



# Wesley Times – June 2011

Newsletter of Wesley College Colombo Old Boys Union Australia Branch Inc.

## Message from the President



Greetings and I hope you and your family are dealing with the winter chills and winter ills. Since the last issue, my rehabilitation after knee replacement surgery has been progressing slowly and I am hopeful that by the time of the Double blue Ball on 1 October I will have more flexibility and movement.

As mentioned in the last issue I believe the OBUA had a great twelve months and thanks to you for your support and patronage. I was re-elected for another term as President at the Annual General Meeting which was held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Twenty one old boys were in attendance with apologies were received

from a further 27.

At the meeting, we bade farewell and expressed our sincere thanks to long serving Committee members, Arden Joseph (Vice President) and Felix Berman (Treasurer). We welcomed two new faces to the Committee being a young man representing Wesleyites from the 1990's - Udara Boteju who has taken on the Treasurer's role. He has big boots to fill so please be gentle in your dealings with him. The other new face is Jeremy Morrison. I wish to extend a warm welcome to them and request that you get to know them when we next meet at a function.

The inaugural 20-20 Cricket Quadrangular between Wesley, St Joseph's, St John's and Trinity Colleges was a success though the inclement weather put a dampner on proceedings. I am sure that next year we will have fine weather and larger crowds supporting the teams. St Joseph's were victorious winning the W.O. Nathanielsz and E.B. Nathanielsz Trophy.

The first social event for the year being our Winter Warm-up and Curry night was a success though numbers were slightly down on the previous year. Members, their families and friends had a great time.

The next social event for which advance notice is given is the Double Blue Ball on Saturday 1 October 2011 at the the Grand International in Wantirna South. It also happens to be the day of the AFL Grand Final after the fixture changes this year. I recommend that you diarise the date and contact the Committee early to reserve your tickets.

In conclusion, I hope that many of you will try and attend these events during the year and I look forward to meeting you.

ORA ET LABORA

Norton Abeydeera

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**E-mail correspondence**  
 All members who prefer to receive OBU correspondence by email are invited to inform the Editor on [editorwcbua@gmail.com](mailto:editorwcbua@gmail.com). Your email address will then be included on our data base. This means that future OBU Bulletins will also be sent to you email, not by POST. Your co-operation is appreciated.

**The Editor**

## From the Editor's Desk

I am pleased to be re-elected at the Annual General Meeting to the position of Editor. I enjoyed the challenges last year in putting together three issues and I shall endeavour to make the Wesley Times interesting in 2011.

I extend this invitation to each and every one of you and I look forward to you sending me news items about yourself, Old Wesleyites or articles of general interest. Even updates on general notices such as anniversaries, special events, deaths, etc. It is your medium of communication and I hope to bring out an issue each quarter. So please email me your stories to my new email address for OBU matters [editorwcobua@gmail.com](mailto:editorwcobua@gmail.com) or if you are not on the internet by post to the official postal address of the OBUA listed on this page.

In this issue I feature an article on a matter very dear to me and I hope every Wesleyite. It is sheer luck that a small piece of memorabilia that was donated to the OBUA has shed new light on the College Coat of Arms. It has opened a window revealing the true identity of the College Coat of Arms from its origins. As featured in the last issue, the photograph of the blazer pocket belonging to the late Henry Duckworth who captained the Wesley Cricket Team in 1936. A regular in the team from the early 1930's the pocket reveals a resplendent Coat of Arms. For whatever reason and there are no records to support the changes made the College Coat of Arms, we have been left a drab single colour image which at times has had stippled cross for contrast.

I examine in detail the Coat of Arms and the College Crest and their symbolism which it represents for it reveals a link with our heritage. Successfully used from the outset by all the Principals from Wilkin to Hutchinson, it underwent a change sometime after Dalby introduced the embellishments. Why? No one knows nor are there any records to support the changes. It is important that this heritage is not lost and the Coat of Arms restored to its resplendent colours that signify an important story about Wesley College and her roots. I welcome your comments and I believe that steps should be taken to re-instate the original colours. Wesley is a College that revels in maintaining the traditions of the past. The Coat of Arms is our badge of honour and it must be preserved in its original form.

In this issue we feature a Wesleyite who has kept the College colours flying high – Professor Razeen Sappideen. He reminisces about an era when Wesley College was at the forefront of education. There are more interesting stories in this issue and I look forward to your support and contribution of material over the year.

Keith de Kretser



## CONDOLENCES

**PERERA – Isla**. Retired Teacher Wesley College. Wife of late Clarence. Beloved Mother of Clarantha and Nirmali, Mithral and Sherrine, Sunimal and Indrani. Passed away peacefully in March. To her family and friends we extend our sincere condolences and remember her with respect and fondness. A dedicated and caring teacher who served Wesley with loyal service over many years.

**KRELTSZHEIM – Owen Reginald** (Former Chairman and Founder Managing Director Intercom Limited). Dearly beloved husband of the late Eunice (nee Melder), loving brother of the late Robert, Felicia and Clifford and of Mervyn (Australia), passed away in Sri Lanka in January 2011. To his family and friends we extend our sincere condolences.

We extend our sincere sympathies to the following members of our Wesley College family.

**ABRAHAMS – Kate** passed away in Melbourne. Mother of Ranjan, Mohan and mother-in-law Anton Selvadurai. We extend our sincere sympathies to her family.

**LUDOWYKE – Gwendoline** passed away in Melbourne. Sister of Neville(dec.), Winston and Noel. We extend our sincere sympathies to her family and friends.

**WIJESINGHE – Charles** passed away in Melbourne. Father of Cecil. We extend our sincere sympathies to his family and friends.

**VAN LANGENBERG – Rienzie** passed away in Melbourne. Husband of Rita(former teacher) and father of Stewart and Gavin. We extend our sincere sympathies to his family and friends.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> October – Double Blue Ball 2011**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December – Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Carol Service**

## Secretary's Report

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at the Box Hill Rugby Union Club in Box Hill, Melbourne. Twenty one Old Boys were in attendance, some with their partners. Twenty seven apologies were received.

The President Norton Abeydeera welcomed all those present and then summoned the house to observe a minute's silence in memory of those Wesleyites that had left this earthly life in the past year. We remembered especially former teacher Mrs Isla Perera.

Norton then provided a brief report on the year. He thanked his Committee and their partners for their support over the year and extended his thanks to the members for their support. He also acknowledged the contribution of Arden Joseph and Felix Berman who decided on having a break from the Committee. A round of applause by the house acknowledged the contribution of the Committee over the past year.

The Secretary's Report which was circulated in advance gave a more detail report on the year's activities. The Treasurer's report showed cash at bank of \$10,267 with the Double Blue Trust holding a further \$6,200 for Wesley College.

The election of Office Bearer's was next and Langston Joseph performed his annual duty as Pro-tem Chairman to conduct the election. The following were elected to serve on the Committee for 2010/2011.

<b>President</b>	<b>Norton Abeydeera</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Ben Nathanielsz</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Brian Azoor</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Udara Boteju</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Keith de Kretser</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Nelson de Silva</b>
	<b>Darryl Koch</b>
	<b>Jeremy Morrison</b>
	<b>Bryan Wijeyekoon</b>
<b>Public Officer</b>	<b>George Robertson</b>

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chair and a rousing rendition of the College Song and War Cry. Lunch followed as members shared a time of fellowship with each other.

*To all Wesleyites and members of the extended Wesley community that are ill or recovering from illness we hope and pray that you will be blessed and make a full recovery. Keep your spirits up and fight the good fight. Rather than name names, you know who you are. God's blessings be yours.*

## Your Committee 2011

<b>President</b>	<b>Norton Abeydeera</b>	<b>9801 9753</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Ben Nathanielsz</b>	<b>9799 0365</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Brian Azoor</b>	<b>9799 1026</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Udara Boteju</b>	<b>0432 290802</b>
<b>Editor</b>	<b>Keith de Kretser</b>	<b>9560 0074</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>Nelson de Silva</b>	<b>9704 8971</b>
	<b>Darryl Koch</b>	<b>8707 5817</b>
	<b>Jeremy Morrison</b>	<b>9879 3617</b>
	<b>Bryan Wijeyekoon</b>	<b>9763 7783</b>
<b>Public Officer</b>	<b>George Robertson</b>	<b>97824789</b>

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### MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Your membership subscription is now due and payable. The annual fee is \$20 and if you have not paid for this year - 2010, please make payment as soon as possible. All cheques should be made out in favour of Wesley College Colombo OBUA and posted to

The Treasurer  
Wesley College Colombo OBUA  
P O Box 123  
Glenway MDC  
MULGRAVE VIC 3170.

### WEBSITE PROTOCOL

1. Any material required to be published on the Wesley College OBUA Website must be submitted to the Secretary of the OBUA only either by post to P O Box 123 Glenway MDC, Mulgrave VIC 3170 or by email to [secretarywcobua@gmail.com](mailto:secretarywcobua@gmail.com)
2. On receipt of the information the Secretary and Editor will determine the appropriateness and content to be included. Material may be edited.
3. Any material that is of a contentious nature will be approved by a majority decision of the Committee.
4. The material must not incite political, religious, sexual or racial discrimination nor hatred.
5. The material must not be personal attacks on the character of individuals or the College.
6. Any material sent directly to the webmaster will not be published on the website.



## Principal's Message April 2011

### NEWS RELEASE

**GCE O/L RESULTS** - We are glad to announce the outstanding results obtained this year. Wesley scored a near perfect score with 100% passes in the Tamil medium, Science and Math along with 100% in English medium Mathematics.

English Language - A step up to 98% pass rate which is an increase from 95% last year.

Mathematics - 95% pass rate for Mathematics up from 83% last year.

Overall pass rate for GCE O/L candidates an extraordinary 93% compared to 86% last year and 63% National Average.

**HOCKEY** - Wesley beat Ananda at the quarter finals to meet Royal in the Semi-Final. 7 players were called for Colombo schools trials for selections to the National Schools team.

**SWIMMING POOL** - The Swimming Pool project is becoming a real possibility with near Rs5 million collected or pledged up to date. We hope to reach the Rs10 million mark before the 30th May. The total estimated amount Rs 25 million can be achieved if all Old Boys, Parents and School boys support the cause with a lot of passion. The finished project will include a State of the Art cafeteria and indoor sports centre and gym. See details on right.

