



# Wesley Times – February '11

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

## Message from the President



Greetings and best wishes to you and your family as we begin another year. The New Year will present a new challenge as my knee which has been playing up for the past few years has finally taken its toll. I underwent knee replacement surgery on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, a job I have been putting off for many years. So as I rest and recover and begin a rehabilitation program I think of the days when I was playing rugby for College and training at Campbell Park. I am sure that in a small way it may have been the catalyst for this wear and tear on my knee. The hard concrete like surface took its toll on our limbs day in day out as we trained hard.

I believe the OBUA had a great twelve months and thanks to you for your support and patronage. I have decided to stand for another term as President. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March and the preliminary notice is in this issue (page 24) setting out the details and nomination form for office. I urge anyone who would like to nominate to please do so as fresh new faces are most welcome as is the ideas and energy they bring to the association. Anyone who may wish to find out more information about how the committee operates are most welcome to ring a committee member whose contact details are on page 6.

The first event on the calendar is an inaugural 20 -20 Cricket Carnival featuring the Old Boys Associations of Wesley, Trinity, St Joseph's and St John's on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February at the Mulgrave Cricket Ground. See details on page 3. I urge you to try and make it to the games as it will be entertaining.

The next social event for which advance notice is given is the Winter Warm-Up Curry night on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May at the Good Shepherd Church Hall in Brandon Park. I recommend that you contact the Committee early to reserve your tickets which will be out soon. Last year we had to turn away many as it was a sell out with 300 patrons.

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*

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>From the Editor's desk</b>	2
<b>Advert</b>	
➤ Winter-Warm-up	3
➤ 20-20 Cricket Carnival	
<b>From the desk of the Principal Wesley College OBU UK Committee 2011</b>	4
<b>Report Card on Wesley 2010</b>	5
<b>Condolences</b>	6
<b>Your Committee contacts</b>	6
<b>Dates to remember</b>	6
<b>The historic journey of Wesley College</b>	7
<b>Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Carol Service</b>	8
<b>UK Branch Report</b>	9
<b>Where are they now?</b>	
➤ Dr John Carnie	10
<b>The College Crest</b>	11
<b>Memories of Wesley</b>	
➤ Miss Iris Blacker	12
➤ Saluting a true veteran of banking	13
➤ Schoolboy memories of Ranjit Aaron	14
➤ The Four Principals after who the Senior School houses are named	15
<b>Senior Members Lunch</b>	16
<b>Round the traps &amp; in the News</b>	17
<b>Reports from visitors to Wesley College</b>	18
<b>News from Colombo</b>	20
Rugby, Cricket & Hockey	
<b>A priceless gift of love</b>	21
<b>Tributes</b>	
➤ Michael Kreltszheim	22
<b>Preliminary Notice for AGM</b>	24

### E-mail correspondence

All members who prefer to receive OBU correspondence by email are invited to inform the Editor on [keithdek@optusnet.com.au](mailto:keithdek@optusnet.com.au). 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

A New Year brings new challenges and I hope that over the next twelve months I can continue to provide the readership a bulletin of news and views about our beloved College, past and present students and past and present teachers. To this end I welcome contributions from you be it articles or photos that capture the Wesley community stretched across the globe. Though the newsletter is produced by the OBU in Australia it is your forum/medium to keep the family in touch with each other.

Over the Christmas season I received an article written by Captain Elmo Jayawardena titled "Ring the Bells that you can ring" – an annual reflection of Christmas's past and it's meaning. Inspired by the poetry of Leonard Cohen's work the "Anthem", the article

reminds us that we need not wait till circumstances are ideal and favourable to us to do a good deed or make a perfect offering to help someone in need. In recent weeks we have witnessed the wonderful efforts of thousands of volunteers helping to clean up the flood affected cities and towns of Queensland. They decided to "ring the bells that still can ring" in acts of kindness and generosity to their fellow citizens, many who they did not know prior to this disaster. Also in the issue we report on a priceless gift of love to one of our dear members of the Wesley family.

So as we begin this new year, it is an ideal time to consider the many opportunities that may come our way where we can "Ring the bell that we can ring" without waiting for

it to be the perfect offering. The bells we ring do not have to be big but may their peals of kindness and generosity resonate amongst our family, friends, loved ones and the community. Leonard Cohen's – Anthem is a compelling piece of poetry which I have included below.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past twelve months and look forward to your contributions and feedback.

Ora et labora

Keith de Kretser

[keithdek@optusnet.com.au](mailto:keithdek@optusnet.com.au)

---

### Anthem by Leonard Cohen

The birds they sang  
at the break of day  
Start again  
I heard them say  
Don't dwell on what  
has passed away  
or what is yet to be.

Ah the wars they will  
be fought again  
The holy dove  
She will be caught again  
bought and sold  
and bought again  
the dove is never free.

***Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in.***

We asked for signs  
the signs were sent:  
the birth betrayed  
the marriage spent  
Yeah the widowhood  
of every government --  
signs for all to see.

I can't run no more  
with that lawless crowd  
while the killers in high places  
say their prayers out loud.  
But they've summoned, they've summoned up  
a thundercloud  
and they're going to hear from me.

Ring the bells that still can ring ...  
You can add up the parts  
but you won't have the sum  
You can strike up the march,  
there is no drum  
Every heart, every heart  
to love will come  
but like a refugee.

***Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack, a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in.***

***Ring the bells that still can ring  
Forget your perfect offering  
There is a crack, a crack in everything  
That's how the light gets in.  
That's how the light gets in.  
That's how the light gets in.***

Come and Join us  
for

## Winter Warm-Up 2010 Curry Nite



**Saturday May 28, 2011**  
7.30 pm to 12.30 am

Good Shepherd Parish Hall,  
34 Academy Avenue, Brandon Park  
(Melway ref: 71 C10).

Music by **The Pioneers**

**Eastern & Western Smorgasbord**  
by RoyJune Catering Services

**BYO Drinks, Cost: \$30.00 per head.**

For further information and bookings contact:

**Norton** (03) 9801 9753

**Darryl** (03) 8707 5817

Or any Committee Member

**Get your tickets early!**

## Quadrangular 20 – 20 Cricket Carnival



Featuring teams from

- Wesley
- St Josephs
- Trinity
- St John's

**When;**  
**Where:**

**Sunday 20 February 2011**  
Mulgrave Reserve  
Cnr Garnett Rd & Wellington  
Rds, Wheelers Hill,  
Melway Map 81 A 1.

**Games commence 9:30 a.m.**

Players be present by 8:45 a.m.  
to assist with set-up

**Game 1** Wesley v St Joseph's

**Game 2** St John's v Trinity

Both games to be played simultaneously  
on adjacent pitches

This will be followed by the losers of games 1 & 2  
playing each other followed by the final – Winner  
Game 1 v Winner Game 2.

*It is hoped that a caterer will be in attendance*

# From the Desk of Principal Wesley College

## Message for 2011

As we wrap up 2010, we are pleased to report that the year 2010 is closing on a high note. The fact that our talented teachers and students have successfully outperformed the expectations at GCE A/L and O/L. This year's astonishing success is energizing all passionate Wesleyites as we look forward to a magnificent 2011.

Amidst many challenges in the last year, there were many positive indicators highlighting Wesley's amazing success in both academic and extra-curricular activities. This dichotomy presents leadership opportunities in the future for Wesley and we expect to see many of our teachers, students, and sportsman on the outstanding achievers list in the year to come.

We have always found that our most successful students have a clear sense of what they are trying to achieve and plan consistently throughout the years. As a result, individual scholars and sportsmen know what they are trying to achieve, how it supports Wesley's goals and feel empowered to act. Likewise, our most passionate teachers have a clear sense of their career goals and performance goals for public examinations.

Of course creating a positive and engaged educational institution is just the beginning and teachers have to find many ways to reinforce this exercise in 2011. One of the most meaningful ways we can do this is through student involvement. At this time of year we like to evaluate ways in which we can build on the Wesley's 137 years of "Tradition of Excellence in Education". Last year, some of our most rewarding events were our student-led participation in the "Wesley Walk 2010", Inter-school debating and drama championships, Wesley Festival of Carols", Fusion 2010, Commerce Day with nearly 30 participating schools. Moreover, in sports, Rugby, Cricket, Hockey, Table Tennis, and Badminton brought many laurels, while cub Scouts and Senior Scouts brought lots of honor to the school through their achievements and badge qualifications.

We will continue to focus on being as a student-centric teaching and learning organization, core part of our strategy will be to reinforce and strengthen teacher engagement and professional development as well as student commitment to examination success. It is our aim to have a team of teachers with professional attitude and training, engaged in and excited about the work they do. This will make Wesley a "Great Place" to learn and teach. We believe that not only will an engaged committed team of people will result in a positive place to educate but it will consistently translate into better experience for our students, parents and community at large.

Certainly the way ahead will be to have a well-thought-out strategy around which to organize for success –working to stabilize our finances, build a valuable brand image and plan to take our students to the next level enrolling in university education. While activities like engagement with parents, old boys and community partners can be tough to sustain during uncertain times, at Wesley, it is our firm belief that it pays to remain committed to our stake holders. Among the many positive results we continue to see is the fact that the best parents and most past students tend to gravitate to Wesley because we take the time to make such initiatives a priority.

To those who are obsessed about Wesley's vision to remain the best school in Sri Lanka, and the students to become the leaders of tomorrow, the Principal and Staff of Wesley seek your loyal and dedicated inspiration to rejuvenate spirit of all the teachers and students and for another great year -2011.

