

*The Alumni of Old Boys of St Peters College Colombo, Sri Lanka – Since 1982*



### *2022....The Centenary Year*

*A great year for all Peterites, with Centenary Celebrations taking place across the world. Here in Melbourne, we had our glittering "cocktails on the Pier" which was a resounding success.*

*As life slowly returns to normal, we look forward to year of Socialising and Peterite fellowship Together with a full sporting Calendar (We already won the Cricket Quadrangular Tournament and The Melbourne Joe Pete Over 40's match)*

*So, without further chat, let me invite you to peruse the attached pages. I trust you will enjoy what we have put together for you.*

*Editor's Note*



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**SPC Melbourne**

# MESSAGE FROM

## THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

Hope you and your families are keeping well & safe

Firstly, I would like to thank **all members & their families** for participating this year in the **Centenary Celebrations** in Melbourne

**“Cocktails on the Pier”** was a tremendous success that saw the Peterite community gather and celebrate **Holy Mass** prior to making merry & enjoying the evening. This was followed next by the **Stag Night** & the **Joe- Pete Big match** that attracted many families who enjoyed the live music & the spectacular Cricket played on the day.

For those that were unfortunate and missed out on the above the **“Peterite Centenary Ball”** on **30<sup>th</sup> July** is your opportunity to catch up on lost time and take the Celebrations to the next level. The committee is working tirelessly to make this event a night to remember and we look forward to your patronization.

While we are Fortunate & Privileged to live in Australia, I like to take this opportunity to humbly request you to keep our Motherland Sri Lanka in your prayers

On behalf of the Committee & Myself I wish you all a **Safe & Blessed Easter**

**“Let its Glorious Colours give a Greeting to the Sky”**

**Jerome Chandrasekera**



## MELBOURNE OBU UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2022

### The Peterite Centenary Ball is Coming .....

Another Glittering Peterite event is coming your way on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022**. After a Lapse of 2 years in this centenary year your committee is working on making our annual dance an event to remember in the tradition of our past dances ....White Nite, Casino Royale and A night in Paris.

Please Keep the date free .... we will keep you informed of further details via our Facebook page, Email and of course the Peterite network of members and supporters.



### Other upcoming Events in 2022 are.....

#### **\*Mass for the departed (Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2022)**

This memorial is held to coincide with feast of St Peter on June 29<sup>th</sup> on the first Sunday in July.

#### **\*The Annual General Meeting (Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2022).**

It will be really great to have the AGM in person this year. All members will be informed of the details as part of the AGM Notice.

#### **\*Seniors Luncheon (Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022)**

A fun lunch for everyone with Music organised by our 1970's Group.

#### **\*Christmas Party (Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022)**

A Family evening to foster the Christmas spirit

#### **\*Rugby and Golf (Events TBA)**

We will keep you updated via the usual channels

The Melbourne OBU initiated a **"Christmas Donation 2021"** drive late last year to help underprivileged families in Sri Lanka celebrate Christmas. The OBU diverted funds reserved for the Christmas party last year to this worthy cause. The distribution of these funds was through Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo, College Rector. A big thank you to all who supported this effort.



## A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF A REMARKABLE MAN - REV.FR. MAURICE LE GOC THE FOUNDER OF ST PETERS COLLEGE

REV. FR. MAURICE JAMES LE GOC (NOV'1922)



Maurice James Le Goc was born on 21st February 1881 in Quimper in North Western France.

He had his early education in the Christian Brothers' School in Quimper and later completed his secondary education at Pont Crou.

When he was 20, he entered the Seminary of the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He was sent to the International Scholasticate in Rome to continue his philosophical and theological studies at the Gregorian University. With the completion of his studies, he obtained a PHD degree. He was ordained a priest on March 13, 1907 at the age of 26 years.

Continuing his theological studies, Fr. Le Goc obtained a Licentiate Degree in Theology in 1908. At Cambridge University, Fr. Le Goc obtained a BA degree with First Class Honours in 1911, and in the year 1912 he won the coveted "Frank Smart Prize" for Botany. Thereafter, he entered the University of London where he obtained his BSc (Hons) and Master of Arts degrees.

After completing his religious and secular studies in England, he arrived in Ceylon in January 1914 and was appointed to the tutorial staff of St. Joseph's College becoming rector 5 years later.

Fr. Le Goc contributed very significantly to the advancement of scientific studies throughout Sri Lanka. He was a pioneer in nature studies. His book titled 'Introduction to Tropical Botany' became a popular textbook on the subject in India and Sri Lanka. His collection of local flora made the St. Joseph's College botanical garden remarkable. He was also a very valuable member of the Ceylon Natural History Society.

He was also a teacher of science especially botany, biology, zoology and astronomy. Fr. Le Goc also lectured at the Ceylon Medical College and the Teacher Training College.

On one occasion, when an unknown disease was threatening the Sacred Bo Tree (Sri Maha Bodhi) at Anuradhapura, Fr. Le Goc was requested to investigate. He discovered the cause and helped to preserve this great historical and religious treasure.

