



# Wesley Times – November '10

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

## Message from the President



As the end of another year draws to a close, and the hustle and bustle of the festive season is almost upon us, we can look back on a year that has brought the Wesley family together in many ways not only in Australia but more importantly in Sri Lanka.

When I considered standing for the position of president at the time there were big shoes to fill with many of my predecessors serving the alumni and our alma mater with distinction in a voluntary capacity. I must say that my committee and their collective experience has ensured that we have had many well attended activities by the members and a sense of

enthusiasm to participate and be involved. In no small measure the excellent newsletters that have come out regularly have kept the members informed and has ignited the spirit of wanting to be a part of the double blue experience.

Inspiring us is the wonderful stewardship of the current Principal, Dr. Shanti McLelland. His enthusiastic "never say die" attitude has inspired everyone associated with the College. As a result Wesley has begun to once again demonstrate the calibre of education and qualities that were the envy of many during the Cartman and Oorloff eras. We are indeed grateful that he has sacrificed so much to leave his adopted home in Canada to serve Wesley in her hour of need. He needs our support to ensure that he can continue to maintain the standards and strive harder to raise the bar in the future. My committee and I am sure the members join me in pledging our support to Dr McLelland in all his endeavours as we enter a new year.

This being the last issue of the Wesley Times for 2010, my wife Yvette and I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you and your families a blessed Christmas season, a safe and happy holiday period and a bright and prosperous New Year in 2011.

ORA ET LABORA

Norton Abeydeera



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### E-mail correspondence

All members who prefer to receive OBU correspondence by email are invited to inform the Editor on [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

As the year draws to a close it is a time to reflect on what has been achieved over the past twelve months both from a personal perspective and in the context of this association of alumni of Wesley College and the College itself. Our individual achievements we can share with our loved ones and friends but when we ponder the achievements of our alma-mater over the past eighteen months we are inspired by the renaissance that has begun under the stewardship of the Principal, Dr Shanti McLelland. In an organized and dedicated manner he has invigorated the College and everyone associated with Wesley College or with an interest in Wesley

College. The results has been significant as it has had a positive impact on every element that makes up the functioning of this great academic institution.

As an alumni association overseas, we are far removed physically from the heart of the action but not so in spirit. For we all bear the unique badge of being Wesleyites. As a part of this renaissance, alumni from all over are rallying to Wesley's call as was recently witnessed with their participation in the Wesley Walk 2010 which raised Rs. 8.5 Million, special funding requests and the many traditional events and open days that the College has hosted. We can be a part of this resurgence by our collective

involvement via this association in the many activities that it organizes during the year and responding to the requests for specific fundraising events for Wesley. Former Editor of this newsletter, George Robertson sent me a copy of the editorial of the March 2006 issue which I I felt is worth re-printing which canvasses the subject "what it means to be a Wesleyite?"

I look forward to your support over the next year.

Keith de Kretser

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

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### *The Heart of the Matter - Editorial March 2006*

As the year draws to a close in the affairs of the Wesley O.B.U. and we make plans for the future, I got to thinking about a couple of things, like: So what does it mean, this term: "Wesleyite"? O.K., so I went to a school in Baseline Road called Wesley College a long time ago, so what? This old world has taken a few turns since then, wars have been fought and won, or lost, depending on whose side you were on. The world I knew has changed beyond recognition, and very little remains of the way we were in those faraway days. Does anybody care? Really?

I recently hunted around stuff I keep in my Den" and came across old photographs I have put away, bits and pieces of old Wesley College programmes, photographs of school excursions, photos of Wesley College when it opened in 1907, a copy of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year College Magazine, cricket fixtures from the 40's and so on. And I discovered what it is to be a "Wesleyite", because, as I looked at these

things, I realized how much I have benefited from those years at the School in Baseline Road. I am not embarrassed to admit how much I appreciate that old school. The teachers I knew have departed now, but will never be forgotten. Have you ever met someone for

the first time, and really warmed to them when you learned they also studied at Wesley? That's all "Heart" speaking, to share a common ground, a time

we can all relate to. Wesley has become a part of me, and will always stay that way. I recently received a letter from a gentleman in far off Canada who chanced to come across a copy of our newsletter, and who writes about his days at Wesley and much else.. That he responded in this way, taking the time to write and share a

"Kinship" with someone he has never met and has something in common with, is all "Heart". That's what this Old Boys' Union is all about, when we agreed to "unite in one fraternal band those who were educated at Wesley College, Colombo; to afford an opportunity

Sometimes, at parties, dinners or in the quiet of an exclusive gathering, a laugh rings out. The sombre formal faces for a moment relax and a smaller group is formed. These are the senior members of Wesley College O.B.U who have found out each other. There are now only a few of us; scattered, we learn about each other but we appreciate a common bond when we come across it – a love for our Alma Mater, a friendship that is ageless united with a courtesy that is extinct. (January 1999).

to bring together past and present students of Wesley....." as the prime aims of this organization. Let us be true to this cause, support and help Wesley College as well as we can, and keep the fraternity, the fellowship of our O.B.U. burning bright for years to come.



## CONDOLENCES

**WIJAYASINGHE - Sirimal Nora** in Colombo on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2010. Beloved mother of Surein, Ajith, Ransil (Aust.) and Sanjeev (Aust.). We extend our sincere sympathies to the family, their relatives and friends. Mrs Wijayasinghe worked in the College canteen in the 1980's. May her soul rest in Peace.

**STORK. - Christopher.** Passed away peacefully at home in Melbourne after a long and weary illness. on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Aged 73 years Beloved husband of Dorothy, father of Gary and Jenny (daughter-in-law), Anne Marie and Tim (son-in-law) and grandchildren: Jarrad, Trinity and Scott. Loved son of Edward (Ned) and Doreen (both dec.), fond brother to Christine and Alex. We extend our sincere sympathies to the family, their relatives and friends. *Note: His sister Christine Stork taught at Wesley in the early sixties in the Primary classes.*

**PERERA - Darlan** (Bohemians) – Passed away peacefully. Loving husband of Joan (nee Atton), precious father of Domani and Spencer Manuepillai (MJF Teas), Desline and Sanjeewa Attanayake and Damian (Mihin Lanka), darling papa of Siobhan and Shontaal (SBC), Thavisha (BC), Gavishca (SJC), and Avisha, Funeral was on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>. We extend our sincere sympathies to the family, their relatives and friends.

**SAPPIDEEN – Anwar.** Passed away peacefully in Melbourne on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2010 after a courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. Husband of Fathima, father of Azni and Jehan. Brother of Nizar, Razeen, Seenar and Binhur. We extend our sincere sympathies to the family, their relatives and friends. The funeral was on the same day. May his soul rest in peace.

## Your Committee 2010/2011

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Wesley College  
Colombo  
OBU Australia  
Branch Inc.

You are invited to join our very  
Special Senior Members  
at our  
*Senior Members Lunch*

**Date:** Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
**Time:** 12 p.m. onwards  
**Where:** Cha's Cabin  
Shop 10 Spring Square  
Hallam VIC 3803  
**Dress:** Neat Casual

Senior Members  
will receive personal invites in the mail  
OBU Members and partners  
most welcome to join in the fun.

**Cost:** \$20 per head includes meal and drinks  
There will be Carol Singing and  
Christmas festivities.

**RSVP by 1 December 2010 to:**  
Brian Wijeyekoon 9763 7783  
Darryl Koch 8707 5817  
Keith de Kretser 9560 0074

## A Message from the Principal

To all proud Wesleyites and well wishers

We have reached the end of enlivening midterm for year 2010. We would like you thank you for joining us in various celebrations and activities carried out throughout the term, especially the "Wesley Walk of Grit 2010, which was a roaring success due to your untiring help and support. A successful Prefects day was held after 06 years demonstrating the leadership and Wesley College fame. A record twenty-six schools attended the "Commerce Day" celebrations and the "Commerce Quiz" competition. The school has now a centre for aesthetic studies highlighting the importance of Art, Music, and Drama as a tool for holistic learning.

Your un-stinted support and cooperation has terrifically helped to strengthen Wesley Colleges' 136-year history of "Educational Tradition" and "Scholastic Excellence". The brand image of the school is at its best now, and we are reaching greater heights in studies, sports and co-curricular activities. The enthusiastic and loyal students, parents and teachers have rallied around to make the school a better and stronger community than ever before. While the University entry percentage has increased this year, the 2009 GCE (O/L) results were outstanding with achievements of all 9 distinction and over 86% qualifying for the GCE Advanced Level program. We are excited that 124 students out of 187 who sat for GCE (O/L) obtained Distinctions ("A") for English Language and over 85% passed in Mathematics, which surpasses even the results of almost all other 11,000 schools in the island. Next term we can look forward to making the "FUSION" a wonderful experience. The theme this year is " Magic at the Movies " and will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2010 at the Bishops College Auditorium which will give us the opportunity to demonstrate the true flairs of many talented Wesley students.

Wesley recognizes old boys and parents as important stakeholders of the school. During this term we have witnessed your passion for the school and we greatly admire you for being great supporters and role models. Your enthusiasm, interest the students' holistic development with an open mind is taken very seriously and positively. Your engagement remains the driving force of the management and the motivation for teachers to render an exemplary service.

