

DOUBLE BLUE BULLETIN

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

2002 ISSUE 1

JUNE

Message from the President

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the members for re-electing me as the President of the Wesley College OBU for another year.

Along with the dedication and enthusiasm of the Committee backed by the support of the general membership, we hope that this year will be as good if not better than the last year.

We will continue our drive to bring back the Old Wesleyites who have lost contact with the OBU as well as recruit as many non members as possible. The Committee needs your help to make this membership drive a success. We hope you will all participate in our "regular" social gatherings such as the Annual Dinner Dance, the Club Nights, the AGM Dinner as well as some new proposals such as a family barbecue, a Golf Day, a revival of the annual cricket match with NSW and the bus trip to Sydney for the game, which generates immense fellowship on the trip as well as with our brother members in NSW. Your continued support and participation is a vital ingredient for the success of these events as well as being the lifeblood of our Association.

It should be remembered that if more funds are raised we will be able to support our Alma Mater to a greater degree and in so doing give back in a little way what that great school gave us when we were sheltered and nurtured within her walls.

I take this opportunity to thank the previous Committee for all the efforts and time ungrudgingly given to the Association.

Rienzie Mahamooth, has decided to take a break from "Committee duty" and to him and his wife Heather a

big "Thank You" for the many years of support especially for the Annual Dinner Dance, where their endeavours helped make each Dance an enormous success. Rienzie has been succeeded on the Committee by his brother Kenneth and we welcome him and know he will give of this best for the growth and benefit of the Association.

Wesleys' call has sounded !!! Let all of us respond "READY AYE"

Ora et Labora
Reg Bartholomeusz

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



Remember: Dates to

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| July 2002 | Mid Winter Night A spicy smorgasboard |
| October 5 | The Prestigious Wesley College OBU Annual Ball – Cretan Village Reception Hall |
| December | The Combined Colleges Christmas Carols |



February 03 The Old & Bold Seniors Night

Editors View.....

THE OBU – Do we have a long term future?

This was the question put to me by a distinguished Old Wesleyite at the AGM. He was concerned that so few of the younger generation were present on that occasion. My reply was that we had to look with optimism to the future and the perceived lack of support from the younger generation, was not only peculiar to our OBU alone but also applied to most of the older Schools and College Associations of Sri Lanka, based in Australia.

I further commented that as long as we had a regular intake of new members, an active, dedicated committee of management and supportive OLD WESLEYTTES of all ages, we have a good show of continuing as an OBU in the foreseeable future.

However, the reality is that our membership is ageing, the new members intake is far from satisfactory and there is an apparent lack of interest by younger members to nominate for positions on the Committee – all this indeed, must be of concern to all of us.

Your committee is endeavouring to address this problem and at the last Committee Meeting, a plan of action was implemented in principle to focus on the NEEDS of the younger generation of Old Wesleyites who are not enrolled as members as yet, to join without further delay.

A quote from our Presidents Report – “Looking ahead to the next year and the future beyond we need to actively participate in our Association and its activities, to encourage non members and dormant members to join us in our endeavours to both foster fellowship and friendship with fellow Wesleyites in Australia, while helping our beloved old school to continue its traditions and character building of the new generation of men of grit and industry”.

We are confident in our belief that all Old Wesleyites resident in Australia will answer WESLEY'S CALL.

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

March 03 The AGM

THE WEBSITEwww.wesleycollege.org

It is amazing to note that our website has received over 14,500 “hits” in only ten months. Please encourage your friends to visit our website. They will be pleasantly surprised.

Our website is second to none and offers the viewers an assortment of information whether it be local or international, from finding an old school mate, to a recipe or even as a street directory.

Older members, who do not have a computer at home, do ask a young relative to introduce you to our very own and exciting web page.

People have visited our site from the UK, USA, Canada, Denmark, China, United Arab Emirates and several other countries.

This great exposure will stand us in good stead as a revenue source. A committee comprising of Mahendra Dissanayake, Dayantha Makalanda and Allister Bartholomeusz have been entrusted to develop a business plan.

We will be glad to hear of any preliminary interest by Old Wesleyites or their friends and associates for advertisement space on the WEB, with its immense potential as an advertising tool. We will advise all members of our plan once it is formulated, together with contact details.

Your Committee 2002

President	Reg Bartholomeusz
Vice President	Bryan Wijeyekoon
Hony Secretary	Trevor Collette
Treasurer	Nelson de Silva
Editor	Alister Bartholomeusz
Committee	Kenneth Mahamooth Dayantha Makalanda Mahendra Dissanayake Neville Ludowyke
Postal Address	Box 123 Glenways MDC Mulgrave 3170
Email	obua@wesleycollege.org

All Correspondence Should Be Sent To:

The Editor
Double Blue Bulletin
Box 123 Glenway MDC
Mulgrave 3170
VICTORIA - AUSTRALIA



**A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH
THE OLDEST LIVING SCHOOLS
CRICKET CAPTAINS**

Condensed from an article written by Harold de
Andrado of the "Island" – Sri Lanka

St Thomas College Mt Lavinia

The oldest Thomian cricket captain or for that matter among all school captains is A Lankatileke (1923), now close to achieving his own century. The next four oldest captains are Willie Jayatileke (1937) now resident in Australia, Bertie Wijesinghe (1938 & 1939) Vernon Prins 1943 and Oscar Wijesinghe.