Fr. Le Goc was a person who realized the importance of Agriculture in a country like Ceylon. He strongly encouraged the study of agriculture and tried to incorporate it in the educational curriculum. He opened a farm school in Waragoda, Kelaniya for use by the students of St. Joseph's to carry out botanical and agricultural experimentation.

Fr. Le Goc was a lover of astronomy. He may have been the only person to have done systematic research on astronomy in Ceylon at that time. In 1931, he published a book titled "Simplified Astronomy", considered to be the first modern work on astronomy in Ceylon. This book was translated into Sinhala and later into French, too.

Fr. Le Goc was also an architect. His knowledge in architecture is well exhibited when one looks at the beautiful buildings of St. Joseph's and St. Peter's College. The magnificent Chapel at St. Joseph's designed and built by him to the style of the Church of St. John Lateran in Rome is a very well-fitting living monument to him.

The origin of St. Peter's College goes back to Fr. Le Goc's vision to extend quality education to the outskirts of Colombo. He also started St. John's College, Dematagoda and St. Paul's Waragoda, Kelaniya.

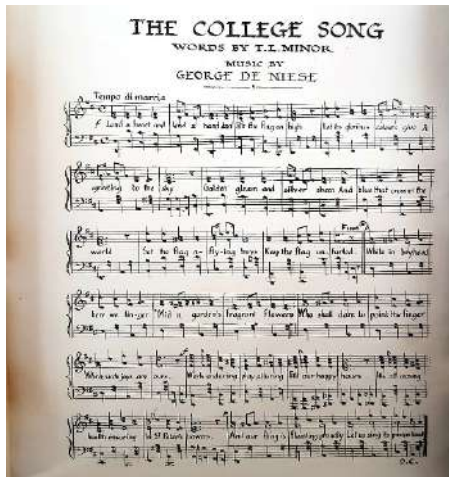
Fr. Le Goc was also on Minister of Education C.W.W. Kanangara's special committee of education in 1943 which was instrumental in determining education policy in the country.

Sadly, Fr. Le Goc died under tragic circumstances on 17th March 1945 at Ward Place junction in Colombo in a motor car accident when on his daily journey to St. Bridget's Convent for Benediction. He is buried at Kanatte General Cemetery in Colombo.

In 1989 Sri Lanka issued a commemorative stamp on National Heroes Day May 22 in his honour.

We pay tribute in this centenary year to a true "renaissance man" – an intellectual giant, visionary and dedicated humanitarian.

## COLLEGE ANTHEM & CREST HISTORY



The Anthem and Crest were created in **1927** in preparation for the change of name from St. Joseph's College Colombo South to St. Peter's.

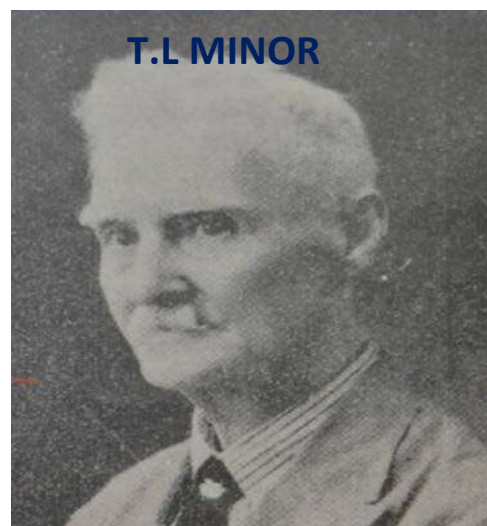
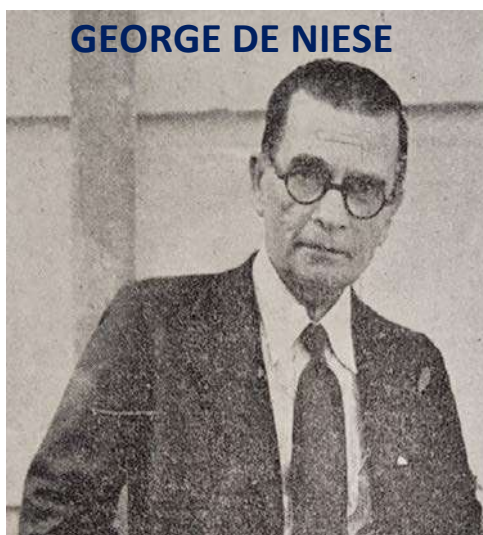
The lyrics for the Anthem were composed by Mr. T L Minor of the Staff of St. Joseph's College and was set to music by Mr. George A De Niese, the Art and Music Master at St. Peter's. **(And Grandfather of our Melbourne OBU Founder Members Peter and Stephen De Niese)**

Mr. De Niese was also the creator of the beautifully crafted College Crest, with the Motto "Virtus et Veritas".

