



► NEW COMMITTEE IN PLACE
FOR 2013 / 2014...1 & 12



► THE GRAND ANTONIAN
LADY 2



► A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
B.L.FERNANDO..... 3

ANTO

news

Newsletter of The Old Antonian Social Club of Australia Inc.
St Anthony's College, Kandy, Sri Lanka



President's Message

As we enter the times of Christmas festivities it is appropriate to look back over the past 12 months, in what has been a period of excellent fellowship and social activity for Antonians living in Australia.

We are blessed with a passionate and committed group of members, who continue to dedicate their time to our club. I am pleased to say that this trend will continue next year as many of our committee members have agreed to serve for another year. Keith Mahamooth and Jayantha Peries will continue in their important roles of Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer respectively. Spencer Madhanayake has taken up the challenge to be the Editor for the third year running. After his great contribution to many of our events in 2013, Naomal de Alwis will serve as the Vice President.

We welcome back Adrian Dunuwille (Sport's Secretary) after a 'well-earned' year's break, and also welcome new members in Ashok Ariyaratnam (Social Secretary), his bother Ajith Ariyaratnam (Web-Master) and Sujeewa Amarasinghe. Sujith Dunuwille and Roshan Edirisinghe have decided to take a break after many years of great service to the committee, and work opportunities have taken Sarath Jayasekera away from Melbourne and from the committee.

In the past 12 months, we were able to successfully complete all our planned events starting from the OBA cricket match to the Christmas BBQ. In between, we enjoyed great success with our fundraiser lunch organized as part of the College Day celebrations. This event contributed towards the A\$5000 that was diverted to the Cricket Wing for the development of cricket at college. Our annual dinner dance in Melbourne was well attended with many inter-state Antonians participating. The corresponding dance in Brisbane was a success too, where eminent teachers Wright, Macky and Denlow were felicitated. The AGM also generated excellent participation and discussion.

The calendar of events culminated a couple of Sundays ago with a Christmas family get-together and BBQ held at Jells Park in Melbourne. A number of Antonians with their families had a great time filled with entertainment, food and fellowship, par to none.

I would like to take this opportunity to say 'thank you' to Chris Driberg for his dedicated service to the club, which has continued uninterrupted for the past 32 years. Although he is not an official committee member, Chris serves as our membership co-ordinator and is instrumental in keeping Antonians world over fully informed of activities undertaken by our club. Chris inspires the younger generation of members by demonstrating undiminishing passion for the club and his willingness to back our initiatives with enthusiasm. His contribution to the Christmas family get-together was exceptional, where he entertained the kids as the Santa and led the Carols with gusto attracting glowing accolades.

We have been able to schedule our major events for 2014 in great advance with the hope that members would be able to plan their work and family commitments around these dates. These include the OBA cricket encounter against Trinity in March, College Day celebration in June, a Curry Night in August followed by the annual Dinner Dance and our AGM in November and the Christmas BBQ in December.

We are planning to support college through a variety of projects next year, not just limiting to sports. These projects are yet to be clearly identified and it is our endeavour to finalise these at our first committee meeting in 2014. We will also consider providing assistance to a worthy cause in Australia.

Finally I would like to thank all our members and their families for their contribution and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and health and happiness for the New Year.



I am proud to be an Antonian and honoured to be your President for another year. I look forward to your continued support and involvement with our club in the year 2014.

Lux De Coelo
AFZAL LAPHIR
President

The Grand Antonian Lady

By Chris Drieberg

At a recent event, some of the Old Antonians living in Melbourne caught up with one of their 'breed', Yvonne Rogers. In 1947 Yvonne Rogers entered St Anthonys College at 19 years of age, having completed her senior year at the Good Shepherd Convent in 1946. She was part of an exclusive group of 7 girls studying for their Higher School Certificate with aspirations of going on to University.

During her 2 years at the College she applied herself diligently to her studies in English, History, Geography and Maths. As a member of the Dark Blue House she brought much prestige to the House by winning multiple prizes during 1947-1948.

Her many accolades included the Caner Memorial Prize for Geography; the Jansz Memorial Prize for English Essay; the Tissa Abeyasekera Memorial Prize for Ceylon History; and the Medal for English elocution. Fond of writing poetry Miss Rogers was a member of the Senior Literary Union in the College and excelled in English. She held the position of Honorary Secretary of the Geographical Society in which she distinguished herself by inaugurating the "Monsoon magazine" - the first monthly geographical magazine in Ceylon.