Royal College

Pat McCarthy (1938) Gamini Salgado (1942) Rudolph Wickremetileke (1943) Vivian de Kretser (1945) and Mahes Rodrigo (1946) - Mahes represented Ceylon in both Cricket and rugby, he scored a memorable century against the powerful West Indian Side of 1949.

Wesley College Colombo

Our Oldest surviving captain is Henry Duckworth (1936-37) followed by Bertram Henderling (1942) Wesley stalwart, Edmund Dissanayake – (1946-47) Harold Mathysz (1948) Derrick Mack (1950-51) Radley Claessen 1952 and Bryan Claessen (1953) other than Edmund, all resident in Australia.

Trinity College – Kandy

G P (Bobby) Schoorman (1939) Pat Solomons (1941) Lala Wadsworth (1948) Lakshman Kadiragamar (1950) and Eustace Rulach (1951).

St Joseph College Colombo

C. Serpanchy (1940) Hugh Muller (1941) Fairlie Dalpethado (1942-1943) Neil Weerasinghe (1946-47). The oldest SJC captain is K.W. Devanayagam (1930)

St Peters College – Colombo

Joe Misso (1939). Archibald Weerasinghe (1940-41) Dion Walles (1946-47). Dr Darrel Weinman (1949) and Dr H.I.K. Fernando (1951-52) .

CRICKET AND COMPUTERS

(Mahendra Dissanayake M.Eng (Comp Sys) B.Eng (Elec)

Mahendra is our own computer guru and the designer/engineer of our state of the art Website. Apart from his scholastic achievements he is also an outstanding sportsman and was also the Senior Prefect.

Mahendra captained Wesley College Cricket first eleven in 1984 and was the youngest cricket captain the College has ever had. Mahendra captained the Colombo Schools against the outstation schools that same year.

He played for Wesley from 1983-85 and was an all rounder of high calibre. In 1985 Wesley College was selected as the best school team and Mahendra's outstanding all round performance contributed largely to the teams success. In 1985 Mahendra created two records in a cricket season – 8 for 54 against St Peters and 7 for 34 (1st innings) 7 for 30 (2nd innings) against Nalanda College. This performance is truly remarkable and will remain on the books for yet some considerable time to come. It must be mentioned that Nalanda had a powerful cricket team, several of their players later represented Sri Lanka at test level. Mahendra was considered a bright prospect to represent his country at Test level. But a powerful official who bore a grudge against Wesley College made sure that this did not eventuate. It was a great pity and a disgrace that SL Cricket was deprived of a quality fast bowler.

Mahendra achieved the feat of securing over five wickets on six occasions

1983	6 for 52 vs Prince of Wales
1983	7 for 44 vs St Joseph's
1984	7 for 45 vs Zahira
1985	8 for 54 vs St Peters
1985	7 for 34 vs Nalanda (1 st innings)
1985	7 for 30 vs Nalanda (2 nd innings)

Mahendra Dissanayake and Bryan Claessen (1951 – 52) are the only bowlers to have achieved the feat of securing over five wickets on six occasions.

Mahendra is hard working and a loyal supporter of the OBU. He is both modest and unassuming and will undertake any assignment with great diligence and love for his Alma Mater.

Mahendra is the son of Graham Dissanayake (1946-52) and the nephew of the one and only Edmund.

Congratulations, Mahendra we are proud of you

Note: Details of the Nalanda – Wesley Cricket match of 1985 are on page 12



Mrs Netta Joseph (and the 1934 standard 3 class)

Wesleyites of past generation will recall with gratitude, but also with some trepidation, their debt to Mrs Netta Joseph, Teacher in charge of the 1934 Standard 3 at the College, and one of the greatest teachers to adorn a famous college. She was a teacher par excellence who had a tremendous influence on her young and maturing pupils.

She had, in the writer's time, a class of forty five, who came in combination from standards 2a and 2b (think now on the restrictions here in Australia on class sizes to the twenties as being the maximum for proper teaching). But despite this large conglomeration of pupils of all communities and religions, she managed to ensure that the best was brought out in the young boys entrusted to her care.

In later life there were many shining examples of success from this foundation from early school days which included, not only books, but also determination and discipline. As Mrs Joseph said "Never accept the ugly when you can strive for the beautiful". And she was not only a great teacher, but also excelled in music and as an organist, qualities which her daughter Helen and son Langston inherited. But this small tribute to her, from one of the Class of 1934, concerns the tremendous influence she had in teaching and the enforcement of discipline not forgetting the striving for the best always! Nearly seventy years later the writer recalls the achievements of some of the boys of the 1934 Class in different and varied spheres of life – academic, accountancy, authorship, administration, engineering, marine engineering and service in the racing industry and the War.

By and large it can be said with pride that this class could compare with the best in any age and in any school. And so the writer makes mention of some of the boys of the 1934 class and what they did in later life, though this does not unfortunately include the many others who served their country well in other walks of life.

In academia Ian Van den Driesen, after graduating in Economics from the university of Ceylon, took to an academic career, finally becoming Professor of Economics in the University of Western Australia. In Accountancy, Rodney Ferdinands was successful in the first examination in Ceylon of the profession of Chartered Accountancy. In Australia he was President of the Institute of Internal Auditors in Victoria. Subsequently as an Author he researched the history of

the Burgher community in Ceylon, and his book "Proud and Prejudiced" is acclaimed as the history of the community. Four members of the 1934 Class were successful in that most prestigious Exam in Ceylon Civil Service, three in 1948 and another in 1949. Ivor Ferdinands passed out first in 1948. After leaving the Government Service he moved to the Mercantile sector where he was Managing Director of one of the leading firms before emigrating to Australia, where he served as Advocate for Victoria in Industrial Relations and Consultant in the Victorian Public Service Board.