The College Crest has several meaningful elements that were incorporated by Mr. De Niese:

1. **The Cross** – placed right at the top depicting the Catholic/Christian origin and belongingness.
2. The **national element** is depicted by the two elephants holding up the Cross, while in a kneeling, worshipping position with trunks raised.
3. St. Peter, the Patron Saint of College and the belongingness to the **Catholic faith** is represented through the Papal Crown and the two Keys in the top part of the crest. The keys symbolising the keys of heaven given to St. Peter, referred to by Jesus in Matthew 16:19. The Papal crown and the keys (one silver and the other gold) is placed in a blue background artistically displaying the Colours of the College in the crest.
4. A picture of the Bible adorns the bottom part of the crest declaring "**Verbum Dei Lucerna**" (Word of God is light). The two palm leaves on either side of the Bible symbolise the triumphal entry of Christ to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.
5. At the bottom is the Motto that guides Peterites "**Virtus et Veritas**" (Virtus – valour, manliness, excellence, courage, character, and worth, perceived as masculine strengths and Veritas – truth)

With Thanks to **Algi Wijewickrema** for compiling





## MELBOURNE PETERITES CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY WITH A GALA EVENING

A Glittering evening was hosted by the Peterite Melbourne OBU on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2022 with “Cocktails on the Pier” to commemorate the Peterite Centenary.

It was a well patronized event and the first time such a large group of Peterites had all been together in one place.



The outstanding venue (with views of Port Melbourne Harbor on 3 sides) was very elegantly decorated by Manisha Watts.

A lavish souvenir and Tie pin were given as complimentaries to attendees. The souvenir included a comprehensive history of college over the last 100 years written by Johann Gunasekera together with a history of the Melbourne OBU over the last 40 years and a hilarious “Down memory lane” section.



Music was provided throughout the evening by George and Shehara of “Redemption”

The evening commenced with a solemn mass officiated by Rev.Father Isuru Weliwatte. The



mass was spiritually uplifting and the dulcet voices of the OBU Choir accompanied by Well Known Melbourne Choir Master Rushan Hewawasam was the cream on the cake. Their solemn Renditions of the hymns during the mass and their evocative singing of the college anthem at the end were perfect. Thank you, Richard Jayawardena, for your great organization.



OBU President Jerome Chandrasekera in his speech reminded us of the legacy that we owed to Rev.Fr Le Goc, our founder and reminded us that it was a double celebration – 100 years of college and 40 years of the



Melbourne OBU. He went onto to thank all those who had put so much in to make this event a big success.

First Melbourne OBU President, Nihal Gunawardena also went onto to make a speech where he paid homage to all the past Rectors, Staff, Supporters and Others who had made St Peters what it is today.... The premier education institution in Sri Lanka.



Throughout the evening a variety of canapes were served by the venue and the complimentary bar was open all night.



Our photographer Randy of Quadrangle took commemorative pictures of College Cricketers, Ruggerties, Athletes, Basketballers, Prefects, Clubs and Associations such as Choral, Debating etc. The evening was one of fun, dancing, singing and most importantly Peterite fellowship.

A heartfelt thank you to Jerome and the Committee for their excellent organization and hard work and all those others who put so much in to make the event what it was.... Not forgetting Crystal and her staff at the venue, especially the tireless Waiting and Bar staff who made sure the food and drinks flowed throughout the evening.

**“KEEP THAT FLAG FLYING HIGH BOYS”**



**CLUB PRESIDENTS**



**THE RUGGERITES**



**THE CRICKETERS**



**“REDEMPTION” WITH PATRICK FERNANDO**



**ALL THE PETERITES**



**A FUN TIME WAS HAD BY ALL**





# CENTENARY DAY (18/1/2022) CELEBRATIONS AT COLLEGE





# A COLLECTION OF CENTENARY YEAR TRIVIA

## 100 YEARS OF RECTORS




ESTABLISHED: 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1922









# 100

1922-2022

## Centenary Celebration

St. Peter's College - Colombo

 <b>FOUNDER</b> Rev. Fr. M.J. LeGoc 1922-1927	 <b>1<sup>st</sup> RECTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Nicholas Perera 1927-1943	 <b>RECTOR SINCE 2019</b> Rev. Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo
<p>1922: ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE - COLOMBO SOUTH</p>		
<p>1927: ST. PETER'S COLLEGE - COLOMBO</p>		

 <b>4<sup>th</sup> RECTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Mervyn Weerakkody 1963-1971	 <b>5<sup>TH</sup> RECTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Theodore Peiris 1971-1975	 <b>6<sup>TH</sup> RECTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Claver Perera 1975-1976	 <b>7<sup>TH</sup> RECTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Francis Madimela 1976-1977	 <b>8<sup>TH</sup> RECTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Joe Wickremasinghe 1978-1994	 <b>9<sup>th</sup> RECTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Felician Perera 1994-2005	 <b>10<sup>th</sup> RECTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Izavis Gabriel 2005-2014	 <b>11<sup>th</sup> RECTOR</b> Rev. Fr. Trevor Martin 2014-2019
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## 4 GENERATIONS OF PETERITES

### THE OLDEST KNOWN PETERITE IS

Mr Vincent Jayatilaka, born on 22nd September 1922 who attended St Peters between May 1931 and June 1942



### WHAT'S THE LARGEST NUMBER OF BROTHERS TO ATTEND COLLEGE?

The answer is **Eight**.... and three of them had their sons also attending St. Peter's.

The 8 brothers were the children of Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Perera of Dehiwela. They were:

(1) Joseph (2) Anthony (3) John (4) George (5) Stanley (6) Lesley (7) Clarence (8) Anton.

