



ANTONEWS

Newsletter of The Old Antonian Social Club of Australia Inc O.B.A.
of St Anthony's College, Kandy, Sri Lanka
July 2012



Committee 2012

President

Marlon Von Hagt
vonhagtconsulting@acsmail.net.au

Vice President & Webmaster

Afzal Laphir
alaphir@bigpond.net.au

Secretary

Roshan Edirisinghe
edroshan@gmail.com

Treasurer

Martin Pereira
Martin.pereira@powerpax.com.au

Social Secretary

Robin Koelmeyer
rlkoel@hotmail.com

Sports Secretary

Sujith Dunuwille
sujithd777@gmail.com

Editor

Spencer Madhanayake
spencerfelix@yahoo.com

Committee Members

Adrian Dunuwille
Lester Heratge
Mohan Gomez
Jayantha Peries
Nirash Amarasinghe
Merrilyn Guneratne
Keith Mahamooth
Sarath Jayasekera
Lucas Bogstra,
Chaminda Adikari (Syd)
Victor Bayley (Qld)

Dear fellow Antonians, families and friends,

I appreciate you taking some time to browse through this edition of Antonews. Many thanks to our Editor; Spencer Madhanayake for the time and effort spent making this happen. I would also like to thank everyone else who contributed towards it.

Early on in April, we played our annual cricket match with our arch rivals Trinity at Heathmont. There were two twenty over matches played between our "over 40" team as well as an open game for all age groups. The "over 40" game was fiercely contested and went down to the wire, but we walked away as the winners. Even though we fielded the same "over 40's" team for the open game, we ended up giving a good fight to a young Trinity team, but we unfortunately lost to the Trinity team. The day ended with a presentation ceremony followed by socialising among each other. I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank Sujith Dunuwille for getting this event back on track after a year's layoff.

A few of us attended mass in Keysborough at this year's "College Day" celebrations. This was followed by some refreshments and a hopper meal sponsored by the club at Café Laksa. Thank you so much to everyone who made an effort to be there. I am hopeful that we will get a better crowd for next year.

I want to thank everyone who has made a contribution towards the Antonian "Sports Trust Fund". The objective is to repeat this donation every year for a period of five years. Hope you follow up with the subsequent yearly donations. Also for the people who are yet to contribute I encourage you to do so. These contributions should enable to pay for ALL sporting needs of college in the future.

The club also made a donation of AUD 4000 this year to the Antonian "Sports Fund" in aid of day to day expenses of college sports. I would like to give special thanks to Ranjith Samarasekara and Priyantha Ekanayake for the time and effort that they put in to coordinating these two funds.

Our 31st **Annual Dance** will be held on the **3rd November** at "The Grande at Cathies Lane". As always, the committee takes much pride in making sure that we deliver an excellent night for our patrons. If you are yet to purchase tickets please do so ASAP. Please do bring a friend(s) along with you and I guarantee that you will not be disappointed. I'm also making a special pledge this year to our fellow interstate Antonians and families to make the trip. It's the time of the "Melbourne Cup" spring carnival activities and you couldn't ask for a better time to be in Melbourne.

Our Antonian brothers in Queensland - headed by Victor Bayley - will be having their Dance on the 15th September. Please get in touch with him if you are keen to attend the Dance.

On a sad note, "George Denlow", a much loved past Geography teacher of the college passed away recently. Chaminda Adikari, our club representative in Sydney is currently in touch with the parent OBA working on the logistics of donating an Annual Geography prize in honour of Mr Denlow. We have also lost a few more of our fellow Antonians and their loved ones this year. Our thoughts are with their immediate families in these difficult times. May their souls rest in peace.

I also take this opportunity to encourage you to visit our website www.antonian.org.au. The website was established in year 2000 and is rich in past archives. Also, if you possess any material of interest to publish on the website, please forward them to Afzal Laphir - our web master.

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.

I look forward to seeing you at the dance on the 3rd of November.



