



Committee 2012

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ANTON NEWS

Newsletter of The Old Antonian Social Club of Australia Inc O.B.A.
of St Anthony's College, Kandy, Sri Lanka
Christmas Edition - December 2011



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REFLECTIONS OF 2011 THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

To my fellow Antonians, families and friends,

Thank you all for your support in making 2011 such a successful year for the club and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous start to 2012. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made a contribution to this club over the last thirty-one years.

On the 13th November 2011, the Club's 31st Annual General Meeting was held at Café Laksa, where the new committee for 2011 and 2012 was elected.

Over the last year the club has been canvassing to raise funds towards the "**Antonian Sports Trust Fund**". The objective is for all old Antonians around the globe to contribute a minimum of SLR 5000 per year (which is roughly A\$50). The target that we have set is to reach SLR 50 million in five years. This will pay for ALL the college's sporting needs. I must admit that I am bit disappointed by the support received so far; there have been only 20 Antonians from Australia who have contributed (see list on the last page). I really do encourage everyone to be more forthcoming to this worthy cause.

This year we have also made a donation of \$2000 to the "Antonian Sports Fund" for the day to day running expenses of college sports. The Club's financial position is quite strong with \$8000 in the bank plus outstanding debtors, leaving the Club in a good position to further assist College in 2012.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate our colleagues from the Queensland Branch for organizing such a successful Dance/ Fundraising event in June. The money raised has gone toward rewiring and refurbishing the College Hall. The Sydney Branch, which is headed by Chaminda Adikari has also contributed to the college by donating five laptops and ten PC's for the computer lab this year.

Victor Bailey has taken over the reins as the club's Queensland representative, and while welcoming Victor, I would like to thank Mark Schrader, the outgoing representative for the wonderful work done over the years.

To celebrate St Anthony's day this year, we attended a mass at Keysborough and after mass, everyone gathered at "Café Laksa" for a meal. The highlight of the day was the attendance of an old Antonian and past Deputy Principal of College, Mr Galahitiyawa. He made speeches both in English and Sinhalese, and he is apparently in the process of writing a book of his times and many memories at St Anthony's; which I am sure would be a fascinating read.

Our flagship event for the year, "The Annual Dance" was held at the "Grande" where we had 298 people in attendance and as always, the feedback received has been great. Our honoured guest of the night was "Fr Hilarion Fernando OSB" former Principal of St Anthony's. We look forward to taking our Dance to even greater heights next year.

I encourage you to make an effort to support your club by attending our events.

In closing, I would like to remind you to check the financial status of your club membership. Subscriptions should be forwarded to: **c/o The Treasurer, 11 Tally Ho Court, East Burwood, Victoria 3151.**

God bless you all,

Marlon Von Hagt

President – SACKOBA Australia



EDITOR'S NOTE

My Fellow Antonians and well wishers of our marvellous alma mater. Thank you for the privilege of being your editor. It's with great pleasure that I bring this edition of ANTONNEWS to you. My intention is to bring you more interesting current news and try to reminisce on the good old days - like we all love to do when we meet each other.

I would always appreciate your feedback, contributions and the occasional kick if I tend to veer down too far from the strait and narrow.

Please send your stories, comments and contributions to :



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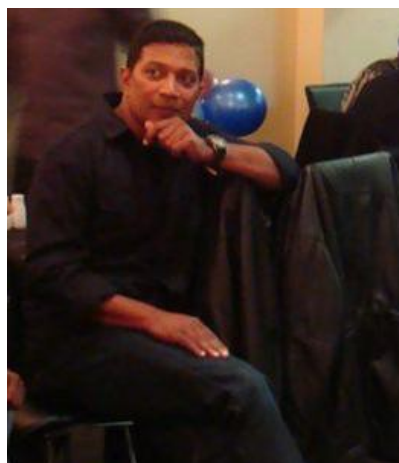
Lester
Herathge



Chaminda
Adikari
(NSW)



Victor
Bailey
(Queensland)



Old smells of the Rainbow Cottage

By Romesh Candappa

Yeah, I remember vividly the pungent smells of liniment including an assortment of medications and the atmosphere in that little room where the sick were administered to. You are right Newmatzin - the pink gooey stuff, was the cure for everything - rashes, swellings. A liberal amount was smeared over even a wound after cleaning it up with Flavin (yellow solution) or methylated spirit. Gee that was painful. It felt like being stung by a thousand bees. The poor patient would get barked at if he were to Vince in pain or even let out squeak, leave alone wail in pain. I had no doubt she did derive great pleasure at seeing us trying to suppress it.