**NEW CONFERENCE ROOM** - Thanks to the efforts of two Old Boys we hope to set up a conference room and meeting place for leadership training centre next to the Cartman Library. Fully air conditioned, polished floors, with large screen and overhead projector with 60 seat auditorium.

**BUSINESS PARTNERS** - AAT (Accounting technicians) will help us with white boards and fans for all classes in the Highfield block as well as to renovate the washrooms in the Shelton Wirasinha building.

The school will close for Easter holidays from April 8 to May 4. Thank you for your passion and support for Wesley

Kind regards

Dr Shanti McLelland

**HELP Wesley to get a  
Swimming Pool** 

## Wall of Fame

Have your name embedded in the wall of fame

Categories are:

Platinum Rs 1,000,000 (one million)

Gold Rs 750,000/

Silver Rs 500,000/

Bronze Rs 250,000/

Each of the above categories include Lifetime Family Membership

(Contact: Richie Sappideen +94777897257 or email [Richie.S@lk.emiratesline.com](mailto:Richie.S@lk.emiratesline.com))

Bank details for all contributions:

Name of Bank Account : Principal Wesley College

**Account No: 7010-038-193517**

**Bank and Telephone No:**

Bank of Ceylon, Borella Branch

Tel: +94114612617

**IMPORTANT** Please inform Richie Sappideen when a deposit is made or to be made for the purpose of tracking payment and to issue a receipt

## We require 3000 bags of Cement

**Fund Raising – 01 cement bag (Rs1,000/)**

**Every old boy contributes 01 cement**

**bag/Rs1000 we will fulfill this requirement**

### Commemorative Tile

Limited edition- 250 nos only Rs1000/

Contact: Cassim Farook +9478562033 or email

[cassim@mcfarook.net](mailto:cassim@mcfarook.net)

### Swimming Pool Membership

Contact: Fowzil Nawaz (+94777900808 or email

[pearlnet@slt.lk](mailto:pearlnet@slt.lk)

### FAMILY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Rs.100,000/- including the spouse and children between 5 to 16 years.

### INDIVIDUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Rs.50,000/- For Old Wesleyites only.

## Spearheaded by Principal Dr.Shanti McLelland

**Project Chairman**

Mr.Lasantha Fernando (President OBU)

**Head of Construction Project**

AVM Kingsley Samaratinga

**Head of Fund Raising**

Richie Sappideen

## Christine Weaver's (nee Cartman) return visit to Wesley – March 2011



On Thursday 3rd March 2011 my husband Michael and I paid a memorable visit to Wesley. We had already spent over 3 weeks touring in Sri Lanka and were ending our holiday in Colombo. Principal Shanthi McClelland had kindly asked us to attend the School assembly, but we were quite unprepared for the splendid morning that was in store.

Following our arrival at 7.45 am we were led to the hall by the Senior School Hervisi band through a Guard of Honour composed of members of the College Scout Group. We then took our seats facing into the hall which was packed with boys, Old-Boys and parents, while on the stage with us were many prominent Old-Boys, members of staff and the other Guest of Honour, Mrs Ira Fernando, widow of Mr N A B Fernando, Principal of Wesley 1995 – 2000.

A varied Assembly followed including performances by the Junior and Senior Choirs and the College Brass Band, speeches by Primary and Junior students, the College Manager, Mrs Fernando and myself, appointment of Prefects and presentations to prominent Old-Boys. The Assembly was rounded off by a spirited rendering of the

College Song and the National Anthem.

We then went out into the warm sunshine to inspect a number of new facilities including an IT room, a performing



Arts Centre and the site for the proposed swimming pool. My particular joy was our visit to the Cartman Library which has been splendidly renovated and equipped. My father, James Cartman, would have been so proud to see the facility he instigated being so well used and clearly one in which the students take such pride. Our visit ended with 'short-eats' on the terrace accompanied by Staff and Old-Boys. The two beautifully decorated cakes commemorating the 137th Anniversary of Wesley College were cut and we all enjoyed a slice.

I am sure that all the present students and all the Old-Boys, whether they be in Sri Lanka or abroad, have every reason to be immensely proud of Wesley College, and I hope that they will continue to support it to ensure that it has a successful future. I will continue to follow Wesley's progress with great interest and hope that it will not be too

long before we can make another visit.



Cutting the Birthday Cake – The Principal, Mrs Christine Weaver & Mrs Ira Fernando



With the Head Prefect

# An evening with Dr Shanti McLelland, Principal of Wesley College

By Dr N D Amerasekera

It was with great pleasure I accepted an invitation for dinner from the OBU-UK to meet and greet the Principal of Wesley College on the 19th of May 2011. The venue was the Lihiniya, a restaurant in Cricklewood Broadway, London. A place for authentic Sri Lankan food popular among the expat community.

Shanti McLelland arrived smartly dressed with his retinue of friends and well wishers. After the brief pleasantries we sat down to dinner. Before the food there was an important speech by the Principal with a question and answer session. He outlined the current state of play at the school which was impressive. It is a welcome change from the 30 year spiral of decline which many thought would end in the demise of the school. Shanti took us on a journey to our dismal recent past and diplomatically avoided any critical comments but showed the extent of the decline and the adverse effect it had on the good name of the school, its pupils and teachers. The buildings were in such a poor state of repair there were serious safety concerns.

It was most encouraging to listen to him speak of his vision for the future which will take the school to the upper echelons of education in Sri Lanka. This I believe has been the dream of every Wesleyite since the school began. After Shanti has taken charge Wesley's academic results have improved in leaps. We have done exceptionally well in Sports and also the Arts. As he rightly says there is always room for improvement and refinement. He is on the job to make it a satisfying experience for every schoolboy. Shanti is a natural and charismatic leader. With his sporting prowess, debating skills and academic rigour he has the ability to effortlessly dominate a discussion, and he did this with great panache and style. I was most impressed with the pastoral care given to the students who are less well off. Shanti has put in place changes to improve the facilities available to those who have learning difficulties. This indeed has brought the school forward into the

21st century. He is determined to reduce the class size to 30 students which is the optimum to allow individual attention, when required. There is some uncertainty about the future use of Campbell Park which is on a lease to Wesley College. This has been a recurrent problem for many years and the solution sadly seems to be political and without a logical conclusion. At present we hire the grounds at a nominal fee acceptable to the local schools. This has helped us to maintain good relations with our neighbours which hopefully will help us when decisions are taken about the future of Campbell Park.

I spent 6 years of my school life in the boarding. The decline in the number of boarders and the poor state of the boarding house was always a matter of grave concern. Shanti commented that much of the infrastructure has been restored to its former glory and has been updated to a high standard. The number of boarders has been gradually increasing. We were assured he has upgraded the kitchen and improved the woeful standard of hostel food. The toilets and the bathrooms have been modernised and refurbished. It seems we have never had it so good!! The rejuvenation of the boarding gives me such great pleasure and hope.

After 40 years of neglect English has been given its rightful place in the school curriculum. It is a new dictat from the Department of Education which Shanti has been quick to implement giving Wesleyites better opportunities in the wider world. The classes now are streamed not according to the students' mother tongue but their ability, fast tracking able kids and providing more help for the rest. This is a tried and tested practice in British Public Schools, which I am sure will serve us well. This will also take us further in our path to racial harmony.

I have visited Wesley many times since leaving school. Once I addressed the Sixth formers in the Great Hall. I was appalled to see the teachers poorly dressed. Some

wore "bush Shirts" and slippers which would have our respected teachers of old turn in their graves. Shanti has introduced a new dress code for teachers. Now the teachers are appropriately dressed. They conduct themselves with dignity and consequently have earned the respect of students and their parents. Shanti in return have given the teachers more privileges to improve their academic status by further study. They now have a stake in the success of the school. Welfare Society, which had a poor reputation in the past is under the direct management of the Principal.

Its income is now available for the running of the school and for its multitude of important duties and functions. Financial state of the school is healthy. Wesley College is able to balance its books.

Donations and funds from well wishers, parents and old boys are always welcome. The current big project is the new Swimming Pool which I am told is essential for a school like Wesley College to attract students and to survive and thrive in the current climate.

The resurgence of Wesley College is the talk of the town. Even if you aren't there, you wanted to be. It is not just nostalgia. Our heritage is precious and priceless. News of our success has trickled down to the public through media coverage and by word of mouth. The sheer numbers of parents willing and waiting to send their children to Wesley College is ample testimony to Shanti McLelland's successful tenure as Principal of Wesley College.

Shanti McLelland has established himself in the public eye and the next year will prove vital in creating momentum and a sense of direction. He has built a persona and now there is a sense of what his leadership offered. The session ended on a happy note of euphoria. As I walked out of Lihiniya that night I was quietly confident of a successful outcome for Wesley.

[This article was published in the Double Blue International website: <http://wesleycollege.org/DoubleBlue/principals1.htm#p48> ]

# The Perils, Panacea and the Prognosis

by Dr Nihal D Amerasekera

The school is owned by the Methodist Church and is partly funded by the Government. For two decades after Independence in 1948 successive governments reduced the funding for Missionary Schools. Richmond and Kingswood Colleges could not be saved and were handed over to the government. Wesley went through a major financial crisis and sold the Staff Flats and the Small Park to survive. At this stage many prominent Old Boys in Sri Lanka and abroad dug deep into their pockets to keep the school afloat. Wesley College owes an enormous debt to the old boys without whom the school would not have survived in its present form.

Deep affection and Loyalty to their *alma mater* has been a hallmark of the Brotherhood of Wesleyites. Hence the old boys have a right to expect high standards from the school and for it to be managed well. With these rights come the responsibilities to allow the principal and the staff to carry on their work unhindered. There will be old boys, due to their affection for the school, who will be critical from time to time of the way the school is managed. These critics and dissenters need a forum to vent their anger and to discuss issues with the Principal, Board of Governors or the Methodist Mission. Did these lines of communication exist? Much of the problems we have had has been due to the alienation of this groups of loyal old boys. Shanti has made himself available to discuss issues. The final arbiter is the Methodist Church. Running a school is a challenging task and an enormous responsibility. If they are to own and manage the school the Methodist Mission has to take a lead and be proactive. The Methodist Mission has been a tower of strength in guiding the school in its early years. The Church is determined to make Wesley College a success. I hope there are plans ready for this gargantuan challenge for which reform is needed within the organisation.