Of them, at least three travelled in that first train to establish St. Joseph's College, Colombo South and stayed on as Peterites to complete their studies.





“Every individual has potential, but they have to be nurtured.” Ovindu Atukorala, believes that with the right opportunities in life you can harness this potential. The definition of success varies for different people. But with the right training, Atukorala believes anyone can achieve success. The right training itself is an opportunity.

“It is really sad to see the many people in our country who are struggling at the moment. Working for this cause is my passion. I see so many people trying to leave our country saying that you cannot achieve success here. I strongly disagree with this. I believe that Sri Lanka is an amazing country and we are truly blessed to be born here. We Sri Lankans have the power to make Sri Lanka a better place. I hope that I can help empower this change in the future”, explained Atukorala.

“Some of the most inspirational people that we know, started out with very little potential. As a child, Helen Keller was blind and deaf. But she was well trained by her lifelong companion and teacher Anne Sullivan. This opportunity to learn, helped Keller become a truly empowered woman. Life is all about opportunities. In fact, it was Mark Twain who famously said, “The two most interesting characters in the 19th Century are Napoleon and Helen Keller.” Keller entered Radcliffe in 1900 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree cum laude in 1904, the first deaf-blind person to do so.

I think it is important to not limit yourself to just one field. I have worked hard to do my level best in studies, sports and other extra- curricular activities.

There have also been a lot of people who have helped me throughout my school career, mainly my parents and my teachers. Without them I would not have been able to achieve success.”

He points out that as a leader, he does his utmost to make the best decision at that particular moment which is fair to all parties. Firstly, he allows his peers and the junior prefects to express their opinion. This is because brainstorming can generate some really great ideas which gives everyone a thorough understanding of the challenge they face. I also try to get to know everyone I work with, so that I have a better understanding of what they can do and what they are weak at.

He goes onto explain that if you want to face the world, then self- mastery is essential. You need to improve your self-awareness. To lead others, you have to first know your strengths and weaknesses so that you can improve on your strengths and minimize your weaknesses. You may make mistakes in the process but try your best to learn from them. He also feels that it is important that you have a strong moral compass to know what is right from wrong in order to be a successful, strong and effective leader. One must not get arrogant when one achieves leadership positions. It is also important to stay humble when you achieve success.

He would like to become an engineer in the IT field someday. There are so many exciting innovations happening in the technological world at present, and Atukorala wants to be a part of it.

He would also would like to be qualified in the financial field as he believes it is important to have some financial knowledge in whatever field you work in. One of his dreams would be to begin a company of his own someday, and believes the skills he has mentioned above will be necessary to make his dream a reality.

We wish Ovindu every success in his future endeavours.



## "THE PETERINES"-THE TRIO OF HFC GIRLS WHO ATTENDED SPC IN THE 1960'S

(ALGI WIJEWICKREMAS RECOLLECTIONS)

Boys attending a girls' school as pre-school students is commonplace. But girls attending a boys' school at A Level.... That was (and probably still is) sensational!

In 1966, there were three girls from HFC Bambalapitiya who created that rare sensation at St Peter's College. Frances Nicholas, Jean Ekanayake and Lilani Fernando stepped in through the gates with determination to achieve an objective – to study mathematics at A Level – at a boys' school.

Did I know of the time that they attended school? The answer is yes. I was a 12-year-old in shorts in Standard 7 and recall the queen like 16-year-olds in the A Level classes meandering through the corridors. There were the occasional whistles and catcalls, albeit with affection and boyish amusement.

Jean recalled that her aunt Lizzie (Miss. Ekanayake to us) was the boarding mistress and was given charge of the girls in the boys' school. So, lunch was at the boarding and intervals were mostly in the staff room. Aunt Lizzie was truly a guardian angel, albeit in a stolid uniform.



*Frances Nicholas, Jean Ekanayake & Lilani Fernando*



Jean Recollects "I remember playing the grand piano in the hall that was there for Gerard Cabraal to sing" She added "For some reason, some of the boys used to aim stones at us as we walked from the college Section to the primary to have lunch and while away our time during the one-hour lunch interval and Chandu Jethenand who was a prefect then took it upon himself to escort us and after a few days the stone throwing stopped."

Lilani still muses at the gusto with which the college anthem was sung every Monday at assembly. Her greatest takeaway from college she says were the catechism classes by Father Joe Wickremasinghe. "He taught us to respect human frailty. At that time, I did not quite comprehend what he was saying but later in life it helped me to rationalise much," she said.

Frances who married Anslem Perera are the one and only Peterite couple and that is a record that is unlikely to be broken.

Lilani was the odd one out of the trio because while Jean and Frances were in the English stream Lilani was in the Sinhala stream. She was the only one from the class to be admitted to university that year. Taking St Peter's in total that year however, a record number gained entrance to university and she thinks that her girls prompted the boys to work hard so as not be outdone. Lilani graduated from Peradeniya as an engineer.



*One and only Peterite couple  
Frances Nicholas & Anslem Perera*

The greatest achievement of the Peterines was the precipitation of the maths stream at HFC from the next year on. The thought that mathematics was ill placed in the heads of the nice girls at HFC was broken forever. Quite a few engineers, physicists and mathematicians have emerged from that stream since. The Peterines were the pioneers.

