "Swabasha Only" policies in the latter part of 50's dividing the younger generations in terms of their ethnicity creating a fertile environment to breed hostility to each other and later a "warring mentality" in the North as well as in the South.



Nationalisation of schools in 1960 debasing the value based education initiated and sustained by the then non-government schools namely, leading Buddhist Schools - Ananda, Nalanda, Dharmaraja, Vishaka, Anula and other schools such as Wesley College of different denominations.

* So called socialistic educational reforms introduced in early 70's in the schools under the guise of educational reforms removing the subjects which aimed at imparting principle of morality and values of courtesy, honesty, obedience, responsibility, tolerance,

patriotism and compassion and further teaching in the curricula the leadership qualities in the so-called ideologists in place of our own national heroes.

* The overt politicisation of the administration of education is another factor. It had sapped the entirety of the administration of the education system. The unqualified and the inexperienced had been appointed to the key administrative positions in the Education Departments not only at Zonal and Provincial levels but also at the Ministry level. So are the appointments made to the grades of Principals and their Deputies. In granting appointments, transfers and other awards to the teachers, the political affiliation had been given priority over merit and seniority.

We have already initiated action with some success to rectify these serious deficiencies. Yet the response from some of the Provincial Council administrations has been obstructive and discouraging.

* The declining trends in discipline has a lot to do also with the nature of the support extended to the schools by the administrative departments of the Zones, provinces and from the Centre, the leadership qualities of the Principals of schools and the degree of involvement of the parents in the school activities. The administrative support to the school at present is lethargic, impersonal, intrusive, unchanging and unresponsive to the legitimate demands made on them. Some holding these positions are spent forces and are incapable of contributing any further to the development of the system. They hang on to their positions, as they cannot find employment anywhere else.

The parents' lack of involvement and apathy is resulting primarily by their not having any control over the affairs of school governance. The overwhelming influence of the administrative system seem to render the parents apathetic. The absence of reasonably effective

mechanism to inculcate leadership qualities to the teachers and also those becoming principals appear to have also substantially contributed to the decline of discipline in the schools.

The lack of comprehensive mastery over the affairs of the school by the Principals, the overcrowding of classrooms, declining teacher-pupil relationship leading to alienation of pupils within the school itself (in view of the inability of teachers to have an effective dialogue with all of them) and partly as a result of the teachers being involved in running tuition houses, are also some casual factors.

The multiplicity of the causes leading to this unfortunate developments and their deep-rootedness makes the resolution of the problem very complex.

Nevertheless it is our duty to resolve it and within a reasonable timeframe. In order to contain the situation I believe that any breach of discipline or mischief leading to the breakdown of discipline should be seriously dealt with and not be tolerated by any measure. Containing action at times, surgical in nature may have to be initiated and performed. The political interference should not play a part in it. And no one should be cheap and lowly and attempt to make political capital out of it. This is not a thing that affects the ruling party or the opposition but the whole system. It involves the future of our generation. The fuller resolution of this problem would ultimately depend upon a careful study of the emergent situation and it would take some time given the complexity of the casual factors and their ramifications.

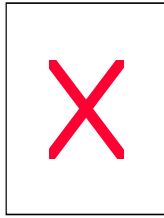
I wish to reiterate that the Government is fully sensitive to the current developments and is unreservedly committed to take appropriate action as necessary to counteract these unfortunate developments and to equip our younger generation with value profiles in harmony with our culture and functional abilities to keep abreast with and to benefit from the ongoing globalisation and regionalisation trends.

Finally I take this opportunity to congratulate all those who received awards, prizes and certificates today and also the other students. I also thank the Principal, Mr. Fernando, the staff of Wesley College for having invited me as your chief guest.

I also wish that Wesley College would continue to shine as a centre of excellence in education as it has shone over the years up to now.



Order of Australia Appointment for old Wesleyite.



Mr Randolph Ranjit Alwis - an old Wesleyite who lives in Adelaide South Australia has been honoured by his appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). The announcement of the appointment was made by the Australian Government in the Australian Day 2003 Honours List on Sunday 26th January.

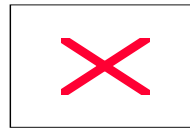
His appointment is in recognition of Service to the Development of Multiculturalism in Australia as an advocate and Lobbyist, and to the community through the promotion of indigenous reconciliation.

Ranjith is a past national chairman of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia, the first from a non European background to be elected to that position. He has devoted nearly 30 years of his life working with businesses, governments and a range of community groups to make Australia a fair and harmonious society in which every person regardless of his or her background has the opportunity to fully participate in our society.

Ranjith has studied at Wesley in the 50s and 60s. He distinguished himself academically at school winning the P H Nonis Mathematics prize for University entrance students and the Lydia Senaratne memorial prize for the best all rounder in the hostel as well as other prizes and awards in lower classes. Ranjith entered University of Ceylon in 1963 from which he graduated in 1967. In Australia he continued studies at The Universities of Adelaide completing a Masters Degree.

In his adopted country Australia, Ranjith has served many community groups on a range of issues affecting them both at state and federal levels. Ranjith is a Chartered Accountant and works as a business consultant in Adelaide, South Australia. His appointment to the Order of Australia is particularly significant in that it is for recognition of his service and achievements outside the field of his chosen profession or vocation.

The entire community of Old Wesleyites Congratulates Ranjith on this achievement.



THE NIGHT THE PHANTOM DANCED

Some said it was the best Dance of all.

The Annual Wesley College O.B.U. Ball last October was an event that broke with tradition and proved once and for all that the "Old Boys" can put on a show that ranks with the best.

Held again at the Cretan Village Receptions, the theme for the evening was inspired by the "Masquerade" sequence from the brilliant musical production the "The Phantom of the Opera".

Following pre-dinner drinks and hors-d'oeuvres, the curtain rose on the Ballroom when guests were shown to their tables by ushers whose identity was hidden under a mask.

The room was illuminated by candlelight. On each table was a stand from which the flickering flames of candles lit up the hollows in two silver masks where the eyes should be. The masks were draped in fabric and completed the décor around the candlestands, contributing an air of mystery. Matching drapes hung from the ceiling, and the flashes of light from two rotating mirror-balls cast abstract patterns overhead, adding elegance to the atmosphere.

Without a doubt all this contributed to the festivities and "Le Masquerade" was greatly enjoyed by all.

President, Reg Bartholomeusz, welcomed everyone present, including special guests, from interstate and overseas.

Fred Cheah and his group, including two saxophones, trumpet, guitars, piano, bass and drums belted out everything from ballads to rock and what has now become a main feature at every gathering of past Wesleyites was the rousing rendition of the College Song which prompted much interest among the uninitiated.

An excellent four course meal complemented the evening. The committee and all who worked to make the occasion such a success can take a bow for a great effort. The last guests departed in the wee hours of the morning, tired but happy, promising to do it again.

By the way who was that masked man.....?????

George Robertson