Sam Silva was elected President of the Union Society at the University of Ceylon and had a distinguished government career in administration, before dying at a relatively young age. Caryl Ludekens remained in Ceylon and served the Government in many important administrative positions before retirement.

David Loos, with his first class honours in statistics, spent most of this time in the Public Service in the Treasury where he was involved with Ceylon's External Trade and Foreign Exchange. He subsequently secured a position in the World Bank in America.

Charles Speldewinde won the Bayliss Prize for Engineering in the Commonwealth, and played an important role in the development of Canberra as the Capital of Australia. His work for the Australian Capital Development Commission was rewarded with an M.B.E.

George Ferdinands spent all his life after Wesley away from Ceylon and obtaining a scholarship in Marine Engineering travelled the world in his chosen career and settled in Vancouver, Canada with his brother Maurice who worked for the Canadian railways.

Ridley Bartholomeusz volunteered during World War II to join the Empire Training Scheme, after which he served with the Royal Air Force in England.

Renge Selvaratnam, a brilliant athlete and cricketer, took to his family profession, that of training thoroughbred racehorses. When racing was banned in Ceylon he became one of the leading Trainers in India.

And so the writer must conclude this note on some of the boys of the 1934 Standard 3 Class and, more importantly, pay tribute to that great Teacher, Mrs Netta Joseph, who played such an important role in the maturing of her young charges. Her memory lives long in Wesley College, and in the many students for whom she tirelessly strove for them to reach their full potential. May she rest in Peace

(Contributed by one of Mrs Joseph's grateful 1934 Standard 3 Pupils)



To Sir, with Love....

A tribute to Kenneth De Lanerolle of Wesley

My son Chrisantha (Victor) conveyed to me, to Canada, the sad news of his death.

I hadn't seen him before I left Sri Lanka, in March 2001; and this made me feel his loss more sharply and poignantly.

My mind's eye went back fifty years and more, to my days at Wesley College, Colombo, as a student, and my first meeting with Kenneth de Lanerolle, who had returned with a Master's degree from the University of Michigan, to enrich further, the quality of leadership at Wesley. He was Vice Principal, James Cartman was at Wesley's helm. A more magnificent combination at the top, Wesley has not had, since then.

He served during one of Wesley's great eras – an era of outstanding achievement – which indicates that committed leadership of the highest calibre, always has a tremendous impact, on the quality of achievement of any institution. Scholarship, music, dramatics, debating, choral singing, as well as sports, flourished.. The spate of centuries scored by Wesley batsmen, and the galaxy of superb bowlers and fieldsmen produced by her, topped up her image, as an outstanding cricket school, to the brim. Swimming and lawn tennis (now defunct!) flourished. The college had many an excellent swimmer, with the Colombo harbour serving as our "pool". In lawn tennis we proved our mettle, with D.B.C. Mack and N.U. Wirasekara winning the Public Schools' Doubles Championship and consequently awarded Public Schools' colours. Hockey was well nurtured as well with the expertise of Ceylon's dribbling wizard – former Wesley Captain – A Mylvaganam – utilized as coach. In soccer, we clung on tenaciously to our reputation as a mercurial barefoot battalion, which included players of the ilk of M K Brantha, Lou and Vincent Adihetty and ERB Amarasekara (Snr), Wesley's outstanding athlete and Senior Prefect, M.A.M.Sheriff won a place in the prestigious Ceylon contingent to the Empire Games, in Auckland, New Zealand – the only schoolboy in the team.

It would be an understatement to say that to have been at Wesley at the time, was a great privilege. The school community was a hive of vibrant activity. The library was well patronized, and books, and more books, read in pursuit of a spectrum of knowledge, as broad and varied as possible. There was laughter and happiness in the air, and a sense of camaraderie which was unvanquishable. Those of us who did not directly participate in an event, supported the school by their

presence – a lucid demonstration of loyalty. Wesley, led by the Cartman – de Lanerolle duo, was a well integrated, happy family. I recall how a teacher was provided for Greek, when a single student indicated his desire to offer this subject, for the University of Ceylon, Entrance Examination. Such was Wesley's concern for each and every one of us, at the time!

The Christian Union (later renamed the SCM) had a rich tradition of producing excellent plays under its aegis; as did, Wesley. The man behind the scenes was Kenneth de Lanerolle. I recall, vividly, the play, "AMOR CHRISTI" with Kenneth giving a warm and exciting rendition of the spiritual, "Were you there, when they crucified my Lord?" The audience was visibly moved so genuine was the pathos evoked. His rich bass-baritone voice rings in my ears even now, when I recall the play, staged over fifty years ago!

Kenneth accompanied our singing at general assembly – a daily feature – playing the piano. As an actor steeped in the UCDS (Dram Soc) tradition of E.F.C. Ludowyk, at the University College, Colombo, he excelled in whatever role he was cast. His English speech was refined and cultured.

I recall his lessons in the General English class (Upper Sixth) where a series of mini exercises, such as, "the cabbage bounded off the table", were aimed at getting us to speak the words, correctly. We were required to (as a warm-up exercise, or prelude) to pronounce tricky words such as, recitative correctly, much to our merriment.