The reasons for the problems we have faced as a school and our

decline over a period of nearly 30 years, are many and complex. It is not for me to apportion blame. The managers of the school were old boys who were honourable and had good intentions. Many of them have contributed much to the school in various capacities over many years and I thank them for their services. But there were distress signals and obvious signs of a failing school which needed urgent attention. Times were tough and money was tight. Everybody knows of the abuses within the system. The scale of the problem went much deeper. There was an atmosphere of doom and gloom. Remedial action didn't come quickly enough which angered many old boys.

A loyal group of old boys lead a successful vocal campaign for change with countless emails with graphic images. The confrontational and combative style of the campaign although controversial was effective in bringing about a much needed "revolution". One has to admire their courage and determination. They have become the heroes of the homegrown revolution and have helped enormously to maintain the momentum after the transition. Change came swiftly with the arrival of the new Principal. During this period tensions were high and feelings were raw. Polarisation of the various groups have prevailed into the new era. I hope there will be a truce in the coming months if not weeks to support the progress of the school. Wesley needs the support of all its old boys in this time of rapid change. It is my wish we can unite to move forward together although it may seem like an impossible dream at this moment in time.

We have a vibrant community of old boys, from a broad cross section of society. Wesley College old boys are never short of critics, cynics and sceptics. It is for the old boys unions to harness their energies for the good of the school. The OBU has to confront some hard truths and win the hearts and minds and get control over the mavericks. On looking back over the past 50 years there have always been a group opposed to the Principal. There is nothing more

corrosive or damaging to the spirit than having enemies within. Weaning interfering old boys of bad habits would be a great achievement. It is vital that the Methodist Church and the OBU Colombo support the Principal, in every way, at this present time when the school is doing well. This is a tremendous opportunity to regain lost ground. Let the Principal be judged after his term of office and not during. We have got to look at the big picture

Thankfully we are on the mend. This is not the time for recrimination. But we must learn the lessons of our past mistakes. Although bruised and battered we have come out stronger. We now have a fine leader to take us forward. There is a passionate, proud and loyal community of old boys. This is our golden opportunity to support the Principal and make the school great again. Let the New Dawn bring us closer to the hopes, dreams and ideals of our Founding Fathers.

I personally congratulate Shanti on his many achievements as Principal. When he was appointed in May 2009 some thought he wouldn't survive the year. It is worth remembering this mistaken pessimism. Thankfully it hasn't turned out that way. Shanti addressed its toughest task—repairing the finances and the infrastructure with an alacrity and decisiveness that impressed everyone. I fully understand the enormity of the task. He had to pull the school out of an abyss. Radical change was needed. As the Principal he deals with the public, parents, students, politicians, Department of Education, Methodist Church and also old Wesleyites and OBU's worldwide. There are, potentially, many hostile forces that he has had to overcome. That cannot be easy!! I would urge the old boys to support the Principal allowing him to concentrate on the enormous task of managing the school. I personally would like to thank Shanti for taking on the job and doing it so well despite difficulties. We mustn't forget Shanti and his wife left a comfortable life in

Toronto, Canada to resuscitate a school on the brink of collapse. Let us give him a chance. It is an immense challenge with many obstacles. Shanti is tough and is able to weather the storms. He is forthright and pretty direct in his dealings. The sheer volume and the contrasting nature of his daily interactions must be daunting. Some people are sensible and need to be placated. Some are totally mad.

Shanti is a pragmatist. He has no wish to soft-pedal his reforms and is determined to have a leaner, cleaner, successful Wesley College. I am certain he will not compromise on the basic principles of good governance. He knows where the school should be in the realm of education. The striking feature of his plans for the future is its robustness. He puts a great deal of strategic thought into his projects.

There is scope to go much further. Reforms are decades overdue. Failure is not an option now. That will only return the school to the bad old days. Wesley needs a strong, honest, principled leader and we have got one. I give Shanti my very best wishes for a long and rewarding time as the Principal of Wesley College.

**Ora et labora**

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## Meeting Rev. Wilfrid Pile

by Dr Nihal D Amerasekera

Brian Mack, Senthil Sinniah and myself travelled up to Leamington Spa near Coventry on June 8, 2011 to see Rev Pile who was the Chaplain at Wesley 1952-56. Those of us who remember the great man will recall the tall figure with a powerful presence. He possessed all the charisma and the techniques for inspiring awe that one looks for in a man of God. He often wore a white robe and "dog collar" and walked the long corridors and passages of the school with an upright gait and a smile on his face. We were immensely fortunate to come under the tutelage of Rev Wilfrid Pile.



Senthil, Rev Pile, Brian and Nihal

He now lives in a Nursing Home for Methodist Ministers called Homewood. Homewood was built in 2010 and is a purpose built Residential and Nursing Care Home in Royal Leamington Spa. Homewood is home to 50 older people and is situated within its own grounds close to Leamington Spa town centre. It offers 50 bedrooms all with en-suite and shower facilities, a coffee shop, garden room and large and attractive communal areas for the enjoyment of our residents. Homewood is in a leafy suburban setting which ensures both quiet surroundings and a relaxed pace of life.

We informed him of our visit and on our arrival was taken to his room which looked immaculate. He welcomed us warmly and we sat in the lounge where Rev Pile had arranged some tea and biscuits for us. At 96 years he is active, walked without a stick and his memory was perfect. He was able to keep up the conversation taking a walk down memory lane to those happy years in Ceylon. Rev Pile remembered Lionel Jayasuriya, LA Fernando, Mr Oorloff and Mr De Mel and students like Bryan Claessen and Lou Adihetty. He spoke at length about his early years as a minister in China, Ceylon and England and also his childhood in Dorset. He has kept in touch with the political changes that have taken place in Sri Lanka and had followed the fortunes of the Sri Lankan cricket team touring England. He said he always supported the Sri Lankan team except when they played England. We gave Rev Pile a present of his favourite Ginger Chocolates from Harrods for which he thanked us profusely.

After an hour with him we decided to say goodbye hoping we could meet again someday. It was a great pleasure to see Rev Pile happy and well. It was lovely to meet up with my friends, Brian and Senthil who were able to make time for this visit. We broke journey in a quiet pub for lunch where we reminisced a great deal of those glorious 1950's. We thank Brian for taking the trouble to drive us all the way up and back.

[This article was published in the Double Blue international website:  
<http://wesleycollege.org/DoubleBlue/recollections1.htm#r111a> ]

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## Where are they now?

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### Professor R A Z E E N S A P P I D E E N

Foundation Professor of Law and former Dean of Law  
University of Western Sydney



Our featured Old Wesleyite in this issue has brought great credit and honour on himself, his family and his school by his achievements. One of five brothers who all attended Wesley College, he is one of many high achievers that Wesley produced in the Cartman, Oorloff and early Wirasinha eras when Wesley College was ranked with the very best academic institutions in Sri Lanka. Razeen fits in the middle of the five boys with the late Anwar the eldest, followed by Nizar, then Razeen, followed by Seenar and the youngest Binhur. Razeen has pursued a career as an academic and is Foundation Professor of Law and former Dean of Law, University of Western Sydney since 1994. He has also held Professorial appointments at two other Australian Universities prior to this present role. Razeen lives in Sydney and is married to Professor Carolyn Sappideen and they have two sons. His interests are reading, classical music, and thinking.

The Sappideen family has had a long connection with Wesley College with many cousins also attending the College. Razeen joined Wesley in his earlyteens in 1959 and carved a distinguished academic career during that time winning numerous prizes for his academic achievements. His reward for his efforts and finest accolade was being awarded the much sought after "Hill Medal" for the best student in the University Entrance year of 1963. He was a

member of the "Spelling Bee" team 1960-1963 and a member "Do you know" team 1962. His leadership qualities and academic ability were recognised by his appointment as leader of the "Spelling Bee" team 1962 and 1963; Wesley won the National Championship in 1963 – perhaps the only time ever. He was Assistant Librarian 1961-63 and was a Prefect in 1962-63.

A member of Passmore house he balanced his keen interest in his studies with playing sport – representing the school in Table Tennis and Tennis. He represented Passmore house in Inter-house Soccer and Athletics.

When questioned about his favourite teachers he named the following: David Joseph, Haig Karunaratne, Cyril Fernando, Charles de Silva, Ivan Ondaatje, Fred Abeysekere, NAB Fernanado (Nabiya) and LA Fernando (Laffa). These gentlemen must have had a special aura for if there was to be a poll conducted of favourite teachers, these names crop up for all the very best reasons and not those who inflicted some mean corporal punishment in our youth.

Razeen's best friends at Wesley were Robin Perera, William Deutrom, Bashur Musafer, Tony Musafer, Layton Vanderputt, Paul David, ALM Hedayathulla, Mahendra Menon and Russell Schokman briefly (Mahendra and I quarrelled, Rusty went off to California).