The irony was that the sick room run by Mrs. Oliver the big burgher lady was the last place we wanted to go to if we had a wound or were sick for that matter. A festering wound was like a red rag to a bull. She would bristle at the sight and one would piss in their pants as they'd sense the anger well up in her as she cleaned it up before she'd explode. I still picture how her face with a big mole over her eyebrow would go completely red and the big cheeks and loose skin under her chin would wobble and flap as she hurled abuse at the innocent patient calling them a "bloody skunks". A ruler over the knuckles was the way she metered out punishment and the cane was for serious transgressions.

The Sinhala phrase "*Gahen wetich-cha minihata Gona enna wage*" couldn't have been more appropriate. No wonder the traumatic experience would be related to or witnessed by ones colleagues who would in turn defer their visit to her in the hope that their wounds would be cured by divine intervention. Alas, our prayers at daily mass in the Rainbow Chapel which was compulsory were never answered. The wounds festering further and becoming close to gangrenous or reaching the point of amputation when we'd be forced to pay her a visit. And the vicious cycle would be repeated with tales of terror spreading even further. I used to wonder what abuse those in Dorm 7, where she was matron in charge, had to put up with and glad when I went from dorm 6 straight to the Mansion in our senior year. I was also lucky my parents took me home when I came down with chicken pox during an epidemic that swept through the boarding. Imagine being under her care 24 X 7 for two weeks in isolation.

It was only later that I realised a skunk was an animal that discharged a bad odour to deter its attacker. It may well have been our natural defense mechanism in the face of all that terror but then it was no surprise we stunk so much as we were allowed only 2 baths a week - remember the "bath days". For the rest of the week we had to make do with a splash of water (from our plastic wash basins) over our faces.

Even after being soaked in sweat playing football or cricket in smothering dust on the bare pitches of the lower school grounds. One fall and we'd lose a meter of skin on both knees and elbows. We'd carry ourselves up dust ourselves off and carry on playing only to deal with the consequences later. Present day mothers would have their kids rushed off in an ambulance and demand a skin graft. Not for us. I still bear the scars from those wounds. Come 6 o'clock play time was over and Catholics had to be ready for evening rosary when the bell rang. They would join the rest in the study halls later when those holding the DTV card - (Don't Talk Vernacular) would be taken to task by Brother Hugh. And that's another tale of fear and panic.....

FOOTNOTE:

Please note that this story does is not intended to defame Mrs. Oliver—one of our dear matrons listed in it. The editor and the author wish you good reading and try to convey the extreme fond and fun memories that we carry with us.

Please send me any interesting tales that you may have, to :

spencerfelix@yahoo.com



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW**

www.antonian.org.au

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
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to view latest news, pictures and Membership information





Message from

Rev. Fr. Hilarian Fernando

Principal of

St. Anthony's College

1994 - 2005

It was really a privilege to participate in a few Antonian events just in two months. I was happy to meet some of you at an ex-co meeting, The AGM, The Annual Dance and dear Mrs. Griff's funeral (R.I.P). A former matron of the hostel. It did bring nostalgic memories even to me. As my 25 years at SACK was the best in my priestly life so far. When you talk of your memories, tears came to my eyes as we never bothered to rethink of our work at College. But your memories as grateful Old Boys really touched my heart. If I have a chance of another life, I will choose to go back to College and do a better job perhaps.