Kenneth was a balanced and harmonious personality, with the courage to be critical – always with good intent – when necessary. He was a rare gift to any educational institution, where the character of the child is moulded, and in so doing, rich and wholesome values inculcated, The latent talents of the individual were discovered and developed, to their fullest potential. The great versatility he displayed in the undertaking of such tremendous responsibility, for our growth and well-being, amazed us.

Ironical, paradoxical or, perverse, as it may seem, the "flaw" in this make up appears to have been the diverse talents he was gifted with. Too many, perhaps, for our little, mundane minds to comprehend. This made some resent him secretly, as his brilliance, exposed without intent, the pathetic inadequacy and mediocrity in some of us at times, even among those in authority over him. The attempts to keep him down to me was akin to trying to capture the wind, in a fishing net.



When reflecting on Kenneth's life, I am strongly reminded of some of the lines from Bob Dylan's lyric, *Blowing in the Wind*

How may roads must a man walk down before you call him a man?

I knew him during various phases of my life – as a student prefect; and much later, as his colleague on the Wesley staff. In the Fellowship of the Y's Men's Club of Kandy (Y's Men International) and the Kandy YMCA; and as Principal of Wesley, albeit for a brief spell, in the winter of his life, when he was found eminently suitable, to pull chestnuts out of the fire, for the management! The negative and counterproductive manner in which he had often been manipulated and manoeuvred, over the years, enraged those of us who believed in his integrity and sincerity of purpose.

I would like to isolate a few lines, from some of his favourite psalms and hymns, to merely touch on Kenneth's unrelenting belief in God; and the solace he would have received from such faith in Him. Like John Donne, he would have experienced the bitterness of despair, in endeavouring to forge ahead with his totally committed life as an "educator". I would prefer the less pretentious word, teacher"

*"Breathe on me breath of God
Till I am wholly Thine;
Until this earthly part of me
Glow with Thy fire divine"*

Or

*"My table Thou hast furnished
In presence of my foes;
My head thou dost with oil anoint
And my cup overflows".*

In Vietnam, he worked diligently and courageously, bringing solace to the traumatised youth of that country, devastated by a ridiculous and futile war clamped on them. He served equally conscientiously at Wesley (as Vice Principal, for seventeen years; much later, for a brief spell as Principal) at Kingswood and Carey, as Principal in the interim period; and on several National Educational Reforms Committees, focusing on the role of English, in particular; the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka; The YMCA Forum; The Ceylon Teachers' Travel Club (when he organised an excellent tour of Soviet Russia) several music, drama and English speech (Elocution) groups, as well as his local church, and The Church of Ceylon, Diocesan Council.

Always unobtrusively, and characteristically, he helped many in need; very specially the poorest students at Wesley, who benefited from his munificence; with gifts of cricket boots, the Wesley cricket blazer (in a least one instance) spectacles, and running shoes, school

uniforms, hockey sticks, Horlicks malted milk and Sanatogen!

His managerial skills were considerable and fundamentally "people" oriented. The rule was often obscured to focus on the human element.

Combined with his humane qualities, meticulous planning was his forte qualities much in need in Sri Lanka's "public administration". No contingency found him hence, Wesley stranded or flustered. He had the temperament to handle any situation with acceptance. I recall a sequence at Wesley's 75th anniversary Prize Day, when Ceylon's first Prime Minister, The Rt Honourable D.S. Senanayake, PC (Privy Counsellor) was delivering his address, as Chief Guest. Mr Senanayake suddenly felt sick and Kenneth de Lanerolle read out the rest of his speech with great confidence.

The advice we sought and joyfully received from him as 14th Colombo (Wesley) Scouts stood us in good stead. His advice always be prepared for the unexpected! Our camps in Bandarawela, Nuwara-Eliya, Horton Plain and Pidurutalagala, and at Buona Vista, by the sea, in Galle, were consequently most enjoyable and rewarding experiences. He never failed to visit us in camp and be one of us in experiencing the unparalleled joy of living close to Nature. His dear friend J.E. Silva, was Group Scout Master and this would have been a further incentive for him to be so supportive of scouting at Wesley.

As a disciplinarian, he displayed novel ways of "dealing with" miscreants. The deft movements of his scalp and formidable eyebrows scared the daylights out of the younger ones handed over to him for punishment for "misdeeds" such as sleeping in class! At times a deft pinch of one's stomach reserved for the rebellious ones, with faint traces of silk-like fungi above their upper lip with attendant delusions of being cast in the image of Al Capone or Jesse James! quelled the most rebellious of them. The momentary pain had the intended salutary effect! seldom did he use the cane (when he did two strokes would suffice) and it was over quickly after he had deftly extracted 80 page exercise books inserted as padding to absorb the blows! His wise saws did the rest; and one returned exorcised of all richly imaginative thoughts, such as setting the school on fire, in order to "miss" a meeting of the Sinhala Literary Association, where one had been conscripted to speak on the evils of alcohol, or, to sing a string of pre-selected Kavi and elucidate the poets' intention in each instance!

Some of these guys ended up as college prefects. Such was his gift of dealing with the rebel or nonconformist. To him it was "a growing-up process" not a crime. To



be able to see the great potential behind what would be superficially termed a misdeed and conventionally a breach of discipline and to thereafter channel and nurture the potential for good in such young men, enriched them, greatly as well as the corporate life of the school, in consequence.