Being the Principal of this great institution let me take this opportunity to thank you for all the efforts and your contribution in the past. The staff of Wesley and I look forward to further strengthen the ties between old boys, parents and teacher for another successful and productive year in 2010.

Once again, thank you for your participation, enthusiasm and your contribution to the success of Wesley. Wish you and your family a wonderful "Wesley Experience".

Ora et Labora – Pray and Labour on.

Dr. Shanti McLelland, PhD



## THE UK REPORT

By Azahim Mohammed

The activities of the WCOBU UK seems to have increased this year! In terms of the Sports teams, the OBU did well to enter the Semi finals at the Festival of Cricket held on Sunday 11 July 2010. Twenty five OBA's took part in this year's tournament.

The twenty two year old tournament had the largest crowds this year with over 6,000 people attending the festival. A large contingent of Wesleyites also, attended and supported the team. The Wesley Team was captained by Roshan Perera.

The OBU UK also entered the the Schools Touch Rugby Carnival for the seventh time. The team was captained by Jehan Jaldin and the team had just one win in the group stage and then lost to Old Bens in the Plate round.

A "one off" Cricket tournament titled - "Cricket Fiesta" organised by Sri Lankan Airlines was held on Saturday 11 September 2010 to promote all island Schools (OBA's) from Jaffna, the Eastern province and schools (OBA's) from the South of Sri Lanka.

It was a tremendous initiative to bring together all sections of the Sri Lankan community as part of the reconciliation process. It was a tremendous success. This is the first time in over fifteen years that the Tamil schools took part alongside the schools from the South of Sri Lanka. Wesley and Old Bens represented the schools from Colombo.

Wesley entered a team in this year's inter OBA Football tournament which was held on Sunday 26th September 2010..The team was Captained by Enoch Terrence

The 18th Annual Double Blue Ball was held on Saturday 16 October 2010 at the Holiday Inn Kingston, Surbitton. It was a great success.

The 12th Annual Joint Carol Service with Methodist College PPA will be held on Sunday 5th December 2010 at the Chelsea Methodist Church this year. The Methodist College PPA will host the service.

# Where are they now?

## B R I A N B A T S T O N E

### *'The Elephant Man'*



It is not often that one comes across someone who has an interesting occupation and a passion for the task at hand. From an early age our featured Old Wesleyite in this issue has nurtured an interest in wild life which has taken him from the wilds of Sri Lanka to many countries in the world as an authority on rearing and caring for elephants.

Brian Batstone attended Wesley from 1954 to 1967. He was affectionately known as "Batti" to his friends. Brian was the only one from his family that attended Wesley College or had any connection with the school. Who would have thought that from those formative years at Karlsruhe he would end up in Cologne, Germany as the Elephant keeper of 14 Asian elephants, the largest of any Zoo in Europe. He lists his occupation as "Animal Keeper". His interests are nature,

wildlife, travelling and fishing. Brian who is sixty one years old is married and has no children and has lived in Cologne since 1973.

Brian was in Lempher's House in the Junior school and in Moscrop House in Senior school. Brian had a great interest in sport and was cricket captain of the under 14's and under 16's. He was a cricket colours man and represented Wesley in the Colombo North Zonal Cricket Championships as an opening bowler. His other sporting interest was athletics. Brian was also a sub-Prefect. His fondest memories of his days at Wesley were the good times in the College hostel and "capping" all the pretty girls at All Saints Girls School at Campbell Park. He remembers with deep respect the education he received at Wesley and has fond memories of Mr Edmund Dissanayake and Mr Haig Karunaratne who were his favourite teachers. He lists his best friends as Ronnie Collette, Russell Hamer and Derrick Schokman when he was at College.

After finishing school in 1967 Brian pursued his interest in wild life by working on Malwatu Oya Farm (about 300 acres) in an agricultural project. As a coincidence, this farm was close to another farm where Mr. Gamini Jayaweera worked as a manager. He was the brother of another old Wesleyite, Mr. Vivian Jayaweera, Inspector of Police. This was also next to another farm where an old Wesleyite worked, Mr. Brian Werapermal.

After two years, in 1969, he had to give up the farm due to floods. To earn money he joined the British Marine Company. In 1972 he first went to Switzerland and worked as a Bar Manager and after that ended up in Cologne, Germany where he still lives today. Because of his interest in nature and animals, he asked the Director of Cologne Zoo, if he could work for him. Fortunately for him, he took him on and he started working first with big apes and since 1985 with elephants as an animal keeper.

During the last 36 years he has been travelling to Africa and Asia to observe and study about the behaviour and training methods of elephants. He has lived in elephant camps in India and Thailand and is a frequent visitor of the Pinnawela Orphanage.

He is a member of the European Elephant Group, the Elephant Management Association in the USA and an advisor to EEKMA (European Elephant Keeper and Management Association). He is presently in charge of 14 Asian elephants including 4 baby elephants born in Cologne Zoo since 2006. It is the largest collection of elephants in Europe.

His position has given him the opportunity to meet many celebrities and famous personalities and one that he recall with interest is Paul Hogan (of Crocodile Dundee fame) and went with him to the elephant barn in Cologne Zoo.

Brian looks forward to the day when he can catch up with many of his old friends who had at Wesley and in particular his best friend Ronnie Collette who now lives in Melbourne. Those wishing to contact Brian may do so by email on [bbatstone7649@aol.com](mailto:bbatstone7649@aol.com). Anyone visiting Germany should drop by Cologne Zoo and say hello. I am sure he would relish reminiscing on those happy times at Wesley.

I am indebted to Brian who graciously agreed to feature in this article and I am grateful for his co-operation.

**Keith de Kretser**  
Editor

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# Memories of Life at Wesley College

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## H.J.V.I. Ekanayake - the composer of the School song remembered by Shelton Peiris

H JVI Ekanayake is perhaps better known to generations of Wesleyites as the composer of the rousing College Song, "Boys of Wesley through the land". Yet in his time he was an outstanding Scholar, Bard and Legal luminary. He had the advantage of family wealth and lineage but his intellect and leadership backed by hard work and dedication secured for him a high position in society. HJVI was enrolled at Wesley College during its location at Dam Street in 1882, when Rev. Arthur Shipham was the Principal. He made excellent progress at school both in the academic work and in sports, and came later under the influence of Rev. Thomas Moscrop, who further developed his innate academic skills.



He participated extensively in the activities of the school, and had a prominent position being an eloquent speaker. He was Secretary of the College Literary Association, and the first Editor of the Wesley College magazine which was published in 1898. In an Editorial he wrote "We do not apologise for our existence, we will try to justify it." In a Prize winning Debate, in which his oratorical skills shone, he pleaded for "Oriental Languages in a Collegiate Course", at a time when English Language held supreme pride of place. He was a keen student of the Classical Languages of Greek and Latin, but did not neglect the

Oriental Classical languages of Sanskrit and Pali in which he achieved a high degree of proficiency.

Interest in the latter Languages was encouraged by the Rev. Thomas Moscrop's interest in Buddhism, as for a proper study of Buddhism it was necessary to consult Buddhist canons in Sanskrit and Pali. HJVI passed the Cambridge Senior with Distinctions, and was the winner of the Hill Medal in both 1888 and in 1889. HJVI had the good fortune to come under the influence of Rev. Henry Highfield during the closing stages of his school career, who immediately recognised his talents. He was also a keen sportsman and played for the 1st XI Cricket Team, leaving School he became a teacher training in both Western and Eastern

*In an Editorial he wrote "We do not apologise for our existence, we will try to justify it."*

and was the Secretary of the Cricket Club. On at Wesley for a short time, and put to full use his Classical Languages.

He also inaugurated the Wesley career in Law, and won a scholarship qualifying he was called to the Bar in

College Cadet Corps. He decided to follow a awarded by the Board of Legal Education, After 1900. He was later appointed as a magistrate and

was held in high regard, and administered his judicial responsibilities with skill, justice and fair play. This was amply displayed at the time of the "Ambalangoda riots", which flared up primarily due to excesses on the part of the military. In 1906 he was promoted as a District Judge, and entered the ranks of the prestigious Civil Service, and his judgments earned him the sobriquet of "Daniel of the Bench".

Despite his onerous official duties HJVI did not hesitate to play a leading role in Society, he was a Founder Member of the Sinhalese Sports Club, and was its Vice President, he was also Secretary of the Radella Club, and later Patron of the Wesley College Old Boys Union. He married Geraldine Louise May the daughter of Maha Mudaliyar James Amerasekera of Nattandiya. They had an only child, a son, Edward Stubbs Dewinton, so named after Sir Edward Stubbs, Governor at the time, who was the godfather.

A plaque now marks the position of a tree planted at Ekanayake Walauwva gardens in Kotte by Sir Edward Stubbs during a visit to the home of HJVI. Tragically this only child was lost at the age of 17 years in a drowning accident, causing considerable grief to the parents. His literary talents and skills are best displayed by the composition which later became the College song, his extempore "Boys of Wesley through the Land" sung after a farewell dinner to a Junior Master - An Old Boy- held at College Hall in Dam Street.