Footnote: Sadly, Jean Stewart (nee Ekanayake) left us on 22/3/22 after a brief battle with Cancer.



## 2022 EVENTS – QUADRANGULAR CRICKET TOURNAMENT ON AUSTRALIA DAY



**CHAMPIONS - ST. PETER'S COLLEGE**  
**RUNNERS UP - ST. BENEDICT'S COLLEGE**  
**3RD PLACE - ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE**  
**4TH PLACE - ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE**

Congratulations to the SPC team led by Dasun Randika. St Peters triumphed over runners up St Benedicts in the final, winning by 23 runs. Delon Udugamasooriya was adjudged Peterite man of the match taking 3/19 in the final.  
Finals score card (20 Overs):  
St Peters scored 171/6 and St Benedicts 148/8

A great day of cricket. We thank all the cricketers, organisers and supporters from the 4 teams for their dedication to this event, taking the time on a public holiday to make it a success.



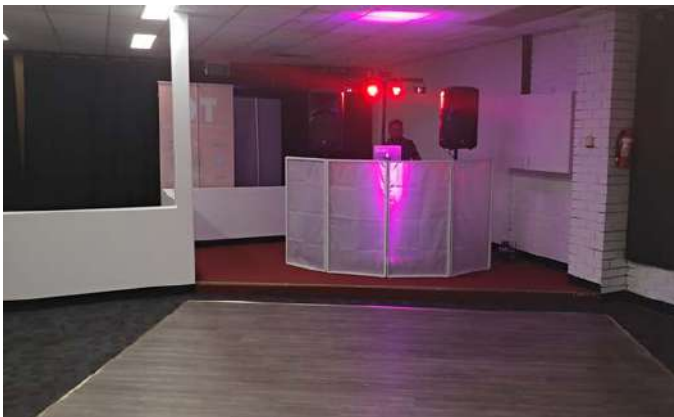


## 2022 EVENTS – FULL TOSS “STAG NITE” (25<sup>th</sup> March 2022)



A great evening of Catchup , Camaraderie , Dancing and a Floor Show too.....

A Big Thank You to Cricket Group For Organising





## 2022 EVENTS – “BATTLE OF THE SAINTS” (27<sup>th</sup> March 2022)



The Melbourne Weather Gods were good to us .....a balmy 29 degrees with not a cloud in the sky .....perfect cricket weather, and what a day of cricket and fun it was in St Peters Centenary Year and St Josephs 125th Year.

The tournament is played in the format of 2 matches, the open age and over 40's matches. The open age match is contested for the Rev.Fr.Nicolas Perera Memorial Trophy and the over 40's for the

Rev. Fr.Peter Pillai Memorial Trophy. Both Trophies were proudly on display at the venue.



The Sri Lanka Counsel General, Kapila Fonseka attended the event and was introduced to all the Players before the match. The trophies were handed out by the chief guest, Niranjana Rodrigo, who played Cricket for St. Peters from 1978 to 1982, Captaining College in his last year.

Throughout the day sumptuous food was available for purchase together with music and song, Including a duet by the two current OBU Presidents (Jerome Chandrasekera of St Peters and Chamil Fernando of St Josephs)



A Big thank you to the Organisers and supporters (without whom this event cannot happen)

**LET'S KEEP THE “BLUE, WHITE & GOLD “& “BLUE, WHITE & BLUE” FLYING HIGH BOYS.**

**BELOW ARE THE MATCH STAT'S FOR THE DAY  
OVER 40'S (SPC was Captained by Jerome Chandrasekera)**

- \*Match Winner = SPC (167/6) beat SJC (130/7)
- \*Best batsman = Malin Silva 42 runs
- \*Best bowler= Gayan Fernando 4 overs 2/17
- \*Best Fielder = Charith Senarathbandara
- \*Man of the match = Adrian Symons 21 runs and 3/32 off 4 overs

**OPEN AGE (SJC was Captained by Sahan Wijesiri)**

- \*Match Winner = SJC (178/5) beat SPC (173/9)
- \*Best Batsman = Yashan Samarasinghe 103 no
- \*Best bowler = Fabian Fernando 5 overs 2/22
- \*Best Fielder = Dasun Randika 2 catches
- \*Man of the match= Yashan Samarasinghe 103 and 1/29







# Mastering Nicknames Or To Sir With Love

By Lawrence Heyn



William Shakespeare was often wont to ask: "What's in a name? Then offer these pearls of wisdom: *"A rose by any other name would smell just as sweet."*

But for us Peterites, calling a teacher by any other name but his own was sweeter.

Schoolboys have a universal reputation of being quick-witted and skilled in coming up with nicknames for figures of authority. It was no exception at St. Peter's.

Right through the generations of Peterites, from the era of the Reverend Fr. Le Goc to the present day, nicknames have rolled off impish tongues. They have ranged from the apt to the absurd, comical to the cruel, mindless to the memorable. Few masters escaped the tag.

While the seeds of education were planted in my mind so were the nicknames. They became so entrenched that even now I can put faces to nicknames but for the life of me cannot remember the names of some of those teachers.