Kenneth was a graphic-artist, as well as the author of a few books, written in his leisure hours, the most significant being, Southern River. Here one gets an insight into his parental home, and his childhood at Matara, when the wholesome and simple pleasures of the country side enthralled a child.

Educated at the famous Richmond College, in Galle, he excelled in dramatics English language and literature music and elocution. He had as a young man also mastered the elusive art of theatrical “make-up”, transforming familiar faces into something rich, and strange.

The deft strokes of his brush, and his sensitive use of colour, produced brilliant posters. These were a few of his very special gifts, and we, his students, imbibed much of his dexterity, each according to his own talents and inclinations.

Kenneth de Lanerolle brought out the BEST in one.....

He is greatly missed by the many thousands who were influenced by him as a teacher, most extra ordinary; and a staunch friend.

He was with us, here, for a season; now above; and we pray, he is overwhelmed by the Peace and Tranquillity, he so richly deserved in life, now that his is no more with us, physically.

Fred Abeysekera
26 October 2001



Disclaimer

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.



People News

Norman de la Harpe has moved to sunny Brisbane.

Norman a “born and bred”, illustrious son of Wesley College, Colombo, was accorded a farewell at the AGM and was presented with an engraved plaque in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the OBU Melbourne Branch. Our best wishes go out to Norman we know that he is a true-blue double blue.

The Hon M.H. Mohammed a distinguished Old Boy and former Minister of the UNP Government has been appointed Governor of the Western Province in Sri Lanka, Our congratulations go out to him.



The Tribe of the Double Blue

When Trevor Collette invited me to write a few lines about the Seniors’ Night presented by the Old Boys’ Association last December, I readily agreed as it was another of those occasions which are always well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

The food was excellent, there was good music and the overall mood was one of fellowship and relaxation, with a time for singing our favourite Carols between interludes of dancing.

The President and Committee did a great job once again.

But I have said all of his before. Previously too, I have mentioned the good food, the music, the singing and all that. So I set my mind to thinking of something fresh to write about and remembered saying to someone that evening that in 2002 it would be fifty years since I left Wesley College. And there I was, at a Dinner arranged by past pupils of Wesley for the senior Old Boys. I must mention Vernon Achilles, the most senior Old Boy who is in his 90’s, Anton Blacker, Langston Joseph, Glyn Lappen, Vernon Nugara, to name a few, who are among the respected elder statesmen of the Old Boys’ Association, and all of them regular guests at these gatherings.

But what was I doing here really? Why had I come along with my wife Beryl who incidentally commenced her school career in the Wesley Kindergarten? Sure, I came to hear some news about my old school, to meet old friends and to say “hi” to some others whom I



recognised but whose names I had forgotten. This happens a lot to me these days!

But there is another reason, I believe we go to the Old Boys' Association functions because they fill a need in us. They transport me back to a time in my early years to which I return very easily, and for a little while I recapture the atmosphere and feel of being with a group of my contemporaries from a time so long ago.

It is a tribal urge, this reunion ritual the need to identify oneself in a particular context. This TRIBE OF THE DOUBLE BLUE it is that which distinguishes us from all the others the Royalists, the Thomians, the Peterites, they are the other Tribes of our era, and I guess are just as proud and happy to meet each other as we are.

We were all cloned or cast from the same mould of what was considered to be the end product of the School system as it was then, pressed into uniforms, assembled daily, marched everywhere in columns two by two, our hours dictated by the tolling of the School bell, obeying without question and punished if we did not.

Trained and instructed in academic and sporting pursuits, lectured on the importance of "doing well" to such an extent that half a century or more later, wherever a group of Wesley Old Boys' Association friends get together, inevitably the subject of Cricket will be raised. And old men will play again across the table with the glasses, the ice, and the crystal decanters of Scotch, the great Matches that they featured in so long ago. It never fails! I have seen this happen on many, many occasions. Men who can barely walk a mile nowadays, and need to pause for breath between every sentence, will come alive! Their eyes will light up and every smallest detail of that Innings will be vividly recalled. And everyone will listen as if they had not heard these same stories many times before.

Even as I write this, today's Television programme promotes a discussion of the famous Australia vs England Test Match Series of 1948, with comments by Sir Donald Bradman. See what I mean? 1948, for goodness sake! Even HE did it!

But we all do it because we need to. And after all there's no place else to go. We get together at Old Boys' association functions so that for just a few hours we resurrect those crazy, carefree days when we were growing up, full of ideals and virtues which were at the very heart of what was expected from us as boys of Wesley.

I sometimes find myself unable to relate to the cynical rat race reality of this high-tech society that has

overtaken us. Where everybody moves as if they are in a TV show with the "Fast Forward" button operating all the time.

Yes, but in this context of reminiscence, not only does the image of Cricket rear it's head, but also the recounting of "tales", "anecdotes", "incidents" relating to much loved and respected Members of the College Tutorial Staff though on reflection, I must question the use of the word "loved".

Irrespective of terminology, these Members of the Staff, to varying degree, certainly had an influence on us and the moulding of our lives from youthful adolescence to the early stages of manhood. And some of those memories of men and women who have influenced our "growing up" can never be erased.

In a somewhat lighter vein, my mind goes back to our Geography Classes, where this Question was posed "If Mississippi wore Missouri's New Jersey, what would Delaware?" And the Answer? Keep reading on!!!