This was an instant hit, which not only cites the brotherhood of Past and Present, but also makes a patriotic appeal, 'and for our dear Land we'd be, men of grit and Industry.' Both the words and tune of this College Song has brought Wesleyites of several generations together, and now with Branch OBU's in the UK and Australia, its popularity has gone beyond the shores of Sri Lanka. HJVI is indeed a worthy product of Wesley College, and future generations can continue to be inspired by his outstanding performance and high standard of integrity. He was honoured by the School when soon after his death a Portrait was unveiled in the College Hall by the Principal Rev. D. Izzette at the Annual OBU Celebration in March 1941. A Prize named after him is also presented at the Annual Prize Giving. The Latin quote - 'Non tetigil, quod non ornavil' well describes his life's work - for he touched nothing which he did not adorn!'

# Reminiscing Halcyon Days at Wesley

From The Island Newspaper September 24, 2010

by Edmund Dissanayake

This article will refer to certain aspects of life at Wesley hitherto untold. The tutorial staff of Wesley comprised of several former Principals of other schools. The camaraderie that prevailed at Wesley made her the most sought after school for both students and teachers. Also on the staff, together were associated, as many as five former cricket captains of Wesley. Harold Nonis (Principal) Derrick Mack, Dr. Louis Adihetty, Lalith Wijesinghe and the present writer. Is it little wonder that Wesley remained on top in cricket?

The Staff Guild unfailingly organized an "outing" each term, the most frequent being the Southern Trails through Hambantota. Alfred Cooray, a friend of mine, had placed a standing order with me that he should be informed of all trips organized, for his inclusion. The teachers who spear-headed the outings at different times were Lionel Jayasuriya, P. G. R. Fernando Dr. Frank Jayasinghe, Shelton Peiris, A. K. Suppiah, M. Y. De Alwis and the writer. A dip in the water was always a *sine qua non*. In this respect, expert life guard Daniel Pakianathan was always included. As outings played a very important part, more reference will be made. The dancing of Basil Mihiripenne, the caricaturing of Felix Premawardene, the non stop dancing of W. Thurairathan, the captivating singing of Haig Karunaratne, one foot dancing of Jacob, and Alfred Cooray's popular dance wearing a saree, were the highlights. On one of these outings both Shelton Wirasinha and his wife Manel took part. The song "Uda rata sita Menike knek ava Varsity" was being sung lustily, the voice of Lyn De Mel and Nimal Silva being the loudest. Except the Principal and myself the others were not aware that the "Damayanthi" in the song referred to Manel's sister. When Manel threatened to jump off the bus, the song was cut short! The song is published in the post script. The Principal did nothing to stop the song!

The Camaraderie that existed could be gauged by the fact that as many as 25 teachers went to Jaffna, by train to attend the wedding of D. Pakianathan. He later functioned as Sub Warden of St Thomas' College. Two others from the Wesley staff Dr. Frank Jaysinghe and F. J. Senaratne preceded him. Those who could not go to Jaffna earlier, attended the wedding of P. Sugirithathason also in Jaffna.

There was a Union known as the "Bachelors' Union" with Berty Van Sanden as Life President. The Principal Cedric Oorloff, was once summoned to the office of Van Sanden. He submitted tamely to all the "orders" given by the President, including wearing of a "Union-Cap". Thereafter, we got on famously. More of Cedric Oorloff. Fresh from his last assignment as A. G. A. Hambantota, he was known as a stickler for rules and discipline. He was the first Principal to have caned a Prefect M. Y. De Alwis for being late to school. Prefect B M N Jurangpathy suffered the same fate for not preventing a few 'naughty' boys at the Karlsruhe gate from shouting the name "Kaputu Kuday" directed at a school girl. Jurang, later functioned as DIG Police. Next, the entire school was saddened when our record breaking star bowler M. N. Samsudeen was suspended for breaking a school rule, by playing for a club without the Principal's permission. He relaxed when Fred De Mel and I went in deputation but by then the season was almost over.

When Wilfred Wickramasinghe, Head Master married Elna Jayawardene of the same staff, on a school day, they were given only two hours leave. Oorloff said that weddings should not take place during school days. Quite right, sir! More of Oorloff. It was his practice to invite a different teacher to lunch at the Bungalow. I was expecting grand lunch, but was disappointed. The dessert however was good. C J T Thamotheram asked me whether I was not aware that the Principal received a very poor salary? After Oorloff retired, the Wesleyites in Australia, invited the Oorloff's. At a Dinner, I was told there were more than 200 Wesleyites and wives present. That showed the respect that Wesley had for their Principal, Cedric Oorloff.

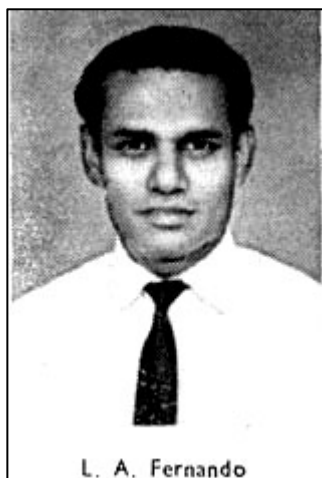
There was a time when several essential items were in short supply in the country. A. K. Suppiah came to our rescue. Not only sarees, but also items like matches, soap, dhal, chilies etc were made available to us at cheap rates.

There was a practice, once a month to meet at Nanking Hotel, Fort. Once our dinner went on till 12 midnight. Each teacher had to make a speech. Later, we shifted our café and proceeded to Havelock Road Modern Chinese Café. Danton Dabrera who had been nursing an injured leg led the party and a few were arguing loudly about some matter. That was the day of the Royal - Thomian. The café proprietor mistook us for drunkards and refused entry. It was only when Aileen Anderson came, that the proprietor apologized.

The writer wishes to say a word about the present position at Wesley. The new Principal Dr. Shanti McLelland, himself, an old boy, an outstanding athlete and hockey wizard, in a very short time, was able to win the confidence of former teachers and old boys, in our country, and also abroad, to help in the development of the school. He is indeed a go-getter. Let us all rally round him.

# A dedicated and Inspirational teacher

## LANCELOT AELIAN FERNANDO



L. A. Fernando

Mr. L. A. Fernando was a passionate teacher who enjoyed teaching, learning, sharing and collaborating with students. He was an inspiration and terrific role model to students. Students gravitated to him like magnets because of his subtle style that challenged students' analytical and critical thinking to understand the subject as a whole. Mr. Lancelot Aelian Fernando was a dedicated teacher who always had time for his students. He could make any subject interesting and enjoyable. He had a way of teaching that everyone from a very intelligent person to a learning disabled person can understand. Mr. L.A. Fernando touched not only the intellect, but the very heart and soul of all the students who were fortunate to sit in one of his chemistry or mathematics classes. His exemplary character motivated students and instilled confidence in them. Students described him as patient, confident and supportive. He encouraged interactive dialogue via innovative in-class experiments; ensuring information is processed at deeper levels. He rose above and beyond the call of duty by helping students learn, grow and evolve not only as students, but as people.

Bernard Shaw says "those who can't do teach." If there was one person to debunk that cliché, it would be Mr. L.A. Fernando. Aelian Lancelot Fernando was one of the most inspirational men I got to know at Wesley. My mind was continually blown away with

his insights and knowledge. He has taught us about the importance of questioning. Indeed, the course itself could be titled, "Socratic learning" or answering a question with a question, "questioning was everything", questioning was to build a cohesively knit knowledge base. Mr. Fernando was the type of teacher where you cannot help but pay the utmost attention to him when he spoke, truly one of a kind.

Mr. Fernando was amazing; he has to be experienced to be believed. Mr. Fernando could explain mathematical and chemistry concepts in such an incredibly easy to understand way. He was also very personable and has amazing people skills. Mr. L.A. Fernando was incredibly patient and a truly gifted teacher. Mr. Fernando cared about what students took away from his class, including context and anecdotes that helped to liven up the most difficult of topics to teach. Despite the difficulty of the material he presented, very few students walked away from the classes disappointed. He was not only an asset to Wesley College, but the entire study of mathematics. Mr. Fernando with his instructional intelligence and classes involved and bring a lot of energy, passion was the most interesting and charismatic teacher I was by far the best teacher who could teach at examinations".

*Bernard Shaw says "those who can't do teach." If there was one person to debunk that cliché, it would be Mr. L.A. Fernando.*

pedagogical skills was able to keep his and humour to his teaching. By far he have ever experienced. Moreover, he students "learn how to learn and excel

Mr. Fernando inspired all sportsmen, cricketers, returned from the US with a Master's degree he showcased his prowess in tennis at the college Mr. Rajapaksa, Felix Premawardane, Wilfred Thevarokiam, Arulananan Aruliah, R.E. Abraham, He took over Hockey after Mr. Fred Abeysekara and Mr. N.A.B. Fernando left Wesley. He brought about a renaissance in Wesley hockey make Wesley champions and unbeaten for many years. During his time Wesley produced many Sri Lanka Schools' colours men and captains. Athletics was also very fortunate to have Mr. L.A. Fernando take over from Mr. A. A. Swaris a former National Champion, National Referee, and Mr. Kiruppurajah a stylish 400m runner who later became a Director of Physical Education at the Ministry of Education. Athletics was back again at its best and many schools and national champions were produced during this time due to his untiring and inspiring efforts. Finally, at the age of 64 Mr. Fernando ran and completed the 400m event at the first Veteran's athletics championships in Sri Lanka organized by the Mercantile Athletic Federation, an incredibly challenging feat considering that he had three life threatening myocardial infarctions. We know he did it to honour his students at Wesley!

hockey players, and athletes. When he joined the college hostel. He tennis courts along with Fred De Mel, Wickramasinghe, L. Dharmarajah, S. Cyril Fernando, and Frank Jayasinghe.