How did these nicknames evolve? It obviously will take a psychologist to offer answers. So, I will not even try.

After staid and studious primary school years I was quickly introduced to the world of nicknames in the College as I stood outside the Prelim class waiting for the *"silence bell."* A hushed whisper went down the line: *"**Polar Bear** is coming."* My mind switched to the image of a growling, hulking bear-like person all snowy white. But the perverse nature of nicknames was soon obvious as a rotund gent, of placid mien and dark hue plodded past.

Polar Bear turned out to be quite an amiable person. But Narse **Polla** (English spelling hardly does it justice) was a different kettle of fish. The earnest desire of most students was to keep a cane's distance away from this purveyor of punishment. Yet, there were many who felt his wrath.

Like Narse, **Kanaga** was not a person to cross. His right palm could be classified as a lethal weapon and I once felt the full weight of it, for merely trying to do my duties as monitor.

The masters came in all different sizes – hot tempered, calm, timid or merely indifferent.

One who will be a lasting memory is **Half Soda**, for his short stature and hot temper.

It was the funniest sight, seeing Half Soda attempting to punish those big seniors. A couple of times I had seen him throw himself into the air to land a slap. He soon discovered this raised hilarity and resorted to asking the boys to step down to the lower level of the quadrangle or kneel before him. He could then comfortably make contact with their cheeks.

One of the harmless people, I came across was **Veddah** who always was an easy touch for "Gho-r-st story." He was the accredited religion teacher but invariably St Mark's Gospel went by the board as Veddah told chilling tales to an appreciative and captive audience. To this day, I do not know why he was called Veddah.

I am left pondering the source of many nicknames. **Cheeseball** probably reflected on the late and respected Rector's bald cranium but why the alternative **Jiveboy**?

The nicknames were legion; there were **Billa, Poltoks, Foolman, Jungle Jim, Kaputa, Thosai, Ganja, Ara Soysa, Police Bataya, Pol Gassa, Kalu, Apple John, Gondola, Bus-sa, Bola Puka, Peter Sellers**, to name just a few. The daddy of them all was **Pippi**. Now, here is a story I would love to know. One being told is that Pippi got his name when vengeful students filled his motorcycle petrol tank with urine as a payback. But this is unconfirmed.

Certainly, Pippi was one to step around as he had a vicious combination of forefinger and thumb, which would latch onto your navel and twist. The memory still hurts.

While nicknames were the legacy of innocent schoolboy fun, I still feel a tinge of regret over the demise of the Physics teacher, **Tubby or Mass** (*he pronounced it in the Yank way, "Marse."*) From the day he walked in with his maroon tie and his big toe bandaged like a turban, Tubby was doomed.

The year 1967 was horrific for Tubby, "tortured" by his students right up to the end of year party culminating with Morty's unsuccessful Houdini act with a gunny bag. While Morty increasingly found it difficult to extricate himself from the gunny sack, Tubby was getting quite agitated. Finally, he yelped "I'm going," downed a mixture of soft drink served by his tormentors and bolted down the stairs never to be seen again.

The last we heard was that Tubby had changed professions.

Footnote: This article is written with malice to none – it is merely a jolly jaunt through school days which hopefully might raise a chuckle or two from likeminded Peterites.