And now to the Scripture Class the subject was "Scripture tales we learnt on our Mother's knee". But alas Mother was wrong said the Theologian conducting the Class. Lazarus was not raised from the dead he was in a diabetic coma! Christ did not walk on water. He walked on a coral reef in the Sea of Galilee! And so on. But our Christian Faith has stood the rigours of these contemporary interpretations, and I certainly am in no way a heretic!

Because these were our formative years, and because, thank God, our parents had the commitment to their sons and daughters to ensue that we had a sound education so that we could face whatever lay ahead because of all of this the TRIBE OF THE DOUBLE BLUE will always represent those ideals and virtues which characterise decent men and women everywhere.

(And the Answer said more effectively with an American drawl – ALASKA!)

And now for our PUNCH LINE – "You can take the boy out of Wesley; but you can never take WESLEY out of the boy!"

Fraternal Greetings to you all

George Robertson & Langston Joseph



NEWS FROM NSW

The 7th Annual General Meeting of the Wesley College O.B.U. NSW was held at the RSL Club Parramatta on 30th April 2002. The following were elected to the Committee for the year 2002/03.

President	Lalith Fernando
Secretary	Gamini Kulasuriya
Vice President	Nizar Sappideen
Treasurer	Allan Jansz
Committee Members	John Bultjens Tyrone Jansz Jay Winslow

The Committee met on the 10th May to draw up the events for the year and decided to organise the following events.

1. Members/Family Night on 13th July 2002
2. Annual Dinner Dance on 2nd November 2002

The Committee would like to receive any other suggestions from the members for consideration.

Some members of the committee proposed to organise a New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance, which is now under consideration.

For further information regarding the Members Night, please contact the following:

Lalith Fernando	(02) 87838303
Gamini Kulasuriya	(02) 96425177
Nizar Sappideen	(02) 96241171
Allan Jansz	(02) 96054707

Wesley's Ansar Fuard no more

by Richard Dwight

(Daily News of Monday 6 May 2002)

The sudden passing away of M. A. M. Fuard the former Wesley College captain, Moors SC and NCC cricketer, in the early hours of Saturday (4.5.02) at the age 67, did cause a void and came as a rude shock not only to the members of his family, but to many a relative and friend.

Ansar, as he was affectionately referred to was laid low with a severe bout of fever, which found him exhausted and weak even to walk. He however recovered sufficiently to be discharged from hospital and, was up and about for a few days, gearing himself to resume

work at the Sri Lanka Cricket Board, where he served. But fate willed otherwise, for in the wee hours of Saturday around 1.30 a.m., he complained of a pain in the stomach and, within the swiftness of an hour he slipped through life peacefully, just the way he had lived, into a land of eternal bliss. Rather, than lingering on a bed of pain, it's a death that any sportsman dreams of, but becomes the preserve of only the best who are counted worthy.

Ansar did not flaunt his religion to be seen of men and, he could not have been the kind of person he was, nor lived the kind of life he led, were it not for his abiding faith in Islam, which unobtrusively he practised. From his father, the late Proctor A. M. Fuard who also captained Wesley at cricket, he imbibed virtuous qualities to lead an exemplary life, whilst from his mother, Ansar learnt that the fear of God was the beginning of wisdom.

It is against this background and environment, that Ansar grew and blossomed out further, to be a conscientious, painstaking student at Wesley College, which with time became his second home. He was made up of the firm belief, that the classroom and the playing field were handmaids, complementary to each other. Being essentially a team man and a stickler for accepted norms, he made valuable contributions in those golden years of Wesley's sports, in the early fifties, by representing the college at cricket, hockey and athletics, with a flair for table tennis as well.

As an athlete he was a sprinter and a hurdler and, proved to be a penetrative inside in the half line on the field of hockey. But superceding all this, was his inordinate passion for the game of cricket. So keen was he that he represented the glamorous cricket teams of Wesley, commencing from 1952 to 1954 where he eventually captained the college in his final year. He proved to be a fine all-rounder excelling as an enterprising batsman, found to be a useful bowler and an alert, nippy fielder. He adored the mercurial Sathasivam and in jest would say I'd like to late cut, drive through cover and hook the way Satha does, with much finesse. In these attractive days of school cricket he played for Wesley in the august company of the Mack brothers Derrick and Spencer, the Claessen brothers Radley and Brian, Lou and Vince Adihetty, Patrick Schockman, Neil Gallaher, Arthlow Chapman, Samsudeen and his brother Abu Fuard who went ahead to play for Ceylon as a reputed off-spinner. Through it all he made the right kind of impression to be appointed as senior prefect, where his experience was, that he learnt how to be led and how to lead.

On leaving college he continued playing cricket for the Moors Sports Club and the NCC and had the privilege



of making tours to India. His contemporaries at the NCC were Vernon Prins, Michael Tissera, Herbie Fernando, K. M. T. Perera, Rienzie Perera, Patrick Schockman and yet others.

What was most striking about Ansar, was that when he set his heart and mind to achieve an objective he never rested until he was successful. Evidence of this was seen in his obtaining a Bachelor of Arts degree, which stood him in good stead in securing employment in the Education Department, the Mahaweli Board and the Sri Lanka Cricket Board where he was the personnel manager at the time of his death.

Ansar was one given to sober disciplined, meticulous ways with the accent on honesty and integrity. He was a kindly man, of quiet disposition, a fine sportsman and a true friend. His sacrificial nature was amply made manifest in his deep association with his brother Abu. Ansar is survived by his wife Fathima Badri and son Asif. May the turf lie gently over him.