I can honestly state that Mr. L. A. Fernando was the best teacher that I ever had in any academic institution. L.A.F cared that his students actually understood the material, and spent many, many unpaid hours answering questions well past class hours in his office. L.A.F consistently exemplified all of the skills, both theoretical and practical, we would need in the real world; and he was willing and was capable of giving all his time and energy to all to his students. [Shanti McLelland, 2009]

# A Sermon on the Mount - Mount Mary

## A tale about the Railway Burghers

### By Nalin Fernando

*There are the Dutch Burghers - the snooty, so-called upper-crust of the Tribe, a dying breed, as a consequence of inter-marriage; the Doubtful or Dubious Burghers - those who have tried but cannot establish their lineage directly linked to the Dutch, or, for that matter, any other European nationality, but feign airs of "pure" ancestry, of which the majority of the Dutch Burgher Union [DBU] membership presently comprises; the Kotahena Burghers - less sophisticated, more down-to-earth brethren, lacking the finesse of the Western-oriented "Pukka Sahibs" of this ethnic group; the Mount Mary or Railways Burghers - a rough and tumble, hard-living, hard-drinking lot, whose every social gathering invariably ended in a brawl; the Batticaloa Burghers - a very different arm of the community, unlike the others in appearance, customs and life-style, who are reputed to abhor the use of shoes and would opt for slippers, whilst even being formally attired in "full suit". There are other, smaller "splinter" groups, whose identities are less discernible but nonetheless add character to the multi-faceted fabric of this colourful community.*

#### **Where have they all gone?**

I am thinking about the Railway Burghers, not the flowers in the plaintive melody made popular during the Vietnam War.

Recently, I met one of them who did not uproot himself while almost everyone nearest and dearest to him had sought new pastures abroad to work or to retire. He was the ultimate railway man, born in Mount Mary and he hoped to die in the vicinity in which he had lived all his life.

Once upon a time (he told me, over an arrack at the Twentieth Century Club where he was a guest) Eric de La Motte was bringing the 72 Up Night Mail from Badulla to Colombo. He was piloting the old steam warhorse that had chugged along for well over thirty years, never failing if it had enough coal and water.

Melo, his ever-loving wife (home calling Melo, outside calling Maloney) was all a twitter as she was wont to be when he stays away overnight after taking the 463 Down Passenger two mornings before. She had spruced up the railway quarters they lived in. The floor was mopped, brushed and gleaming. Although cobwebs stretched across the ceiling, one could comb your hair looking down at the floor as in a good Burgher home. She dusted the paper

flowers in a glass vase on an imitation ebony tea-boy. She kept her quarters shining just as Eric liked his steam gauge glass and brass fittings in the loco cabin to sparkle.

The leftover ox tongue stew had been warmed up. The raw onion and green chilli sambol and the bread cut in practical three-inch thick chunks were on the dining table that was draped with a blue and white checked plastic tablecloth. The table stood on four tinned fish cans full of Jeyes fluid to keep the ants away.

Eric and Melo were well known in railway circles as a "lovely couple". There was a grand do at the Railway Institute three years before when they celebrated their silver wedding anniversary.

Melo, now was shunting towards fifty, but she still maintained vestiges of her pleasant face and figure that had been the rage of the institute get-togethers in the days gone by. Her bust, tummy and hips were about five inches rounder and her once delicate rear brake wagon was more prominent. But, after two children, now grown up, what happened to Mrs. Hepponstall happens to all.

When they first met, Eric was a dashing young fireman who shovelled a stylish spade of coal.

He was tall, handsome and had a tattoo of a snake coiling round a totem pole on his left upper arm. Melo often recalled those leathery palms of his in her soft hand and on her softer shoulder when he came up to her at a Christmas social and said, "dance". They were married three weeks later and her mummy and daddy, also railway folk, approved of the match.

Old Meerwald was very proud of his son-in-law, especially his ability to drain two drams in one "gallop" and then nonchalantly crush the glass with his leathery bare hands.

Melo was giving the front steps a final swish and sweep when she spotted Dottie (outside calling Dorothy) doing the same chore in the adjoining quarters. Dottie was Melo's good friend although socially inferior since her husband, Andrew, was still on the Puttalam run drawing cattle wagons and a few second and third class carriages.

"Erico coming soon", cried out Melo. "Bringing a leg of farm pork and bacon from Nanu and a bottle of Tiddenham Barrow from DLA. Making bacon and eggs. Pork for lunch".

"So, so, matinee show today", she replied mischievously. Melo tried hard not to blush at Dottie's naughty suggestion, failed

miserably and only managed to coyly toss her short crop of hair. "Don't be silly, Chile ", she replied and walked in with a sly smile.

Eric arrived soon after in his favourite rickshaw. It had been a satisfying run from Badulla. The steam charge had been steady and he had not got any red signals approaching Fort that tested his patience after a long run.

He carried under his left arm-pit a parcel and on his right hand a bottle, both wrapped in old newspaper. His overnight bag was slung on his left shoulder. Moreover, if you think that the items wrapped in newspaper were leg of pork and a bottle of passion fruit, you were sadly mistaken. The parcel was two pounds of fresh bread that Eric got from a florist cum undertaker after every run to Fort in appreciation of bringing back safely a basket of flowers from Blackpool . The bottle had the last two shots of black arrack, the original contents having been progressively reduced at Bandarawela, Pattipola, Nanu Oya, Gampola and Polgahawela.

Eric walked in and placed his cargo on the dining table, took his shoes off and reclined on the armchair. He turned to Melo and said "glass" in the same tone and timbre as he once said "dance" or says "coal" to his fireman when the steam gauge hits the warning line. He paused until the glass was fetched and then said "food". He was a man of few words.

Now, Melo had to fry bacon and eggs as previously boasted to Dottie. If there was no bacon in the house, how was she to produce the sound and smell of frying bacon for which Dottie must surely be waiting with envy on the other side of the thin partition walls of the railway quarters? Melo was a real one. With a deft flick of her wet fingers she sprinkled water into a hot pan of old bacon fat. Dottie, with her ears against the wall, heard the sizzling sound of water sprinkled on

hot oil and aroma of bacon fat was in the air. She resigned herself to the fact that her Andy could hardly be expected to bring back pork or bacon from Muslim dominated Puttalam.



An old Brush Bagnall Engine No 560 at its final resting place in the Dematagoda railway yards.

Eric downed the remnants of the bottle in a single 'gallop". He was ready for food after having had for dinner only a tasty but small parcel of rice and curry given to him by a certain tootsy-wootsy in Badulla - a middle-aged wife of a much older retired Sinhalese head guard with whom he had a discreet understanding.

When the plate of ox tongue stew had been wiped clean with the last chunk of bread, he released a subdued belch akin to a short blast of his steam hooter on seeing a jaywalker on the tracks ahead of him. He rose from his chair unbuttoning his shirt, and loosening his belt and waistband he lounged in the armchair with his feet up on the extended foot-rests.

"Duckworth and Joppe coming for lunch. Buy some soda and beef. Duckworth bringing brinjal pickle. Rice and curry. Wake me when they come", he said in a rare long speech. In three minutes he was fast asleep.

Melo spent half an hour de-stoning the rice, washing the dhal and peeling the potatoes to fry later. She then stepped out dutifully towards Dematagoda with a shopping basket in her hand to buy some chicken necks for bites. She could hear Dottie somewhere in the front of her quarters and was sure that she would be seen going out.

She put on a fleeting self-satisfied smile. She tossed her short hair and smoothed it down on a side with her free hand. She then wiggled her hips and hitched up her knickers. How to disappoint that woman about the matinee, Chile.

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*Editor: Reminds one of Carl Muller's novel - **Yakada Yakka**. The "Railway Burghers" were an intrinsic part of the Wesley Community and the rich legacy of cultural diversity that Wesley College has stood for. This article is not meant to be offensive to anyone but to re-ignite memories of a bygone era that were familiar to some. Take it in good spirits.*

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*The railroad track is miles away,  
And the day is loud with voices  
speaking,  
Yet there isn't a train goes by all day  
But I hear its whistle shrieking.*

*All night there isn't a train goes by,  
Though the night is still for sleep and  
dreaming,  
But I see its cinders red on the sky,  
And hear its engine steaming.*

*My heart is warm with the friends I  
make,  
And better friends I'll not be knowing;  
Yet there isn't a train I wouldn't take,  
No matter where it's going.*

*– Edna St. Vincent Millay*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

*The following passage is reproduced from the concluding chapters of a book by John Still titled "Jungle Tide" which was first printed in 1930.*

### ***A Parting Legacy***

"It is curious to consider what are the qualities in men's works that give them power to survive, and it would be difficult to foretell which elements of our own, or any other civilization, will persist for even one thousand years. Speaking in round figures, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British have each ruled over the lowlands of Ceylon for one and a half centuries. Of the political power of the Portuguese, who came first, no trace remains, and their descendants are assimilated and rank almost as a caste. The Dutch Burghers, who came second, still hold records of pedigrees that link them with Europe, and still have a political organization that enables them to keep their interests before Government. Their traditions of behaviour remain European rather than Asiatic.