Marlon Von Hagt - President, SACKOBA Australia



A Tribute to a Great Antonian George Denlow

11.4.1916 -12.07.2012

By Franklin Amerasinghe

We learnt with sadness of the death of an outstanding personality Mr. George Denlow who passed away recently in Australia, where he migrated to in the late 1950's. Mr. Denlow was associated with St. Anthony's College, Katugastota for a period of thirty five years as a student, and later as teacher. His reputation as a teacher of Geography has outlived him and many still speak with awe at the brilliance of a man who having taught the subject with great acclaim, on deciding to migrate, painstakingly put together his vast knowledge in three tomes which were translated by Lake House into Sinhala for the benefit of Sri Lankans students who were suddenly confronted with the switch to Swabasha and a vacuum as far as Sinhala texts were concerned. He was the authority on teaching Geography in his time.

The writer was a student at St. Anthony's during the last few years of Mr. Denlow's career as a teacher there and the students of the school always looked up to their teacher as a role model, a gentleman worth emulating in every detail. He was always precise in his speech, very amiable and helpful to any student who sought his assistance. At the age of 92, George Denlow wrote his memoirs which bore the title "The Two of us - Memoir of a Good Life" [The two of us refer to his wife Eileen and himself. His wife predeceased him in June 2008 and it is clear that the loss was a great blow to him]. Reading his autobiography alluded to, one finds that at the age of 92 his ability to express himself with clarity was still razor sharp and would be envied by academics several decades short of his venerable age.

St. Anthony's during Denlow's reign as the oracle in relation to Geography, was the envy of the country and many teachers consulted him on related matters. He maintained a Geography Room which was in the nature of a permanent exhibition with scale models created by him and his students. One which I recall vividly showed the Gal-oya Scheme.

The College had its own Geographical Society of which he was the founder President and many students were attracted to the subject and learnt about the country thanks to his zeal, infectious enthusiasm and profound dedication

In celebrating twenty five years of the school moving to Katugastota, in his tribute to various stalwarts, Fr. Macky referred to George Denlow as one of those students who had been in P B A Weerakoon's class which created a record for the Cambridge Matriculation Examination in the British Empire, as it was then called. The whole class had either first classes or second classes and Denlow one of those who secured a first class, was also one of the youngest to sit the examination. He later graduated from the University of London and finally also secured a Graduate Trained Teacher Diploma.

One of his great achievements as far as St. Anthony's was concerned was his historical review of the school in the

Centenary Magazine which was indeed a monumental publication. Apparently, after the magazine was compiled and handed over to H W Cave & Co., the printing establishment burnt down and it had been necessary to retype the text and to find new pictures to substitute for the ones which had been destroyed by the fire. The tenacity and perseverance of the man is reflected in his account of the travail of completing a Herculean task and then finding that the whole task needed to be repeated. This was an era when there were no backups and one had to laboriously retype every single word.

We all know that this man who loved the country left our shores with great sadness as he could not teach the higher classes in Sinhala. He didn't give up easily and it is said that he took lessons from a Monk which did not help him as his language was then too flowery and inappropriate for the students! He was always a perfectionist and it would have made him sad not to be able to give of his best to the students and so he migrated to Australia. The Denlows moved to Australia in 1959 and this was a great loss to St. Anthony's and to the whole country, but he continued to maintain links with the school and with old Antonians. Among the many tributes paid to him I found one written by the renowned Sri Lankan writer Jean Arasanayagam, who says: "George Denlow was one of the most exceptional and brilliant teachers in the golden era of St. Anthony's College."

May his soul rest in peace and may he be remembered for ever by the country for his inestimable services.

EDITOR'S NOTE



I would like to dedicate this edition of the ANTONEWS to all the beloved Antonian brothers and sisters who have passed away recently. They will be sadly missed by all of us.

The point to note is that we have had to say farewell and RIP to so many during the past few months. On Behalf of the committee members, the Antonian OBA and the people who's lives have been touched by these Antonians, I pay tribute say thank you and wish God's blessings to all the immediate families.