She was also the Captain of the girls' netball team at St Anthonys. She fondly remembers her Maths teacher Mr George Macky and English teacher Mr Santiago. However her deepest affection and

Now widowed Mrs Anthonisz has three grandchildren and one great grand child.

Yvonne was the daughter of the distinguished long standing Head Master of the Lower



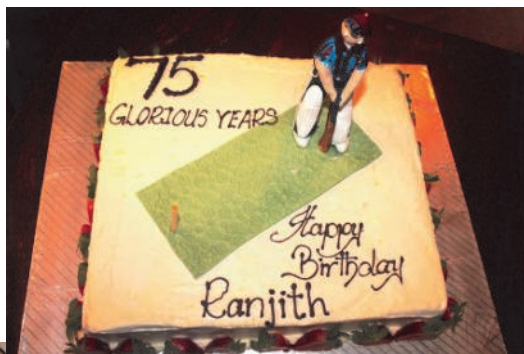
L-R: Junius de Silva, Lester Herathge, Chris Drieberg, Yvonne Anthonisz, Afzal Laphir, Meri Guneratne, Dylan Gomez, Squatting: Mohan Gomez, Jay Fernando, Rowville Wilson

thanks go to her Geography teacher, the exemplary Mr George Denlow who was a mentor to the young Miss Rogers. After completing her Higher School Certificate, Miss Rogers went on to teach English at St Sylvester's, Kandy in 1949, and in the following year married Victor Anthonisz, a tea planter from Hulandawa Estate, Akuressa. In 1964 Yvonne, her husband Victor and two children migrated to Australia and settled in Blackburn (Melbourne) where she still lives

School, Mr. Jim Rogers during her 2 year stint at College. Her brother, Damien Rogers was a student at St. Anthony's throughout his schooling career and so was Yvonne's son Adrian till they migrated to Australia in 1964.

Please send me your written contributions, feed back, ear bashing and praise to spencerfelix@yahoo.com

75 Glorious Years of life and 50years of service to college Ranjith Samarasekara



EDITOR'S NOTE



Another new year another new and hard working com-

mittee. I have to begin by saying thanks to Afzal, his wife Manel and all the others in and outside the committee who have contributed so much to another successful Antonian year. In the short number of years that I have been with the OBA I have not seen such participation and activity within the Antonian group in Australia. The year was dotted with successful functions that catered to the wider family and friends of SACK. Afzal and his dear wife Manel get a special mention because there untiring efforts have been the spearhead of the successful year gone by.

The committee sees three new faces in the ranks and of course the long standing stalwarts of the OBA. I have give kudos to Robin and Rita Koelmeyer, who were there at the inception of the Antonian OBA in Australia and continue to support the Antonian family. Robin & Rita we are honored to be a part of what you and the rest of the former generations began. I am sure the present committee like all the past committees grab at the opportunity to continue all the good work. This end of the year newsletter seem to carry a general theme that says thank you to all the many past teachers and others who have dedicated their lives to our Grand Alma Mather.

So in conclusion all that's left for me to say is *Thank you, Thank you, Thank you*, firstly to all the Antonian family and friends who support us through all the years and specially this past year, to the new committee and all the committees gone by who have brought us this far. I look forward to another successful year ahead.



A Man For All Seasons — B. L. Fernando

By Bernard VanCuylenberg

Advance your clocks forward by an hour at the end of October and "Daylight Savings" commences. Turn back the clocks by an hour at the end of April and it ends. This article I hope will turn back the collective Anthonian memory to an era when St. Anthony's College Kandy, that magnificent institution of learning by the banks of the mighty Mahaveli or, as someone referred to her as "The College on the Hill", basked in golden sunshine in the halls of academia and excelled in the field of sport. St. Anthony's was a beacon of learning, envied, admired and emulated by other schools. Right through the 1950's and into the sixties "Lux De Coelo" enlightened her way.

Within her hallowed portals there were teachers who as the title of this article suggests were (to paraphrase the playwright Robert Bolt) 'Men for all seasons'. The names George Denlow, George Macky and Robert Wright stand supreme. To complete this distinguished quartet, I wish to add another illustrious name which is a byword among generations of Anthonians - Mr. B. L. Fernando, that doyen of Sinhalese teachers, a quiet achiever, a gentleman of infinite patience and kindness who to this day is fondly referred to as 'B.L.'