Mayor praises Wesley for high standard of discipline

(Daily News of Monday 12th April 2002)



Colombo Mayor Omar Kamil (second from left) with former MP Halim Ishak, Wesley College Principal MAP Fernando, Wesley College OBU past president Rajah Sinnathuray and Wesley College Vice Principal Rev Shihan Fernando

Colombo Mayor Omar Kamil praised the high standard of discipline maintained at Wesley College when he addressed the students on discipline at an assembly held at the school premises recently. "We can be really proud of this school as one of the leading educational institutions where discipline is maintained at the highest level. I am made to understand that the student population at Wesley consists of students belonging to different ethnic and religious groups, but all live in a spirit of peace and harmony. This itself is a great achievement," said Mayor Kamil.

He saluted all present and past principals and members of the staff, the parents and students for the painstaking efforts in making Wesley College what it is today and mentioned some of the illustrious produces of the school like Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, the first Sri Lankan Governor-General, Sir Baron Jayatilleke, a famous educationist, P. de S. Kularatne, one time principal of Ananda College, Sir Claude Corea, Prof E.F.C. Ludowyk and Sir Mohamed Macan Markar.

"Their names have been written in gold in the annals of the history of this country as great sons of Wesley College. As such I believe that you students of this school need not go astray of great lives to emulate for you have a set of your own distinguished past pupils whom you can emulate as models of life," said Mayor Kamil. He said that academic achievements without moral and spiritual values are of no use either to the self or society at large and advised them to become responsible citizens of society when they grow up. He wished the students continued success in their studies and hoped that the school would continue to produce more and more great men to serve the nation for many generations.

CONDOLENCES

The Committee and members of the WCOBU, in Australia extend our heartfelt condolences to:

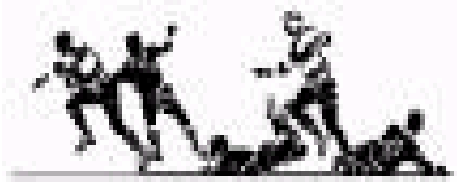
Mohamed Iqbal in New Zealand, and the rest of the family in Sri Lanka on the death of Iqbal's mother.

Rev Neville Koch in USA and Maurice Balasingham in Canada, and families on the recent demise of Mr Henry Lawson Koch, father in law of Maurice and father of Neville.

Abu and Dr Haris Fuard and the Fuard family on the passing away in Sri Lanka of Ansar Fuard, former Wesley Cricket Captain and all round sportsman.

Wife Esme and son Dirk and brothers Ainsley and Brian on the recent loss of our loyal member Rienzie Scharenguivel.

Keith and Myra de Kretser, children Mardie, Mitchel and Stuart, and Beulah Poulter, on the death of Myra's and Beulah's mother, Mrs Jean Poulter.



Wesley 'magic' at Western Province twelves ("The Island" – 30 April 2002) by Ravi Nagahawatte

Wesley juniors underscored the fact that their future in rugby will be rosy when they ran out winners in the Western Province Inter-school Under 15 12-a-side rugby tournament by beating Royal College Colombo in the final at Bullers Road yesterday. The Wesleyites had the edge when ever their line swung into motion and held their opponents in suspense before pulling off a 5-0 win.

The team however were kept in check by some resolute tackling by the Royalists who didn't enjoy much possession.

The Wesleyites shot into the lead on the stroke of half time when winger Niranjan Wickremasinghe exposed a gaping hole in the Royal defence when the three quarter line was in full swing. The conversion however went astray.

Royal played better after 'lemons' but failed to put the finish to some promising moves which forced the Wesleyites to back peddle at times.

The losers showed their strength with their bigger made forwards. But the Wesleyites played better and held on till the final whistle to record a memorable victory.

Nalanda annexed the Plate Trophy beating St. Joseph's 8-0 in the final while Royal Panadura won the Bowl Trophy beating Zahira College in the final.

Former Thomian, Havelocks and Sri Lanka second row forward Chaminda 'Diga' Rupasinghe was the chief guest at the final.

Wesley create history with sensational 21-nil win over Trinity

by RANJAN ANANDAPPA
(Sunday Observer of 26 May 2002)

Spearheaded by a spectacular forwards display, Wesley created history recording a sensational 21 points (Three goals) to nil win over Trinity for the first time in their rugby history in an inter-school encounter played at Longden Place yesterday.

The Kandy schools opening game for the season played in Colombo yesterday ended in disaster as the Wesleyites completely rattled the Trinitians with their robust style of play. The Wesleyites should owe their success to their diligent set of forwards led by their skipper and number eight Lahiru Boteju and excellent support coming from the rest Chitrajith Weligamage, Shariffudeen, Steve Perera and Nalawangsa dominating the proceedings. Overall it was a superb team effort which gave the Wesleyites to savour the historic moment.

Wesley opened scoring in the 5th minute when winger N. Fareez touched down and Zakir Badurdeen gave them the extra points and mid way in the first half, centre Z. Thahir scored off an infringement under the post and Badurdeen made no mistake with the kick. Wesley led 14-0 at the breather.

The Wesleyites played exceptionally well in attack and defence to put the breaks on any Trinity moves. The Trinitians won most of the line-outs with second row D. A. de Silva beating counterparts but lack of cohesive play prevented Trinity making much headway. The Kandy school missed a couple of scoring opportunities through penalties when hooker P. Wasalathanthri lacked the direction while kicking.