The British still rule. Of Portuguese titles to land I believe none exist, though titles based upon documents granted by the Sinhalese Kings who ruled before them are not rare, and titles supported by Dutch documents are common. The law of the land is still called Roman-Dutch, though, of course, it is profoundly modified by British enactments; but Portuguese Law is mute. Yet the religion brought in by the Portuguese continues to be that of a very large section of the populace; while those branches of Christianity professed by the British have relatively few adherents, and the Dutch Church almost none.

Portuguese music survives too, though the songs of the Dutch are dead; and while half a dozen persons have learned to read Dutch for special reasons, Portuguese is still spoken freely in the poorer quarters of several towns. Fate has for some reason picked for survival religion, language, and music from among the wisdom of the Portuguese; and law, household comfort, and family pride from the customs of the Dutch; and some future observer will doubtless note what is selected for survival from among the manifold ways of the British.

To hazard a prediction, I would give my vote to cricket."

*Submitted by George Robertson*

## Around the traps & in the News

### **NORMAN DE LA HARPE**



Former Melbournian, Norman de la Harpe visited Melbourne for a couple weeks holiday to meet up with friends and family, Now a resident of Queensland. It was sometime since Norman has visited. At a dinner party hosted in his honour by Rod de Kretser, for a few Wesleyites – George Robertson, Glenn Reimers, Trevor Collette and Keith de Kretser old friends caught up for a chat and reminisced. Norman in his inimitable style kept the ladies and gentlemen entertained with stories of his exploits at Wesley and life. It was good to catch up with Norman who was a regular at all the OBUA events.

### **OLD FRIENDS MEET AT THE WATERS EDGE**



Two ladies who lost their beloved life partners last year, were brought together when Trilby Reimers (widow of the late Robin) met up with Lisbet Adhihetty (the widow of the late Louis) and his daughter Shakuntala whilst holidaying in Switzerland recently. The photo was taken on Lake Zurich with the skyline as a backdrop. Over almost two weeks these old friends toured and remembered those happy times amongst the Wesley fraternity.

Lisbet and her daughter may visit Australia in the new year and we look forward to Lisbet's visit which will be twelve years since they last visited Australia for Wesley's 125<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebrations in 1999.

## IAN K KARAN (KIRUBAKARAN)



Old Wesleyite Ian K. Karan (Kirubakaran) born in Point Pedro in 1939 was appointed as "Senator of Commerce" in the Hamburg State Parliament in Germany as from Aug. 26th, 2010. Container entrepreneur Ian Karan has been elected new senator for port and Economic affairs in Hamburg. The City State's parliament confirmed the 71-year-old's appointment to the office by the new Hamburg Mayor Christoph Ahlhaus. Ian established his presence in Germany as a Container Entrepreneur. His contribution to the container industry is significant. He went to Germany from the United Kingdom where he was studying in 1970 and built one of the world's biggest container leasing companies in Hamburg. Karan began life in Germany as a dishwasher in a vegetarian restaurant and later joined a container company as a clerk before being promoted a manager due to exceptional ability. He later went on to found his own business in 1977 earning the nickname "Container King" in the North Germany port city of Hamburg as his business prospered.

In a trade publication of the container industry, Karan revealed that when an American company head-hunted him at a time he was doing well in Hamburg, he demanded a salary of 10,000 (against the 2,500 he was earning then) meaning Deutsche Marks. But the US Company, thinking in terms of dollars, agreed to pay him US\$ 10,000 which he says was an "obscenely high" salary at that time.

German Ambassador to Sri Lanka Jens Plötner commended the Lankan born's achievements. "Germany is home of more than 60,000 Sri Lankans from all walks of life. All of them can be proud of Senator Karan's achievements. "Ian Karan is not only an immensely successful businessman and now one of Hamburg's most prominent politicians. He has always been one of most philanthropic citizens of Hamburg contributing to many social welfare projects," the ambassador said.

Karan has also contributed to the community and has a building named after him. The Ian Karan Auditorium is a recent addition to the Bucerius Kunst Forum, a unique location popularly known for its cultural and social events. The expansive Ian Karan space can host events that seat up to 120 guests and used for a number of cultural events. These include literary events, art exhibitions, concerts and even lectures and gatherings that promote healthy discussions about art and culture here in the city.

Ian is a nephew of Rev. Muthiah Snr. who served as Methodist Minister in the Moor Road Church and is a cousin of Rev. Kingsley Muthiah.

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## She still looks smashing!



She was one of the first people to garner your confidence and welcome you to Wesley College leaving your parents with a tear in their eye as she led you away to your classroom to begin your first day at school. Her gentle demeanour and caring nature soon replaced the nurturing and love of your mother. To the senior students she was attractive, sexy and strutted along the corridors of College with a wiggle which fanned the flames of passion and interest in the opposite gender. She still looks stunning as she nears four score years. Father time has been kind to her. Many generations of Wesleyites had the pleasure of being taught by her over a career spanning more than 25 years of dedicated service as a teacher at Wesley. With Miss Dulcie de Mel and Mrs S E G Perera they formed the core of the sub-primary section at Wesley College for many years. I fondly remember her and have etched in my mind my first days at Wesley in 1959. Do you remember her and do you know who she is? This is a recent photograph of her which was taken when the Class of 88 felicitated their

teachers. Full story on page 20. She is Miss Norma de Silva (still a MISS).



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> December – Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Carol Service  
Sun 12<sup>th</sup> December – Seniors Lunch

## REMEMBER THIS FACE?



Diminutive in stature but a courageous front row forward (hooker) who played for the Salmon Pink and Chocolate Brown team from Havelock Park. Now domiciled in Canada and proudly sporting the rugby jersey of his "alma mater" is Cavan Gauder. Some of you may remember him in the star studded Havelocks teams of the mid-sixties which featured the likes of Glen Van Langenberg, Jeff and Dan Ratnam, Tyrone Holdenbottle, Royden de Silva, Gogi Tillekeratne, Sunderalingam and the Savanghans to name a few. Cavan is hoping to visit "down under" in the near future and is looking forward to meeting up with his friends.

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## IQBAL MUHAMMAD



Visiting Melbourne recently from his home in New Zealand was Iqbal Muhammad on 1 August 2010. His appointment which began in 1970 covered New Zealand and was later expanded to include Australia and Fiji. Iqbal was a popular personality when he was based in Melbourne and was often a regular guest at the many Sri Lankan events. He was enjoying a few weeks holiday in Melbourne with his wife Jean catching up with old friends and classmates. He has fond memories of his days at Wesley and still has a passionate interest in Wesley's progress and hopes future development will make it an academic institution of the highest standards and offering more advanced studies and a modern curriculum.

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## ERIC GAUDER

Visiting Australia recently was the much travelled Eric Gauder. Eric who has a son in Brisbane and a daughter in Adelaide frequently visits Australia to catch up with his children and their families. He was in Melbourne visiting relatives when I had the opportunity to catch up for a chat. Eric is a cricket commentator and his services are in demand across the sub-continent and the middle-east. He was on his way to Dubai to prepare for the Pakistan versus South Africa series. Eric leads a very active life with a few business interests which keep him busy travelling between Sri Lanka and the many destinations involving his broadcasting commitments. He has a destination travel business called Travelon Sri Lanka which is picking up with the surge in tourists interested in visiting Sri Lanka. He is also a major sporting event promoter and organizer and is in much demand on the local scene in Colombo. Eric is hoping to visit later in the year when the Ashes Tour of Australia is in full swing.

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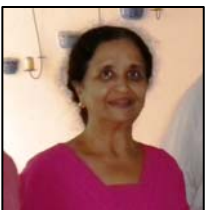
## THREE AMIGOS CELEBRATE THREE SCORE YEARS



Norton (Tissa) Abeydeera, Dayantha Makalanda and Edjoy Sinnen celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday's in Melbourne recently.

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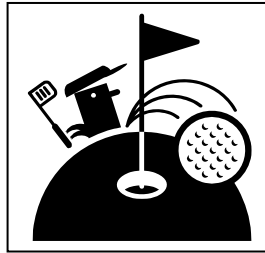
## MRS B A FERNANDO



Mrs Angela Fernando affectionately referred to as "Bio" Fernando has made a surprising return to Melbourne to spend time with her daughter and family. A regular visitor in recent years, Mrs Fernando was only here last year where she caught up with some of her former students who she had not seen for many years since they had graduated from Wesley. She will be in Melbourne for a few more weeks before she returns to Colombo in early December for Christmas.