**Dr Shanti McLelland, Ph D**

---

## **Wesley College OBU UK - Executive Committee 2011/2012**

*The following were elected Office-bearers at the UKOBU AGM held on 30 January 2011*

<b>Patron:</b>	Rev Wilfred Pile
<b>Vice Patron:</b>	Dr Shanthi Mcllelland
<b>President:</b>	Tharanga Jayasinghe
<b>V/President:</b>	Layton Venderputt Rex Devadason
<b>Secretary:</b>	M I M Lhahir
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Nalin Perera
<b>Membership</b>	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Azahim Mohamed
<b>Social</b>	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Ananda Thevathasan
<b>Sports</b>	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Roshan Perera Niroze Ahamed(Rugby)
<b>Editor/PRO:</b>	Paul R David
<b>Committee:</b>	Dennis Azariah Noel Joshue Alagaratnam Arooran Vijayan Jaganathan Deva Somasundram Mano David Janakan Solomans Ashley Milroy
<b>Web Editor:</b>	Peter Cassie Chetty

## **Festival of Cricket 2011/2012 Representatives**

Roshan Perera  
Nalin Perera  
Ananda Thevathasan

# REPORT CARD ON WESLEY COLLEGE - 2010

A Renaissance Year for Wesley – “We have outperformed to be the best”

- ✓ **Wesley Choir** was acclaimed as the most entertaining choir at the Temple Trees on Wednesday. The 16 member Choir was invited by MTV for a recording after winning second place. In our last moment entry was rewarded when our boys thrilled the crowd and the judges to win the hearts of all. The Rs.50000 awarded was small compensation for their great performance.
- ✓ **The G.C.E. Advanced Level results** has put Wesley on the Academic map once again. Three of our boys got all three A's. This year 73 qualified for University admission compared to last year's 57, better by at least 20%. After a long lapse at least one will get into the Engineering Faculty with all 3 A's. This year E.T. Fernando award winner obtained the best result and is 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Province, while Science fared better than Arts. Congratulations to all! This adds to our fine performance at **the G.C.E. Ordinary Level** with 86% passes and 95% passes in English, better by 30%.
- ✓ **Proud to be a Wesleyite** – The resurgence of the Wesley stakeholders energy and commitment have made us outstanding this year. Please let's keep doing our best to keep Wesley as the best school in the Island – **Wesley is worth more than a Million!!!!**
- ✓ **Debating** – Inter school champions. Law Faculty Schools Champions. Our team competed in Manila at the Asian Championships and made the team for the World Championships in Doha.
- ✓ **Model United Nations** – Two students represented Wesley and was adjudged the best presentation. One member has been invited to the USA conference next February to make a presentation where more than 50 countries are expected.
- ✓ **Table Tennis** – Junior Ranked 1 and Seniors Ranked 2. 3rd Place win at Korea Open championships. Junior player to represent Sri Lanka in Japan next year.
- ✓ **Hockey** – 4 players leave for Malaysia with the Western Province Team. Two players were invited to the Sri Lanka Schools pool.
- ✓ **Rugby** – After a poor start we emerged near the top after beating number 2 in the league – Kingswood to retain a place in the “A” division. Thanks to the hard work of the Rugby supporters. Two players were invited to the Sri Lanka Schools pool.
- ✓ **Cricket** – Wesley fared very well to nearly win by innings against Sri Jayawardanapura and St. Anthony's. Over 250 runs against Thurstan, it is certainly an outstanding performance after losing by an innings last year. We can be confident we will do well this season. **Cricket Under 13B** – The “B” team made up for the “A” team to enter the quarter-finals in January. The team bowled out two teams for less than 50 runs, which is a record performance.
- ✓ **Aesthetics - Fusion and the Junior Concerts** this year was bigger and better. The kids were amazing and are very talented, a sure sign of the magnificent performances we can expect in the future. Thanks to the enthusiastic Students, Teachers, Parents and Old Boys for their support.
- ✓ **English for all** – Poetry, Drama, Spelling Bee is progressing well and will be on stage in 2011.
- ✓ **Sinhala for all** – The new program will be launched to improve Sinhala in all classes. A new Journal will be published next year – Student writings.
- ✓ **Academic Achievement** - Monthly tests, Term test and weekly quizzes to improve the standards. The parents presence at Parent Teacher meetings will help to make sure we have over 75% qualifying for university at the A/L exams, and over 90% passes in O/L exams and improvements in Maths and English.
- ✓ **Discipline and Citizenship** – Dress smartly, polished shoes, hair combed and good manners will be the focus in 2011. Classroom cleanliness, discipline and timeliness will be a priority.
- ✓ **Loyalty and Branding** – We need to communicate the message more stronger and consistently and we need your support.

*Thank you for your strong support, constructive criticism and vibrant presence to keep Wesley flag flying proud and powerful. Wesley to the Fore – Ora et Labora (Pray and Labour on).*

**Dr Shanti McLelland, Ph D**  
**Principal**



## CONDOLENCES

**KRELTSZHEIM – Michael Allan Ross** Passed away 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in Sydney, New South Wales. Dearly loved husband of Deepthi, darling Dadda of Michael and Shane, beloved son of James (Bunnie) and Lois(dec.). Dear brother of Jeremy and Carina(dec.). His funeral was held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2010. We extend our sincere sympathies to the family, their relatives and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

**JURIANSZ - Derrick.** Passed away on Thursday 6th January 2011 after a long illness. Derrick was at Wesley in 1945 and represented the College at Cricket and Tennis. He was a long standing member of the Wesley College OBU UK and was very supportive in all its activities. His funeral took place on Thursday 20th February 2011 at 11am after service at St Lawrence's Roman Catholic Church The Green, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4AF. We extend our sincere sympathies to the family, their relatives and friends. At Rest With Jesus - Grant him eternal rest.

**LAMEER - AIHaj M Z M Jai.** Passed away on Saturday 8th January 2011. Jai was at Wesley from 1949 - 1963 and represented Wesley in Rugby. Jai was a founder member of the Wesley College OBU UK and did all the initial work to get the Union together. Jai was the first Secretary of the OBU UK. He was the 3rd President of the Union from 1996 -1998 and also, served as its Treasurer. Jai was very actively involved in charity work and formed a very successful Charity - "Mercy Mission" which he led with a team of medical doctors and nurses to operate on deprived children with heart conditions in Sri Lanka. His funeral was held on 11 January 2011. "Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajoon" - To Allah we belong and to him is our return. We extend our sincere sympathies to the family, their relatives and friends.

### Your Committee 2010/2011

President	Norton Abeydeera	9801 9753
Vice President	Arden Joseph	9803 6652
Secretary	Brian Azoor	9799 1026
Treasurer	Felix Berman	9711 5383
Editor	Keith de Kretser	9560 0074
Committee	Nelson de Silva	9704 8971
	Darryl Koch	8707 5817
	Bev Nathanielsz	9799 0366
	Bryan Wijeyekoon	9763 7783
Public Officer	George Robertson	97824789

**Postal Address** Box 123 Glenway MDC  
MULGRAVE 3170

**Email** [obua@wesleycollege.org](mailto:obua@wesleycollege.org)  
**Website** [www.wesleycollege.org](http://www.wesleycollege.org)

### Subscription Reminder!

*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**



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 20 Feb 20 -20 Cricket Carnival*
- 27 March Annual General Meeting*
- 28 May Winter Warm-up Curry Nite*
- 1 October Annual Double Blue Ball*

# The Historic Journey of Wesley College

## Our beloved Alma Mater

Wesley College, a Methodist missionary school was founded in 1874. The school is named after Rev. John Wesley (1703-1791) the founder of the Methodist Church. Wesley was founded by Rev. Daniel Henry Pereira on March 2, 1874 on the dusty streets of Dam Street, Pettah, initially with about fifty students. The first Principal was Rev. Samuel Wilkin. In 1906, Rev. Henry Highfield (1903-1939) moved Wesley to Karlsruhe Gardens.

The Motto "Ora et Labora – Pray and Labour On" an integral part of the crest was originated by Rev. Arthur Shipham (1880-1883). The generally accepted interpretation of the crest is that the twelve shells are symbolic of the twelve apostles. The Dark Blue and Light Blue are the hard and soft colours of the Lion Hearted "Men of Grit" of Wesley.

The Senior Houses are named as a tribute to four past principals, Rev. Thomas Coke **Hillard** (1889-1892), Rev. Thomas **Moscrop** (1886-1888), Rev. Joseph **Passmore** (1893-1895) and Rev. Samuel **Wilkin** (1874-1879). While, the Junior Houses are named to honour four Head Masters for their invaluable service to the school. They are Mr. C. P. **Dias** (1882-1926), Mr. C. V. **Honter** (1896-1928), Mr. F. J. **Lemphers** (1899-1933), and Mr. W. E. **Mack** (1884-1926).

The landmark buildings, both historic and contemporary, at Wesley College campus include the grandeur of the Main Block aesthetically built by Rev. Highfield consisting of the Assembly Hall, Chemistry, Physics, and Biology Laboratories, the opulent Cartman Library, and the impressive College Hostel. The elegant Highfield Memorial Block was built in 1959. The more recent buildings are the D. H. Pereira primary building (1990), Prof. Labrooy block (1998), Rev. Shelton Wirasinha memorial building (2000), and the Majestic 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edifice (1999) accommodating the "Centre for Performing Arts". The Sports

Pavilion at Campbell Park was acquired in 1936 and the splendid "John Wesley Chapel" was built in 2001.

The architecturally and aesthetically magnificent College hall elegantly sculptured in Burma teak with intricate carvings Anglo-Saxon era and windows splashed with stained glass were constructed as a monumental Church. The stately arm chair majestically used by the Principal during morning assembly has been intricately carved and expertly hand crafted in teak, and beautifully woven in finely trimmed rattan. The prized procession was presented during the time of Rev. Albert Hutchinson (1925-1928) was principal. In 1929, can be carved as a landmark year when fine cricketer Mr. D. Rajapaksa grand uncle of the



current President of Sri Lanka Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa joined Wesley from Richmond College, Galle.

The lyrics of the College Song was written by Mr. H. J. V. I. Ekanayake (HJVI) to the music of the Scottish Anthem "Scotts Wae Hae". He was an old boy of the school and grand uncle of the present Principal. Lawyer HJVI known as the Lion of Ambalangoda for his Grit during the riots at that time. He was greatly honoured by the then British Governor Edward Scott and later Old Wesleyite Sir Oliver Goonatilleke, Hill Medal winner and brilliant scholar had the distinction of being appointed the First Governor General of Independent Sri Lanka. Fellow Wesleyite Sir Claude Corea was honoured as the first High Commissioner to the United States of America. Extraordinary HJVI and another distinguished Wesleyite Sir

D Baron Jayatilke (Sir D B) are remembered proudly for being the architects of the Sinhalese Sports Club. Later Sir D.B. went on to become Principal of Dharmarajah College and Ananda College; while Wesleyite P de S. Kularatne founded Nalanda College and Mrs Kularatne had the distinction of being invited to be the Principal of Visakha Vidyalaya. One of Sri Lanka's finest sons Mr. Terrence de Zylva known as one of the leaders of the Suriyamal campaign founded Kolonnawa Maha Vidyalaya.