When asked what were his best memories of Wesley College, he listed the following:

**1. Great friends:** My group of friends never gave each other a chance to "put on airs".

**2. Great teachers:** David Joseph and Haig Karunaratne were truly inspiring teachers. They taught me how to think than merely the subject content. Needles to say this has had a lasting impact on me. David made me read two books when I was in the Upper Sixth: Harold Laski, The substance of Politics, and MacIver, The Modern State (the latter, he asked me to keep, and which I still have). He inspired and instilled in me the great places of learning in the UK and US. Haig, was less well organised and had misplaced all his teaching materials by the time I got to the Upper Sixth, yet he was an inspiring intellect and what he taught me (including the natural regions and the physical and economic geography of the world, and of the rainfall rhythm in Sri Lanka) have left a lasting impression on me. So were Laffa who taught us Maths for a term in Form IV, and Ondaatje (who preferred his first name Ivan to be pronounced in the Russian form) who taught me History and English; in history he taught us about the personalities of the renaissance, of Da Vinci and Michael Angelo (I always remember him whenever I visit the Sistine Chapel), of

The Reformation, of Dante and Machiavelli, and Cardinals Richelieu and Mazarin and the reign of Louis XIV, and of Portuguese rule in Sri Lanka), and in English, he read excerpts from Eekersly's Brighter English of Oscar Wilde's The Happy Prince, James Joyce's Ulysses, and Alfred Noyes' The Highwayman, with such passion. He introduced us to the writings of Solokov and Shokolov (I infer that his heart really lay in Russian literature at that time), from which of course it was only a short leap for me to the works of Nikolai Gogol which I learned to appreciate immensely. The Highwayman with such passion. Fred was another inspirational teacher who taught us the French Revolution, The German unification and Bismarck, and of Europe in turmoil in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and of Dutch Rule in Sri Lanka. Nabiya taught us about the Ten Year Plan, and the relevance of the study of Political Economy; and Cyril was a tireless teacher who unselfishly devoted himself to teaching History to Sixth formers in both the Sinhala and English medium. The other personality was of course Shelton Wirasinha; while he never taught me, he lent me his outstanding collection of books on Plato, Aristotle and Socrates, spent time discussing them with me, and thus exposed me to deep conceptual analysis, evaluation, and reflection.

**3. The tragedy of Wesley:** Wesley's decline set in 1960 which saw its bright intellectuals like Ondaatje, Fred, David Joseph leave for other pastures. The funding schemes of Government assisted Schools helped further this decline. For instance, Wesley I gather had its largest and brightest best cohort of University Entrants in 1959 (the likes of ID Raymond and Alfie David), and in 1962 Brian Jegasothy who taught at The University of Pennsylvania Medical School, and until his untimely death at Penn State University.

I believe many alumni who read this article will echo the sentiments expressed in Razeen's third point for Wesley had certainly lost its standing and stature in the last forty years as being one of the finest schools. The past two years has shown that under the stewardship of Dr Shanti McLelland Wesley has turned the corner and is heading in the right direction once again to restore her to her rightful place as one of the best schools in the nation.

On completing his studies at Wesley, Razeen entered University and graduated with LLB Honours from the University of Ceylon in 1967. He then joined the Ceylon Tea Board and was posted to Australia as Assistant Commissioner in 1968. He left the Tea Board in 1971. This was a life changing decision for he went back to Law Studies: graduated with LLM Honours from the University of Sydney, and admitted as a Solicitor of the NSW Supreme Court. The journey as an Academic was underway as Razeen graduated with LLM (Taxation Law studies) from The University of Pennsylvania, LLM (Corporations Law studies) from Columbia University, and JSD (doctorate) from Columbia University. He also did courses of study at Emory University and George Washington University (Washington DC).

He has been an academic since 1972 and taught successively at the Universities of Sydney, New South Wales, Macquarie, and Western Sydney, amongst others. He has been a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge and Oxford Universities, and will be the Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali Distinguished Professor of Law at The University of Malaya for 2011-12 academic year.

When asked who would you like to meet up with or contact from his days at Wesley who he has not met for years his response was Haig Karunaratne, Cyril Fernando, Kenneth de Silva (Glojo-Barbi), and Dr. Omar (Sandy) Musafar.

Having studied and taught at so many distinguished Universities he would have met many famous personalities in his time. Not one to name drop he explained there were far too many to list.

I would like to thank Professor Razeen Sappideen for being generous with his time and for graciously accepting the invitation to be our featured Wesleyite in the June issue of the Wesley Times.

Keith de Kretser

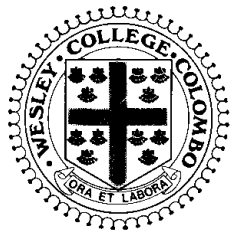
## **EXPRESS YOURSELF IN PLAIN ENGLISH NOT.....**

**Eschew the utilisation of the lingua franca peremptorily expressed in grandiloquent verbiage.**

(Please exculpate my proclivity to pontificate prolifically)

In promulgating your esoteric cogitations and in articulating your superficial sentimentalities and amicable, philosophical or psychological observations, beware of platitudinous ponderosity. Let your extemporaneous descanting and unpremeditated expiations possess a clarified conciseness without rodomontade or thorasatorical bombast. Sedulously avoid all polysyllabic profundity, pompous prolixity, psittaceous vacuity, ventriloquial verbosity and vaniloquent vapidty. Elude sentences such as, "Not being apprised of the highest degree of exactitude, I hesitate to articulate for fear that I might deviate from the verisimilitude of rectitude." Shun double entendre, prurient jocosity, pestiferous profanity, obscurant or apparent. In other words, speak plainly, simply, naturally and sensibly. Say what you mean. Mean what you say. Above all, don't use big words!

# Have we lost an important part of our identity by not representing the Coat of Arms of Wesley College in full colour and as it was meant to be?



The answer to this question is YES. For many generations, one's first impression of the College crest has either been a single colour image or a two tone blue image. We have lived with this image not knowing that the College Coat of Arms once had a colourful presentation depicting the symbolic elements that had a specific interpretation, Sadly this has been lost and it is a terrible oversight that must be rectified.



In our last issue of the Wesley Times we carried an image of the blazer pocket bearing the Coat of Arms of Wesley College that belonged to the late Henry Duckworth who captained the Wesley cricket team in 1936. It is important to note the colours in the Coat of Arms but they no longer appear on the crest and they have been lost along the way for many years. In heraldic Coats of Arms, colours and symbols are elements that symbolise something associated to the roots of the family or in this case Wesley College. It says something about our heritage. However this has not been the case and we have failed to acknowledge, respect and retain the actual colours of the Coat of Arms as designed from our inception by our founding fathers. It was good enough during the era of Principals Wilkin, Shipham, Hill, Moscrop, Hillard, Passmore, Highfield, Hutchinson and Dalby and then no more?



To this day St Thomas's College(left) and Trinity College(right) have their College Coat of Arms displayed in full colour in traditional format where as Wesley College no longer represents it in its original form The question I pose is **why have we forsaken such an important part of our identity and tinkered with altering the Coat of Arms** which through history is respected and revered and never changed as a rule. Since receiving the blazer pocket of the late Mr Duckworth I have been puzzled as to why we have ceased displaying the correct Coat of Arms in full colour when the Coat of Arms should represent our very being.



Many of the Burgher boys who went to Wesley would have their family Coat of Arms which has not changed over centuries. Take for instance my own family - DE KRETSER. The Coat of Arms goes back to the earliest records of the family from the 1400's in Bavaria before moving to Holland. In the article on the origins of the College Crest by Shelton Peiris he covers a broad interpretation of the symbolic representation contained in the Crest that has been gathered over time but sadly missing is the significance of the red cross on a white shield which was in the original Coat of Arms and the colours. There appear to be no records of the true meaning and significance of the colours and neither any records of why Rev John Dalby altered the presentation or for that matter the removal of the colours. In this article I have done my own research and try and provide more explanations for this wonderful Coat of Arms which relates its own story. It is interesting to note that Wesley College being named after John Wesley has as its core the shield, cross and scallop shells as depicted in the Wesley family Coat of Arms in the image on the right. The origin of the shield in the Coat of Arms with the cross whilst unknown, takes on a couple of possible interpretation notwithstanding it's link to the Wesley family. We need to bear in mind that the Methodist Missionaries who brought the message of Christianity to the East through Methodism were our founding fathers.



shells as depicted in the Wesley family Coat of Arms in the image on the right. The origin of the shield in the Coat of Arms with the cross whilst unknown, takes on a couple of possible interpretation notwithstanding it's link to the Wesley family. We need to bear in mind that the Methodist Missionaries who brought the message of Christianity to the East through Methodism were our founding fathers.

## THE CROSS(Red Cross on white shield)

1. The cross represents Christianity and Christ as the focal point of our being which goes along with the Wesley family motto – "God is love". 1 John chapter 4 verse 8 ... **"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."**
2. The cross represents the four compass points of North, South, East and West – the four corners of the world which cover the spread of the Christian message,
3. The cross represents the cross of sacrifice on which Christ died.

4. The red cross is very important as it is similar to the symbol used in the Crusades by Richard the Lion Heart in battle. In medieval times the Crusades were lead by Christians and if you look at the images of that era, you will see that the shields protecting the Crusaders in battle were white with a red cross.
5. The red cross is also in the origins of the English flag which is represented by a red cross (the Cross of St George) on a white background.

It should be noted that the St Thomas' and Trinity College Coats of Arms have the red cross, both being Christian schools formed by the Church of England in Sri Lanka. Given that the Methodist Missionaries came across the oceans to spread the Christian message in the East, it is not only symbolic that the College Coat of Arms represented the Wesley family but its Christian and English origins.

### THE SCALLOP SHELLS(in Gold)

The explanation of the twelve scallop shells may also have more than one interpretation.

1. The twelve (12) shells are symbolic of the journeying Pilgrim across the seas, seeking and searching ahead, with no complacency.
2. The scallop shells could also represent the twelve wandering tribes of Israel and
3. The scallop shells could also represent the twelve Disciples of Christ spreading the Christian message to the people.

### THE MOTTO

1. The words "***ora et labora***" can be attributed to Saint Benedict (500 AD) an ascetic monk who prescribed the rules referred to as "*The rule of Benedict*" which is a set of precepts. The Rule of Saint Benedict has been used by Benedictines for fifteen centuries, and thus St. Benedict is sometimes regarded as the founder of Western Monasticism. The spirit of St Benedict's Rule is summed up in the motto of the Benedictine Federation which is ***ora et labora*** ("pray and work").
2. The Methodist Missionaries who set sail for the Far East had as their charter to spread the message of Christianity. When one considers the Wesley family motto of "God is Love", the brothers John Wesley and Charles Wesley were both ordained as Anglican Priests like their father and led an evangelic revival within the Anglican Church at the time that came to be known as Methodism. It is only natural that the motto reflects that sense of order and priority prescribed in John Wesley's teachings in how one should conduct one's life, i.e devotion to God and work. Therefore "***ora et labora***" defines man's true function - to pray and to work. Rev Arthur Shipham gave Wesley her motto.

