



CALLING THOMIANS YOUNG, OLD, NEAR AND FAR



FUND RAISING INITIATIVE OF STC OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF SELECTED PROJECTS IN MOUNT LAVINIA AND BRANCHES

The Old Boys' Association of S Thomas' College (Mount Lavinia) inaugurated the "Walk a Mile for STC" initiative, to unite the Old Boy fraternity under the banner of keeping healthy while also raising funds for the school. This initiative, which began in early 2022 has been progressing well with participation of Old Boys, their colleagues and families organising their own sponsored walks in support of our alma mater.

The STCOBA (Australia Branch) have pledged to support this fund-raising activity and will be allocating a share of the funds generated through various activities throughout this year. A special event, "Nineties Night", has been earmarked for 17th September 2022 where the net proceeds will be allocated to this initiative. The primary projects currently targeted under this initiative include the Smart Classroom Project, the Pavilion Project, the Senior Quadrangle Project and the Gurutalawa Project. There is scope for inclusion of other projects based on the progress in meeting the initial goals.



The Smart Classroom Project: This project encompasses technology-enhanced classrooms that foster opportunities for teaching and learning by integrating learning technology, such as computers, specialized software, audience response technology, assistive listening devices, networking, and audio/visual capabilities. With the on-set of COVID on-line learning has become a necessity and is the primary focus of the Walk a Mile initiative. In Mount Lavinia, 20 classrooms have already been fitted with Smart-Boards and the aim to equip the remaining 80 classrooms with the same facility benefitting both teachers and students.

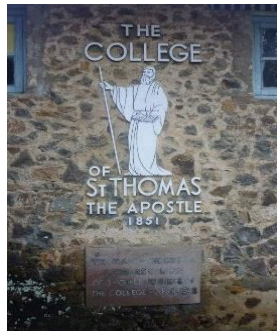
The OBA (Australia Branch) funded the Smart-Classroom Project at STC Gurutalawa which was launched in September 2020 that included equipping 4 classrooms with smart technology.

The Pavilion Project: This project involves upgrading the facilities in the College Pavilion in par with modern sporting infrastructures, giving the best opportunities in nurturing our young school sporting talent. The new facilities will be world-class, designed not just to meet the needs of today, but also sustain itself for the future. Some of the features planned for the new Pavilion include – Upgraded dressing rooms for home and away teams, ice bath and massage tables, unrestricted viewing for spectators, warm-up areas, dining facilities as well as women’s facilities.



The Senior Quadrangle Project: This project involves building four additional classrooms and a Performing Arts Studio on the top floor of the new Snr. Quadrangle building. This phase is designed in such a way, that the premises, particularly the Studio, can be hired out to external parties which would generate additional income for the College. While construction was delayed due to the lockdown related closures of the past year it will recommence soon. The project is expected to be completed during this year. Construction commenced with initial funding from Class of 1979 and the parent OBA.

The Gurutalawa Project: S. Thomas’ College Gurutalawa is one of the beloved branch schools of STC ML with a very strong bond between the schools maintained over the years. Most recently the OBA of STC ML in partnership with the OBA of STC Guru, helped initiate a Green Initiatives project aimed at ensuring sustainable development of the land in Gurutalawa; which included a full drone survey and scientific study of land and areas most suited for Agri as well as Agri-sales promotion in CMB. There are several new projects identified in Guru including new classrooms and other urgent infrastructure developments. Already fund-raising efforts have been undertaken by the Guru Old boys, Parents, Students and well-wishers. Walk A Mile will be a platform for Guru to raise their funding requirement.



Any Old Boys who wish to make direct contributions to any of the identified projects are welcome to do so via the STC OBA (Australia Branch). Please contact Mark Nanayakkara (Secretary) - markstcoba@hotmail.com



**S. Thomas' College Old Boys Association
-Australia Branch (STCOBA)**

STCOBA Australia Branch is based in Melbourne. This was the first Thomian OBA to be formed overseas.

The founders were a group of old Thomians who migrated to Australia after their primary and secondary studies at S. Thomas' College in Sri Lanka in the early 1960s and 1970s.

The main purpose, of the Thomian OBA, is to foster fellowship amongst Old Thomians in Australia and to raise funds that can be channeled to the Thomian fraternity of schools in Sri Lanka (Mount Lavinia, Kollupitiya, Bandarawala and Gurutalawa).



www.stcobaust.org.au



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/STCOBA/>



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You'll always remember, Wherever you may be, The school of your boyhood, The School by the Sea;
And we'll always remember, The friendships fine and free, That we made at S. Thomas', The School by the Sea



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear fellow Thomians,

The EXCO have been working tirelessly since the AGM to plan out the rest of the year, with most of our efforts to date aimed at preparing for the 2022 Thomian Ball. We have had a fantastic response from the Thomian fraternity with the event now **SOLD OUT**. I would like to thank my EXCO and Dance Committee for getting in excess of 400 tickets sold more than a month out from the event.

The sponsorship towards the event has been greatly appreciated, especially the number of business owners who are old Thomians and well-wishers that have rallied behind the OBA.