From its inception, until we gained independence in 1948 the Principals at Wesley College were all Christian missionaries from England. The College Library is named after the last missionary Principal Rev. James Cartman. Rev. Cartman is gratefully remembered for literally raising Wesley from ashes to grandeur after World War II with his distinguished service from 1945 to 1949. From 1939-45 Wesley served as a Military Hospital and the cross is yet visible on the roof as much as Adam's peak is visible on a clear day from the monument Rev. Henry Highfield built in 1905 after collecting funds cycling around Sri Lanka.

The first Sri Lankan Principal of our school was Mr. Cedric J. Oorloff a civil servant. Mr. A. Shelton Wirasinha an old boy of Richmond College was the longest serving Sri Lankan Principal at Wesley with a term of 23 years (1961-1984). Wesley has been fortunate to having five other old boys serving as Principals in the past five decades; Cricket captain and Senior Prefect Mr. Harold Nonis (1958-61), all-round sportsman and Cambridge Blue Dr. T. Louis de Z. Adhithetty (1985-1987), Dr. N. A. B. Fernando (1988-2000), and long standing teacher Mr. M. A. P. Fernando (2000-2009) who had the privilege of linking with Wesley for nearly 42 years as student, teacher, Prefect of Games, Vice Principal and Principal. The best is yet to unfold! Ora et Labora - The Principal

# The Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Carol Service on 5th December 2010



## A beginning

It was Christmas Eve, in the year 1818 and in Oberndorf, Austria, the assistant Priest went to the home of his friend, the organist of the small Church. He brought the words of a poem that he had written two years earlier and asked the organist to write a tune to it to use at the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. The organist, Franz Xavier Gruber reminded Fr. Joseph Mohr that the organ wasn't working and so they would not be able to have music for the Service. Fr. Mohr went into the other room and got a guitar. Gruber strummed a few chords, then started humming. He exclaimed "The song, it sings itself.!" and, with very little time to spare he wrote an arrangement for guitar to accompany the choir, and the two men presented the carol for the first time

that Christmas Eve, 24th December 1818.

The song became hugely popular through the efforts of travelling Folk Singers and was duly known as "The Tyrolean Folk Song". Today it is regarded as one of the most popular and beautiful carols ever written. We know it as "Silent Night".

## A Choir

The Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Choir was formed in 1998 to present a Service of Carols at the commencement of the Christmas Season. The Service is a wonderful performance of music, song and scriptural readings by members drawn from the fifteen schools who over the years have enjoyed singing together.

The congregation is united as one when favourite hymns are sung and the story of the Nativity is retold.

The offertory at the Service is dedicated to charities in Australia and Sri Lanka. All support is voluntary, and may I say, given gladly.

## A Christmas Present

The Service concluded with the beautiful carol which was first sung in a country Church in Austria on Christmas Eve a long, long time ago.

Many generations have learned to cherish the gift we received, born in a manger, that quiet, Silent Night.

*George Robertson.*

## WESLEY CHORISTERS IN THE CCSL CHOIR 2010



**Tenors** – Brindley Vanderwert, Reg Bartholomeusz, Lorensz Stork  
**Basses** – Felix Berman, Keith de Kretser, Dayantha Makalanda



# THE UK REPORT

## Edited version of the Secretary's Report OBUUK for 2010/2011 for the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2011

### Committee Meetings and Membership

The OBU held six formal meetings at committee level. At these meetings the overriding principal, that the policies of the Union should be formulated and decisions guiding us on the course of action to be taken after profound discussion.

The membership of the Union closed on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2010 as per the constitution. During the year our membership increased. Which no doubt, speaks well for the future of the union. My thanks to our Membership Secretary Azahim Mohamed.

**Social Events** The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Double Blue Ball was held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at Holiday Inn, Kingston South, Surbiton Surrey. The Dinner/Dance is one of the major fund raising events in our calendar year for Education and Sports developments programmes for our Alma Mater. The dance was a financial success and was an enjoyable and a memorable event. My thanks to the Social Secretary Siva Kandakumar.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual combined Methodist / Wesley College OBU Carol Service was held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at Wesley's Chapel, City Road, London EC1. The event was well attended as is customary. The evening closed with a time of fellowship. My thanks to Rex Devadason for overseeing matters on our behalf.

**Sports Activities** The OBU participated in the Festival of Cricket 2010 for the 17<sup>th</sup> year as a full member. The team was captained by Roshan Perera. The performance of our team was exceptional. Wesley came into the semi finals and lost to St Benedict's by eight runs. The Union was proud to note, that this Year's festival was headed by an Old Wesleyite Azahim Mohamed. Our Representatives at the Festival of Cricket 2010 were Roshan Perera, Nalin Perera and Ananda Thevathasan. The OBU also, played two cricket matches with Dharamaraja College and Isipathana College. Wesley took part in the one off Cricket tournament organised by Sri Lankan Airlines. The OBU also participated in the Touch Rugby Tournament 2010. The team was captained by Jehan Jaldin. Our performance at this tournament was far below our normal high standards.

This year we were able to enter, a team for the SLFA (UK) Festival of Football 2010 tournament. The team was captained by Altaf Jawfar.

My thanks to our sports secretary Roshan Perera.

**Donations** During the year, the Union passed £2250.00 for the refurbishment of the College (M H Mohamed) sports pavilion Project at Campbell Park.

**Website** Our website is one of the oldest amongst the Sri Lankan schools in the UK and has now been reconstructed to facilitate the present needs. Since the reconstruction of the site in January 2010, we have had a large number of visits to the site which is very encouraging. The site has many new features for members and well wishes to browse. May I request the members to leave your comments on the guest page so that we can use your comments to further improve the site. May I take this opportunity to thank and my appreciation to two old Wesleyites Bunny Taylor (Canada) and Mahendra Dissanayake (Sri Lanka) for undertaking this task successfully. Bunny Taylor continues to update and maintain the site and Peter Christie (Casie Chetty) for his valuable advice.

**In Memoriam** It is great sadness that we received the news of the death of Derrick Juriansz and AlHaj M.Z.M Jai Lameer. Derrick an old boy of Wesley College Colombo in the 1940's. He represented Wesley College first X1 at Cricket and Tennis. He was a loyal member of the OBU UK and supported the Union in all its activities.

Al Haj Jai Lameer passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2011. Jai was at Wesley College Colombo from 1946 -1963 and represented College at Rugby. He was a founder member of the Wesley College OBU UK and did all the initial work to get the Union up and running. Jai was elected the first secretary of the Union and became its 3<sup>rd</sup> President. He also, held the post of Treasurer. Jai was the founder of the Charity "Mercy Mission". The medical mission visits Sri Lanka annually and works closely with deprived children. We convey our deepest sympathies to their families

**Appreciation** I must place on record our appreciation to our Patron Rev Wilfred Pile, our Vice Patron Dr Shanti McLelland. To our Treasurer Nalin Perera who discharged his duties diligently. Our Auditor for examining our books and the general membership for their support and participation in all our activities. The members of the Committee for their help and assistance. I wish to pay a special tribute to our President Tharanga Jayasinghe who held this office with dignity and respect.

**Conclusion** My final word to all our members is that we must remain united and work with the interest of our Alma Mater primarily in mind. The union will continue to do good work as in the 19<sup>th</sup> years of its existence.

May God Bless you all!

**ORA ET LABORA!**

**M I M Lhahir**  
Secretary

---

### A message from the OBU UK Patron Rev Wilfrid Pile

Dear Azahim Mohamed and Wesley College Old Boys Union UK ,

As you begin your AGM on Sunday 30th January 2011, my thoughts, prayers and good wishes are with you. As I approach my 96th birthday, regrettably I am unable to engage with your activities in any more practical way but am honoured that I am still remembered after more than half a century! As I read your agenda and the reports of your current concerns and activities, I can see that the strong spirit of the school lives on in its old boys. As you reflect on the past year and plan for the new, I send you my very best wishes for your continuing success.

With Best wishes

Wilfrid Pile

---

## Where are they now?

---

### DR. JOHN "JACKIE" CARNIE

Chief Health Officer, State of Victoria, Australia



Our featured Old Wesleyite in this issue has brought great credit and honour on himself by his achievements and also for his school. Many who were in

College in the fifties and sixties would remember this slim figure make his way along the corridors from the hostel to the science labs with his arms cradling a number of text books that appeared too heavy for his fragile frame to carry. Our featured personality is Dr John Carnie fondly referred to as "Jackie" to some of his friends and family. John migrated to Australia in 1977 and he is married to Jennifer Sissouw and they have no children.

John began his life as a student at Karlsruhe campus in 1953 and ended in 1964 when he entered University of Colombo to study Medicine in 1965. John was one of three brothers that studied at Wesley, being Robin(deceased) and Hillary. The connection just did not end there as he had many cousins Milroy Bulner (dec.), Stewart (Jerry) Dickson, Kenny Dickson (dec.), Ricky Dickson, Jeremy Dickson, Dion Herft, Duke Herft (dec.). As he was a hosteller he was in Moscrop House. John did not fancy himself as the sporting type and after a brief interest in Tennis turned to his favourite pastime of reading. His passion for reading developed his intellect and he did well in his studies earning a double promotion from fourth grade to form 1. He is what they would call a "gifted student" in current terms. John made it a point recommending that parents never do this to their children. John's other interests were Choir, Debating and Photography Club in College. John's academic achievements meant that he was a recipient of many prizes over a stellar career at Wesley far too many to list. Much more recently he received the Public Service Medal in the Queens Birthday Honours in 2009 in recognition of his contribution to Public Health.