## WESLEY COLLEGE OBA (NSW) 3<sup>rd</sup> OPEN GOLF DAY

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Wesley Open Golf Day got under way on a warm and beautiful spring morning at The Muirfield Golf Course North Rocks on the 26th September, 2010. Wesley College OBA (NSW) was represented by Rodney (Buster) Harvie, Roger Raj, Ray Jansz, Bill Deutrom, Garrick O'Neill and Keith Rozario.



Chester Crowe, Darron Willenberg, Clifford Willenberg, John Attygalle, Errol Warne, Russel Wickremasinghe and Dyan Ratnarajah, Nizar Sappideen and Darrel Maye of our Executive Committee joined us for the presentation and lunch. It was a most enjoyable day of golf, fun and fellowship which was enjoyed by everyone on the day. The day ended at the President's Residence

We were joined on the day by our invited guests – Frank Wells, Malcolm Fernando, Terry Sims, David Beling, Errol Graham, Troy Graham, Wayne Graham,

at Baulkham Hills with the players enjoying a BBQ and Drinks.

### Awards for the Day:

**Winner on Handicap** – Clifford Willenberg (71) - Runner up on Handicap – Troy Graham (72)

**Winner off Stick** – Troy Graham 84 (72) - Best Wesleyite on Handicap – Bill Deutrom (72)

**Bradman Winner** – Ray Jansz (84) - Most Promising – David Beling and Garrick O'Neill

**Nearest the Pin** – Hole 15 – Chester Crowe - Nearest the Pin – Hole 6 – Errol Warne

**Longest Drive** – Hole 3 - Malcolm Fernando – Longest Drive Hole 13 – Chester Crowe/ Dyan Ratnarajah

The Wesley OBA (NSW) thanks National Freight Services and Etisalat ( it's about you) for their generous sponsorships on the day. We look forward to their ongoing valued support in the future.



**The Combined Colleges of  
Sri Lanka Choir Inc.**

invite you to join them in

***A Service of Nine  
Lessons and Carols***

Sunday 5th December 2010

7.00 p.m.

**Reformed Church Dandenong**

Corner Gladstone Road & Outlook Drive, Dandenong  
Melway 81 D 6

*The Offertory taken at the Service is  
dedicated to Charities in Australia &  
Sri Lanka.*



The Combined Colleges of Sri Lanka Choir was formed under the auspices of the Wesley College OBUA, Methodist College OGA and Royal College OBA in Melbourne in 1998. In its initial year there were fifty choristers but has since averaged at about 35 to 40 singers. Past pupils of the various Schools participate under the banner of their school.

The format of the Service has adopted the successful format of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) Carol Service in Sri Lanka where all the participating schools performed an item for the Service and the President of the SCM of each school read one of the lessons.

The programme of nearly two hours duration has nine Carols or Anthems performed by the choir and a further nine traditional favourite Carols sung by the choir and congregation, Handel's Hallelujah Chorus concludes the service.

The offertory taken is dedicated in full to charities both in Australia and Sri Lanka and has raised in excess of \$25,000 in the 12 years of its existence. It is a traditional start to the season of Advent and an event not to be missed.

# Double Blue Ball 2010

The Double Blue Ball lived up to the theme with the ballroom festooned with suspended lanterns of light which were coloured in blue hues over each table and the dance floor. It created the impression of the familiar "Wesak" festival but in a much more downscaled version of the elaborate lanterns on display during Wesak. The lanterns shed filtered light to give the room a sophisticated elegance with tables and chairs draped in white linen table cloths and chair covers and detailed with a navy blue silk bow.

The Double Blue Ball has established itself on the busy social calendar of the Sri Lankan community and once again almost 400 guests turned up on what was a balmy spring evening dressed in their finery to party. Joining the locals were Colin Kellar and his wife Marie from Brisbane, Carlyle Wells-Peris and his wife Tania also from Brisbane and representing the OBU NSW Branch, Keith Grenier and his wife Miriam and daughter Sheana. The guests were greeted on arrival by the Committee wives and enjoyed pre-dinner drinks and canapés which set the mood for the evening before moving in to the ballroom to take their seats.

The music for the night was provided by Ben Nathanielsz (old Wesleyite) and his band "Midnight Mist" who played a wonderful selection of music for all ages. The floor was packed for each bracket as the revellers got into the swing of things. A delicious and beautifully presented three course sit down meal, washed down with one's favourite drop of wine, ale, Johnny Walker Black Label or soft drinks for the gentler types complimented the meal. Victor de Silva and family who run the Grand on Cathies Lane must be complimented for once again providing a wonderful ballroom, attentive service, good food and a beautiful ambience for another year.

Through out the evening there were a number of ticket draws for door prizes and also a fabulous raffle with all prizes being donated. Also our souvenir programme was a great success with a number of sponsors featuring their products or services. To all our donors and sponsors we extend a big thank for your support in making this event a success.

Bouquets to the Dance Committee of Bryan Wijeyekoon, Darryl Koch, Reg Bartholomeusz and special thanks to Rienzie Mahamooth for the décor and to all those who helped on the day and in making the lanterns. The Ball was a great success and for the sum of \$70 per head which included the food, unlimited supply of alcohol and drinks, great music and a fun filled evening of fellowship it is good value for a night out.

The great patronage by the alumni this year was an encouraging sign and it was most evident when the Old Wesleyites gathered at the front of the stage to sing the College Song and War Cry. With "Zum, Zum, Zaki..." echoing in our ears the Ball was over for another year as the contented revellers made their way out in to balmy spring night and headed home.



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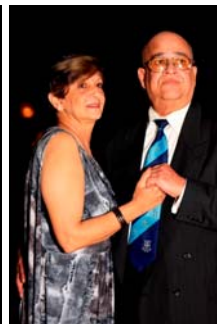
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Photo Index: Only Old Wesleyites named.

1. The Committee – Brian Azoor, Keith de Kretser, Arden Joseph, Darryl Koch, Norton Abeydeera, Nelson de Silva, Bryan Wijeyekoon and Felix Berman. Ben Nathanielsz was on stage.
2. Committee wives at entry – Alison Berman, Roshie Azoor and Carmen Nathanielsz.
3. Old Wesleyites in fine voice sing the College Song
4. Darryl Koch
5. Tyrone Ephraimes
6. Nihal Obeysekera
7. Rod de Kretser
8. Trevor Collette
9. Brinsley Rosairo
10. Bryan Wijeyekoon
11. Arden Joseph
12. Ananda Perera
13. Carlyle wells-Peris
14. Delmer Achilles
15. Colin Kellar
16. Carlyle Wells-Peris and Ananda Perera
17. Ravindra Judepillai, Prasanna Abey Siri, Duminda Nissanka & Senaka Mapa
18. Felix Berman
19. Keith Grenier, Faslie Munas, Keith de Kretser & Carlyle Wells-Peris

20. Indran Niles
21. Dr Jackie Carnie
22. Jeremy Dickson(extreme left side)and Roger Kellar(extreme right side)
23. Tony Careem
24. Trevi & Richie Morrison
25. Norton Abeydeera and President of Methodist OGA – Joanne Keyt
26. Revellers on the floor
27. A view of the ballroom.
28. Glyn Lappen the oldest Wesleyite present who gave away the prizes
29. The President with the Ball Committee – Darryl Koch, Norton Abeydeera, Reg Bartholomeusz, Bryan Wijeyekoon and Rienzie Mahamooth.
30. Keith Grenier
31. Nihal Obeysekera
32. Rienzie Mahamooth
33. A Lantern
34. Jerome Rulach
35. Reg Bartholomeusz
36. Table setting
37. Gordon Taylor
38. Norton Abeydeera

## New Members

The following have joined the OBUA and we extend a warm welcome to

- **Tony Careem**
- **Senaka Mapa**



# THE CEDRIC OORLOFF TROPHY



## Wesley versus Trinity ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

A sunny spring morning greeted golfers from both schools associations as they assembled on the first tee to hit-off in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cedric Oorloff Trophy Golf Tournament between the two schools. As the rays of sunshine cut through the crisp air and the dew drops glistened in the sunlight on the fairways and greens, there was an air of competitiveness as the players began to limber up before the teams assembled for a team photograph. Inevitably there was a bit of gamesmanship in the banter amongst the players as the first group lined up on the first Tee. Former Sri Lankan Test Cricketer and Trinity Lion Ravi Ratnayake got proceedings underway with a smashing drive. As the six groups of four followed, the OBUA President with his “dicky” knee had the luxury of a golf cart was the last to tee-off.

The Cedric Oorloff Trophy is a great initiative between the two alumni associations in Melbourne, celebrating and remembering the contribution of Cedric Oorloff who was Principal at Wesley from 1950 – 1957 and at Trinity College from 1957 – 1968. The links between the two schools goes back decades but it was the Old Trinitians who brought out Cedric Oorloff in 1980 which was the catalyst that triggered the formation of the Wesley College OBU in Australia in late 1979. Since then the alumni associations have sparred in the odd cricket match but the golf tournament has been a recent innovation which began in 2006. Trinity were the inaugural winners and then followed success by Wesley in 2007 and 2008. Trinity regained the trophy in 2009. As pre-cursor to the tournament, the alumni from both schools gathered for a “Stag” dinner which was a great success at Café Laksha.