Membership numbers are increasing but I would like to see this improve further. The EXCO have decided to gift a lapel pin to any one that renews or signs up to the OBA this milestone year. If you have not renewed your membership yet I would encourage you to do so. If you know of a classmate or an old Thomian please encourage them to sign up to the OBA.

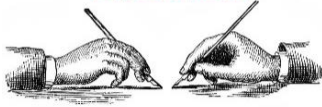
We will keep you updated on all of the future events that have been planned as the year progresses.

Please look after yourselves and looking forward to welcoming you all on the 4th of June at the Sofitel Hotel.

Esto Perpetua!

Peneeth Goonawardena

Editorial



“Hope your burdens are feeling lighter, and each day is a little bit brighter”

We express our appreciation to those who provided feedback on the January 2022 issue of the Thomiana, commemorating our 50th Anniversary. We are encouraged by the positive comments and will endeavour to refine the publication incorporating many of the suggestions.

The year kicked off with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 11th February 2022 at the Mount Waverley Youth Centre, coinciding with the AGM in Sri Lanka. The meeting was held under strict Covid guidelines with mandatory masks, social distancing and catering restrictions. The attendance was similar to last year of around 60. The annual Royal-Thomian cricket matches were held on 26th March 2022 with the Thomians winning two of the three matches.

The Executive Committee for 2022 saw a few changes but overall remained intact. We wish to express our sincere thanks to the outgoing members – Chris Lawton Snr. and Dinesh Fernando for their services to the OBA and welcome the new members – Niral Fernando and Praveen Bandaratilleke. The new team is now geared up for an eventful year with many additional activities catering to all age groups.

The Thomian Ball scheduled for 4th June 2022 is the main event for the year. Having missed out for two years due to Covid, this year is of special significance being the Golden Jubilee of the OBA in Australia. The format has been significantly refined with a new 5-star venue (Sofitel Melbourne) and attractive prizes and commemorative gifts. There had been an overwhelming demand for tickets and were sold out one month before the event. We expect it to be a “night to remember”.

Our Calendar of Events for 2022 include many new events – 50th Anniversary Luncheon, a “Nineties Night” for the “younger” old boys and an Information Forum assisting recent and pending migrants to Australia. Also, included is a memorial service for our former President, Frankie David on the first anniversary of his passing. It is understood that the 143rd Battle of the Blues has been scheduled for 21st – 23rd July 2022 and if this event proceed as planned a “live-screening” event will be organised.

Since our last publication, we lost M Sri Bawan (fondly known as “Bawan”) one of our Ex-Committee members and supporter of the OBA for many decades, following a long illness. Our sympathies go out to his wife Sharmalee and daughter Adrika.

The Walk A Mile initiative launched by our parent OBA in Sri Lanka has given all Old Boys a unique opportunity to help our alma mater. By all accounts the response has been overwhelming, both in Sri Lanka and overseas. It is likely the program launched early this year would be extended beyond May 2022, allowing the overseas OBAs to participate actively. We have made a commitment to support this initiative. However, there is no commitment made to any specific project at this stage and will be based on the allocation of funds raised from OBA events during this year.

Finally, we appeal to our readers to send us any interesting articles relating to your college days and beyond that could be considered for publication in the Thomiana.

ESTO PERPETUA

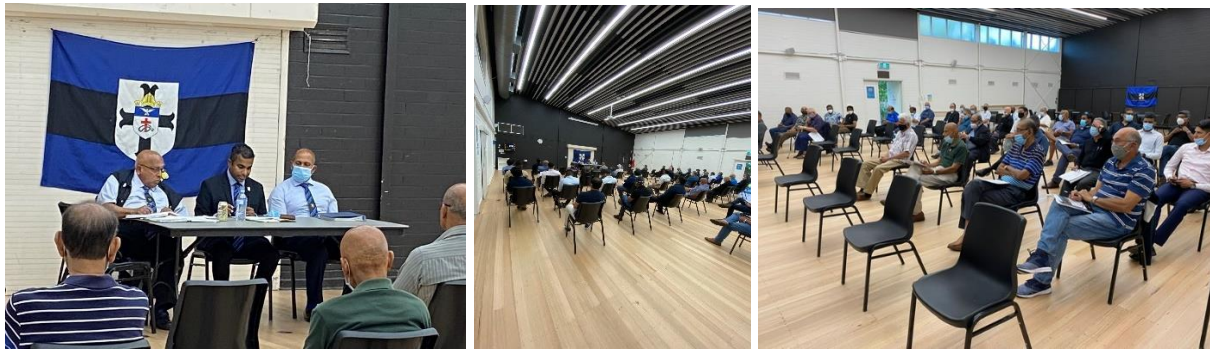
Editorial Team

Vasikaran Ratnarajah
Upali Gooneratne

OBA News

Annual General Meeting – 11th February 2022

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the STC OBA Melbourne was held at the Mount Waverley Youth Centre on Friday February 11th 2022 at 6.30pm. The meeting coincided with the AGM of the parent OBA in Sri Lanka, which was conducted on-line. This year too, COVID restrictions were in place but more relaxed than last year with a limit of 100 and social distancing provisions and catering restrictions. The attendance was around 60, slightly more than last year; however, with more spouses attending.