When asked about who his favourite teachers were he stated it was a toss-up between Rachel Leembruggen and Ivan Ondaatje. Being a hosteller he had many experiences. His best memories are of being forced to do PE at 5.45 am in the hostel garden, usually in the dark; Having to do PE, wash and dress, attend chapel and study time before being allowed a morsel to eat or drink in the morning; Hostel dessert on Thursday nights is another when the Principal came to dinner, was usually jelly that was so hard it could be used as missiles both during and after dinner. His best friends at

Wesley among the day scholars were Hilmy Sherriff and Mahendra Menon (who remains a friend today). In the hostel there were too many to name. When asked who he would like to meet up with from his school days he said it would be Tony Musafer.

After leaving Wesley, John Entered Colombo Medical College in 1965 and graduated MBBS in 1970.

- 1970 to 1975 – Je obtained experience in Paediatrics and Cardiology at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital for Children and General Hospital Colombo with an 18 month stint at the Gampola Hospital.
- 1975 to 1977 – Postgraduate studies in Paediatrics and Cardiology in England.
- 1977 – Migrated to Australia
- 1978 to 1981 – Worked at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne obtaining further experience in Paediatrics.
- 1981 – Changed careers by joining the Health Department Victoria. He has remained in the Department since then obtaining experience in many aspects of Public Health specialising particularly in Infectious Diseases.
- 1983 – He married Jennifer Sissouw (who had migrated to Australia from Ceylon in 1973).
- 1985 – Spent a year in Boston obtaining a Master's degree in Public Health from Harvard University.

John's achievements are many and he has been President of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine from 2004 to 2007. He was also appointed to the role of Chief Health Officer, Victoria in 2007 and in 2009 also took on the role of Director of Health Protection in the Health Department Victoria.

John's excellence at College followed him through his career and has a host of qualifications.

- MBBS (Ceylon)
- Diploma in Child Health (Ceylon)
- Member of the Royal College of Physicians (UK)
- Diploma in Child Health (London)
- Master of Public Health (Harvard)
- Fellow of the Australian College of Medical Administrators
- Master of Medicine in Epidemiology (Melbourne)
- Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine
- Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

To many Melbournians he is well known when there is a health crisis or issue as he is the "Surgeon General" for the State of Victoria. His appearances on TV and the

media have made him a household name in the State. Through his career he has met some famous personalities: Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty, Governor of Victoria Professor David de Kretser, and Governor General Australia Quentin Bryce. In his quiet moments he relaxes with his wife Jenny and catches up when he can on his interests Music, Travel, Swimming, Cycling.

I would like to thank Dr John Carnie for graciously accepting the invitation to be featured in this issue of the Wesley Times and for giving up his precious time to give us a snapshot of his life during and after Wesley College. We wish John continued success in his service to the public.

Keith de Kretser  
Editor

## The College Crest

By Shelton Peiris



**Blazer pocket of  
Wesley Cricket Captain 1936  
Henry Duckworth (dec.)**

In this note an attempt is made to trace the evolution of the College Crest which has adorned every school boy's exercise books, blazer and nearly every document originating from Wesley College. There appears to be two stages in the development of the crest. The cross and the shells are derived from the Coat of Arms of none other, and indeed quite appropriately from that of John Wesley. On the other hand the origin of the shield of the crest is not known, as it is not featured even in any of the designs of the College of Heraldry.

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

twelve (12) shells are symbolic of the journeying Pilgrim, seeking and searching ahead, with no complacency. One could compare them to the twelve wandering tribes of Israel. Within the Shield of Faith is placed the rugged Cross of Sacrifice. This was the first arrangement which composed Wesley's crest, and included Shipham's motto. It is not certain when this design of the crest was first introduced, but it is evident on stationery used by Rev. Henry Highfield.

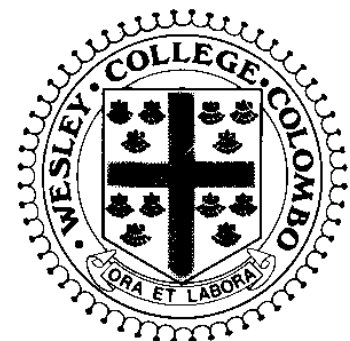
In our archival section we feature a document of the 1900, on which this same crest is placed. This same crest is incorporated into the art frame of the Farewell Scroll presented to Rev. Henry Highfield by staff and students, on his departure from Wesley in 1925. We have evidence of the continued use of this crest during Rev. Albert Hutchinson's time (1925-1928) when he commissioned the Head Baas - Cornelius - to construct the time hallowed stately chair, used by Wesley's Principals, and on the back head is carved the College crest. This chair still adorns the stage of the hallowed College hall.

It then becomes clear that during the Headship of Rev. John Dalby (1929 - 1934) a further addition was made to the crest, when it was embellished with the scallops circularly fringed around the shield, giving the present form of the shield. Prize books and College exercise books of 1933 have this crest. Thus we see how the crest, a means of readily identifying Wesley has truly a rich inheritance, and Wesleyites of all generations will continue to be inspired by this

remarkable crest, and will proudly wear it as the occasion demands.

*Editor's Note: I was given this blazer pocket by George Robertson who is custodian of Wesley records. It was passed on by the late Henry Duckworth. Rev John Dalby was Principal at the time Henry Duckworth Captained the 1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket Team.*

*Therefore the embellishment referred to above of the circular scalloped fringe must have come after that to give us*



---

---

# Memories of Life at Wesley College

---

---

## Miss Iris Blacker - A Teaching Legend

By Dr Nihal D Amerasekera  
(She taught at Wesley 1929 -1963)

Miss Blacker started teaching at Wesley during the tail end of the Great Highfield era. She became a teaching legend at Wesley and had a long and distinguished career as a Primary School Teacher. She was an inspiration and part of the "fabric of the school". The little lady pedalled her ancient bicycle to school with a woven basket fixed to the front. The basket and the bike had seen better days.

Miss Blacker taught me English and I recall with much nostalgia learning to write English script with a G-nib and the Longman's Copy Book. Mistakes were pointed out with a shot on the knuckles with a ruler. I still remember those classes which helped to improve my handwriting. She got us in the habit of reading books from the class library full of the famous English Classics. Miss Blacker introduced the poetry of Tennyson, Wordsworth and Longfellow and made us memorise and recite them. We wrote essays and learnt to spell and construct sentences abiding to the strict rules of grammar. She taught us the basics well.

Miss Blacker was a very efficient organiser of events like the Primary school sports meet and drama. She was a great advocate of physical education euphemistically called PT which she encouraged us to take part in the small park. This she supervised with great vigour during school hours.

Wesley College had a dress code and every primary school student will remember Miss Blacker's efforts to maintain the code. Our shirts had to be tucked neatly inside. She made sure our hair was combed and we were cleanly dressed. And most importantly the hair had to be conservatively styled. She inspected

our hair closely for lice. Our nails needed to be trimmed short. These rigorous checks were done effectively and regularly. She insisted on us being polite to our teachers, we addressed them as Mr. or Mrs. and further exercised our good manners by saying Yes Sir and No Sir. Addressing them in any other way was considered disrespectful, a quality Miss Blacker said had no place in the school.

She never married and her strong Christian faith remained with her

*If the measure of a woman is what she gives to others, then little Miss Iris Blacker was indeed a giant. When history comes to be written of Wesley College, she will surely receive her full, and overdue, credit.*

throughout life. Her religious upbringing and her faith underpinned her approach to life and her profession. She was the old school type and may have lost her temper with students but behind that demeanour of admonition, there was always concern for their welfare. Mind you, she was tough but kind and looked after those who fell ill at school with much care and love. Students' cuts and bruises were cared for with her First Aid Kit. She made a deep and enduring impact on many people outside her profession as a teacher. Miss Blacker was a Girl Guide Leader in the Ceylon Girl Guide Association and thus provided a tremendous service to the community. In 1959, the British Girl Guide Trainer's Diploma was conferred on Miss Iris Blacker. She was responsible for taking Girl Guiding into the rural areas in Sri Lanka. A Commissioner was appointed to work in this field – Ms. Mallika Perera who together with Miss. Iris Blacker and Ray Blaze did wonders to recruit and spread the message. Miss Blacker became the Chief Guide Commissioner in Sri Lanka for her services to the Organisation. To this day The Girl Guide Association of Sri Lanka

respects and remembers Miss Blacker with much affection.

Miss Blacker was a stickler for discipline and was very traditional. And to those who were in any doubt she made it clear that she hated apathy and had no time for laziness. At times she was a terror and demanded exceptionally high standards of her students, who struggled to keep up. She was feared by students for her no-holds-barred interrogations. Her pin-sharp eyes missed nothing. She could fly

into incandescent rages in class if students were annoying her. She would shout and

throw books and dusters across the room. She was a bit vocal and eccentric at times but never vindictive. Miss Blacker never set out to harm students but to train them to be good and useful citizens. After I moved to the Senior School she always gave me a nod when I passed her in the corridor. At times she would stop and enquire about my progress through school. This little lady always encouraged us to do well and achieve more in life. The good moral and social values she instilled in us must remain with us still. I left Wesley in April 1962 and to this day regret not saying goodbye to her. Sadly, I never saw her again.

It must be said Wesley meant a great deal to her and served the school for 34 years. She scrupulously respected and valued the school's history and traditions. Miss Blacker will be fondly remembered for her dedication to Wesley and her autocratic style. Miss Blacker earned the lasting respect of her peers and pupils. She insisted on us being well disciplined honest and hard working which no doubt helped us in the years ahead. She was a kind and generous character with a lively sense of

humour, which we only realised when we had reached the Senior School.

If the measure of a woman is what she gives to others, then little Miss

Iris Blacker was indeed a giant. When history comes to be written of Wesley College, she will surely receive her full, and overdue, credit. The only memorial that would do her justice, is the application of her

values in the field of good manners and discipline at Wesley College. Let us give her that.

**GRANT HER O LORD ETERNAL PEACE**

---

## Saluting a true veteran in banking

**A close encounter with Rienzie Wijetilleke**  
**By Gayani Perera Daily Mirror 29 October 2010**



Mr. Rienzie Wijetilleke the Chairman of HNB really needs no introduction; one can safely say that he is the ultimate

veteran in Sri Lanka's banking industry. Having countless years of both local and international work experience in banking Mr. Wijetilleke has one again crossed yet another milestone in his life where he will be celebrating 50 exceptional years of service to the banking industry. Born with deep rooted Buddhist values in the district of Galle Mr. Wijetilleke is the sixth child in a family of eight. He received his primary education at Christian Missionary Society Ladies College now called Sri Jayewardenepura Vidyalaya and completed his higher education at Wesley College Colombo. A proud father of three sons Mr. Wijetilleke is a person who believes that family always comes first no matter what. He is also a man with a very Buddhist outlook in everything he associates himself to be in which is why teaching in Sunday school forms yet another one of his much loved passions. The Mirror Business met up with Mr. Wijetilleke, as he goes down memory lane sharing words of advice to all of us.