### THE CHANGES TO THE CURRENT CREST AS WE KNOW IT

In examining the symbolic elements contained in the College Crest, I find it difficult to accept the need for the embellishment that was proposed by Rev John Dalby (Principal 1929 - 1934) and subsequently implemented. Having no records to support the proposed changes other than that it was commissioned by Rev John Dalby, I have conducted some research in to what possibly made him propose this change. The College Crest as we know it today is represented by the Coat of Arms at the centre surrounded by outer concentric circles bearing the name of Wesley College and contained within an outer circle with a scalloped edge. The Coat of Arms represents Wesley College for over 50 years and is a traditional symbol. It raises the question "***Why did Rev John Dalby who is accredited with the change, modify the Coat of Arms or embellish it ?***"

In the period 1920 – 1940, (post World War 1), there was a new trend for stylizing architecture, symbols, fittings and a host of structures. It is referred to as the "Art Deco" era where themes were often classical motifs reduced to geometric stylisations. It was very popular in the period and perhaps as a sign of the times, Rev Dalby felt it was important to translate the College Coat of Arms into an Art Deco style. It has made the Coat of Arms very busy, the scalloped outer circle is typical of the geometric curves(arcs) introduced to embellish things in that period. In modern speak we would refer to it as "Corporatising" the Coat of Arms to effectively a logo. I believe in so doing it has lost the symbolism of what the College Coat of Arms was meant to represent and I would guess that at the same time, the Coat of Arms took on a single colour losing its true identity. I may be wrong but there are no records that refer to this and the reason for the changes.

### THE ABSENCE OF THE COLOURS FROM THE COAT OF ARMS

Having spoken to many Old Wesleyites of the "war " years (1939 -1945) and beyond, they can recall the "Dalby" crest as being in single colour. Perhaps circumstances at the time of the War and recovery from the great depression of that time may have influenced the introduction of a single colour image. The following are possible reasons for the single colour:

1. Availability of coloured threads to embroider the crest in full colour.
2. Cost of materials to embroider the crest in colour.
3. Wesley College campus was used for other purposes at the time of the war and with the many distractions and re-location that was around at the time and the introduction of the embellishments by Rev Dalby to the coat of arms, having the "Dalby" Crest in a single colour may have been practical and cost effective at the

time. However it never returned to the colours of the original coat of arms as it was meant to be and has been lost to generations of Wesleyites since then.

### WE MUST RETAIN OUR HERITAGE AND ORIGINS

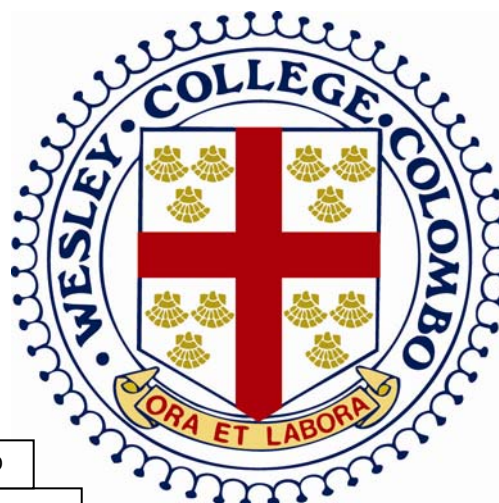
I believe it is important that the symbolism and the colours in the College Coat of Arms are not lost to our history. The Coat of Arms in its original colours and the College Crest with the core (the Coat of Arms) in full colour would look terrific when you consider that the photo of the blazer pocket it is faded having been embroidered over 80 years ago and using threads that lacked lustre and sheen.

I have had the College Coat of Arms and the College Crest re-done by a graphic artist in its original colours. **What do you think?**



College Coat of Arms

SCROLL IN GOLD  
SCALLOP SHELLS IN GOLD



College Crest

It is not too late to restore our Coat of Arms to its full colours and maintain our heritage. If we do not it will be lost forever and that would be a terrible tragedy and disrespect for the efforts of founding fathers. Had it not been for Mr Duckworth bequeathing his blazer pocket to the Old Boys Union in Australia, we would never have known this part of our historic identity.

When our founding fathers were considering matters of significance like our Coat of Arms, the College motto and our college colours, they were mindful that they vested with the responsibility of educating and developing the lives of your boys to turn out to be young men, gentlemen, decent, educated and upstanding in society. Men of grit and industry as our College song states. Therefore like the Coat of Arms, when picking the College colours, they symbolised a meaningful statement connected with what they were hoping to achieve. The light blue and dark blue were not selected because they were pretty colours.

### THE COLLEGE COLOURS

To some of you who may not know, the College colours – Light Blue and Dark Blue may also have symbolic links representing

1. Cambridge University (light blue) and Oxford University (dark blue) the oldest seats of learning in England. You would note that many of the Missionary Principals were either graduates of Oxford (Oxon) or Cambridge (Cantab).
2. The two blues also represent the sky and the ocean - what you would see if you gazed at the horizon. We joined Wesley College and began a journey of learning and development which has no boundaries very much a kin to the horizon which goes on and on as far as our eyes can see. When we joined Wesley College it was the start of a journey of learning and development which presented fresh challenges every day and searching for limitless knowledge. It will be the same tomorrow as it was on our very first day at Wesley, as we journey through our days endeavouring to reach those goals we have set ourselves in our daily life.
3. Another interpretation is that the colours represent our destiny. The Light Blue the tranquillity of heaven – the sky, celestial space and Dark Blue the tempest, the depths of darkness, despair and hell.

In conclusion, I believe that all of the above interpretations could add credence to what the Wesley Coat of Arms represents the values they have stood for all these years will remain unchanged regardless of shape, colour or form. That's Wesley College. **Author: Keith de Kretser**

# Some photos of "A day at Wesley College"



The College Hall set for assembly



The Junior School at Havelock Town



The Junior School Computer Lab



The Canteen



The Chemistry Lab



The Cartman Library



Senior Class in action



Primary Class at Havelock town in action

# Memories of Life at Wesley College

## Edmund Dissanayake - "A legend at Wesley"

by Premasiri Epasinghe



The dream begins with a teacher, who believes in you, who tugs and pushes

and leads you to the next plateau. If I may quote the famous Pandit Guru Govinda (1898-1985), a guru is an individual, who is definitely more than a teacher or a pedagogue, a strict or formal teacher. This individual has all these attributes. There are certain teachers whose names are synonymous with the schools they teach. Also, there are school cricketers, many names that go with the respective schools they studied at. For example, Viji Weerasinghe, E. C. Gunasekera of Royal, W. D. E. Perera, Captain V. I. Perera, Stanley Munasinghe, W. B. (Bertie) Perera with Nalanda, Keerthisinghe, A. D. Karunanda, Bertie Fernando with Ananda, Lassie Abeywardane, Bertie Wijesinghe, Orville Abeynaike, Jayasena Ratnayaka with S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia and Edmund Dissanayake, with Wesley, to name a few.

Out of the schoolboy cricketers, some of the names like Amendra's of Mahinda, Gunasekera's and De Saram's at Royal College, Senanayake's (D. S., Dudley, Robert), Molamure's, Bulankulama's and Pieris's) from S. Thomas' Perera's – Lincoln, Parliamentarian and Chairman of the United National Party, Gamini Jayawickrama Perera, Asoka Warnapura, Weerasinghe, Illukkumbura's, (Daya, Karunatilake), Narangoda's, (Herbert, Eastmen, Leslie, Jayantha), Nalanda's, Ranatunga's – Dhammika, Arjuna, Prasanna, Nishantha, Ruwan, are unforgettable. Dissanayake clan The name Edmund Dissanayake as a school cricketer and a teacher at

Wesley College, Colombo is one of a kind. Wesley College and the Dissanayakes are inseparable. Fathers, brothers and sons have represented Wesley at cricket. The Dissanayake clan began their cricket career in Wesley in late 1930s. Bertram played for Wesley from 1939-1941, Chandra, Donald, Edmund from 1944-1945, Graham Dissanayake, who retired as the Commissioner of the Food Department was the first Ceylonese to secure the Diploma in Development Administration (Manchester). His son, a livewire at Wesley, Mahendra Dissanayake, captained in 1984. He played cricket in Australia too. While in Australia, Mahendra, son of Graham, obtained the Bachelor of Engineering Degree and MSc in Information Technology. Record breakers – father and son All these Dissanayakes (father-son combination), wrote their names in gold in the cricketing history of Wesley. They both captained the college. Both scored centuries against Royal College, another unique record. These two Dissanayakes set many records at Wesley. Edmund's son Danesh, did better than the father Edmund, by scoring two centuries against Royal. Fairy tale The Wesley and Dissanayake episode, is like a fairy tale. It will not be complete, if I do not enlighten you on the famous, Wesley – S. Thomas' encounter in 1947. Wesley were riding high, having beaten Royal a week before. The Thomians were captained by Upali Katugaha and Wesley by Edmund Dissanayake. Ronnie Weerakoon was the vice captain of S. Thomas' College. An unprecedented crowd flocked to Mount Lavinia to see a 'Greek meeting a Greek'. Edmund Dissanayake had a premonition of disaster before the game. On the second day of the match (Saturday), Wesley Principal, Rev. James Cartman, decided to drive Edmund in his car to Mount Lavinia. The car stalled near the Lady Ridgeway

Hospital, Borella. Was it a bad omen? They managed to do a quick repair and proceeded to Mount Lavinia. The first day belonged to Wesley with their skipper Edmund Dissanayake capturing 6 for 14 in the first innings. In the second essay, the school by the sea were at sea, losing their last six wickets for 60 and were staring at defeat. Edmund Dissanayake was a brilliant captain. He was a fine strategist. From one end he brought in N. S. Jayasundera, a spinner for an odd over. Edmund, the fighting captain, took up position at short leg. During this era, there were no helmets and other protective gear. Ronnie Weerakoon was at strike facing N. S. Jayawickrema. One of his deliveries slipped off his palm. Ronnie clobbered the full toss with all his might and the red cherry struck Edmund with a resounding thud on his head. Edmund swung around and around like a merry-go-round. Wesley Principal Rev. Cartman was the first to rush to the field and carried his injured skipper Edmund. Before Edmund lapsed into unconsciousness, he instructed the deputy skipper regarding the bowling changes. While Edmund was battling for his life at the hospital, Wesley emerged victorious by 112 runs.