I wish the younger Old Boys will associate a little more with the seniors. Of course, there are difficulties, financial constraints, time factor, above all the generation gap. Both sides have to be aware of the others situ and respect the other and think as Antonians.

May I suggest that a way out to attract the younger by having a committee always available to help with finding Accommodation, part time jobs, employment advice and above all the available facilities, which often unknown to the new comers. I am sure you can expand these ideas.

All the same I had a very good time. Some of you went out of your way to entertain me; took day off to take me round and shared news, views and future expectations, showing your love and concern for College.

Thank you dear friends. Please keep in touch. I will never forget to pray for you. Very happy Christmas and a bright new year to one and all !

May God love and bless you all !!

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Maroon Double Blues

By George Denlow

At 95 years of age, I am afraid to rely too much on memory alone, but there's one thing I can be absolutely certain about and that is, during my years as a student at S.A.C.K., from 1924 to 1935, there was no house system to speak about. The only house that we knew about was the boarding 'house' in its most elementary form, if I remember right. Even when I left for University College, Colombo, in 1935 and came back in 1938 to begin my life-long career as a teacher, first, in Primary School, and then as Form Master of the University Entrance form, I had to wait some years before I came to school one day from Kandy and was told that the College had a house system, each named after one of the College colours, maroon, dark blue and light blue. I am sure this happened in the early 1940's at a time when I was still in my early twenties and not important enough, due to age I suppose, to be a member of the School Council that made this historic change in the school's existence. Definitely this was during the time Father Lawrence Hyde was Principal. Definitely, too, Brother Columban Macky played a vital part in the change as he was Prefect of Games at the time and I am sure that teachers of the calibre of Robert Wright and George Macky, both old Antonians, played an important role because, I remember, when I began school in 1924, both were outstanding soccer players in the Old Antonian Soccer team of that time.

From the time of its inception, the House System was an outstanding success and even I, as a one-time cricketer of sorts, was bold enough to coach a house team (Under 14, I think) with the limited knowledge I had of the finer points of the game, concentrating mainly on batting with a straight bat, bowling line and length always and making sure of taking whatever catches came to hand. I hope this coaching of mine, very elementary of its kind, went

I hardly attended house matches as they took place in the evenings and the weekends which I spent in Kandy with the family after I married in 1941. But I remember attending one in the late fifties when, for some reason, probably because it was the final match of the season, I stayed back one evening after school and watched a football match between the dark Blue and Light Blue houses. I still remember distinctly that I watched the match in the company of Fr. Romauld Baldarelli OSB who was then the Superior of the OSB congregation in Kandy. I also remember the match well because I had to discontinue watching it for some family reason or other.

From the very start I reacted emotionally in a very positive manner to the College Song as we called it. Every morning in the small quadrangle of St. Anthony's in Kandy, before it moved to its new home in Katugastota, we sang the College Song at the school assembly, and reacted to the words so well that I can recall every word of it and occasionally I sing it to myself to bring back some happy memories of school life in the twenties. In singing the second line ("Rally round the maroon double blue, double blue") we were reminded that the College colours were maroon, light blue and dark blue. Later on, as a senior boy, I learnt that the song derived its music from an Australian marching song composed during World War 1. From this information, I was able to conclude that the College Song was composed during the early twenties of the 20th century but that was not to say that the College colours were chosen at the same time as the composition of the College Song. Probably the choice of colours was done earlier in the history of the school.

I am sure the song was written at a time when two brothers followed each other as Principals of the school.

These were the Revd. Fr. Philip Caspersz OSB and his brother, Revd. Fr. James Caspersz OSB.

Though I did not know him personally in all probability it was Fr. James, the younger of the two, who was responsible for the introduction of the College Song because he was a dynamic personality and, after all, it was during the time that we had Jack Anderson, the greatest run-scorer in national school boy cricket as well as sportsmen of the calibre of Robert Wright, George Macky, Lionel Jayaweera, a great boxer and a host of others.