“Tiger” Bartholomeusz 1<sup>st</sup> tee

Representing Wesley College were(L-R photo), Keith Rosairo, Lorenz Mack, Derrick Mottau, Gary Siebel, Reg “Tiger” Bartholomeusz, George Siebel, Norton Abeydeera, Sharill Azoor, Arden Joseph, Carl Solomons and Tyrone Rode. Imran Jumma missed the photo. The competition played is score on the Stableford system with the best 6 aggregate scores from each team determining the winner.

### RESULTS

- Overall Winner:** Trinity 199 to Wesley 190
- Best score Wesley:** Tyrone Rode 38 points  
Winner Martin Siebel Memorial Trophy
- Best score Trinity:** Derrick Arnolda 41 points
- Nearest the Pin:** Ravi Ratnayake (4<sup>th</sup> hole), Tyrone Rode (10<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>) and Krishan Sivagnanam(16<sup>th</sup>)
- Longest Drive:** Derrick Mottau

After the golf, Wesley OBUA who were the organisers this year hosted the players at George Siebel’s home for refreshments and the trophy presentations. Miss Gillian Leembruggen made a brief speech before presenting the trophies to the winners and stated how happy Mr Oorloff would have been to know that the former students would remember him in such a lovely manner. Special thanks to Arden Joseph and specially George Siebel for their efforts and a successful day.



WESLEY



TRINITY

### Retired Methodist Bishop hailed

by D.C. de Silva, Kahawa Special Correspondent  
Sunday Observer 22 August 2010

Galle Methodist Bishop **Rt. Rev. Ebenezer Joseph** was commended by the Governor Southern Province Kumari Balasuriya for the humanitarian role played by him during the tsunami period in the island. Governor Balasuriya also pointed out that Bishop Joseph was instrumental in repairing over 300 houses and giving a new life to 1500 families in the Galle district. The Governor was speaking at a function to felicitate Bishop Joseph on his retirement at the Town Hall, Galle, last week. Bishop Joseph retired on August 2010, in order to assume duties, as the Secretary-General of the National Christian Council.

To pay honour and gratitude to whom it is due is a noble act under any religious doctrine, said Governor Balasuriya. Such personalities with nobility had spent their valuable time, knowledge, wealth, experience, to fulfil social needs, and such persons are very rare in the society today, she said. Bishop Joseph is one such personality, she said. "During his tenure of office as the Bishop of the Methodist Church, especially during the Post-tsunami period, he was instrumental in the repairing of over 300 houses of Tsunami-affected families in the area, providing them with new hope, the Governor said. He set up libraries, and Vocational Training Centres in the areas hit by the Tsunami. In his new capacity as the Secretary General of the National Christian Council, he will be the Chief of Methodist Christians of Sri Lanka, she said. He had already added glory to Sri Lanka being a member of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council she said wishing him good luck.

The ceremony was also addressed by the Ven. Kegalle Pagangnarama Thera, Fr. Nihal Nanayakkara of the Catholic Church, Rev. Deshapriya De. Silva of the Lanka Sabha, Rev. Fr. Piyasena and Rev. Sisira Kumara.

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### Wesley enjoys success in 2010

The year 2010 was undoubtedly a unique and challenging year for Wesley. Our boys wonderfully well to win the Inter-school debating championships t and again at the Law Faculty debating encounter. Our team captain represented the country at the Debating championships at Doha Qatar and again the team participated at the Asian Debating Championships in Manila, Philippines. The new performance arts program has taken off well, with Wesley participating for the first time ever in the "Eastern Dancing" competitions organized by the Ministry of Education. We were placed second the senior and junior categories. The English drama team was placed in the final three in both the Inter-school drama contest and the annual YMCA Shakespeare competition. In sports the senior Rugby team did well to be placed third in the knock-out championships and the Under 18 team being runners-up in the inter-school rugby championships. The cricketers have done excellently well at all four age groups, U13, 15, 17 and 19. In studies, we are proved to be outstanding with 86% passes in the GCE (O/L), having a record 95% passes in English Language and 85% in Mathematics. These indicators are well above other schools in the Island.

Now, the school has introduced a Design Technology course to give students in Grades 9-12 the opportunity to have hands-on experience in carpentry and electronics. The new "English and Computers for All" project will ensure all students will be competent in English and Computer Applications. All these programs to be successful need funding, some of the money will come from the "Wesley Walk". The 2010 Walk was a tremendous success due to the untiring efforts of student, parents, teachers and old boys. Wesley looks forward to more direct participation by contributing to the new "Awards and Scholarship Fund" and the proposed "Vocational School" project. The Walk raised Rs 8.5 Million.

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### Inter-School Shakespeare Drama Competition 2010 - Wesley finishes 3rd

Wesley College has made it through to the finals at the Interschool Shakespeare Drama Competition organized by Rotary Club of Colombo North and the Y.M.C.A. This is the second consecutive time that Wesley College has been selected to the finals of this competition. In the elimination series they beat Royal College, Ananda College, D.S.Sennayake College and St. Josephs College at Lionel Wendt Theatre. In the finals at Bishop's College Auditorium, Wesley competed against Trinity College Kandy, St. Thomas College M.L and Maris Stella College, Negambo for the championship. Wesley finished third.

## Photos from the Wesley Walk 2010



### Class of 88 felicitates their former Teachers from Grade 1 (1975 - 1988)

The Class of 1988 (GCE A/L batch of 1988) organized a felicitation lunch for all the teachers who taught them from Grade 1 onwards. The event was held on Saturday 7th August at Hotel Galadari. Invited were 34 teachers and 27 attended. The biggest challenge they faced was contacting all the past teachers, as the majority of our teachers are now retired. Thanks to Mr. Nimal De Silva, they were able to locate the contact details of almost everyone. Those who attended were:

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Gamini Samarakoon</li> <li>• Mr. Marshal Fernando</li> <li>• Mr. Sunil Dias</li> <li>• Mr. Boteju (still on the staff)</li> <li>• Mr. Sunil Samarasinghe (still on the staff)</li> <li>• Mr. Palitha Fernando (still on the staff)</li> <li>• Mr. M.A.P. Fernando</li> <li>• Mr. Samaranayake</li> <li>• Mr. Nimal de Silva</li> <li>• Mr. Ravi Mayan</li> <li>• Mr. Kalupahana</li> <li>• Mr. Welaratne</li> <li>• Mr. Gaya Wickramasinghe</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Shantha Kumar de Silva (still on the staff)</li> <li>• Ms Gillan de Silva (still on the staff)</li> <li>• Ms. Thilina Fernando (still on the staff)</li> <li>• Ms. Prashanthi Rodrigo (still on the staff)</li> <li>• Mrs. Ranjani Fernando</li> <li>• Mr. E.L. Rodrigo</li> <li>• Ms. Norma de Silva</li> <li>• Mrs. L. Amaratunge</li> <li>• Ms. Shirani Ratnayake</li> <li>• Ms. Nirmali Samaranayake</li> <li>• Ms. Nirmali Fernando</li> <li>• Ms. C. Salgado</li> <li>• Mr. Kodikara</li> </ul> |
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Mr. Rodrigo, is probably one of the oldest living past teachers of Wesley now 87 yrs old. His eye sight is very poor and moves about on a wheel chair. His memory of course is still very sharp and he did remember all of the teachers once they introduced themselves to him.

Mr. Rodrigo, Mr. Marshall Fernando, Mr. M.A.P. Fernando and Ms. Ranjani Fernando expressed many sentiments about college and their association with Wesley. The occasion was graced by Dr. & Mrs. Shanti McLelland.

Some of the teachers that attended with more than 25 years service



MR E L RODRIGO



MR KALUPAHANA



MRS NIRMALI FERNANDO



MR WELARATNE



MRS L AMERATUNGE



DR & MRS SHANTI MCLELLAND



MR NIMAL DE SILVA

### OWSC Schools Cricket Sixes

The Munchee Glucofit School's Cricket Sixes run by the OWSC was a success once again. Richmond College, Galle won the Inter-School cricket sixes by defeating St. Peter's by 32 runs in the final at Campbell Park on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2010. Richmond beat defending champions St Joseph's in the third round and then overcame Prince of Wales in the quarter finals quite easily and had a big win against Joseph Vaz Wennappuwa by 79 runs in the semi finals thereby being dubbed as the most dominant team in the lead up the final. On the other hand, opponents St. Peter's had some anxious moments against hosts Wesley with a final ball victory before defeating Royal Panadura in the semi final. Richmond's Yasoda Lanka was the best performer of the tournament taking away three awards for the best batsman, most number of sixes and the player of the tournament. Richmond skipper Dananjaya de Silva was the player of the final while Richmond was also adjudged as the most disciplined side of the tournament. Royal spinner Kavindu Ashan who had the honour of taking the first ever hat-trick in the history of tournament was rewarded with the best bowlers' prize while Lahiru Jayaratne of St Peter's was adjudged the best fielder.