## MEMORIES OF OUR COLLEGE DAYS



**THE GALLERY QUEUE AT THE SAVOY CINEMA**



**THE BUSES WE TRAVELLED IN ...REMEMBER WAITING FOR THE HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL BUS?**



**THE "THOSAI FEED" AT SARAWATHIE LODGE.....HOPE YOU REMEMBERED TO PAY?**




**THE BAMBALAPITIYA FLATS**

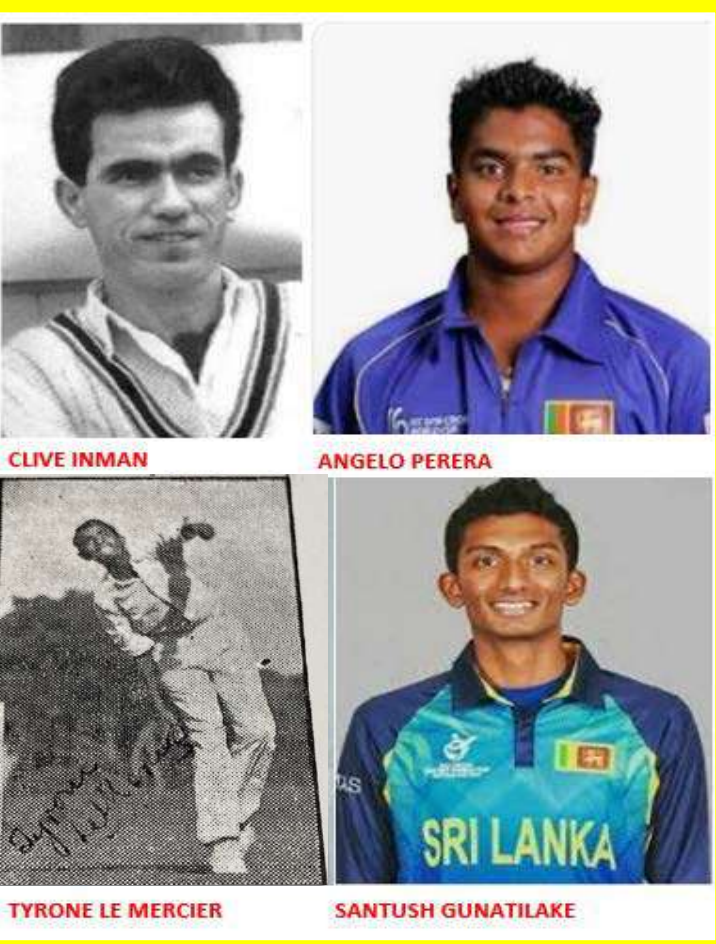


**HOLY FAMILY CONVENT, BAMBALAPITIYA**



## PETERITE CRICKET STARS.....





CLIVE INMAN
ANGELO PERERA

TYRONE LE MERCIER
SANTUSH GUNATILAKE

## .....AND OUR NEWEST SRI LANKA CRICKET CAP

### FORMER PETERITE CRICKETER GETS HIS SRI LANKA CAP FOR 20<sup>th</sup> FEB 2022 T20 AUSTRALIA MATCH

Janith Liyanage, former St Peter's College Cricket First XI Vice Captain (2014) received his "cap" from Sri Lanka cricket star Lasith Malinga prior to playing his debut match for Sri Lanka in the T20 match with Australia at the MCG in Melbourne. Sri Lanka achieved a thrilling victory, scoring the winning run in the 5th ball of the final over. Janith scored 8 runs in this match.

We look forward to seeing Janith succeed in his future cricket career

PS: Good to see Peterite support for Janith at his debut match!!!!





## PETERITE CRICKETERS WHO HAVE PLAYED FOR THE NATIONAL TEAM VS OTHER COUNTRIES (FEBRUARY 2022)

16 Peterite Cricketers have played in the National team from the 1950's to 2022. The first was HIK Fernando (who Captained the team) to Janith Liyanage who got his cap on 20/2/2022 in the T20 International match against Australia.

Roy Dias had the honour of Representing Sri Lanka in the first Test Sri Lanka played against England in 1982 and being the highest scoring Sri Lankan Batsman (77).

Of the Batsmen, Russell Arnold has scored the most runs in test cricket (1821) and One day Internationals (3590).

In Terms of Bowling, Rumesh Ratnayake has captured the most scalps of the Peterites in test cricket (73) and One day Internationals (76).

More Information is available on our Face book page



SPC Melbourne



HIK FERNANDO



PHI LKELLY



CLIVE INMAN



DAVID HEYN



TONY OPATHA



ROY DIAS



KEERTHI GUNARATN



ROHAN BUULTJENS



RUMESH RATNAYKE



VINOOTHAN JOHN



AMAL SILVA



RUSSELL ARNOLD



KAUSHAL LOKUARACHI



MALINDA WARNAPURA



ANGELO PERERA



JANITH LIYANAGE



## PETERITE SPORTSMEN THEN.....



**FIRST PETERITE RUGBY TEAM  
FROM 1932 CAPTAINED BY F. BILIMORIA**

QUADRANGLE

LEGENDS



**THE FIRST LIMITED OVER JOE PETE  
CRICKET MATCH (1975)**

The first match was played in 1975 with SJC captained by Dushan Soza and SPC by Bernard Wijetunga. This match was won by SPC.

SJC have won 24 matches with SPC winning 20. (The 2008 match was adjudged "no decision"). The 2001 match was a "tie" with both teams scoring 205 runs.

## PETERITE SPORTSMEN NOW.....

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO PETERITE SWIMMER AKALANKA PEIRIS**

Congratulations to Akalanka for his selection to represent Sri Lanka at the Commonwealth Games (July/Aug 2022 in Birmingham, UK) and Asian Games (Sept 2022 in Hangzhou, China).

Akalanka has represented Sri Lanka at the following international events:

- \*2018 Commonwealth Games
- \*2018 Youth Summer Olympics
- \*2019 World Aquatics Championships
- \*2021 FINA world swimming championships

Akalanka is one of the top 50 fastest swimmers in the world and has set national swimming records in 50m backstroke, 100m backstroke and 4×100m freestyle relay events. In 2017, he set the new Sri Lankan national record in men's 100m backstroke.

He later claimed two more national records in both 50m backstroke and 4×100m freestyle relay events during the 2018 Commonwealth games.





## FAREWELL TO THREE WELL KNOW PETERITE ENTERTAINERS

### **VALE SUNIL PERERA-“THE GYPSEY” LEGEND**

Sunil Perera was described as one of the most influential musicians in Sri Lankan music history. Perera was the leader and the lead vocalist of “The Gypsies”. He was associated with Sri Lanka's baila genre, and gained the nickname “Baila Chakravarthy”.

Perera was born on 14 September 1952, into a family of ten siblings. He started his education at St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa finishing school at St Peter's College. During his school days he was a member of the college band.