The meeting noted that, in spite of COVID impacting several regular OBA activities, innovative fundraising activities initiated in the previous year, namely Royal-Thomian Live Broadcast and Melbourne Cup Draw, were undertaken, which boosted the OBA's finances. The Executive Committee continued to hold monthly meetings via Zoom/Teams for most of the previous year and kept the membership informed of the developments.

The members endorsed the current President, Peneeth Goonawardena, to continue to serve in the position of President for this year, marking the 50th Anniversary of the OBA. The President thanked the members who had relinquished their positions on the Ex-Co for their valuable service to the OBA. He thanked the immediate past Secretary Chris Lawton warmly for his long service in Office. Referring to the task ahead of organising events for the year, the President said that he was confident that with his able Ex Co. and relaxed conditions more events could be held this year. Every effort was being made to make the forthcoming OBA's 50th Anniversary Dinner Dance scheduled for 4th June 2022 at the Sofitel Hotel, Melbourne a memorable event.



Vasee Nesiah (Ex-President) and Ari Saravanamuttu (Ex-Vice President) received the President's Awards for 2022 for their dedicated service and continued support of the OBA. Chris Varney received the Award on behalf of Vasee who was unable to attend.

The meeting ended with the singing of the College Song and followed by the traditional social with dinner and drinks.

OBA BATTLE OF THE BLUES – 2022



The Royal Thomian Melbourne cricket encounter was held on the 26th of March 2022 at Keeley Park in Clayton South. This year's encounter was hosted by the Royal College OBA. Despite restrictions earlier in the year, the Organising Committee

did a tremendous job in organizing the event before the cricket season ended.

A large crowd, mainly old boys from the respective Schools gathered to watch three exciting games and meet their batch mates and relive those memories.

In the open game, Thomians won the toss and elected to bat first. Thomians were led by Pramu Rodrigo and had an impressive team line up which consisted of Jeevan Mendis, past Sri Lankan cricketer and Royal was led by Chaminda Vidanapathirana. The Thomian opening pair of Rashmika Opatha and Ravindu Kodithuwakku got the Thomians off to a terrific start but wickets at regular intervals hampered the rate and the Thomians were eventually bowled out for 172. Royal chasing 173 in 40 overs did not get off to a great start and the Thomian spin attack took wickets and bowled Royal out for 130 and won the game by 42 runs. This was the 5th consecutive win for the Thomians in the open game.

The over 40s game had an exciting finish and went to the last over. Royal was led by Shanaka Perera and Thomians by Chanaka Gunawardena. Thomians chasing 151 to win in 20 overs, fell short by just 10 runs.

The over 50s game had another nail-biting finish. Royal chasing the Thomians score of 149, fell short by just 2 runs.

Open Game

STC - 172 all out

Ravindu Kodithuwakku - 42
Navodh Fernando - 27
Rashmika Opatha - 22

Althaf Nizam - 4/14

Sugeesha Dinushan - 2/24

Royal - 130 all out

Hasitha Samarasinghe - 40

Helitha Vithanage - 23

Dulith Gunaratne - 2/20

Ravindu Kodithuwakku - 2/18

Best Batsman - Ravindu Kodithuwakku - STC

Best Bowler - Dulith Gunaratne - STC

Man of the Match - Ravindu Kodithuwakku - STC

Randy De Silva Memorial Trophy (Thomian Award) - Navodh Fernando

Eddie Gray Trophy (Royal Award) - Althaf Nizam

Over 40s Game

Royal - 150 / 4 in 20 Overs

Lahiru Rajapaksha - 39

Umesh Gunawardena - 34

Asfan Thajudeen - 3/21

STC - 140 for 7 in 20 Overs

Chanaka Gunawardena - 36 retired

Siddath Medonza - 20

Sampath Edirimuni - 3/24

Sanjeewa - 2/16

Best Batsman - Lahiru Rajapaksha - Royal

Best Bowler - Asfan Thajudeen - STC

Man of the Match - Sampath Edirimuni - Royal

Over 50s Game

STC - 149 for 3 in 25 overs

Leon Lewis - 34

M Siritunge - 32

Dirk De Silva - 30

Ramesh - 2/23

Royal - 147 for 8 in 25 overs

Shyam Sideek - 37

Romesh - 19

Shamil - 2/23

Mahen - 2/28

Best Batsman - Shyam Sideek - Royal

Best Bowler - Shamil Paranavithana - STC

Man of the Match - Leon Lewis - STC

Photos courtesy of Yohan Pasqual (RC OBA) - see Photo Gallery



A Thomian at the COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Ovin Hettiarachchi is the youngest member and only recent schoolboy player in the Sri Lanka 7s squad that is shortlisted for the upcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and the Asian Games.

He was a key member of the S. Thomas' Rugby team as a Fly Half and Centre. He even scored a try at the recently concluded match against Trinity College and was a valuable player for the side in the schools 7s tournament. He made a good impression for Air Force Sports Club and now, has earned his maiden national call up.