According to Mr. Wijetilleke his coming into the banking industry was one that took place by accident. Having taken up a teaching assignment after leaving school Mr. Wijetilleke applied for a vacancy at the Bank of Ceylon (BoC) and was selected to join the bank's City

Office. Being the young and ambitious man that he was Mr. Wijetilleke was determined to develop his professional education to the fullest. After completing the Institute of Bankers London Part 1 examination Mr. Wijetilleke was fortunate to be selected to join the BoC London branch for training purposes in the mid sixties. This opportunity also opened out more avenues for him to further his education.

He returned to Sri Lanka in the year 1970 and this was the time that the BoC had been nationalized. This was also the time that the HNB has just been formed as a very small banking entity under the name 'Hatton Bank'. Mr. Wijetilleke recalls Mr. Dharamraja to be his guru whom he idolizes throughout his banking career and the main person who opened the doors for him to join HNB. Therefore with the support of his wife and family Mr. Wijetilleke joined the HNB a decision that would forever change the course of his professional life and one that would rewrite the country's banking history.

During the initial years of joining HNB, Mr. Wijetilleke played a major role with regards to building the formative years of the bank whilst opening branches in areas such as Kurunegala, Galle and Ratnapura etc. Seeing the bank develop in a fast and progressive manner right before his eyes Mr. Wijetilleke foresaw that the bank had high potential and would one day make its mark in the banking industry.

"I was sent to London for further training by the HNB and on my return to Sri Lanka I was appointed to manage the biggest branch in

HNB, which was the City Office branch in the year 1980", recalls Mr. Wijetilleke. Then came more opportunities knocking at his door, where in which Mr. Wijetilleke left the HNB and joined HSBC Dubai as the Facilities Controller for all branches in the Middle East. However despite having left the HNB his friendship with Mr. Dharmaraja continued to strengthen and he rejoined the HNB as the bank's Deputy General Manager. By this time Mr. Wijetilleke had gained a vast amount of experience and had received a broader outlook in banking due to his work not only in Sri Lanka's banking sector but also his overseas work experiences in this area as well.

"I am a firm believer in the fact that family comes first in everything one does in life, your next priority should be towards the organization that you are working for, after that comes your loyalty towards the industry and finally one must see what you can do for your country. When I rejoined HNB for the second time my mind was full of ideas and the many contributions that I could on my part do for both the industry and country.

At the time I rejoined the bank I noticed that almost 75% of Sri Lanka's population were village based and most of these communities had little or no connection with the banking sectors. I realized that if we do not look after this high percentage of village based communities and expose them to the banking system we would become an economically weak country. This was the mindset I had when I took over my new position and therefore I made it my mission to break this chain and open doors for rural communities to seek the assistance

of the banking sector which was during this time only enjoyed by those living in the cities", says Mr. Wijetilleke.

Setting the wheels in motion towards reaching the goal of making all Sri Lankans bankable individuals Mr. Wijetilleke spearheaded a movement where village communities would gain access to embrace the country's banking system. One of the very first initiatives taken in this regard was HNB's 'Gami Puduwa' programme which is an innovative village development scheme brought to life by Mr. Wijetilleke.

"HNB made a strong effort to connect with the children, who are our future leaders by teaching them the importance of getting to know the basics of banking and by nurturing their savings habits. Initiatives of this nature do not bring forth immediate returns, but as responsible bankers who handle other people's monies we must make sure that we invest wisely and where necessary. All my staff at HNB work as one and with true dedication and passion, we consider ourselves to be of one family and focus on serving the needs of the nation. In order to succeed in life one must have a passion if not you will not be successful, this is the message I always get across to my young

banking officers", adds Mr. Wijetilleke.

According to Mr. Wijetilleke both the government and private sectors should work side by side in order to achieve economic prosperity. Also he stresses on the fact that today's youth must take up challenges and also be willing to take risks, this involves having the courage to leave their comfort zones. He also feels that today's young banking professionals or any other professionals for that matter should master the art of time management in order to be successful. Individuals must learn to cut down on valuable time being allocated for unnecessary issues.

Commenting on the secrets behind a successful career, Mr. Wijetilleke said, "Every moment of your life is a situation which you must learn to comprehend and prioritize; these are valuable qualities for any individual and qualities that I have instilled into our branch managers. After a days work take time to reflect on your daily activities and identify areas in which you could have done things differently or better in order to improve your performance. These are some of the main attributes which I have practiced during my 50 years of service which have helped me to move up in life."

Mr. Wijetilleke also pointed out that today Sri Lanka stands in a very enviable position with regards to the rest of the world as it does not have even a fraction of the problems that plague the so called developed countries. All sectors of Sri Lanka at present have immense potential and room for growth, these include areas such as tourism, agriculture, health and education etc. and the banking sector has a major role to play with regards to the development of all sectors concerned.

In conclusion Mr. Wijetilleke said, "We as bankers must accurately identify the short, medium and long term growth requirements of our country. We also have an obligation as bankers to identify potential investors. This must be done in close coordination with the government sectors as well. Our education sector requires very serious and strategically identified modes of investment, where a long term strategy with regards to education must also be developed."

It is no easy task to manage financial sector organizations unless one is prudent and wise, Mr. Wijetilleke's contributions towards the banking sector and his invaluable leadership provided to the HNB is therefore living proof that it can definitely be done and be done in style.

## Schoolboy Memories of Ranjit Aaron (New Zealand)

I joined Wesley in the year 1952. I remember Bryan Claessen represent Sri Lanka (Ceylon) when he was yet a school boy, against Pakistan. The match was played at the Colombo Oval and he was 60 runs not out overnight. Being a Friday we were at school and could not go to see the match. Well, I went with my father the following day being a Saturday to see and cheer Bryan to his century. But to our astonishment he was bowled the very first ball he faced. Well done Bryan.  
Some memories

**1)** When I was in form I, I ran down the corridor and Miss. Blacker came out of the ladies staff room and I knocked her off her feet. She immediately remarked that I should be taught how to walk down the corridors and never to run. The most

embarrassing part was when she made me walk up and down the corridor in front of all the little ones, who lined up the two sides cheering me.

**2)** Mr. Vethanayagam who was my class teacher went on a Scholarship to the UK. The first night in his Hotel room he had filled up the bath and with a bucket had been pouring the water on his head till it filled up the bed room.

**3)** I cant remember the whole match, it was memorable, Wesley were set to get 45 runs in 12 minutes by Trinity. We made it ! A memorable match. Lou Adhihetty captained Wesley that year and Harold Juriansz and Lou opened the batting. WHAT A SENSATION !! Harold scored 14 runs in the first two

overs. Upali Samararatne got the winning runs and Wesley won.

**4)** Hiawatha ( the spelling may be wrong) in which I too played a part.

**5)** The most inspirational lesson was taught by the Principal Mr. Shelton Wirasinha. study hard, discipline your self and don't ever go across the road. (Welikada Jail)

**6)** Darrel Maye. Observer School Boy Cricketer of the year.

**7)** Being able to study with a many ethnic groups in harmony ( Tamils, Chinese, Burghers, Malays, Muslims, Sinhalese, Buddhist, Hindus, Maldivians, English, Christians and even Blind and the deaf)

*Source – Double Blue International website*

# The Four Principals after who the Senior Houses are named

## SAMUEL WILKIN

Born at Porkellis Helston February 14th 1849, his father being a local Preacher and class leader. Converted in 1865, he began to preach 2 years later, and he went to Richmond College in 1870. He was sent in 1873 to South Ceylon,



where he did arduous and notable service as Principal of Wesley College Colombo. for eight years and of Richmond College Galle for 8 years more. In Galle he did much to train Sinhalese Ministers, evangelists and teachers. On returning to England in 1889, he continued to render devoted service. His preaching was instructive and useful. He was systematic and faithful in all pastoral duty, skilfully used his great gift of sympathy. He had a wealth of tender affection, often indeed concealed but always effectual. His was a strong faithful ministry throughout. He died with startling suddenness at Bangor, February 16th 1918, in his 70th year and in the 46th of his ministry.

## THOMAS HILLARD



Born at Watton, near Brecon, in 1862. A son of the Manse, he was educated at Kingswood, took his degree when nineteen years of age and was accepted as a Candidate in

1888. During his first term at Richmond an urgent call came for educational work at Colombo, and he was sent out to become the Principal of Wesley College. In this and other important posts he rendered excellent service. After six years in Colombo he returned to England. and for thirty-two years exercised an efficient ministry. His preaching was marked by clear thinking and forceful speech. In circuit administration he was keen and courageous, skilfully handling difficult situations. A retentive memory made his pastoral work very effective. He exercised a gracious and uplifting influence in the sick room, was a tender comforter of the bereaved and an

encourager of the faint-hearted. He loved the "lilies of the field," and became, a recognised authority on the flora of the locality in which he lived. Retiring from the active work at the Conference of 1927, he met with an accident in Liverpool, and passed swiftly and painlessly to his reward on August 26th, 1927

## THOMAS MOSCROP



Born at Bacup April 29, 1860. After 3 years at Richmond he was sent to South Ceylon in 1883 where he spent 34 years. As Principal of Wesley College Colombo he brought that institution into the front rank of

Ceylon Schools. He soon became known as a preacher as well as an educationist especially during his 3 years in Kandy where in addition to vernacular work he had to preach week by week to an English speaking congregation composed of people of several nationalities, both Eastern and Western. In 1894 he was appointed Chairman of the Colombo District. The 6 years of his Chairmanship were distinguished by advance in many directions- in mission buildings and organisations as well as spiritual efficiency. In his English circuit work his sermons were marked by vigorous thought and clear and picturesque expression. He was a sympathetic and Methodical Pastor and showed great ability in the business affairs of the Church. Amongst his gifts to Ceylon Christianity was a "life of Christ" in Sinhalese and to this he added just before his death "Life of Paul". He also published in England 2 or 3 valuable volumes on missionary subjects. His work and character won admiration, confidence and affection at home and abroad. Strong and firm he was at the same time gentle and sympathetic. and there was in his nature a happy strain of humour and poetic feeling. He kept his mind and teaching fresh by constant study and wide reading. In his preaching he put 1st things first and in all things he was the devoted soldier and servant of Jesus Christ. He died on July 7th 1920

after a long and trying illness borne with patience and Christian Cheerfulness.