On another note, please join us for the 31st Antonian Dinner Dance - Nov. 3, 2012. This is our flagship event every year and thanks to the old Antonians and their friends we have been able to support the many different projects of our great college year after year.

Antonian sport is one of the major benefactors of your generosity. I look forward to seeing all of you at our dance, as for me you will be able to recognise me from afar if you look for the one person on the dance floor with 2 left feet.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Fr. Hilarion Fernando who has come back to Melbourne.

In conclusion I quote the words of another Antonian - Bernard Van Cuylenburg and say:

"May God bless the Antonian community - a 'Band of Brothers' whose camaraderie nurtured in that great College by the river is legendary".

Spencer Madhanayake
Tel: 0411 694 975
spencerfelix@yahoo.com



St. Mary's Parish
2 Duke Street Maffra,
Vic 3860
Mobile: 0478 909 541
Tel: 03 5147 1344

Welcome Back to Melbourne Fr. Hilarion Fernando OSB

Our past principle Rev. Fr. Hilarion Fernando has been appointed by the Lord Bishop of Sale to the pastoral and spiritual care of the people of God in Maffra and the Heyfield parishes. As you may already know Fr. Hilarion has been a valuable asset to St. Anthony's College and has had the responsibility for many parishes in Sri Lanka. Most recently Fr. Hilarion was appointed to look after the Ampitiya seminary that has been the nurturing grounds for many fine and dedicated priests in Sri Lanka.

I am sure Fr. Hilarion will be delighted to hear from all the old Antonians. Please join us in wishing Fr. Hilarion a warm welcome to Australia.

**NEWS
FLASH!**

A True Maroon Double Blue Antonian Gentleman & My Friend Aelred Samarakoon

08.06.1937 – 05.07.2012

By Chris Drieberg



He comes from a famous well educated family from Wahakotte. Aelred's father was the Post Master at Wahakotte.

Aelred joined the teaching staff at St. Anthony's in the mid 60s. During his stay in College he became a very close friend of my parents, myself and my two brothers. What a great leader we was in improving the standard of Rugby and Cricket when he was our Prefect of Games. Later on after his days at College he married a beautiful Irish lady and had a lovely family in his son and daughter.

My wife Gill and I had the privileged of staying with them on our visit to Ireland. Aelred was a great man very highly qualified and lived from the late seventies in Ireland and prior to that in England.

As far as I am concerned, Aelred has been an exemplary Old Antonian who has not been recognised for his achievements. Below was my last email from the Great Old Antonian, Aelred Samarakoon not long before his passing:

"This was my 5 year promise.

After holding Trinity to a draw at Peradeniya University Grounds in 1968 in my first year as Prefect of Games and Secretary of the Sports council: my promise was to beat Trinity within five years in Rugby. I selected a squad of 40 young players (13 years of Age) and fed them Rugby for 5 years. I was very confident of this squad. The News papers called the 1972 Team " Tuan and his Glory Boys from the Hills". That year we beat all Colleges and were the Champions. (One exception) We drew with St. Peter's in a controversial decision : The referee allowed extra time until St. Peters scored. (Referee was an ex- Peterite). NO EXCUSE FOR THIS!!

For the record, we beat Trinity 2nd XV too that year at Nittawela on the same Day prior to the First XV Game. 1972 was the Trinity Centenary Year. Piyasena was our ground boy who followed us everywhere. He had all boots of our players well polished & studs in good shape for every match.

Waidyaratne fractured his arm in one Rugby game and I was heart-broken. He was out of action for a couple of games. I wanted him fit for the Trinity Game and he was put to test just before the Trinity game. All other players were in the dressing room. We agreed, we play Waidyaratne and confirmed him fit. This was a big decision I took.

I had Waidyaratne treated by the Buddhist Monk at Asgiriya Temple above Trinity grounds, the Venerable Monk was a First class specialist for fractures. I begged him to have Waidyaratne fit for this game. He promised me and he had him fit in three weeks.