Wishing the best of luck to Ovin!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2022 THOMIAN BALL
 Dress, Dance, Indulge & Dazzle

SOLD OUT!

THOMIAN OBA 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS | \$145 | SOFITEL MELBOURNE 25 COLLINS STREET MELBOURNE | WIN A SRI LANKAN HOLIDAY & MUCH MORE

SAVE THE DATE

LIVE BROADCAST

ROYAL 0/0 0.0 // RR-0.0 | 0/0 0.0 // RR-0.0 | STCML

143RD BATTLE OF THE BLUES

ON 21ST, 22ND AND 23RD JULY!

Friday 22nd July 2022

Waverley Youth Centre,
 Miller Crescent, M. Waverley, 3149
 7.00 pm onwards

Live music, dinner, drinks, kids entertainment etc



Through the eyes of a Thomian

The Royal-Thomian friendship is one that has been for as long as all living can remember. This friendship has outlived lifetimes, wars, uprisings, governments, and all that we view as permanent and unchanging. It is this friendship as viewed by some, and rivalry as viewed by others, that fuels and still ignites the hearts of Royalists and Thomians alike.

What started in the form of the Cricket match that we all eagerly await year after year, has manifested across a multitude of disciplines, from the physically gruelling sports of rowing and rugby, to the more intellectually challenging, as seen in chess and scrabble. It has always been in the interest of both schools, and all stakeholders, to commit to the highest possible standards of healthy competition, to nurture, guide, and build resilience in the hearts and minds of all participants. A bar which is set in the rivalry between the two schools with the greatest and longest history between them.

It is a very real change from the days of the two cricket teams rowing across the water to reach Galle Face grounds in the early years of the Royal-Thomian cricket match, to the pomp and pageantry behind the two teams, celebrated as ambassadors, not only of the game of cricket, but of all that which embodies the two schools they represent, and the longest standing healthy rivalry between two school in this country's history.

After 141 encounters between the Royal College and S. Thomas' College, the tally lies at 35 a piece, with 71 drawn games, and this article is a view through the eyes of a Thomian cricketer, into the inner workings, hours of practice, and patient planning that led to the Thomian cricket team emerging victorious to not only level the series, but to recover the most coveted trophy of all, the pride of the two schools and crown jewel of the trophy cabinet; The D.S Senanayake Challenge Shield.

What a challenge indeed.

It was in September in the season of 2016/2017, that I first stepped onto the cricket field as a Thomian 1st XI cricketer, and what a badge of honour it was, to represent my school in the highest possible level of the game I love. Though it was the first game of the

season, we had but one task; send Royal College a message. We were a vastly inexperienced team, with only 3 Coloursmen, and several players making their 1st XI debuts in that first game of the season. In the back of all our minds, we had lost the Royal-Thomian in March of 2016, and were determined to "bring the shield back home." The reason I dragged the readers to the past is because it was maybe only 5 people in that 1st XI squad of 20 who were not present in the squad of 2019, when the goal we had set out to accomplish in September of 2016 was finally met in March of 2019, at the 140th Battle of the Blues.

It was with this extremely competitive mindset that we approached each game. Though our opponent changed from game to game, the purpose of playing and winning each of those games was to improve our skills, tactics and striving for perfection in a common task; to finally beat Royal College and regain the Shield. Across those 3 years that I represented the College 1st XI cricket teams, we won over 15 games outright through the seasons, emerged as the Dialog Best Schools teams in consecutive years (the first time in 2018 was after a lapse of 30 years), emerged 50-over Champs in Division One and Two-day Runners-up in Division One, and won an international tournament in Australia, yet none of those victories were as sweet or hard fought as the gruelling fight to regain the trophy.

It is important for the readers of the Royal College fraternity to understand that though we were rivals on the field, there was great camaraderie on the field between the players of the two schools, which is rarely seen since it is outside of play. Pasindu Sooriyabandara (Royal Captain of 2018), Kavindu Madarasinghe (Royal Captain of 2019) and Kavindu Pathirathne (Royal Vice Captain of 2021) are all great personal friends of mine even today; and though tempers and tension runs high and heated in the center of the SSC on those three famous days, the players always leave with a great sense of friendship, for there is a shared understanding of the goal we all commonly press towards, and it is in that understanding that these friendships are formed. I have played both against and alongside all three of the mentioned players at school and club level, and it has been a privilege to know these great Royalists.

Through the eyes of a Thomian, the Big Match is so much more than a mere rivalry, and to be a part of that great tradition in any capacity is an honour. I personally believe that the standard of school cricket in the country can be judged by the standard of the Royal-Thomian, as both teams strive for the highest standards of excellence in what is the crown jewel of school cricket matches.

I think all readers, Royalists and Thomians and well-wishers alike will agree with me in accepting that the Royal-Thomian is unlike any other experience. An event that brings together thousands from across the World across all races, ethnicities, and backgrounds, to share in a common love for cricket, two Great schools, and the friendships formed over the years. There are no three days that the country comes more alive than the days of the Royal-Thomian, and it is truly a pity that we are deprived of sharing in the momentous occasion that is the 142nd Battle of the Blues, yet it is a great relief that the tradition lives on

for another year, unbroken, untarnished, and will be fought to the last minute of the game.