## JOSEPH PASSMORE



Born at Littlehampton, Devon, in 1865. trained at Handsworth. In 1890 he went to Ceylon as Principal of Wesley College. Colombo, and

much of the subsequent success of the College must be attributed to his fine leadership. Methodism in Ceylon was then moving towards the assumption of self-government, and in this formative and critical period he again proved the outstanding worth of his wise administration. For family reasons he was obliged to return home after twelve years of service in the island, but in 1908 he went East again, this time as the General Secretary of the Christian Literature Society of India, with headquarters at Madras. For nineteen years he provided countless Christians with educational, devotional, and theological literature, and into this task of utmost responsibility concentrated his energy, his remarkable gift of organisation and his passion for accurate scholarship, and achieved his goal with enduring success. He was a pioneer in the creation of the Co-operative Banks in India, which today are proving of unspeakable benefit, and also in the creation of a Sustentation Fund for Indian ministers and their families. In 1923 he was elected Chairman of the Provincial Synod. When Dr. Mott carried through the series of Conferences that led to the formation of the National Christian Council for India, Burma, and Ceylon, he was responsible for organising the greatest of the Area Conferences. On returning again to England he served for a period in Sheerness, and in 1930 he retired to Harpenden. The man was greater than anything he did; his kindly wise counsel, his rich humour and impregnable integrity have helped, and will continue to help, all who were privileged to know him. The end came peacefully on April 20th, 1936.

# THE SENIOR MEMBERS LUNCH 2010

The Senior Members Lunch was held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at Cha's Cabin in Hallam where our hosts Lorenz "Chubbo" de Kauwe and his wife Yolande were perfect hosts. This year the Committee decided to minimise the work associated in organising this event and selected this popular Melbourne Sri Lankan Restaurant to hold the event. As you will see from the photos below the room looked spectacular, decorated for the festive season in the rich tones of red. The attendance by our special invitees – "the Senior Members and their partners plus widows of our members was great with 33 in attendance. The Committee and their partners and a few other old Wesleyites and their partners also attended. The sense of Christmas was very much in the air as members of the Wesley family mingled and chatted. It is not often that we see these Senior Members attend our functions so it presents a great opportunity meet up with them.

George Robertson led us in saying Grace before we had our meal as Langston Joseph due to ill health could not attend this year. Our hosts put on a fine spread of food with the traditional roasts, ham, curries, rice, seafood and trimmings for the season. After a splendid feast, the 'Wesley choristers" led the patrons in a session of Carol singing. The boys sang in perfect harmony which is a legacy of our great training by choirmaster Haig Karunaratne. This was followed by a traditional sing-a-long much to the delight of the "oldies" and the tone of the party lifted. Some of the younger ones also decided to shake a leg and take the floor. A pause in proceedings when dessert was served gave the Committee an opportunity to play Santa Claus with the special invitees each receiving a gift. After singing the College Song the party came to a close as we locked arms to the strains of Auld Lang Syne. As we said our good byes and wished each one for the Christmas season, it was a great finish to one of the best Senior Members Lunches ever held.

The Senior Members in attendance were Anton Blacker, Trevor Collette, Harry de Vos, Glynn Lappen, Douglas Mack, Spencer Mack, Vivian Mack, Brian Miller, Maurice Mortier, George Robertson, George Siebel and Ronnie Van Buren.



# Around the traps & in the News

## NORMAN DE LA HARPE



Former Melbournian, Norman de la Harpe who featured in our last issue in November has had a terrible fall on his return to Brisbane. As a consequence he has been incapacitated since the 10<sup>th</sup> of December and is undergoing rehabilitation after surgery. He did serious damage to his left leg, ligaments and muscles and will take some time to recover fully and be mobile once again. We wish Norman a speedy recovery and may his spirits be uplifted in the weeks ahead.

## SHAFEEK WAHAB

Shafeek, his wife Mehroon and teenage son Ashraaq visited Australia in early December. After short visit to Sydney and Canberra, they spent a week in Melbourne catching up with friends. A dinner at the Kotaraya Restaurant (Malaysian Cuisine) was held in his honour and though it was during the crazy start to the busy Christmas party season, five of his friends from his College days met up with their partners to have a wonderful dinner and reminisce on those great days of our youth. In the photo from left to right is Delmer Achilles, Dayantha Makalanda, Bryan Wijeyekoon, Shafeek Wahab trying to be inconspicuous behind, Keith de Kretser and Norton Abeydeera.



## OLD FRIENDS CATCH UP IN COLOMBO FOR CHRISTMAS



Mano Dharamarajah (UK) on the left and Kanage Dwight (Canada) former stalwarts of the Wellawatte Methodist Church (WMC) at First Chapel Lane were spending their Christmas holidays in Sri Lanka. They were captured at the Annual Carol Service on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> December. Kanage sang in the choir for many years and Mano was a Youth Group leader. Mano is showing a bit of grey but the years have been kind to both. The WMC had a number of members of the Wesley family who worshipped there – Mrs Bertha Bernard (nee Weerapass), Richard Dwight, David & Keith Grenier, Keith de Kretser, MAP Fernando, Tyrone Frida, Rommell & Wavell Pereira, The Wells-Peris brothers – Carlyle, Gerard & Alistair, Gamini & Hiran de Silva, Lakshman Gunasekera and Rohith Fernando (who sent the photo) to name but a few.

## NEIL OBEYSEKERA

Neil Obeysekera, youngest brother of Nihal (former Head Prefect) and John Obeysekera was visiting Melbourne with his wife Savithri and daughter. Neil is a Pastor with the Grace Ministries and has lived in Dubai for many years where he was instrumental in taking Christianity to the Emirates. It was a great opportunity to catch up and at short notice Mrs Angela Fernando (former teacher) and Jerome Rulach joined in for a small dinner party.



## PRINCIPAL JOINS THE MEMBERS OF THE OBU UK FOR DINNER



Dr Shanthi McLelland visited London on his way back to Colombo, He was hosted to dinner by the Wesley College OBU UK on Friday 21 January 2010 at the Lihiniya Restaurant. A very good turn out of Wesleyites greeted the Principal. Dr McLelland talked on the progress Wesley has made so far in the field of education and sports. He was delighted and encouraged with the support he is receiving from the old boys of Wesley to complete a range of projects the school is undertaking. He thanked the OBU UK for supporting the sports pavilion project.

## SARATH WICKRAMARATNE

Sarath Wickramaratne was visiting his son Dr Asitha Wickramaratne, daughter-in-law Nimali and granddaughter Arianna in Sydney. Whilst in Australia he travelled to Brisbane and stayed with his buddy from school days Bill Deutrom who arranged an evening with a few former Wesleyites. In this photo, Sarath (extreme right) and his sons family are with Bill Deutrom at a restaurant.



# REPORTS FROM RECENT VISITORS TO WESLEY

In this section I feature some reports filed in by Old Boys who have visited Wesley recently.

## LETTER 1

Hi Bada

As requested here is a brief on my visit to College and the small part I played to help our tremendously talented boys in the cricket team.

Firstly I was impressed with the significant strides the school has made under Dr Shanti's stewardship and there is a new found energy and pride around the place and among the students and old boys.

- on my arrival it was never my intention to coach although Dr Shanthi told me to be at home and do what I think is necessary. It was the most thrilling part of my holiday to get the opportunity to coach the school that taught me to play cricket

- as a matter of courtesy I spoke to the Head Coach before I opened my mouth, He was waiting for me, and we got on really well in addition Bill Deutrom had also arranged for Dav Whatmore to join me. What an opportunity for me to learn as well.

- on the first day it was clear to me the boys lacked confidence, self belief, determination, etc etc. I requested Wilhelm Vandort former first XI player to come to the grounds. We spoke at length to the Captain and Vice Captain the objective was to put some steel into them.

- at the request of the Coach I ran a full session of out cricket drills similar to what we do in Queensland, Australia. Boy or boy they took like ducks to water and with some technical correction they improved and they also worked out that at least 2 players must be connected every time the ball is played. I requested for the under 13 coach to attend the next day which he did. I made him watch and learn the drills and then run the drills which covered the warm up's and preparation before a game.

- after this session they were stuffed, I told them how much water should be consumed and why. We then talked and I gave them a full run down of how they should approach each game, how they should train etc., etc. To see the look on their faces just made my day and some boys said ..."Sir can you come again tomorrow?" My response was first do not call me Sir but I will come tomorrow. Bada the Wesley culture is alive and well. I remember Wesley being the only school that called the umpires Sir even if they were good, bad or ugly it was a natural thing I do not recall the name of the new Vice Principal but he came to the grounds to see how things were progressing.

- my second day was about competition at training with every drill, I divided the boys into two teams. On the first day they could not hit a stump after 40 throws, we corrected the faulty throwing techniques the next 40 throws they hit the single stump 3 times, the next 30 throws 4 times and next 30 throws 5 times the next 6 times they had a ball and supported each other well, I was thrilled to bits, Bill, Wilhelm and Mylvaganam Ganesh were there as well, Wilhelm being his usual self told me "Machang these boys would never have been shown these drills." We had a chat again and I requested Ganesh to talk to the boys as he was the last successful captain in 1985 along with Mahendra Dissanayake and co.

- I distributed bats, pads, bags etc I had taken for the players to the entire team and my last talk before the game against Trinity who were unbeaten for 7 games. Boy we came so close to beating them outright. All in all it was a humble and gratifying moment. I wish I had more time to take it to another level all-round.