At the age of 11, he started to play guitar. In 1969, at the age of 15 when he left school and joined the band The Gypsies created by his father, Anton Perera, along with his brothers Nihal, Lal, Nimal, Piyal and uncle's son Neville.

His father also built a studio for the band next to the house on Galle Road in Ratmalana where they were staying at the time. In the '70s, they released 5 charting albums. Their song 'Lunu Dehi' released in 1987 was a song that made an amazing difference on the concert stage in the country.

Sunil's recent works, such as “I Don't Know Why” addresses socio-political issues through humour.

The band The Gypsies celebrated their Golden Jubilee in 2021 by arranging a concert via virtual **platforms**.



### **VALE BILL FORBES – THE 1950/60'S SINGING LEGEND**

Bill Forbes was born in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and educated at St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya.

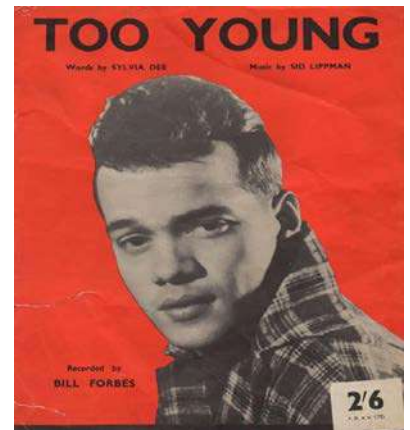
At 17, he went to Britain to pursue his dreams of becoming a famous singer. He auditioned for the popular “Oh Boy” show and was accepted, making his debut singing an upbeat spiritual song “God's Little Acre”. Shortly afterward, he was signed by Columbia Records. His most successful recording was a cover of “Too Young” which reached no. 29 in UK's New Music Express Chart during December 1959. In Ceylon, “Too Young / It's Not the End of The World” was a double-sided no. 1 hit in early 1960. Meanwhile, Bill was inspired by the successful comical song “Goodness Gracious Me” sung by Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren to record his own “baila” styled “Oh to be in England” (which he composed) under the name of Kal Kahn in 1964. This song is considered a classic in the genre.

Bill Forbes and his band The Contrasts got the chance to work with record producer George Martin of Beatles fame

**Quoting Bill “When we first went to his office, The Beatles were there and we were introduced.**

**I remember talking to John Lennon, telling him I wrote songs, and offered to write a few songs for him. He laughed!”**

Bill Forbes gave up show business in 1975 and settled in Huddersfield, UK. He is regarded as the first Sri Lankan solo artist ever to secure a recording contract and a hit recording outside his native country.



### **VALE DESMOND DE SILVA – THE “BAILA” LEGEND**

Desmond De Silva was born on 13 July 1944 in Matara, Sri Lanka and was the eldest of the family with two siblings. Desmond, who lived his later life in Melbourne was an alumnus of college and one of Sri Lanka's leading musicians and entertainers.

"Des," as he was known to his fans, launched his career in popular music in 1963, as the lead vocalist of the Fire-Flies. His music was featured widely on Radio Ceylon and subsequently the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, the oldest radio station in South Asia. Des has also performed with leading Sri Lankan pop groups "The Spitfires," "Gabo and the Breakaways," and the "Jetliners." He has celebrated 40 years in show business, selling millions of Records and CDs around the world. Des was known for his popular renditions of Sri Lankan 'baila' music and has championed the cause of autism spectrum disorders, increasing awareness of this condition in Sri Lanka. He was the first Sri Lankan musician to appeal on behalf of autistic children and people with autism in Sri Lanka, urging Sri Lankans to 'speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves.'





# THIS IS YOUR CLUB

## Have Your Say: What do you think of this newsletter?

*Please email your views, anecdotes, stories and trips down memory lane to the Editor;*  
<mailto:tino.delamotte@gmail.com>

### Membership & Committee

Inquiries regarding membership or your financial status can be emailed to Leyon Don (Membership Secretary) [membership.spcmelbourne@gmail.com](mailto:membership.spcmelbourne@gmail.com). Current membership is just \$10 per annum.

You can pay up your subscription for life and avoid the annual hassle of renewing your membership at the following rates; Over 60 yrs. \$100, 40-60 yrs. \$200 and Under 40 yrs. \$350.

The Club Welcomes the following new members (To End Mar 2022)

**Ernest Kelaart**

**Dinesh Rodrigo**

### The Committee and other officials of the Club for the Financial Year 2021/22

<b>President</b>	Jerome Chandrasekera	<b>Editor</b>	Tino De La Motte
<b>Vice President</b>	Gavin Gottlieb	<b>70's Group</b>	Brian Jayasingha
<b>Past President</b>	Valentino Pereira	<b>Rugby Group</b>	Madisha Silva
<b>Secretary</b>	Richard Jayawardena	<b>Cricket Group</b>	Dasun Randika
<b>Treasurer</b>	Shenal Fernando	<b>General Member</b>	Tyrone Le Mercier
<b>Membership Sec</b>	Leyon Don	<b>General Member</b>	Roger Rode
<b>Patron</b> Rev. Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo			
<b>Vice Patron</b>	Johann Gunasekara	<b>Vice Patron</b>	Chanaka Perera
<b>Auditor</b> Yohan Soza			