The moment I felt the most pride in my life was on the Wednesday after we had regained the Shield, as the Squad, led by the Captain carried the Shield through the Quadrangle for the entire school to see, and placed it at the top of the Chapel Steps, as the boys roared the College song with pride that over owed. And it is that feeling that I would wish upon any Thomian cricketer in the future, and it is to that moment I would wish to return, if I had the chance.

Through the eyes of a Thomian, it is my greatest hope that the Thomian team not only retains, but wins the game this year, however as the old adage goes, may the best team win.

“Never Venture, Never Win’ - Sun Tzu

Esto Perpetua S. Thomas’ and Floreat Royal College!



Jehan Schaffter (SFCML)

The Other Side



A school van stops in the traffic.... A boy locks his eyes on a gaudy black and blue piece of cloth being swayed outside that van. He creeps towards the van.... In a fraction of a second, he flicks that flag and runs flat out in the traffic.... mission accomplished!!!! Yees yees yees, it’s the Roy-Tho... it’s the season of the year all Royalists and Thomians have been anticipating eagerly, also not forgetting our female counterparts....

What comes parallel to the big match season??? ring a bell...??? not yet?? Ever had the experience of seeing girls go WILD over boys jumping in to their schools during Big match season or feeling the adrenaline rush through your body as you run when being chased by a cop who is trying to hammer you with his batten???

WELCOME to the world of TRUCKING!!!! – A Landmark in a senior student’s school life. They flock

around the little heavens down Flower Road, Boyd place and maybe few international schools, from the previous Friday to the big match week, till the day before that big event hits the town. Most of the time it’s the person who has had the most experience in trucking leads the pack, strengthens the spirits of newbies and boosts the morale of every student.

I remember my first time in trucking... it was about 10.30 a.m.; we were flocking near the Inner Flower Road. We sensed something unusual from the distance... it was our college van!! As it was nearing us, our Principal Sir along with bunch of teachers came into visibility. Some of the newbies like myself were shaking like leaves because we knew that we were in deep trouble!!! At that moment our skipper brought us down to our feet by saying “machan don’t panic, just act cool” and just as Principal Sir opened the door our so-called hero screamed

“Duwapaaaannnn”!!!! in a fraction of a second, we split like bees!!!! I will never forget a crazy time like that.... Also, there were times when those “walle kollo” come all the way to Colombo hiring a bus for 4000Rs or 5000Rs, and went empty handed home when they were caught by the cops. On the other hand, it’s walking distance for us!! Even sometimes it’s us who have to help them to jump in to girls’ schools... They still have a lot to learn regarding this subject. But at the end of the day, nobody is left behind school wise because it’s nothing but pure team work.... Like the old saying goes “There’s no Royal without St. Thomas’ and no St. Thomas’ without Royal.....?”

Not only the guys and girls enjoy doing this but also the teachers do!!!! Girls go wild with the presence of us noble beings and begin to think “hey it’s not fair!!! Guys wander in our class rooms and school premises and we girls must have the right to do so too”. Some times our own hierarchy students are put in to the girl schools to keep the situation under control, which makes it even easier for us!!!! Sometimes teachers from those schools seek co-operation of our teachers.... that’s where our teachers drop down to those schools to say “ok ok boys... time to leave this place peacefully” and we being the loyal souls to our Alma mater, leave the place peacefully giving a R-O-Y-A-L cheer....

Once we came across this really nice teacher in the little heaven down the flower road, who followed us everywhere... and one of our fellow students asked her “miss are you guiding us???”; with an innocent smile she replied “yes dear, I’m leading you the way out!!!” Or sometimes funny things happen like meeting our own parents who teach in those schools and saying Hi to them, where all the girls become puzzled!!! Then comes the all-important cycle parade, (coma) debate and so forth...

Then the big event starts off... nowadays it has become one of the biggest social events than merely

a big match. It’s a place where old boys and whole student population meetup to speak of “their time”. It’s a birth place to the 3B’s concept, namely Booze, Birds and Baila. It may be a place where a student tastes his first sip of alcohol, you find here and there guys getting high till the whole world revolves around them. Then suddenly you see pretty ladies in vibrant colours. It’s obvious that they wouldn’t have spent much money for clothes, considering the length of the garment!!! One may also wonder if these angels have mistakenly come here while they were on their way to a fashion show!! It’s nothing but whole three days of bird watching!!! (of course, we DON’T miss the match a single second). Then once you become familiar with the atmosphere you start singing baila one by one non-stop!!!! Even sometimes you are not aware where the words are coming from, as long as they get along with the tune you sing it. There are times when things get heated and once in a while you find a chair or two flying over your head and one guy beating the other without knowing the reason... Even while concentrating on all of these, you suddenly remember to watch whenever you hear “Ooohs” and “aaahhs”.