Now to a negative aspect which I will be talking to Dr Shanthi about shortly. There are still some old boys who are sniping and doing their bit to destroy the stability and inciting

parents against each other and destabilizing the team, playing favourites, etc... I saw it for myself and I was spoken to by one player's mother after the St Josephs game who we thrashed on first innings missing out on an outright win. I do not want to elaborate but I told the Coach to get rid of these guys and ban them from coming and talking to parents during games and destabilizing the situation, I advised him to be tough and do not give these blokes an inch as he was employed by Wesley. Bada just imagine if I was the coach and these @\$&\*\* tried this with me.

Wesley has the talent to build a formidable team for the future without a doubt. I am also going to send a goal setting doc that must be completed by each player with the coach and manager before each match and then monitored. I implemented it this year at the State Championships from under 13 upwards, This is first class and was put together by a Principal of a school who was a coach for the State and National volleyball teams, a great motivator. Bada you might want to speak to Bill Deutrom as well with his observations, he has already told me that I have to go again soon.

### Rugby

I watched the team train. You would have been excited by the size of some strong big boys. They have a good coach.

Regards

*Carlyle Wells-Peris*

Level 2 ACB Accredited Coach  
Director of Coaching  
Metropolitan South West QCA  
(Brisbane, Queensland)



## LETTER 2

Hi Keith

On my recent visit to Sri Lanka I was keen to visit my Alma Mater having heard so much about the positive changes and improvements that were taking place under the stewardship of the Principal – Shanti McLelland who was a scholar during my time. Being a hosteller for 10 years I was familiar with every part of the campus and therefore keen to see the changes that had taken place since my last visit more than ten years previously. My first impressions on arrival at the front gate left me impressed with the wrought iron gate bearing the words Wesley College and with a security guard on duty as I looked up the driveway towards the hall.

The buildings had not changed but the driveway and landscaping though simple gave it a neat appearance and the walls looked like they had been whitewashed in recent times. There are so many things that one can say about the changes that had taken place since my days in the sixties. Whilst I walked through the campus paying attention to every detail, the hostel

and the surrounding precinct where I spent many hours was foremost in my mind. The hostel has undergone methodical renovations and will soon be hospitable and a warm place of residence for the students who are boarded. The toilets and shower area have been renovated and are fitted out with modern accessories and fittings befitting contemporary standards of hygiene and facilities. I wish we had similar facilities in my day! The kitchen has undergone a complete overhaul is clean and modern and will be able to cater for the hostellers and any other events.

I was overawed by the number of new multi-storey buildings bearing the names of famous Wesley personalities who have been honoured for their contribution to this great College. One aspect which disappointed me was the loss of the tennis courts to accommodate the Labrooy Building and the A S Wirasinha Building. Perhaps the lack of interest in the sport meant that this prized piece of real estate could be used more practically to meet the growing student population. The loss of the small park over the road from the junior school precinct I still miss

which holds wonderful memories of the happy times we spent playing with friends.

Having spoken with Shanti as he took me on a tour, I could not help but be impressed by his vision, commitment and passion in steering Wesley to greater heights. Innovative thinking on utilising this wonderful asset and her traditions is what it's all about. For instance a simple innovation like having cleaned up the outdoor balcony area over the porch between the towers of the College hall and utilising it for meetings.

The potential for Wesley to be a leading school in Sri Lanka has always been there but for many years it has been untapped with the lack of a visionary and dynamic leader. I left with wonderful memories and with the hope that after many years of neglect, Wesley is back on track to reaching her full potential.

Ora et labora

Godwin Philips

Photos courtesy of Bill Deutrom – Brisbane



Driveway to Hall



Hostel & Sick Room(back gate)



College Bus



125<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Building(old Tuck Shop)



Renovated Dormitory



Renovated Toilets



**New Kitchen**



**Tennis Court Buildings**



**The Old Junior Wing(now 3 storeys)**



## HELP! Wesley Rugby in 2011

*The College is seeking assistance from her alumni for the Rugby Team in Season 2011.*

*Schoolboy Rugby in Sri Lanka today has taken on a professional approach being more competitive and the expectancy of success on the field extremely high. Nutritional supplements, athletic and medical consumables, balls, training equipment and, paid coaches all add up in order that Wesley is competitive with the other schools.*

*The OBUA is seeking your support to help the team and would invite you to sponsor the team for a donation of \$20 Please send cheques made out to the OBUA and indicate that it is for sponsoring the rugby team for 2011. You can send cheques to*

*The Treasurer*

*WC OBUA*

*P O Box 123*

*Glenway MDC*

*Mulgrave VIC 3170*

*Your donations a.s.a.p. as the season starts in April.*

*All donations will be acknowledged.*

## CRICKET RESULTS

### V TRINITY

**Wesley College** - 147 all out in 59.1 overs (A.D Fonseka 34, A.T Kariyawasam 30,) and 205 all out in 89.2 overs (M.D Muzammil 32, T.D Karunaratne 34)

**Trinity College Kandy** - 272 for 6 declared in 41 overs

(S.Jayawardena 3 for 74, A.T Kariyawasam 2 for 37) and 84 for 9 in 16.4 overs (D. BartholameUSZ 6 for 40, S Jayawardena 2 for 07)

### V ST JOSEPH'S

**Wesley** 327 for 7 decl (L. Perera 73, S. ThawfeeQ 35, R. Sooriyakumara 27, A. Fonseka 32, A. Kariyawasam 23, S. Muzammil 33 n.o, T. Karunaratne 42 n.o.)

**St. Joseph's** 176 (R. Sooriyakumara 7 for 48, A. Kariyawasam 2 for 17) and 288 for 8 (R. Sooriyakumara 4 for 69).

### V PRINCE OF WALES

**Wesley College** 209 and 119/3 (N.L.L. Perera 64, A.D. Fonseka 31).

**Prince of Wales:** 124 (D.S. Batholamuesz 5/43, M.S. ThawfeeQ 2/18).

### V ROYAL PANADURA

**Wesley:** 138 and 129 (L Perera 28)

**Royal Panadura** 191 (S Jayawardena 6 for 54, M Muzammil 3 for 32) and 79 for 2

### V ST THOMAS'

**Thomas':** 310 for 6 decl and 24 for 1.

**Wesley:** 368 (A. Fonseka 22, A. Kariyawasam 53, T. Karunaratne 118, R. Sooriyakumara 54, J. Kandamanpulle 29, S. Jayawardena 31).

## HOCKEY

### Royal beat Wesley in a thriller

In a keenly contested game Royal College came through some anxious moments to beat Wesley College by two goals to one in their fourth Dudley De Silva Challenge Trophy hockey fixture at Campbell Park on 4 December 2010. At half time Royal held a 1-0 lead.

Both teams played clean and hard hockey. Wesley started off very well and made many sizzling moves but were unable to penetrate the Royal defence. Royal took sometime to settle down and counter attacked mid way in the first half drew first blood when skipper Marlon Senanayake sounded the boards off a superb move.

After the change of ends, Royal increased their lead in the 40th minute when extreme left Susanga Jayawardena's shot at goal gave Wesley's custodian no chance whatsoever. Wesley continued to attack and it paid dividends in the 48th minute when their left inside Niyard Nazoor found the back of the Royal net to give his side their first and only goal.

Wesley continued to storm the Royal territory for the equalizer but the latter held onto their lead until the final whistle.

## NEWS UPDATE

**The OBUA will sponsor the cost of clothing for the College Rugby Team in 2011. Thirty kits made up of a jersey, shorts and pair of socks for each player.**



---

## A priceless gift of Love

---



He made his first XI debut in 1968 and went on to spearhead the Wesley attack. In 1971 he was deemed the fastest bowler in schoolboy cricket as he hurled down thunderbolts that had the batsmen ducking for cover in fear of being hit. In 1972 he shared the Captaincy with A H A Cader. He was one of only 2 players selected to represent Ceylon Schools (with Roy Dias) in the famous all island double wicket tournament in 1972. On leaving school he played cricket for the Colts Cricket Club. I am referring to the amiable and gentle character Tyrone Jansz. Tyrone was not the tall well built paceman but of slender build and youthful good looks and fair complexion. He was popular with his friends and admired by hundreds of schoolboys of that era who looked up to him as their sporting hero. His charm and smile was a big hit with the girls as well and was the cynosure of all eyes at Wesley's nearest neighbours All Saints Girl School. Tyrone's sporting ability was not restricted to the cricket field as he was fleet of foot and took part in Athletics and Rugby in the off-season. Tyrone is one of six brothers Noel, Emil, Alan, Travis (deceased) and Ray who were all educated at Wesley.

Tyrone migrated with his family in the early seventies. Like most new migrants, he took his time to settle in to the new environment and find his feet. He soon fitted in to the lifestyle and challenges of a new city. He continued to play a bit of cricket and also renew acquaintances with many of his Wesley friends who had also migrated to Australia.

Tyrone had also shown early signs of renal disease which was not life threatening or serious at the time but had the potential to escalate very late in life to pose concerns.

One day when returning home after work on the train, for his bad luck he was targeted by some youths who

were looking for another victim to rob and assault. That was a fateful day which changed his life. He was severely beaten up and left in the car park which was dimly lit. He was rushed by ambulance to hospital. Tyrone survived but the trauma and injuries had a lasting impact after he was released from hospital. Life after this incident brought a host of medical complications none more serious than it aggravated his renal failure was now a reality. Through this whole ordeal his wife Bernadine was a pillar of strength as were some of his dear friends. Very soon after that Tyrone commenced dialysis which meant that he was now reliant on a machine to keep him alive. Coupled with a host of other medical conditions as a consequence of the assault he battled on, never wavering in his efforts to enjoy a reasonable quality of life under the circumstances.

A search for a donor kidney began in earnest. At the time Bernadine offered one of her kidneys but it was found to be unsuitable because Tyrone's antibodies rejected her. Bernadine's sister, Tyrone's sister and a very spirited friend volunteered to donate a kidney but the screening process is so rigorous that they failed. Seven years went by and Tyrone began to feel it was not going to happen as donor kidneys from cadavers was also subject to patients needs, compatibility with the recipient and medical priorities. Last year Bernadine was again subject to screening based on the advancements in the procedure and treatment over the past seven or more years in non-compatible kidney transplantations. Their faith and prayers were answered when they received the good news before Christmas 2010 that Bernadine's was suitable and it was all systems go for a transplant. What a Christmas present!