Mr. B. L. Fernando was my Sinhalese teacher from Form 1, up to the Senior Form (V Arts 'A'). My classmates and I had a deep respect for the man, and the fact that the Sinhalese language held no difficulties for me was an asset! Beneath the tough exterior in the classroom which meant that any breach of discipline was dealt with firmly and nipped in the bud, there beat a kindly heart as I soon discovered in my dealings with him over the years. In my senior years I more than burned the midnight oil, with the G.C.E. examination looming on the horizon. I would write essays on my own and show these to him after class for perusal and correction. Not once did he say he was too busy, and having corrected my mistakes would always encourage me to take the language to a slightly higher level. 'B.L.' like the other Masters mentioned in this article had a priceless gift which endeared him to his students. He knew the art of 'Student psychology' - he knew how to get to the heart of a student and never lost sight of the human element. Sinhalese was a subject not liked by many students, but the man was loved by all. That distinction must be clearly emphasised.

As a senior boarder in the "Journey's End" we used to get three newspapers a day which were left in the study hall - the "Daily News", the "Dinamina" and the "Thinakaran". I added reading the "Dinamina" daily to my curriculum, something which Mr. B. L. Fernando greatly encouraged. I will never forget the day when I passed in Sinhalese at the GCE examination, he summoned me to the staff room (opposite the tuck shop) and congratulated me saying in Sinhalese "I watched your efforts and always knew you would make it....." I remember to this day the depth and sincerity in his words which brought tears to my eyes. Unashamedly, they still have the same power fifty one years later, more so that he is no longer with us. However, not everything was peaches and cream and there were some "negative" moments which is the experience of any student on his academic journey. For reasons of brevity I will relate just one.

One afternoon - it was the second period after the lunch interval in the Form V Arts 'A' - Mr. B. L. Fernando came in for the Sinhalese class. One student had the temerity (!) to circulate what I love to call "Forbidden Fruit" - a copy of the glossy 'Playboy Magazine' which was spiced red hot with pictures which would make the devil blush !! This was the tree in the V Arts A garden, and every student wanted a bite of the apple! The student in the last row then proceeded to pass the magazine under the desk to his neighbour which was not hard to do because the desks were right next to each other. In this way the magazine found its way from desk to desk while the class listened to 'B.L.' in silence and feigned attention. Lulled into a sense of false confidence, the downfall of any student (!) we forgot there was one much smarter than us. From his elevated desk at the head of the class Mr. B. L. Fernando had observed the shenanigans of his students, but kept up appearances of normality until he decided to pounce. This he did with quiet diplomacy. Gently leaving his seat he walked down the class at the precise moment when the magazine was passed onto me by my colleague and in a flash grabbed the magazine from my hands ! I was petrified, and when he flicked through a few pages I almost disappeared under the desk !! I expected a tirade of angry words, even the proverbial cuff on the ear. What followed was worse. Fixing me with an angry stare he looked me straight in the eye and in slow articulate tones told me in Sinhalese "Thamusey te mona sex de bung !!!" Colloquial translation: "What sex for you men ?!!!" Having confiscated the magazine, he calmly walked back to his seat. The matter did not end there. That same evening he met me near the library and let me have the 'coup de grace' "I did not expect such behaviour from you !" I made a vow then and there to turn over a new leaf - better still, not to turn over the leaf of any "Playboy" magazine in future !! At least not while I was a student at St. Anthony's !!!

I was pleasantly surprised to discover Mr. B. L. Fernando's love of music. Often I would find him singing snatches of a favourite song, especially when I passed him along the corridors in the quadrangle and after hours. I recall the time I had to get some sentences corrected and I went to his home. These were not part of the normal curriculum, but work done in my own time using words culled from "The Dinamina". I had to wait while he finished listening to a top hit by the sweethearts of Sinhala pop, Lata and Dharma-dasa Walpola. Before he checked my work he went into raptures about the lyrics and melody of the song he had just heard, and asked me for my opinion.

The Anthonians who studied under Mr. B. L. have long left the bosom of their Alma Mater and gone their separate ways keeping their tryst with destiny. We have traversed the highways and byways of life and today there are Anthonians in the far flung corners of the globe. Yet the ties that bind are strong and being an "Anthonian" is one of them. As the years pass and the gold of the day surrenders to the blue of the night, our school-days and masters like Mr. B. L. Fernando dwell in the realms of the collective Anthonian memory. The memories grow fonder, the songs sound sweeter, and reminiscing goes deeper as the years pass. And with reminiscing come the heart-aches.....