At the kick off, from a scrum we won the ball and it came down the three-quarter line to Waidyaratne and he did his 30 yards run on to the touch line. I never forget this try and Tuan's conversion !!! 5 points then and we kept this lead right through the game - Trinity had no chance. Memories!!! of Rugby at SAC."

Aelred Samarakoon

HERE ARE SOME OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS IN LIFE AFTER ST. ANTHONY'S

Honorary Consul for Sri Lanka in Ireland since 1998.

Honorary Director for Sri Lanka Tourism (Ceylon Tourist Board) since 1995.

London College, Dublin, Ireland (Chairman/Director/Proprietor) since 1998.

Griffith College, Dublin, Ireland (Director/Dean - Faculty of Hospitality & Tourism) 1995 to 2003.

University of London Senate 1973 to 2003.

Senator for Education for The University of London where he was a standing Committee Member for Education in the Senate. This was a first time ever that a Sri Lankan born British citizen had held this position.

Hotel & Travel Training College, London from 1989 to 1994, which was a further educational establishment where he was the Principal & Proprietor incorporating the London School of Data Processing, ESE School of Languages and Jubilee Secretarial College.

Inner London Education Authority & University of London from 1975 to 1988 where he was a Teacher and Lecturer in Comparative Religious Education, Geography and Researched into Religious Education & Educational Administration.

Greater London Council from 1969 to 1973 where he was a Housing & Rehabilitation Senior Executive.

Tributes

We bid farewell to the following members and all other Antonians who have passed away recently.
Farewell and thank you for contributing to our Alma Mater and for enriching our lives.

Mr. Numan Deen

Mr. Gladwin Wanigasekara

Mrs. Angela Van Cuylenburg

Mr. Shelton Pereira

Mrs. Eleen Dias - Former Teacher St. Anthony's College, Katugastota

Mr. Tom (Tutu) Tenwera





A night to remember

By Bernard VanCuylenburg

Whenever and wherever Anthonians gather in large or small numbers to meet and greet in true Anthonian spirit, one can rest assured it will be an occasion to remember. Recently, at very short notice we were happy to meet and host an old Anthonian visiting us from the Sunshine State - an Anthonian whose name will resonate loud among Anthonians of an earlier era, specially sports fans. It was a delight to meet Michael Joseph, whom this writer remembers from those early days in the "Rainbow Cottage" finally ending our school careers at what was then the Shangrila of the College boarding - The "Journey's End". In a cosy corner of a Sri Lankan restaurant a few of us gathered in warm camaraderie to meet Michael and as usually happens, unlock the floodgates of memory. Present this evening were Chris Drieberg, Gavin Stephens, Michael Joseph, Michael Macky, Tony Griggs, Errol VanCuylenburg, this writer and Ralph Barthelot, as in the attached photo. In an instant we were teleported back to those glory days at St. Anthony's when the old stories and some new ones were resurrected to enhance the memories, most of which evoked laughter without end. (Attached also are photos from yester year, Mike Joe's 1957 Under 14 side and either Prefects or Boarders of 1960 some of whom are in the present day photo.)

Gavin told us about the shenanigans which went on behind the scenes when choosing the first eleven cricket team to represent college. All I recall was that on a Thursday afternoon after class during the cricket season, we would head straight for the cadet room in a corner of the quadrangle, on the door of which was a notice with the names of the cricketers selected to play for college. The notice began with the words "The following have been selected to represent college in the fixture againstand the name of the opposing team was mentioned, followed by the names of the players selected. The inevitable comments about who should have been dropped and who should play followed, mostly by those who never held a bat in their life !