At the end of all three days students of both school’s sing school anthems putting their heart and soul into it. But still it really doesn’t matter if your school wins or loses because it’s the spirit that they live for.....

The next Monday you find the graveyard atmosphere in school because either students are worn-out or they are sad because the festive season is over.....

Mmmm.... . those sweet memories I will never forget.....

Long live the world’s longest running cricket encounter, Battle of the Blues.....

Floreat !

Courtesy of: Rishan Danthasinghe (RC)

Thomianawe value your opinion

In order to structure the newsletter to meet the preferences of our readers, we invite comments and suggestions on ways to improve the publication. Your feedback on the format, overall content, quality of articles, topics and interest in the newsletter is appreciated. Please send your responses to:

Vasikaran Ratnarajah: vasidaisy15@gmail.com or Upali Gooneratne: fgooneratne@iiec.org

y

Sri Bawan – All round Good Guy

Five and a half years ago, Sharmalee and Adrika organized a grand 70th Birthday celebration for the twins Sri Rangan and Sri Bawan. At that time, the medical hierarchy suggested Bawan's lifespan may have been compromised. He got to the function with a substantial amount of human and equipment support. At that point Rangan was in great shape, moving around with a spring in his step. However, always the fighter, never to sneak a backward glance, Bawan went about his usual activities, including golf and cricket umpiring without the slightest stumble. His endearing character would fit the definition of 'carerum' bugger, the perfect attitude and disposition required by successful Cricket Umpires. Despite the all the odds being against him, Bawan outlived his twin Rangan.

At College, a brisk outswing Opening Bowler and Top Order batsman, Bawan got an opportunity late in the 1965/66 cricket season, where a good performance would have clinched him a spot in the Big Match Team.

That event did not turn out well.

Rangan and Bawan stored their cricket gear in the same area of the Copleston/Claughton Dormitory. In his eagerness to get himself ready to catch the Team transport (provided by the imitable Publis in his dilapidated Pontiac) for his Debut 1st X1 game, Bawan grabbed what he thought was the kit he required. Unfortunately, as he got himself ready to walk onto the field, he realized that he had picked up his Left boot and Rangan's Left boot from their pile of cricket gear. When he was introduced into the attack by Skipper Anura Tennekoon, Bawan could not generate the pace Anura knew he was capable of. Following Bawan's explanation that he was wearing two Left Boots, the captain was forced to take him out of the attack.

Unfortunately, Bawan was also deprived of showing his prowess with the bat. He was the next batsman in, but did not get his opportunity, because the batsmen at the crease shared in an unbeaten century partnership. That ended Bawan's opportunity to play in the Royal Thomian. Even so, Bawan could still claim to be a Thomian 1st X1 Cricketer.

One of the outstanding Thomian sportsman of that era, Nihal Nilaweera, was captain the College 2nd X1 Team. He had a lot of fun at the expense of the umpires and the opposition batsmen when he had Bawan and Rangan opening the bowling. The confused umpires thought that same bowler was bowling from both ends. On such occasions, Bawan half through his Run Up, would place the ball on the ground and burst out laughing, to the bewilderment of Umpire and Batsman.

Bawan and my brother Ronnie, much to Sharmalee's despair, were frequent spectators at the Big Match. They had been to practically every Royal Thomian for the past 15 or 20 Years, enjoying every possible function or excursion, whether they were eligible to attend or not. Despite the 10-year age gap, they were both regulars at the Class of '55 re-unions, which was Bawan's own Year Level, but the organizers of the function were always happy to welcome Ronnie into their fold. No matter the function, most people enthusiastically greeted this Royal Thomian legend. Ronnie's connection with Bawan's family dated back to the 60's when Ronnie's employer transferred him to Trincomalee where he became a regular at the home of Bawan's parents.

Bawan's generosity knew no bounds. It was not unusual for Sharmalee and Bawan welcome 'friends' from overseas to their home. Bawan once offered accommodation to a friend who rang him from the Airport saying that he had just got in and needed a place to stay. Without any hesitation, Bawan would not only offer temporary



Rangan & Bawan at the Mustangs (Royal – Thomian 2014)

accommodation, but also race off to the Airport to pick him up. Temporary was not always the operative word. Much to Sharmalee's chagrin, 'temporary' once extended to several weeks.

Perhaps he enjoyed driving. I once mentioned a trip to England I was taking the following week. Machan, I will drive you to the airport. It would take him 25 minutes to get to my place, another 40 minutes to the airport and another hour and a bit longer to get back home. Two and a half hours driving, just make it easy for me to get to the Airport. Thanks, but no thanks mate. I know that he had been the Taxi to the Airport for many friends.

"Bangan, I threw a ball from the boundary pulled a muscle in my shoulder. Give it a massage. Bangan, my ankle is stuffed. Rub it with some Vicks, because I need to be ready for the St. Joseph's game tomorrow." These words were uttered by Premalal Goonesekere, legendary Thomian Captain and architect of the 1964 victory over Royal College.

Why Bangan?