At the hospital the good doctor Dr. J. H. F. Jayasuriya, the eminent Neuro Surgeon, battled round the clock to save Edmund's life. He suffered from concussion, laceration of the brain tissues, associated with paralysis of the region below the waist. Edmund Dissanayake's recovery was a miracle. For nearly three months Edmund's life was hanging on a thread. Added to all this commotion, there was a death notice in the Daily News – stop press – E. Dissanayake. Presuming that the worst had happened to Edmund, people sent floral tributes and telegrams and rushed to E. Dissanayake's residence. The Royal and S. Thomas' cricket teams were also present to pay their last

respects. Can you believe, the lady principal, teachers and students in the southern capital, the sister school of Richmond, Rippon Girls School, held a memorial service on behalf of the living Edmund Dissanayake. Wesley – A great seat of learning Wesley was founded on March 2, 1874. Through its portals, several highly distinguished sons have passed through. To name a few out of many; Sir D. B. Jeyatilleke, Dr. E. W. Adikaram, Prof. J. E. Jayasuriya, Prof. E. F. C. Loduwyke, P. de S. Kularatne, Father S. G. Perera, Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, Sir Claude Corea, Sir

Gerard Wijekoon, Sir Mohammed Macan Markar, Justice Amir Ismail and Rienzie Wijetilake. From Wesley emerged Sri Lanka cricketers, M. Sathasivam, Abu Fuard, L. R. Gunatileke and Sridharan Jeganathan. Edmund began his career as a teacher at Wesley and rose to the rank and positions of Head Master, Deputy Principal, Prefect of Games and Master-in-Charge of Cricket. Edmund Dissanayake taught at Wesley from 1949 to 1980, the last five years as Head-Master. Then from 1982 to 1985, he taught English at the University of Sri

Jayawardenapura. From 1982 to 2005, he was an English Lecturer attached to Aquinas. In the meantime, he did his law studies and became an Attorney-at-Law. From 1980 to 2005, he worked as an attorney at the Magistrate's Court. After a motor accident, in 2005, he did not attend court. For the last five years he had been kept under 'House Detention'. His beloved wife Amara is nursing him. Daughter Gaihari, daughter-in-law Kanchana and son Danesh have given a fresh lease of life to Edmund Dissanayake.

## FRANK JAYASINGHE

by Dr.N.D.Amerasekera



Dr. Frank Jayasinghe is the senior most International School Administrator in Sri Lanka. He was the Principal/Director of the American

School in Kodaikanal in India from 1972-1984. On his return he started Wycherley International School in 1985. In 1992 in response to the request of the Directors of St. Nicholas' International School he took charge of the School and developed it into a 400 strong International School. He started World Education Pvt. Ltd. In January

1996 which is now a full-fledged International School. Dr. Jayasinghe is the coordinator of the Association of Heads of International Schools in Sri Lanka, Chairman of the National Committee of the United World Colleges, Founder member of the International Baccalaureate in Geneva and serves on several International Institutions dedicated to education such as "World Education' in Upsala and International Council for Curriculum and Instruction, New York. He was a Hostel Master and a teacher at Wesley for many years before moving to St.Thomas' College, Gurutalawa as Headmaster. He taught us Maths in form 1. I believe he was at Wesley

from 1955- 62 Being an excellent teacher he stood for no nonsense and saw to it that we all learnt and understood. D.B.Welikala, Edmund Dissanayake and Frank Jayasinghe were inseparable friends. Wesley lost an excellent teacher when he left. We were sorry to see him go. He has had a meteoric rise since his departure to become one of the foremost educationists in the country. A well deserved position for a clever, astute manager and an excellent teacher.

[Note: Dr Frank Jayasinghe returned to Wesley College as the Chief Guest for the College Prize Giving held in the College Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2011.]

## THE OBU UK REPORT

By Azahim Mohammed

The cricket season started for Wesley with a fixture with Dharamaraja. The match was abandoned due to rain. Our Next match is the annual outing with Issipathana on Sunday 19 June. This year it will be played for the M H Mohamed Challenge Trophy. This annual outing will also, be a family day with a BBQ and a kids play area. The 23rd Annual festival of Cricket 2011 will be held on Sunday 10 June 2011 and will be held at Winchmorehill Cricket Club London N21. This year 26 OBA's will be participating in this years festival. Roshan Perera will be leading the Wesleyites again this year.

The annual Touch Rugby Carnival will be held on Saturday 30th July. Wesley as in previous years will be participating in this tournament.

The Annual Double Blue Ball 2011 will be held at Holiday Inn Brentford lock on Saturday 24th September and the Wesley/Methodist College Carol Service will be held on 4 December at Chelsea Methodist Church.

Dr Shanthi McLelland Principal of Wesley College Colombo met the members of the OBU UK at dinner held in his honour at Lihiniya Restaurant Cricklewood. Our next visitor from down to the UK will be Reggie Bartholomeusz former President of the OBU Australia Branch and former Captain of Wesley Rugger and Athletics and Captain of Sri Lanka Rugby XV. The OBU will honour Reggie at a dinner arranged in the first week in July.

**In Memoriam:** It is with sadness that we received the news of the passing away of the oldest Wesleyite in the UK Mr Peter Mendis. Mr Mendis last request was to hear the College Song which the OBU UK were happy to arrange. Mr Mendis was at Wesley in 1920.

# The Principal's Address at the Prize Giving 4 June 2011

*"An education system isn't worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living but doesn't teach them how to make a life" ..... Mark Twain*

Dr. Frank Jayasinghe, Rev. H. S. Thambirajah, Members of the Governing Board, Welfare Society, Parent Teacher Association, Old Boys Union, Past Teachers, and Well Wishers. On behalf of the staff and students of Wesley College, I extend a warm welcome to you all to our Annual Prize Giving of the 137<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, especially to our Chief Guest Dr. Frank Jayasinghe.

Dr. Jayasinghe, we thank you for accepting our invitation and honouring us with your presence today. We thank all of the other distinguished guests who have accepted our invitation to grace this occasion. We thank all old Wesleyites and ardent supporters of Wesley for their presence today. Honoured guests, your presence are an encouragement to all our Award winners who will walk up to the stage this evening.

Dr. Frank Jayasinghe, I wish to share a few hallmarks of your illustrious career as an example, especially for the young and curious minds. He was a teacher and hostel master at Wesley College from 1953 to 1962. He taught mathematics, science while being the Warden of the College Hostel. As I remember Dr. Jayasinghe, he was an extraordinary teacher, particularly in mathematics. I remember Dr. Frank Jayasinghe as an extraordinary teacher and an exemplary leader who was able to motivate, to develop a passion for mathematics. He was able to present mathematics in a very simple form. He was loved by all students as he was a very amiable teacher, but was a strict disciplinarian and expected students to exceed expectations. He was a tower of strength to all hostellers who treated him as father as he was a very considerate Warden and tolerated some of the pranks of innocent and playful students. Dr. Jayasinghe was a passionate tennis player and was seen energetically playing on the college courts where the current Labrooy and A.S.

Wirasinha blocks are standing majestically today.

After leaving Wesley, Dr. Jayasinghe was the Principal of St. Thomas' Gurutalawa for a period of 5 years and helped to develop the school into one of the best residential secondary schools in Sri Lanka. Later he served as the Sub Warden of St. Thomas' Mt. Lavinia from 1968 to 1971. Dr. Jayasinghe was one of the first to introduce the International school concept in Sri Lanka after returning having lead the Kodaikanal International School in India from 1972 to 1983. At Kodaikanal Dr. Jayasinghe was instrumental in introducing the highly acclaimed International Baccalaurate (IB) Program.

Dr. Jayasinghe, . Unlike in the previous times of heavy corporal punishment, now we follow a no punishment no tolerance policy to maintain discipline. We have a special team to help students who need counselling and financial assistance. We reach out to parents to help them in time of need. At Wesley, with the help of parents, old boys and teachers we believe in helping students who are less fortunate as well those with learning disabilities to excel.

In 2010, our GCE (Ordinary Level) results showed an extraordinary improvement from the 69% in 2009 to 93%. English Language pass rate surpassed expectations with 98% success, along with 95% success rate mathematics and a 100% achievement rate in the English and Tamil streams. Comparatively the results were significantly outstanding in relation to 63% rate nationally. Two students obtained distinctions in all subjects and 8 students obtained 8 distinctions. Five of our Students entered University from 73 students who passed the GCE (Advanced Level) Examination in 2010.

The new teaching and learning strategies seems to have paid

dividends. 18 students are expected to be selected to national universities from the 73 that passed the examination to qualify for university admission. This is about a 12% increase from last year. This year we expect to exceed these performances with the implementation of monthly tests and parents meeting supported by formative monthly assessments, subject seminars by experts in the field, learning to learn programs and motivational meetings. Records show that Teacher-Student ratios and motivational metrics are more favourable than in the previous years.

In the field of sports Wesley fared well in the President's Cup Rugby Division "A" League championships beating some of the more fancied teams. We have significantly done better than last year in Cricket, Hockey, Table Tennis, Badminton, Tennis, Soccer, and Athletics. We continue perform well in Basket Ball, Chess, and Swimming. Aesthetics studies, is becoming a preferred subject and students are offering this subject for public examinations with the increase of qualified and dedicated teachers in this field. Wesley College is becoming a Center for Performing arts that has won the recognition of the Ministry of Education. Our boys have performed excellently well in Art, Music, and Dancing in all three media, specializing in Eastern, Western and Karantic sections. Our Hewisi Band and the Brass Bands, junior and senior were invited by many schools and organizations due to their high standard of performance. We are proud of our College Band and College Choir who emerged Second at the Winter Carols Competition. The school debating team excelled winning the Inter-school debating championships, as well as, winning the Law Faculty debating team championships. The Drama group emerged Third in the Shakespeare Drama Competition. Three of the debaters participated at the

prestigious Asian Championships in Philippines. The Junior Speech-craft program for the development of public speaking skills in English proved to be a total success. The Partnership with Rotrac Club of Colombo North was a successful venture helping all students in the primary school to develop speech and language skills in English.