Orville Fernando refereed.

Wesley also won the under 17 game 5-0.

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*

Membership rates

Full - \$12, Pensioners - \$10, *Seniors - Voluntary
*** Members over 70 years of age are to inform the Treasurer of their age to qualify.**



Wesley-Nalanda Cricket match of 1985

OBSERVER – BATA SCHOOLBOY CRICKETER (Sunday Observer 5 May 2002)

Anderio Toussaint of
Wesley College -
Most Popular
Schoolboy Cricketer
of the Year - All
Island 2002.
(Pictures by Renuka
Alwis)



Wesley College wicketkeeper cum opening batsman Anderio Frederic Toussaint and Janaka Amila Withanaarachchi of Bandaranayake College, Gampaha skipper are the OBSERVER-BATA MOST POPULAR SCHOOLBOY CRICKETERS OF THE YEAR 2002.

Anderio won the All-Island Contest with a total of 14,187 votes having received 2,119 votes on the final coupon No. 10.

Anderio has been on top except on coupon number one and two. He was in first place in the penultimate count No. 9 with 12,068 votes ahead of Benedictine allrounder Sisil de Silva, 7,591 votes.

In the final coupon No. 10, Anderio received 2,119 votes while Sisil received 1389 votes. So Anderio had no difficulty in coming on top. Sisil finished in second position with 8,980 votes and Charith Sylvester Fernando of De Mazenod College came third with 4,268 votes.

Besides being popular cricketer, Anderio had a successful season, scoring over 739 runs which included five half centuries. His best innings was against Kignswood in which match he got 90 runs. He is also a smart wicketkeeper and had 35 victims behind the stumps this season. Anderio also is a good soccer player having captained the college football team in the inter-school tournaments. He played cricket for the college from the age of 8 years.

The “Island” of 16th, March 1985 under the heading “Nalanda shot out for 84” reported as follows:

“The match began at 12.45 due to overnight rain and the Nalandians who took first lease of the wicket could not cope with bowling of paceman Mahendra Dissanayake and were skittled out for 84”.

“The only Nalandian to offer any resistance to the Wesley attack was skipper Asanka Gurusinghe who scored an attractive 44. He had five hits to the ropes during his 103 minute stay at the wicket. Paceman Mahendra Dissanayake who ripped through the Nalanda batting line-up ended with the excellent figures of 12.2 overs 4 maidens 34 runs 7 wickets”.

At the end of the day Wesley were 96 for 6 wickets with Chanaka de Mel making a well compiled 32. On the second day, Wesley were bowled out for the addition of only 9 more runs, making a first innings total of 105 runs.

Nalanda batting a second time could not cope with the fiery pace of Mahendra Dissanayake and were skittled out for 89. Asanka Gurusinghe was the only batsman to offer any resistance to the Wesley attack, scoring an attractive 35. Once again Mahendra captured 7 wickets for only 30 runs, to have a match bag of 14 wickets for 64 runs.

Wesley had to score 69 for victory in 14 overs, and they lost 7 wickets for 46. Sunantha Wickremasuriya took 2 for 12 and Nalin Hewage 2 for 7. In Wesley’s first innings the successful Nalanda bowlers were Kushantha Dissanayake (3 for 21), Channa Weerapperuma (2 for 9) and Kusal de Silva, 2 for 32.

It is interesting to record that in Nalanda’s first innings, Mahendra Dissanayake clean bowled five of his victims including Roshan Mahanama and Asanka Gurusinghe.



MILLENNIUM CLUB

Last years Newsletter of March carried the story about the setting up of the Fund and the October issue carried details with a donation form.

We have seven member donors todate from Australia, Harold Matthysz, Trevor Collette, Nelson de Silva, Felix Berman, Ramon de Silva, Keith de Kretser of Victoria and Ivan Wijetunge of Boondal, Queensland.

Extracts of last October’s article and a donor form are reproduced below for your contribution.

MILLENNIUM FUND LAUNCHED IN COLOMBO

The aim of the “Millennium Club” was to raise Rs1,000,000 that would be invested as a Fixed Deposit in the bank and the interest generated could then be used by The Principal in running the school.

Dr Louis Adhetty, in his speech at the 125th Jubilee Dinner in March 1999, stated something along the following lines *..”surely a school like Wesley College with such a long and colourful history should be able to find 200 old boys that can donate Rs5,000 to set up a fund that would generate a handsome interest to help the Principal with running the school”.*

The equivalent of Rs5,000 in Australian Dollars would be about \$125. If you wish to donate more that \$125 it is up to you. You may wish to make a donation in memory of a family member, teacher or classmate. The Wesley College (Colombo) OBU Australia Branch invites YOU to make a contribution to this worthy cause. All donations will be acknowledged and a receipt provided. Please make cheques payable to the OBU Australia Branch and ensure they are crossed “not negotiable”.

MILLENNIUM CLUB DONATION

DONOR NAME

ADDRESS

IN MEMORY OF (if applicable)

AMOUNT DONATED

“What are we going to do?” said Baby Tiger to Mama Tiger in the jungle, “Here comes a hunter, and he has five rifles, three special sighting scopes, and devices to allow him to see in the dark!”

“Hush!” answered Mama Tiger and she taught her cub how to sneak up from behind and pounce.

The Hunter was never heard of again.

All of which goes to prove that technology may be fine, but it will never be a substitute for a good basic education.