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, Bernadine and Tyrone both underwent surgery and are recovering slowly. Tyrone's new

kidney is functioning and each day presents a new challenge after such major surgery Tyrone has new challenges to face but he regains his freedom from being hooked up to a machine every day and can look forward to a life as close to normal as possible. There is the possibility of risks along the way as the immunosuppressant's that he has to take for the rest of his life means he is vulnerable to infections and potential complications. However he has much to look forward to and is hoping that all things being well he could play the odd game of cricket. I know that Tyrone will face the challenges head on as he has done in the past and looks forward to a new and brighter future.

Bernadine's priceless gift of love will make a difference to the one she loves. Many would consider this act of kindness at the significant end of the spectrum for giving. To each and every one of us it demonstrates how we can make a difference – "ring the bell that we can ring" to change someone's life. It does not need to be as significant as this but it will go a long way to help someone. We wish Bernadine and Tyrone good health as they enter a new dawn in their life together.

Keith de Kretser

*Editorial comment – I hope this beautiful story of giving, inspires you to consider organ donation. If you are healthy, please consider and place your name on the organ donor register (see below). Your donation could make a difference to so many lives. In 2010, there was a significant increase in organ donations and transplants in Australia. To readers overseas I am sure there are such registers in your country or donate your organs when you die.*

**How do I register as an organ and/or tissue donor in Australia?**

- Register online [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au) or visit your local Medicare Office
- Call 1800 777 203 to register via telephone or request a registration form be posted to you.

# TRIBUTES

## Michael Allan Ross Kreltszheim



Rugby Team 1967

### Michael my classmate

Michael was a gentle giant indeed, when we were in the second or third form many of us started to display our personalities, some quiet and docile, some studious, some active in sports and some rough and tumble, like myself. Michael fitted in the middle somewhere. Although he was a big and strong guy, he was quiet and docile. The rough and tumble guys would try to take him on because of his size. He was not agile but for his build, but was very quick in reacting. If he sensed someone was behind him he would turn around like a bear ready to strike. But when someone tried to have a go at him, he would walk away. However if they persisted he would turn around and grab them, shake them twice and drop them and that would be the end of the challenge. Ray de Run, Fredrick Forster and I thought this was hilarious and would have a good laugh; Michael would put on his stern face and walk away. He was so gentle that he could not bring himself to punching anyone's lights out although he easily could. He carried this attitude on to the rugby field, which did not help. So I devised a plan that would make him aggressive on the rugby field.

### Michael my Rugby Team-mate

I recruited Michael into the Rugby team as a prop forward for his strength and size.

I was the hooker with Roger Koch the other prop. But I had a hell of a job trying to hold on to these props as they would pull away and the scrum would collapse or we would get pushed back.

I thought of a plan to get the front row to be more aggressive as both props were very gentle guys. I had to get them angry enough so they would go in hard and push the other team and that was to punch my own props as we went down. After a few punches Michael would say to me "Secky, someone punched me" I would encourage them to go in hard and push the buggers ... By now they were angry enough they could push a freight train, and we won every scrum. One day we were playing at Campbell Park and Michael caught me punching him. He felt so betrayed that he walked away from the game, when Bentley Barsenbach and LAFA asked him what the hell he was doing walking away from the game while it was still in progress, He said... "I can't play anymore, Taylor is hitting me". Needless to say they chased him back on to the field.

At half time Michael and I were pulled out by Bentley Barsenbach and LAFA. When I told them the reason for my actions, LAFA was not amused and I was marked for a caning after the game. Bentley Barsenbach on the other hand thought it was a clever plan although he reprimanded me and I had to apologise to Michael and when I explained

why I did what I did, he too understood. He was as aggressive as he could possibly be after that.

### Michael never backed down when he was right.

Michael Kreltszheim, Fredrick Forster, Ray de Run, Adrian Parsons, Derrick Schokman, Quyn (never knew his first name), Derendran Perera, Mickey Kitchilan, Azahim Mohamed, Brian Batstone and myself were all in the arts class located in the tower room (opposite the library). We had joint Art, English and Sinhalese with the Sinhalese Arts students such as Asoka Jayawardane, Roger Perera, Nimal Rodrigo and a few others. For our Art class we had to come downstairs to a classroom beside the College hall usually occupied by a Tamil class.

One day as usual we went downstairs for our Art lesson, it was a Friday so Brian Batstone, Derrick Schokman, Mickey Kitchilan were playing cricket (they were in the 1<sup>st</sup> X1 team). Goodness knows where Azahim Mohamed was.

On that particular day the Sinhalese boys were also missing. We finished our class and returned to our own class room, when we were all summoned to LAFA's office - Michael Kreltszhiem, Fredrick Forster, Ray de Run, Adrian Parsons, Quyn, Derendran Perera a myself, as we were accused of making a mess of the class we used for our Art lesson. Apparently there was water all over the class. We did not cause any mess, but these Tamil boys wanted to get us into trouble, maybe due an incident with Ramanathan (the Maths teacher) and myself. The

rest of the class was just collateral damage. Although we protested our innocence LAFA was not buying our story and we all got caned, except when it came to Michael's turn, he would not accept the punishment. Although we pleaded with him to take the punishment and we would exact revenge on the entire Tamil class for framing us, he would not give in. Eventually LAFA let him go and was going to investigate the matter further. A few days later, Michael was vindicated, but the rest of us got another caning for admitting to an offence we did not commit. Needless to say the Tamil students paid for it.

Strangely enough when I was talking to Edmund Dissanayake about 4 years ago, he brought this subject up and said how he admired Michael for standing up to his rights.

#### **Michael's first Vesak**

Michael lived a sheltered life and did not get up to any mischief like the rest of us "hooligans". As the time of my immigration to the UK was fast approaching, I got up to all kinds of mischief with my close friend Cassim Cader and wanted to share the fun with Michael. I remember the fun we (Shanthy McLelland, Cassim Cader, I and the late Rando Crutchley and Shee Hung) had with him, taking him on his first Vesak jaunt and visiting that posh Dansala by Liptons, where food was served on plates and not the traditional banana leaf. We all started eating and enjoying the food when I noticed that Michael was not touching his food. I thought he did not want to eat, as he might be worried about the hygiene although this Dansala was like a posh cafe. When I asked him what was wrong he said he was

waiting for a Fork & Spoon. I replied in traditional foul language ... "eat with your fingers". He did not know how to. I was not good at it either but I asked him to copy what I was doing. He made a total mess and we had a great laugh.

We then went on our way to see the pandals, I somehow had a safety pin with me, and while amidst the crowds I would prick the females standing directly opposite Rando (he was a huge guy that could not speak two words of Sinhalese). They would turn around and scold him in Sinhalese and all he



could say was "mame ney". Michael would just smile and enjoy the fun of getting Rando in to trouble, but was so nervous as it could have lead to a fight.

#### **Last contact with Michael**

The last time I saw Michael was in December 1970 when I was on holiday in Ceylon, I was at a dance, when I bumped into Michael and Jeremy who were there with a bunch of their friends, I think it was a farewell do for a friend of theirs (I think her name was Ellis Solomon) who was immigrating to Canada in a few weeks. I took to the

floor with this girl and wound up making out with her for the best part of the evening and could not fully enjoy Michael's company. I telephoned him about 4 years ago and gave him quite a shock. We were so happy to hear each others voices and reminisced about many things and the fun we had.

Shanthy McLelland, Cassim Cader and I were regular visitors to his place behind the prisons. They had guava trees with delicious fruit and his Mum would always have passion fruit and meringues (we called them kisses in Ceylon) that would melt in your mouth. We were such greedy buggers; one could find us wherever there was free food.

I have so many fond memories of Michael and our crazy bunch of friends. His tragic passing has come as such a shock. Rest in peace my friend and I will treasure the fond memories of those happy times in our youth.

***Bunny Taylor***

*A brief candle; both ends  
burning*

*An endless mile; a bus wheel  
turning*

*A friend to share the lonesome  
times*

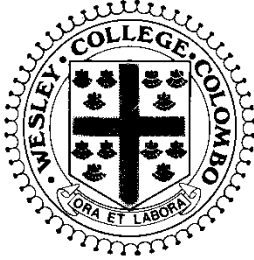
*A handshake and a sip of wine  
So say it loud and let it ring*

*We are all a part of everything  
The future, present and the past*

*Fly on proud bird*

*You're free at last.*

*~ Charlie Daniels*



# WESLEY COLLEGE (COLOMBO) OLD BOYS' UNION AUSTRALIA BRANCH INC

PO Box 123, Mulgrave, Victoria 3170

## Preliminary Notice of Annual General Meeting

Pursuant to Section 8 of the Constitution of the Wesley College (Colombo) Old Boys' Union Australia Branch Inc., I, Brian Azoor, Secretary of the above Association, hereby give notice of the Annual General Meeting for 2011.

1. Venue: The Box Hill Rugby Club  
Address: Corner Canterbury & Middleborough Rds, Box Hill. (Melway Ref 47G12).  
Date: Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.  
Time: 12:30pm/1:00pm
2. Nomination for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor and four General Committee positions are called for on the attached form.
3. Please forward any motions to be tabled at the above Annual General Meeting in writing. The motion should have a Proposer and Seconder who should be financial member in 2010.
4. All duly completed nomination forms and motions should reach the Secretary by Friday, 11th March, 2011. Please address all correspondence to PO Box 123, Mulgrave 3170.
5. The meeting will be followed by lunch. Cost \$5 per head BYO Drinks.
6. We would like to see as many Old Wesleyites and their partners in attendance.

Brian Azoor  
Secretary

Please cut along line

### NOMINATION FORM

WESLEY COLLEGE (COLOMBO) OLD BOYS' UNION AUSTRALIA BRANCH INCORPORATED

Position .....

Name of Nominee ..... Signature .....

Proposer ..... Signature .....

Seconder ..... Signature .....

Date ...../...../.....

***NB: Only Members that are financial in 2010 can be nominated. The Proposer, Seconder and those eligible to vote at the Annual General Meeting must be financial members in 2009.***

Date received ...../...../.....