I HAVE A DREAM

Music lovers the world over specially fans of the Swedish pop group "Abba" will remember their hit "I have a dream". In a different time and place in the past, somebody else had a dream which resulted in heartbreak for some and joy for others ! Let me set the scene based on the details provided by Gavin Stevens. The year is 1960, the place St. Anthony's College Kandy. Selection of the team to play against St. Joseph's College had already been finalised when the coach Mr. T. M. Cooray had a change of heart - based on a dream ! A day before the match he summoned the team together and informed the Captain that he was going to make some last minute changes to the side because of a dream he had the previous night ! He announced to the surprised team that he dreamed that Tilak Pananwela and Nissanka Dunuwille played for college and saved us from defeat . Based solely on this dream he was going to include Tilak and Nissanka in the team, and drop Sangakkara and Gavin Stevens, who had already been selected to represent college ! This was something in the realm of the supernatural, and it took awhile for it to register with the stunned team!

What followed could be included in the series "Believe it or not!" Gavin and Sangakkara were dropped on the day, and Tilak and Nissanka chosen in their place. The dream incidentally came true ! Tilak notched up a well earned half century and Nissanka excelled in the field taking three superb catches. This dream was prophetic because Tilak proved to be a very good bat and cemented his place in the team thereafter. (The stuff that dreams are made of !!) While Gavin took all this in stride, Sangakkara in a fit of range and disappointment flung his boots into the Mahaveli river on his way home !! incidentally, Shema Sangakkara is the father of legendary Sri Lankan Wicket Keeper/ Batsman, Kumar Sangakkara.

Dare to dream and don't take your dreams lightly !

Tony regaled us with episodes of life in the boarding, and each had a story to tell, too numerous to document in this brief article. As the night wore on, we were fortified with the amber liquid which cheers, and an excellent dinner of Sri Lankan culinary delights. For good measure I took my old autograph book along which brought back more memories, as pictures of old Anthonians stared back at us from the pages as if parting the veil of time. This autograph to me is as precious as the crown jewels. I have had it for the past 53 years and each time I peruse it the memories - happy and sad - surface, because some of our schoolmates have now left us. There are photographs of Michael towards the end of his school career in "The Journey's End, and that of his elder brother the legendary Charlie Joseph, who holds a unique record in his cricketing career representing St. Anthony's. He has scored a century against every school St. Anthony's played against. It is a feat which has never been equalled.

Michael Macky reminisced on Charlie & Mike Joseph's hundreds against Dharmaraja College in the second innings when they put on a partnership of 227, which is record for two brothers in school cricket. This was after Kehelgamuwa skittled college for a paltry total in the first innings. Michael Macky was captaining the U16 team and Angelo Peiris was coach and U16 team were playing Trinity at Asgiriya and so missed out on witnessing this milestone. Mr Barber brought them the news as he travelled between Katu and Asgiriya.

Mention the name 'Joseph' and one's thoughts turn to Steven, Michael & Charlie - a trio who feature prominently in the story of Anthonian cricket. The late Charlie Joseph strode the cricketing stage like the proverbial colossus, and many of us remember the times he set the grounds alight with his sensational batting feats. The evenings enjoyment was tempered with sadness at the thought of those Anthonians who have passed on, the last being the lovable Thomas (Tutu) Tenuwera.

As the night wore on, the time for farewells drew nigh. Warmed by the afterglow of an enjoyable evening we stepped out into the Autumn night with a heart full of memories, happy to have met another loyal son of St. Anthony's College Kandy - Michael Joseph.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.antonian.org.au

to view latest news, pictures and Membership Information



TRINITY / ANTONIAN BIG BASH 2012



St. Anthony's Day 2012

June 10, 2012



St Anthony's day is celebrated every year in June by the OBA. All Antonians and their families are welcome to join us at mass followed by lunch

Old Antonian Social Club of Australia presents



31st Annual Dinner Dance

Saturday 3rd November 2012

from 7.30 pm to 1.00 am

The Grand on Cathies Lane

(Melway Ref: Map 63 D12)

Music by



Supported by



Eastern & Western Smorgasboard

by Zodiac Caterers

**Includes Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks
&**

A bottle of premium scotch on each table

For Tickets Contact:

Marlon 0411 446 811
Martin 0400 649 567
Adrian 0400 589 234
Afzal 0409 983 694

Dress :

**Gents – Black Tie or Lounge
Ladies – After 5**

\$70 PP