When we moved to Katugastota in 1928 and lived in the Dunuwille Walauva, we were greatly restricted in our sporting activities, mostly because in the early years we did not have the present playing field and had to have our games on the space now occupied by the Centenary Hall with the area under the giant tamarind tree serving as a pavilion. However, cricket was intensively fostered by the school and catered for by the formation of various teams who practiced batting, bowling and fielding skills in various parts of this restricted playing area. I remember a time when one Mr. D.J.G. Ranasinghe, the Headmaster of the school at the time, organised test matches between two teams representing England and Australia and with the help of cartoons and songs of his own composition, organized two cheering squads that kept the game going all through the evening. Watching some of the actual tests between Australia and England on television even now, I often recall the first few lines of a song sung by the Australian supporters of those test matches at school. "Serve them right, serve them right, land them left and right" sang those schoolboy supporters of Australia adding with hysterical enthusiasm, "Oh what fun it is to smite England's bowling might."

***Those were the days indeed!
"Antonians young, Antonians old,
Your voices ring out Lux de Coelo."***

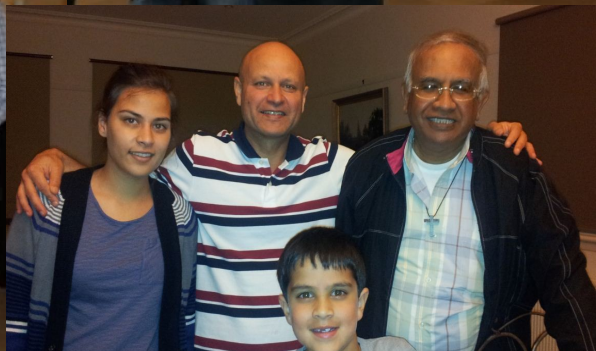


OLD ANTONIAN SOCIAL CLUB
30th ANNUAL DINNER DANCE 2011



Memories of 2011





TRIBUTES

On a sad note we bid farewell to two precious members of the Antonion Family in Australia.



A much loved stalwart of the Club Maurice was a very passionate and a loyal Antonian who always had a voice for the well being of St Anthony's. He will be dearly missed by the Antonian family.



Our centurion who dedicated her life as a valued matron of college and was a mother to all the boarders that were fortunate to have been looked after by Inez Griffs.

We thank you for being the people you were and for touching our lives and contributing selflessly to the Antonian family. May you enjoy all Gods Blessings.

Upcoming Events

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
		Traditional Trinity Antonian Cricket Encounter - Under 40's and the open age group team. Date and venue to be confirmed			St Anthony's Day Mass/ Celebrations. Date and venue to be confirmed
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
				Annual Dinner Dance 3rd Nov, 2012 at 'The Grande'	

The Role Played by the Colombo Branch and the Old Antonian Social Club in the OBA's 100 year History

By Nishanta Seneviratne

Sixteen years after the Old Boys' Association of St. Anthony's College Kandy was formed, the birth of its first Branch took place in Colombo. The year was 1926 and the venue - St. Mary's School, Front Street Pettah, where the first official meeting of **'St. Anthony's College Kandy, Old Boys' Association (Colombo Branch)'** was called to order with C V. Ranawaka and Louis J. Ariyanayagam appointed as the charter president and secretary respectively. Cyril E.S. Perera, Arthur Fernando, M. Dissanayake, M. Joseph, D. Andrews, A.C.S.R. Senaratne, J.A. Koelmeyer, R.A. De Silva, T. Hubert, M. Krishnasamy, L.V. Jayaweera, J.R. Van Reyk, K.V. Fernando, L.A. Wijesinghe, A. Leon Perera and N.H. Keerthiratne were some of the other pioneers behind the formation of this branch.

At the beginning, it was a case of scheming, planning, exploring, looking up names in the school register, tracking those in and around Colombo, writing letters, sending reminders, chasing, visiting and cajoling Old Boys and extracting promises etc. It was this initial effort of building a support base in Colombo for the old school, which laid the foundation for the success of the Colombo Branch in later years.