Premalal could not distinguish between the Twins, Sri Rangan and Sri Bawan, so he took the easy way out and called them both, Bangan. Why call Bangan to perform these medical procedures? Premalal had the belief that Bawan, being a Twin, had some special healing powers.

How did I get to know of these exceptional talents?



Bawan, Sharmalee and Adrika at the Sydney STC OBA Christmas Carols – 18th December 2021

It was at a Thomian Dance. Bawan, Sharmalee, Rani and I shared a Table with three other couples, all of them doctors. At that time, I had a medical problem that resulted in the fingers of both hands being hot, swollen and red. With so many doctors at the table, I thought a free consultation was on the cards, so I displayed my fingers to the assembled medicos. None of them displayed any recognition of having seen such specimens before. They could offer no explanation, remedy, or medication to address the problem.

"I can cure that," Bawan chimed in. "No, you can't" said I in complete amusement. Bawan then related stories of his successful work on injuries sustained by Premalal. "Drop in after practice and I will fix it."

What did I have to lose?

I got down to 19, Pranjic Place at about 10.00 PM after I completed my coaching stint for the day. Bawan, anxious to display his healing skills, sat me down on the large Lounge Chair in front of the TV and went across to his Medicine Cabinet. He reappeared, a bottle of Kasaya of some sort in hand, sat beside me and proceeded to rub my fingers, one at a time.

As I sat there, I wondered, "what if Sharmalee walks into the Lounge Room now? This would take some explaining. Two old Thomians holding hands, watching T.V." As luck would have it, she didn't, so any contrived explanation was only academic.

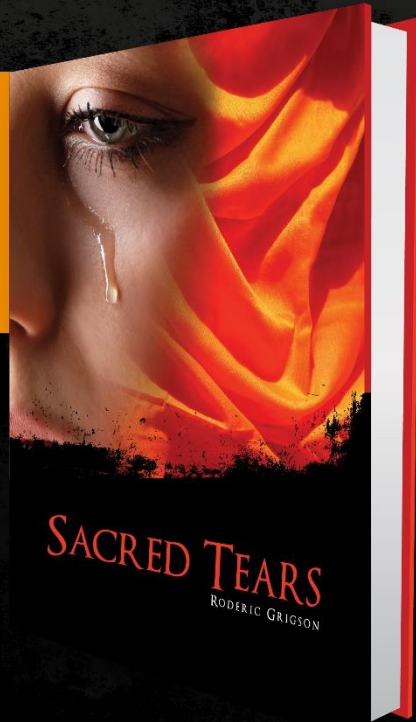
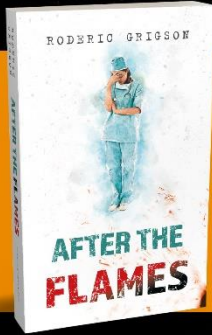
Bawan may not have been your Best Friend, but I am sure he was almost everyone's Second Best Friend.

All round Good Guy, Rest in Peace.



Barney Reid (STCML 1956 – 1966)

"a fascinating gripping read... fast paced...hard to put down..."



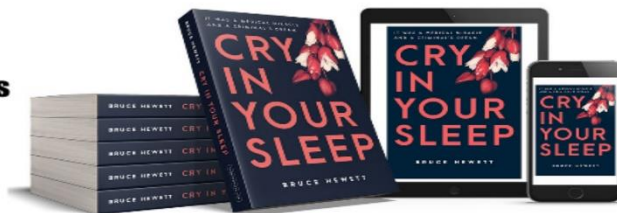
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STC ATHLETICS REFLECTIONS

by Ravi Rudra



Winner of Brooke D'Silva Challenge Cup for Best Athlete of the year 1969

In terms of performances, it is difficult to judge from one era to another – conditions were vastly different. It was the athletes before my era who set the foundation and higher standards for us juniors to aspire and build on, hence I am eternally grateful to all of them.

While I held the sprint records at College, they were well below my best 100m sprints at other grounds. Apart from the fact that the Inter-House Athletics meet was usually held early in the season, with very little training behind for most athletes, the College grounds were also notoriously difficult to run on – so uneven, with excess grass, especially the 100m track, and the occasional gust of wind from the ocean!

My best timings for the 100m and 200m as a schoolboy were:

- As a 13-year-old I clocked 12.6s at the 1967 'Pubs' missing the record by 0.1s. As reported by the press the weather was very gloomy and the grounds were in atrocious condition following heavy rain. In April 1968, three weeks after I turned 14, I clocked 12.4s to win the U15 100m at the inaugural Junior Pubs held in Kandy. Ran this after getting a 'pain-killer' injection three hours earlier for a bad groin injury.
- As a 14-year-old I clocked 11.9s (1968 Pubs for the 100m). This was the first time a 14-year-old had broken the 12-second barrier for the 100m, and I bettered my own Junior Nationals Record for U-15 100m of 12.1s set two weeks earlier. At the same 1968 Pubs I won the U-16 200m in 24.4s, also becoming the first 14-year-old to break the 25-second barrier for the 200m, having broken the Junior Nationals U-15 Record two weeks earlier with a time of 25.0s. I would consider 1968 as my best year.
- As a 15-year-old I ran 11.6s (setting a Pubs Record in 1969) in the semi-finals, but tore my hamstring badly in the finals. That day, 10 October, 1969, would be a major turning point in my athletics career. In the first event of the second day our U-16 Relay Team won the 4x100m final improving on the old Pubs record for the second time (having shattered the record in the heats the previous day with a time of 47.0s). About 45 minutes later was the 100m semi-finals when I broke Faiz Ismail's record, beating my strongest opponent Vedapriya Perera of Ananda College, a fine all-round athlete.