As in the past, a select number of you – Past and Present Wesleyites – would have had the privileged of experiencing the rich tradition of Wesley in the past 137 years guided by the connotation of our motto “Ora et Labora”. Wesley College has now introduced a totally refreshing experience of teaching and learning at Karlsruhe. Wesley is continuing to provide new opportunities in “Mart or Hall”, on the playing fields of Campbell Park, inside the hallowed halls of Wesley and the Cartman Library, and even at the “Park in The City” environment of Wesley’s lush green sports grounds. The magnificent hostel buildings decked with Burma Teak and high ceilings with state of the art washrooms upgraded having a distinctive modern appeal and contemporary outlook to promote holistic and healthy life styles. These teaching and learning opportunities give hope and promise to those who love and cherish the rich traditions of Wesley. Wesley College gives the teachers and students the assurance of a total “Teaching, Learning, and Performing” experience at the Double Blue!

At the Annual Prize Giving, “Proud to be Wesleyites” who are persistent, determined and consistently desire to exceed academic achievement will be awarded the converted “Hill Medal” and the class and special prizes honoured by the Wesley Community through the “Scholarships and

Awards Trust Fund”. Wesley boys who perform on stage and electrify the audiences, outperform their opponents in debating and public speaking contests, as well as students who excel in Mart or Hall, or in Art, Dance, Music, and Drama will proudly don the “College Colours”. The winners of “College Colours” will have the honour of displaying Wesley’s iconic crest of twelve shells and the rugged cross.

*Wesley College has embarked on an exciting new journey that would give teachers, students, and parents a better environment to impart, receive, and celebrate success at examinations and extra-curricular activities*

The modern pedagogy of tutorial staff of Wesley will promote a proud sense of excellence, efficiency and loyalty with a kinder and warmer smiles replacing the unpleasant “Corporal Punishment” of the past decades.

The effectiveness, efficiency, elegance and grace of the Double Blue will be accentuated and traditions will be preserved by hundreds of empathetic teachers and illustrious students at Wesley who will be “Ready when the Call shall Sound” to endure this transformation in the 137<sup>th</sup> year of Wesley’s tradition for excellence in education. The Wesley students discipline is at its best surpassing all other schools portraying the “Best of Men of Grit”. The Double Blue colour palette with the elegant turquoise light blue blended with iridescent shade of dark blue splashed in the centre on the robust “College Crest” glorifying the vision of “Rev. John Wesley” the founder of Methodism in 1814, and of “Rev. D. H. Pereira” the founder of Wesley College in 1874.

Wesley has struggled to stay on course during the past few years. In the process the school did not do anything new and revolutionary. In fact, Wesley appeared to be sometimes thought to have lost

focus of our tradition of excellence. Nevertheless, with many new strategies and wide ranging and sweeping changes Wesley now reassures our stakeholders that we are certainly back to basics and to our focus. We are changing the teaching and learning experience in a new-dimensional manner and stretching the boundaries of excellence in teaching and learning. Wesley College will continue this

journey of new discovery with comfortable classrooms, better teaching and learning facilities have been upgraded to give a completely new look and feel to the experience of

learning at Wesley College, which aims to be one of the best in the region.

At this moment, I wish to refresh the memories of all those who are interested in the success of Wesley, the words of former Principal, Mr. A.S. Wirasingha on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1962. “This is the moment of rededication in my life. It is my hope and prayer that this school will be allowed to function by the state in an atmosphere of freedom. Education does not end with the gaining of jobs; it is much more than that. Education is the training and discipline of the entire person”. After 137 years innovative changes at Wesley are geared to combine to evoke Wesley’s time-tested values to reminisce the nostalgia of a bygone era and the tradition of excellence in education, yet portraying a vibrant school with a proud but humble brand identity. Indeed ... we are changing the way we teach, learn and play! Undeniably the aim of the holistic education at Wesley is to churn out great citizens who could be outstanding leaders in their chosen fields.

Ora et Labora  
Dr. Shanti McLelland  
Principal, Wesley College

*If you are looking for an interesting read on the history and personalities of Wesley College or you would like to submit any material for public review, visit the **DOUBLE BLUE INTERNATIONAL WEBSITE** <http://wesleycollege.org/DoubleBlue/>. The site is the gift of Dr Nihal Amerasekera to the world so that the Wesley College, Colombo legacy lives on. You will not be disappointed as the material covers her rich and colourful history since 1874.*

## CRICKET QUADRANGULAR 2011

Gloomy skies greeted the players and spectators who had turned up for what promised to be an entertaining outing at the Mulgrave Reserve in leafy Wheelers Hill in the South eastern suburbs. As the sun battled to poke its head through the clouds, the teams from Wesley, St Josephs, St John's and Trinity went about warming up and getting ready for the start. Played on adjacent grounds, the Colombo North rivals Wesley and St Joseph's were on one ground whilst the two outstation Colleges from Kandy and Jaffna prepared for battle on the other. The winner of each game would meet for the inaugural W.O. Nathanielsz and E B "Tita" Nathanielsz Trophy later in the day. A small gathering of supporters from each College were in attendance to support their teams. Hariharan Jeganathan (UK) and Ray Anthonisz (Queensland) who were visiting Melbourne at the time were delighted to catch up with old College chums.



The Nathanielsz family has had a long association with Wesley College with Wilfred Owen Nathanielsz captaining Wesley in 1900. The two gentlemen who were being honoured on the trophy are Uncle and nephew with both being old boys of Wesley. Tita had a distinguished career in the game, playing for All Ceylon and his beloved Colts Cricket Club. His involvement in the game continued long after he hung up his boots being a National Selector and having a passionate interest in the up and coming talent as Sri Lanka gained status as a Test playing nation. Presenting the trophies was Dougie Nathanielsz the oldest surviving cousin who was a gifted cricketer first turning out for St John's Nugedoda. Ben Nathanielsz sponsored the trophy. (Photo - Ben & Gahan Nathanielsz)

The games were played under the 20-20 format. The Joes won the toss and batted. This turned out to be a good decision as the Joes rattled up 128 from their 20 overs. Almost on the start of the final over, the skies opened up with a torrential shower sending players and spectators scurrying for cover. In the other game St John's also had the upper hand posting a decent score. As the rain came down everyone sat down to lunch which was catered for with a rice and curry packet washed down with a cold beer. The lunch was well received as the temperature dropped rapidly as the unusual wet weather and cool climate was unusual for summer in Melbourne.



When play resumed, the teams batting second were dealt a severe blow as the saturated outfield slowed the pace of the ball and boundaries were scarce. Gahan Nathanielsz played a good hand scoring 58 as Wesley struggled to a total of 106 runs. Joes were the winners. In the other fixture, Trinity also struggles and the final was a battle of the Saints – St John's versus St Joseph's.

As the inclement weather looked threatening, the final and play-off began with the number of overs being reduced. St Joseph's won the W.O. Nathanielsz and E B Nathanielsz Trophy. It was a disappointing way to end the day as the clouds rolled in. As an inaugural event it was a promising start to what will be an annual event. Sincere thanks to Darryl Koch, Reg Bartholomeusz and Ben Nathanielsz who were instrumental in organizing the event and involving the other College past pupil associations. A special thank you to the representatives of all the Colleges for participating in this inaugural event.



# Round the Traps and in the News

## OBU NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH CURRY NIGHT



Nizar Sappideen leads the Old Boys in the War Cry at the OBU NSW Curry Night held recently for its members and families.

## FOUR OLD BOYS IN TOWN



Four old Wesleyites from the four corners of the world were in Melbourne at the same time and they were hosted at a dinner in their honour held at Cha's Cabin a favourite Sri Lankan Restaurant. In the photo from the left Ray Anthonisz (Brisbane), Hari Jeganathan (London), Ron Bakelmun (Colombo) and Maurice Jayatilleke (California) joined school friends who they had not met for years and reminisced about their school days. Attending the dinner were Ron & Trevor Collette, Delmer Achilles, Godwin Philips, Tissa Fernando, Ben Nathanielsz, Reg Bartholomeusz, Marky Makalanda. Darryl Koch and Keith de Kretser for a lovely evening of fellowship.

## SPECTATORS AT THE CRICKET QUADRANGULAR



Jeremy Kreltszheim, Marky Makalanda, Ransil Wijayasinghe, Ben Nathanielsz, Edjoy Sinnen, Bryan Wijeyekoon, Sanjeev Wijayasinghe, Hari Jeganathan, Darryl Koch & Reg Bartholomeusz.

## TYRONE JANSZ “TJ” UPDATE



TJ's long wait for an approved donor & kidney transplant is now over. The new journey continues for Tyrone & Bernadine as they now enter a new stage of their lives together. All is going well and TJ's new kidney is working very well with no rejections. There have been some concerns but no complications and this is expected with transplant procedures. Tyrone and Bernadine were not the perfect kidney match as they belonged to different blood groups but fortunately modern medicine was able to overcome any perceived shortcomings and the transplant went ahead. The medical teams are happy with TJ's progress and he is progressing extremely well but will still need close monitoring and further treatment to overcome any blood group deficiencies. Keep smiling champ!

## HON. M H MOHAMMED TURNS NINETY



Distinguished old Wesleyite the Hon M H Mohammed, Speaker of Sri Lanka Parliament ('89 – '94), Minister of Western Regional Development ('01 – '04), Minister of Parliamentary Affairs ('07 – '10), Member of Parliament for Colombo District ('89 – '10) and Mayor of Colombo ('60 – '62) celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with family and friends in Colombo. The College is felicitating Hon Mr Mohammed's 67 years of service to the Nation in the College Hall on the eve of his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Mr Mohammed's sons followed in their father's footsteps from Kindergarten right through maintaining the strong link with Wesley College. They are still involved with the brotherhood of Wesleyites and demonstrates the once strong father-son links that underpinned the traditions of Wesley College which sadly has fallen away over recent years. Many would remember Mr Mohammed's sons: M. Hussain Mohamed, Former Mayor of Colombo, Vice Patron OBU Colombo; Hassen

Gazzali Mohamed; Ahamed Azahim Mohamed, active member of the OBU UK Branch; Haniffa Mohamed and Shaul Hameed Mohamed, Vice President OBU Colombo.