Perhaps I echo the sentiments with generations of Anthonians who studied under Mr. B.L. Fernando when I paraphrase a verse which one of my schoolmates wrote in my autograph - Remember the autograph books we passed around ? To me an autograph has become a book of precious souvenirs which carries one through life. He wrote:



"Many a lonely heartache
Sometimes a silent tear
But often a beautiful memory"

Memories.....what would life be without them....

32nd Dinner Dance 2013



32nd Dinner Dance 2013



OBA Participation at Events in Melbourne

Complied By Afzal Laphir

		OBA Cricket	College Day	Dinner Dance	AGM	Committee	Christmas BBQ
1	Shamila Abeykoon	Y					
2	Ananda Abeyratne (ACT)			Y			
3	Saman Abeyratne		Y				
4	Athula Abeyasinghe (NSW)			Y			
5	Chaminda Adikari (NSW)			Y			
6	Nirash Amarasinghe		Y				
7	Sujeewa Amarasinghe		Y	Y	Y		
8	Ajith Ariyaratnam				Y		Y
9	Ashok Ariyaratnam		Y	Y	Y		Y
10	Sudheera Athukorale		Y				
11	Jinendra Bandara			Y			
12	Upul Bandara			Y			
13	Wijay Bandara		Y	Y	Y		
14	Ralph Barthelot				Y		
15	Lucas Bogtstra					Y	
16	Romesh Candappa (NSW)			Y			
17	Peter Corterling	Y	Y				
18	Naomal De Alwis		Y	Y	Y	Y	
19	Ruwan de Alwis	Y					
20	Ralph de Run		Y				
21	Junius de Silva		Y				
22	Victor de Silva			Y			
23	Spencer Dias (SL)		Y				
24	Ruwan Dissanayake	Y					
25	Supun Don	Y	Y				
26	Chris Drieberg	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y
27	Patrick Drieberg (QLD)			Y			
28	Adrian Dunuwille	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
29	Sujith Dunuwille	Y		Y	Y	Y	
30	Robert Duff-Tytler				Y		
31	Roshan Edirisinghe		Y	Y		Y	
32	Arjuna Ekanayake		Y				
33	Ajantha Ellepola			Y			
34	Earl Fernandez			Y			
35	Fr Hillarian Fernando		Y				
36	Hiran Fernando			Y			
37	Jay Fernando		Y	Y			
38	Kumar Fernando			Y			
39	Lynton Fernando			Y	Y		
40	Niranjan Fernando			Y			
41	Terry Fernadopulle	Y	Y				
42	Rory Georges		Y	Y			
43	David Ginger (QLD)			Y			
44	Yohan Ginger			Y			
45	Dylan Gomez	Y	Y	Y			
46	Mohan Gomez	Y	Y	Y		Y	
47	Haren Goonewardena (QLD)			Y			
48	Tony Griffiths				Y		
49	Merri Guneratne	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
50	Heron Herath		Y				
51	Lester Herathge	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

		OBA Cricket	College Day	Dinner Dance	AGM	Committee	Christmas BBQ
52	Basil Hyde		Y				
53	Hiran Jayasekera		Y		Y		
54	Sarath Jayasekera	Y	Y	Y		Y	
55	Damith Jayasinghe	Y					
56	Mahinda Jeronimus			Y			
57	Derrick Jordan			Y			
58	Nuwan Kalpage	Y	Y	Y			
59	Indika Kaluarachchi		Y	Y	Y		Y
60	Lalindra Karunathileke		Y				
61	Allan Kelly	Y		Y			
62	Robin Koelmeyer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
63	Michael LaBrooy		Y				
64	Afzal Laphir	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
65	Chris Ludowyke			Y			
66	Louis Macky				Y		
67	Michael Macky		Y		Y		
68	Spencer Madhanayake		Y	Y	Y	Y	
69	Keith Mahamooth			Y	Y	Y	Y
70	Darnley Mant		Y				
71	Thaiyar Mohamed (WA)		Y				
72	Adrian Muller		Y				
73	Tyrone Muller		Y	Y			
74	Julian Packeer			Y			
75	Rajitha Palilpane				Y		Y
76	Charlie Paul		Y	Y			
77	Denver Pereira						Y
78	Martin Pereira	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
79	Jayantha Peiris		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
80	Damien Perera			Y			
81	Niraj Perera						Y
82	Christy Peter	Y	Y				
83	Gayan Pinto						Y
84	Madhura Pinto	Y					Y
85	Ravi Ranasinghe		Y	Y			
86	Jack Robertson		Y	Y			
87	Tyrone Rosayro			Y			
88	Kosala Rupassara		Y				
89	Lashan Samarasinghe	Y	Y	Y			
90	Sampath Samarasinghe	Y	Y	Y			
91	Mark Schrader (QLD)			Y			
92	Tony Schrader		Y	Y	Y		
93	Shanker Subramaniam						Y
94	S Sivayoganathan		Y				
95	Gavin Stevens				Y		
96	Norman Thompson	Y	Y		Y		
97	Andre Titus (QLD)					Y	
98	Prasad Ubeysekera						Y
99	Leyrisse Vanderwert		Y				
100	Marlon Von Hagt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
101	Samthus Weerakoon (SL)			Y			
102	Charake Wickremanayake			Y	Y		