In 1951, the Colombo Branch celebrated its Silver-Jubilee with a gala dinner at the Galle Face Hotel, the premier hotel in the country at that time. The then Prime Minister of Ceylon, Hon. D.S. Senanayake was the Chief Guest and the function was well attended by some distinguished old boys, their wives and guests, setting a trend for social events of the association in the years ahead.

Taking over the mantle of leadership from the pioneers were the likes of D.J. Berenger, Ashley De Silva, Emil Elias, S.B. Senanayake, W.M.K. Wijetunge and R.T. Fernando, to name a few. The activities of the branch continued to be managed on a casual basis with no bank account of its own or proper maintenance of records, until the next generation of old boys such as Willie Weerasekera, Sam Mathavan, Tissa Bandaranayake, Ranjith Samarasekera and Spencer Dias took up the leadership and established more official procedures and practices.

Some of the main activities of the Branch during this period were organized to collect funds for various projects at College. The majority of funds for construction of the Centenary Hall were raised by the branch. On 2nd May 1959, the Colombo Branch installed 3 electric clocks on the sides of the College Porch Tower, in memory of former principal, Rev. Fr. Rosati.

In 1963, the branch joined hands with the Old Boys of St. Benedict's College, St. Joseph's College and St. Peter's College to inaugurate the 'Old Boys' Quadrangular Cricket Tournament' which has grown in stature over the years and continues to play a vital role in fostering camaraderie between these leading catholic boys' schools. Support of the Parent Body of the OBA led by Victor Perera was also enjoyed during this era.

The Golden Jubilee of the Branch was celebrated in 1976 with a glittering Dinner/Dance at the Golden Ballroom of Hotel Lanka Oberoi. Cabinet Minister and Old Antonian T.B. Illangaratne was the Chief Guest. Louis J. Ariyanayagam who was the Secretary of the Colombo Branch for the first 21 years, and president for three years thereafter, was present to cut the Jubilee cake.

With the inflow of more and more successful, young past Antonians to the fold, the branch kept on gathering momentum and formed an integral part of Old-Boy-support to college. One reason for success in recruiting young old boys to the general membership was the token sum of rupees ten charged for life membership. In spite of several attempts to increase the fee over the years, it was not until the turn of the century that it was finally increased to rupees one hundred. Spencer Dias was a great advocate for the theory, 'first enroll and then extract', and led the drive for recruitment of new members, even paying the ten rupees out of his pocket and forcing most of us to follow his example.

A few other contributions of note during this period were; a much needed modern scoreboard, constructed and gifted to the College by the Colombo Branch on 27th July 1980; Radio commentaries and live TV telecasts of the 'Big Match' in 1981 and 1982; a highly successful 'Batsman of the Year' Competition in 1981; and a tournament model T.T. Table for the College Table-tennis players to train on the premises, saving them the tedious traveling to and from Dangolla. This gift was made in 1984 through personal contributions from the Executive Committee members of the Colombo Branch.

In 1981, the 'Old Antonians Social Club' of Australia was formed in affiliation to the Colombo Branch. The very first contribution obtained from them was a lawn mower for the turf wicket at College. The exchange of minutes and communiqués between the two branches in those years led to a greater awareness of the needs at college and helped the Australian Branch to identify appropriate projects and fund them through the Colombo Branch. The partnership between these two branches has grown in stature over the last thirty years with many worthy and regular contributions made to College.

Whatever the Colombo Branch has achieved over the past 85 years, were not the results of their own work alone. The help and guidance of the Patron, the Bishop of Kandy and the Reverend Principals over the years; and the assistance from the members of staff; students, parents and well wishers are to be greatly appreciated. Our 'Big Brother' the parent body has been ever helpful and supportive in all our activities. The Australian Branch has been a tower of strength over the last two decades. We have also had the support of the U.K. and the Canadian Branches. Last, but not least, we owe a great deal of gratitude to our own members and their families, who have always 'Rallied Round the Banner'.

in mentioning persons, I have relied purely on my memory of past events and documented history of the early years and it is inevitable in presenting such a long history that many other persons who had also contributed to the success of the Branch may not be figured in the context of this write up.