## WESLEY CLEANS UP IN TABLE TENNIS



**The Wesley under 12 team** From left: Oshan Punchihewa, Sandesh Nissanka, Ashen Wijeratne, Lithmina Mahanama (Captain), Amre Faleel, Matheesha Wijeratne

Wesley made a clean 3-0 sweep over Nalanda in the Finals of the Under 12 Invited Schools Table Tennis final at the S. Thomas' College Indoor Stadium. The competition was conducted by the Table Tennis Union of Ananda Sastralaya.

## TABLE TENNIS CHAMPION AT 10



Ten-year-old Lithmina Mahanama of Wesley College, Colombo won the under-15 boys table tennis title, at the Colombo District Table Tennis Championships, held at the S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia Sports Complex recently. His elder brother Sithira Mahanama became the runner-up in the under-18 boys singles. Sithira was awarded a bronze medal at the IPSF Games, held in Korea last November. Lithmina was also selected for the World Hope team 2011. He is the only school player to use the pen-hold grip. He then went to win the Under 18 championship and was placed second in the Open Men's Novices and was a semi-finalist in the Open Men's Intermediate Tournament at the All Island Novices/ Intermediate Table Tennis Championships 2011.

## CAVAN GAUDER - WESLEY'S “HAPPY HOOKER” visits Melbourne



As reported in the November issue of this newsletter, Cavan Gauder the diminutive hooker for Wesley and the Havelocks Rugby Club visited Melbourne at Easter. Being a long holiday weekend, at short notice a dinner was held in his honour by the Old Wesleyites and former Haves players at Cha's Cabin – a Sri Lankan eatery. Over a feast of hoppers and other Sri Lankan delights old friends reminisced about those enjoyable days at Wesley and the game they play in heaven. The boys were in fine spirits and an inevitable sing along followed. It was a pity that his visit coincided with the Easter holidays or more Old Wesleyites and friends would have attended.

## Double Blue Winter Warm-up – Curry Night 2011

The annual Double Blue Winter Warm-up was the first event on the OBU Social calendar for 2011 and as in the past, many old boys, their friends and family joined in for a great evening of fellowship and entertainment. Three critical elements will guarantee such a success, being Good Music, Good Food and Good Value for your money.

Melbourne's late autumn winds, icy rain and winter chills had signalled the arrival of winter earlier than expected so a "warm-up" was a much needed attraction to endure the winter chills. College flag and banners signified the Wesley brand and light blue and dark blue serviettes on the tables finished off the table settings. The music for the evening was provided by the band "Pioneers" who featured former old Wesleyite Linden Boustead on guitar and vocals.

A sumptuous buffet of curries and accompaniments was catered for by Roy & June Catering and patrons had a feast. Time simply slipped by as the revellers continued past mid-night. For those who did not attend make a note about attending the Double blue winter warm-up next year. You will not be disappointed.



### ***Wesleyite makes the Sri Lankan Rugby Team***



**Henry Terrance,**  
**Position - PROP FORWARD,**  
**Club -CR&FC**  
**Age -25 year old**

'Big HENRY' is one of the biggest blokes in the team, A versatile player, Henry has featured on both sides of the scrum in the first class representative arena. The former Wesley College prop has represented the country in many tournaments including the Asian five nation's qualifier last year. In 2008 he made the Sri Lankan team for the first time and has since then turned up for the Lankans. The Big lad in the front will be a big asset especially in the main games against Kazakhstan and Japan.

## Wesley Rugby 2011

Wesley began the season taking part in the Inter-school All Island U20 Sevens Tournament. After a promising round of victories in the elimination rounds, they lost in the semi-final to St Peter's College 31 points to 5 who went on to a second successive 7's title.

The fifteen a side season was to follow and Wesley College kicked-off its Singer Schools Rugby League season for 2011 with much enthusiasm and hope for a great year. The first game saw them beat their more fancied opponents St Thomas's 18 points to 12 and a week later they went to the wire just losing to top team Royal College 33 points to 32. The next game was also a close call with St Joseph's snatching a draw on the final whistle 13 points a piece. Hopes were high and there was a sense of eager anticipation as Wesley seemed to be hitting their stride and playing with confidence and composure.

The litmus test was the next game against last year's champions St Peter's and this would be a clear indication of their improvement and potential for season 2011. The Double Blues got a hiding going down by 62 points to 7. The next week it was Trinity College at Pallekalle and another cricket score in favour of the Lions 48 points to 13. The rot had set in. Isipathana(formerly Greenlands) was the next hurdle to be overcome and once again Wesley took a hiding 46 points to 3. To quote a media commentator..." *Isipathana played well but the score was exaggerated due to constant mistakes made by Wesley. Wesley would have been able to make more use of the selfish play put up by Isipathana College if they had not relied on the same few game plans. It seemed as if all they knew was the number eight break off from the scrum and the first center cross with the fly half. Hopefully Wesley College will rethink their strategies and make a good come back in the next match.*"

The next game was against the big improvers in 2011, Science College who had started the season with some good wins against more fancied opposition. Wesley went down fighting in a close game 10 points to 5. The L. E. Blaze Trophy game against rivals Kingswood saw the Woodsman win handsomely 36 points to 17. The season which started with so much promise was now in tatters. With three more rounds remaining, all Wesley can do is to aim to finish the season on a high and learn from their mistakes. The next fixture was against Thurstan College who have been struggling as well. In a hard fought encounter, Wesley returned to the winning circle 22 points to 20. The last two games are against Dharmaraja and St Anthony's. It is important that they win these games to ensure they remain in A Division for season 2012.

## Ceremonial Opening of the Denzil Perera Board room

The upgrading of the meeting room to a board room was named after Past President, late Denzil Perera. The Board room was opened on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 at 6.30pm in a simple ceremony by guests of honour Rienzie Wijetilleke (left) and Neville Perera (Denzil's brother right) OWSC President Jeremy Brohier is in the middle.



## New Training & Development Conference Room

The conference room adjoining the Rev. James Cartman Library will be used as a multipurpose facility. The air-conditioned room will have a ceiling mounted projector, wide screen(8' X 15') and PA system. It will be mainly used by students as:

- A seminar room for course presentations for exam preparation for the General Certificate of Education (GCE) Ordinary Level(School Leaving level) and Advanced Level (University Entrance level) students, a total of nearly 700 students in Grade 10, 11, 12 & 13. In addition, the students will have presentations on exam preparation, Leadership, public speaking and oratory, and health and wellness programs.
- It will also be used for teaching of English and Drama. The Sri Lankan school curriculum has re-instated English as a mandatory subject on the curriculum and not a second language.
- Teachers will use this facility for learning English and Professional Development, presented by external experts.
- The Sports teams, Prefects, Interact club, Student Christian Movement, Debaters Syndicate and Poetry club will also use the facility for lectures, meetings and specific training.
- The facility will be used for conducting inter-active workshops with students from other schools.

## Mohamed, an exemplary politician loved and respected by all communities – Prof. G. L. Peiris

*Sunday Leader, June 19, 2011*



Prof. G.L. Peiris, the Minister of External Affairs said that Mr. M.H. Mohamed was an exemplary politician who is loved and respected by all communities in his political career for nearly 07 decades. Minister Peiris made this comment when he was addressing a meeting organized by the Past Pupils Association of Wesley College, Colombo on the occasion of the 90th birthday of Mohamed who has held the positions of Mayor, Speaker and a number of Ministerial posts.

This occasion was attended by a large number of professionals representing the political, religious, medical, engineering, law, management, and sports fields who were past pupils of Wesley College.

Prof. Peiris further stated "M.H. Mohamed can be described as a politician who brought various communities together". He has rendered yeoman service to the country and all communities, while being Mayor, Minister of Transport, Labour, Urban Development and Muslim Affairs and holding the position of the Speaker in the Parliament. His services were not limited to the Muslim community. For a long time Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims together with all communities supported him to serve as the representative of the people in the Borella electorate. In this context a question arises whether there should be political parties confined to each community.

Muslim politicians in this country such as C.A.S. Marikkar, Badurdeen Mahamud, A.C.S. Hameed, Bakeer Markar and A.H.M. Fowzie received the support of all the communities in this country i.e. Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim. Hameed represented electorates such as Akurana and Harispattuwa for 35 years, while Bakeer Markar represented the Beruwala people. Entirety of communities in this country extended their support to these political leaders and these leaders too rendered their services to all the communities lavishly.

Mohamad is a political leader who brought the people together. Language skills in Sinhala, Tamil and English possessed by him were of immense use for him to build up this situation. Language ability is very important for communication among one another and it is a must in creating harmony among the communities. Similar ideas and opportunities to exchange ideas and thoughts among each other pave the way for peace and reconciliation among communities. Therefore, the government has given priority to the programme on providing language training for the members of the community and the public officers.

As the Holy Quran states, once a group of followers met with Holy Prophet Mohamed and said "when we face with some problem or trouble we come to you and have it settled by you. But how can we get such troubles settled when you are not among us." Then the Holy Prophet Mohamed had said "In my absence you may settle your problems by discussing them openly without hiding anything in a peaceful manner. The decision you reach shall be treated as the decision I gave you". Therefore, Mohamed also can be described as an exemplary politician who is devoted to his religion and tried to find solutions for the problems of the people by listening to their grievances, without limiting it to one community.

Minister Peiris expressed his gratitude to the Wesley College Old Boys Association which had organized the occasion to pay tribute to a political leader who has rendered an immense service to the country and wished long and healthy life for M.H. Mohamed who completes his 90th year.

The welcome speech was made by Lasantha Fernando President of the Old Boys Association, Wesley College and the Vote of Thanks was made by Hussein Mohamed.

Shanti Mclelland, the Principal, Rajah Sinnathurai, President of the Welfare Society, Azahim Mohamed, Rienzie Wijethilake, Chairman - HNB and Rev. Rohitha de Silva also spoke on the occasion.

Lasantha Fernando (OBU) and Jeremy Brohier(OWSC) presented plaques, in appreciation of the services rendered by Mohamed.

This occasion was attended by Alavi Moulana, Governor of the Western Province, Senior Minister A.H.M. Fowzie, Nimal Siripala de Silva, the Minister of Irrigation and MP Thilanga Sumathipala.