TOTAL => 26 53 56 28 18 20



WORLD WATCH

We have been scanning the world for any news about who is who and what's what about our old boys. Hurrah!! We seem to have found a another distinguished old boy. Hope Afzal charged at least \$500 for the college tie. HRH Prince Charles has been seen sporting the good old SACK tie.

Association of Past Teachers

Antonian Picnic Day - Qatar



UAE Rugby Carnival



Dinner Dance 2013 — Canada



Rugby Carnival Sri Lanka



SACKOBA SRI LANKA'S SING A LONG WITH MISTY 2013



Fr. Araliya and the Antonian Choir In Vavuniya



The Day Santa Came to Melbourne

The 1st Annual Antonian Christmas BBQ 2013





THE ANTONIAN CAROLERS 2013

By Denver Pereira

I am sure that our dear Mr. Brown and all the choir teachers before and after will be very proud.

Welcome to the new and immensely talented Denver Pereira to the Antonian family in Melbourne.

Kids in age and kids of heart. Find the picture this cartoon is mimicking. Send all your answers to spencerfelix@yahoo.com. I am sure the club has a \$20 voucher for the winning entrant.

NEW ADELAIDE GROUP KEEN TO LAUNCH

Afzal had the opportunity to meet with old Antonians Rameezdeen and Leroy Fonseka in Adelaide, a couple of weeks ago. They are very keen to contribute towards all the good work carried out by the Australian OBA. Let's officially give them a very big Welcome to the Antonian family.





Still the young man at his 90th birthday



Tiddy

Legendary Teacher Turns 90

By Afzal Laphir

The name Tiddy Wijeratne may not ring any bells to most Antonians living in Australia. But, for those who were fortunate to study at St Anthony's during the 1950s, Tiddy was a dedicated teacher and an inspiring cricket coach.

Tiddy, who lives in Canberra, celebrated his 90th birthday recently amidst a gathering of many friends and family. Antonian sporting legend TOM Deen was among the guests and recalled "I came to know him well when he invited me and Patricia my wife for various functions involved with the Sri Lankan Association. He has become a family friend and we quite frequently meet in Sydney amongst few other Antonians including the late George Denlow with whom he had a very close association".

Tom continued "If my memory serves me right he also held the position of the President of the Sri Lankan Association for a considerable period, it was at this time our association blossomed. As President Tiddy continued to serve the community to an extent that he was always the first person to receive a new arrival and make them feel comfortable in his unassuming fashion."

"I was told that when he was at St. Anthony's, besides being a dedicated teacher amongst the legendary, George Denlow, Robert Wright and George Mackey, he was also responsible for laying the basic foundation for schoolboy cricketers like Charlie Joseph."

In a special tribute to Tiddy, the *Antonian* magazine had this to say "The The first term of 1959 saw one of the most unassuming members of our tutorial staff, Mr Tiddy Wijeratne, leave St Anthony's to teach at his old school, Mahinda. During his brief though colourful period of teaching here, he endeared himself to the boys and masters alike and his departure has left a big void in the life of the school. Mr Wijeratne as cricket coach to the junior teams played a vital role in making cricket more interesting to the lads by injecting his own infectious enthusiasm. He taught our lads the finer points of the game and today we see them blossoming out to be the future stars of St Anthony's."

Defying his age, Tiddy travels regularly these days to Sydney to catch up with his friends, especially Tom and Patricia. We wish him all the best.

THE ANTONIAN YEAR 2014

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
		9th MARCH VICTORIA Traditional Trinity Antonian Cricket Encounter – Under 40's and the open age group team.			Sunday 15th VICTORIA St Anthony's Day Mass & College Day Fundrasier
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	Saturday 2nd August Antonian Curry Night			Saturday 1st November Annual Dinner Dance Sunday 30th November AGM	Sunday 14th December Christmas Party, BBQ & Carols

THE ANTONIAN OBA OF AUSTRALIA - AGM 2013