## Reminder! 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.**

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## OWSC Double Blue Ball 2010

Join in the fun if you happen to be in Colombo



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## Wesley College Presents 'FUSION 2010'

Wesley College organized Fusion 2010, its annual musical extravaganza. It was held on Saturday, October 16 at the Bishop's College Auditorium and on the 20<sup>th</sup> at the College hall. The theme this year was "Magic at the Movies" and spans the glorious range of music of the movies from Sri Lanka... to Kollywood and Bollywood to Hollywood. 650 boys took part at a cost of RS.450,000.

Chief Guest was celebrated film director and former Sri Lankan Ambassador to France, Sumitra Peries. Directed by Rushan Hewawasam, Magic at the Movies showcases the musical talents of Wesley's past and present boys. Nearly 600 performers on stage will take the audience through English, Sinhala, Tamil and Hindi songs recreating the glamour, glitz and memorable moments at the movies. The show features music from We Will Rock You, Circle of Life, La Bamba, Step Up, Mission Impossible, Silambatta, High School Musical, A Few Dollars More, Pirates Of The Caribbean, Sound Of Music, My Fair Lady, the Hindi movie Taarei Zameen Par, and Sri Lanka's very own Ganga Addara, Hula Waali, Gehenu Lamai, Yahaluwo and more.

"FUSION 2010 is now into its second year and is one of those events which unify Wesleyites both young and old in a wonderful and infectious spirit of camaraderie and brotherhood. The boys are very enthusiastic and the morale is very high. All this undoubtedly points to a great and magical show, as its name suggests," Hewawasam said. Electronic sponsors of the event were Prime TV and Prime Radio. Magic at the Movies will be hosted by two old boys of Wesley College – Prashan de Visser of MTV fame and Kumar de Silva of Prime TV's Celebrity Chat fame.

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## STOP PRESS – News in Brief

- Renovated Hostel completed with accommodation for 100 and new kitchen facilities, toilets and bathrooms.
- Dining Hall - Hope we can have it done before end of year.
- Dance Eastern (Junior) Second, Ministry of Ed./Competition) Dance Eastern Intermediate (Third, Ministry)
- Cricket:
  - V Sri Jayawardana Pura 1st Innings victory (Wesley 207, SJP 87 & 138 for 7)
  - V St. Anthony's 1<sup>st</sup> Innings victory (Wesley 307 for 8 dec, SAK 197 and 112 for 3)
  - V Thurstan 1<sup>st</sup> innings loss Wesley: 256 (Sooriyakumara 82, Fonseka 47) and 105 for 7 (Kariyawasam 45) Thurstan: 313 (A. Fonseka 4 for 95)
- Hockey - Wesley Royal Annual Encounter NOV 04 at Campbell Park
- Teachers 25yr Service and Year End Dinner at Hotel Inter-Continental on Oct. 30.
- Nov 11 - Commerce Day. 26 schools will participate
- Oct 20 - New Wesley Media Centre was opened next to the library. It will have a wide screen, projector, 40 computers and editing and Radio announcement and Journalism facilities.
- Computer centre - Parents have donated 37 computers worth nearly Rs. 1 million.
- Junior Campus - Havelock - Have demolished part of the old building and expect to have a 3 storey building by February - Cost Rs.15 Million.
- Rugby – There are 11 boys in the hostel for Rugby and hope to get 2 more for the Wing so that it will be a winning team next year.
- Gym - Have brought and will buy nearly Rs.400,000 worth of gym equipment and have an excellent trainer.
- Kitchen - The kitchen is fully operating with 2 cooks for food and extras.

- Cricket - We have 5 coaches and Milroy Muthuvaloe to make it a winning team. Need a fitness trainer.
- Hockey - Wesley have the Sri Lanka coach and have also got the Navy trainer who is Sri Lanka team trainer to build the team to beat Royal on Nov.4. We have two boys selected to the SL team touring Malaysia this month.
- Class of 93 - Has started on the renovation and upgrade of the Wesley Pavilion and it is hoped the opening will be before the cricket season next term.

### **Editorial comment**

*In this snap shot of news it is evident that since Dr Shanti McLelland took over in July last year we have made solid progress forward and upward to raise the bar. Wesley for the previous ten years was languishing in a vacuum, with no leadership, no direction and stagnant, with a few fossils from the alumni massaging their egos and dictating terms as if Wesley were their own property. We are now uniting in common purpose. We need Wesleyites to rally and come forward to help without big self egos or seeking personal glory. Wesley's significant progress and achievements has encouraged other schools like Ladies, St Thomas's, St Peter's, St Joseph's Trinity, St. Michael's, Royal, Bishop's and Methodist Colleges to resume involvement with Wesley and are ever willing to come to Wesley and the Hostel to participate in various joint activities. It is now up to a new generation with noble intent and honest and transparent motives to work together with Dr McLelland to lead Wesley back to glory. These individuals who have been critical have had their day in the sun. It is time for them to step back and leave Wesley to those who care and are sincere in purpose.*

## **TRIBUTES**

### **Country Roads regular Darlan passes away - Darlan Perera**

*by Feizal Samath, President/CMF*



"Machan I'll be there" ... were the warm words and brief response, always, from Darlan Perera, the 69-year-old veteran singer/guitarist who died on Tuesday night after a brief illness, whenever I asked him whether he could perform at our regular Country Roads charity concerts. An affable, friendly and much loved personality in the Sri Lankan music scene, Darlan played for many bands including the Bohemians before branching out as a solo artiste in recent years.

He was a regular on the hotel circuit and locations like the Capri Club and Colombo Swimming Club. Darlan played at the Country Roads charity concert for many years as a member of one of the bands and then as a solo artiste often providing the audience a range of old country favourites. That was his forte – the good old country songs, evergreens and songs of a bygone era that are still popular. He got crowds rocking and rolling wherever he played. The Beatles was one of his favourite bands, judging from a number of Beatles' favourites that he sang. He attended the Beatles' tribute band concert last week and fell ill thereafter, never to recover again.

Musicians like Darlan are among a breed that's hardly recognised – men and women who sweat their way in the music scene to keep the home fires burning, raise a family and provide a decent education for their children. They never ask for much: don't receive any accolades or awards like some musicians; are satisfied with the bare necessities of life and are extremely humble. Darlan is the third musician to pass away from dozens of musicians who have given their heart and soul at the Country Roads concerts which has raised millions of rupees for needy children in Sri Lanka, working through organisations like UNICEF and Save the Children, UK. Earlier Cosmic Rays drummer Asoka Ratnapala passed away just before the 1999 concert followed by folk singer Thisula Abeysekera in 2006. They were also two musicians who volunteered their services for these concerts, a rarity these days in a world governed by material values. Darlan, you will be sorely missed by all your friends and us at the Country Music Foundation.



**Darlan Perera** passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010 after a brief illness. He represented College in rugby in 1959 and 1960. He was a well known musician in Sri Lanka, He played with the popular dance band "The Bohemians". He was a regular at the local Club socials always playing the favourite covers from the sixties onwards which often kept the party swinging. He leaves behind his wife Joan and three children Dormani, Desso, Damien and five grand children. He was a lovely fellow always willing to help out where he could and will be sadly missed by everyone. *Brinsley Rosairo*



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**Anwar Sappideen** passed away peacefully on Thursday 14 October 2010 after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's disease. Anwar was born in 1938, the eldest of five boys his brothers being Nizar, Razeen, Seenar (all living in NSW) and Binhur (Melbourne) who were all educated at Wesley College. He played Rugby for Wesley amongst his other achievements. He left Wesley in 1958 to further his studies. While he wanted to study medicine, he had the most wonderful opportunity to study in the UK at the Northampton College of Technology (as it was then). He graduated from Northampton College in Leather Technology (majoring in Dyeing and Finishing) winning the College's Gold Medal, and where he was for sometime also an Instructor. He returned home in 1962 and was for many years the Works/Factory Manager at the Ceylon Leather Products Corporation, until he accepted an appointment with an Italian Multinational Company setting up plants in Malaysia and Singapore. He emigrated to Australia in 1974, worked in Sydney for sometime, and then joined a UK Multinational Company in Melbourne (which specialised in the chemicals industry) where he was Manager for their South East Asian operations until his retirement.

Anwar was a regular at the OBUA functions in Melbourne during our formative years until his health began to deteriorate quite some years ago. His funeral was well attended and his mortal remains laid to rest on the same day at the Springvale Necropolis in a traditional Muslim ceremony. I joined a number of old Wesleyites who were present to bid him farewell. May his soul rest in peace.

*Keith de Kretser*

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## **Badda's Best Bites**



### **MANGO MOUSSE**

1 can condensed milk  
2 pkts lemon jelly  
250 ml (1 cup) boiling water.  
1 large ripe Mango  
1 cup thickened cream.

Dissolve the jelly (both packets) in the boiling water and set aside to cool (not set)  
Peel and puree mango.  
Whip cream – not too stiff.  
Add condensed milk into cooled jelly mix well.  
Add mango puree.  
Fold in cream.  
Place in a bowl or mould to set in the refrigerator.

NB: you can use other fruit eg. Strawberries with strawberry jelly