Soon after the race, as I looked up into the St. Peter's College Pavilion upstairs, where both my mother, who had come to the Pubs for the first time, and Mr. E.C.K. Abeysekera were seated; Mr. Abeysekera motioned me to come up. As I walked up the steps, still wearing my spikes, to get a hug from a beaming Mr. ECK, I felt a slight twinge in my right hamstring.

When I returned to the team shed, the coach, Mr. N.M. Perera, was concerned with my niggle and gave me a rub-down as I had two more events – the 200m and 100m finals. About an hour later, while I won the 200m quite comfortably, I ran well within myself to avoid further damage to my hamstring; but by now I could feel quite a bit of pain and discomfort. Unfortunately, while leading in the 100m final, as I tried to 'put my foot down' in the final 30m, the right hamstring tore very badly – it was like a piece of cloth being ripped apart and I ended up rolling and crashing to the ground, narrowly escaping being spiked by the other runners. It all happened so quickly, and I found myself lying in agony in the extreme right lane, before being stretchered off by the St. John's Ambulance team.

That day I had experienced the ultimate highs and lows of sports! The hamstring injuries became a recurring problem, with both hamstrings continually hampering my training, preventing me from performing to my best potential in coming years. Interestingly, the time of 11.6s also equalled that of Tuan Kitchel (St. Joseph's College) when he won the U-19 100m at the 1967 Pubs. It should have qualified me for Senior Public Schools Colours, although for some reason it was not awarded – perhaps because I was a Junior. However, I was awarded the inaugural Brookie D'Silva Challenge Trophy for the STC Athlete of the Year in 1969.

- As a **16-year-old**, I recorded **11.5s** at the 1970 Colombo South Zonal Meet at St. Peter's grounds equalling Faiz Ismail's Record set in 1968. This timing would have equalled the U-19 Public Schools Record of 1964 and qualified me again for Senior Public Schools Colours. Unfortunately, severe hamstring injury ruled me out of

the 1970 Pubs. However, that year, STC, captained by Y. Sivalingam, in a superb team effort pulled off one of the biggest Tarbat Cup victories in the history of Ceylon Schools Athletics.

- As a **17-year-old** I clocked **11.2s** winning the 1971 Colombo South Zonal Meet 100m at the Royal College grounds, breaking Faiz Ismail's record of 11.3s set in 1969. This would have also equalled the U-19 Pubs Record which stood at 11.2s set by Ivor Francke of Maris Stella in 1965 until the legendary Sunil Gunawardena ran 10.9s in 1968 to shatter it. On that day Mr. Lassie Abeywardena, the illustrious Thomian athletics official' who was one of two official timekeepers, clocked me at **11.0s**. But the second timekeeper had it at 11.2s, so to avoid any bias they left it 11.2s. If the 11.0s was allowed to stand, it would have remained as the second fastest 100m by a schoolboy for a long time.
- At the same 1971 Colombo South Zonal meet I convincingly beat the eventual 1971 and '72 Pubs champion H.W. Nimalsiri in both the 100m and 200m. My winning time for the 200m (**23.0s**) was a mere 0.1s short of Faiz Ismail's Group Meet Record and the previous Pubs Record held by another superb athlete, Royalist Darryl Lieversz (for the **220 yards** in 1961), both having clocked 22.9s. My best 200m time was **22.8s** – a record set at the College grounds in 1972.

Unfortunately, I contracted chickenpox three weeks before the 1971 Pubs, which was held a month after I had won the zone meet. Consequently, I did not do well in the 100m finals, finishing 4th, as I struggled with fitness and a recurring hamstring strain. Although nowhere near my best, I did manage to finish 2nd in the 200m, and STC were declared winners of both relays with excellent timings – U19 4x100m (**45.5s**) and 4x400m (**3m 31.4s**) – following the disqualification of Isipathana College for flouting the age rules.

The 4x400m time of 3m 31.4s was 0.6s outside the Ceylon Schools Record set by N.G. Wimaladasa's Kuliyaipitiya MV relay quartet time of 3m 30.8s in 1970, and only 0.1s outside the 1968 Pubs Record set by Sunil Gunawardena's St. Mary's Chilaw team of 3m 31.3s. This run was also much better than the existing Relay Carnival 4x400m Record at that time of 3m 34.2s.

In 1971, thanks largely to Rajpal Samarasinhe, winner U-19 300m hurdles, 2nd in the Long Jump, and superb relay legs, Jerome Speldewinde's brilliant record-breaking 400m and 800m double in the U-17 events, and several other noteworthy performances by our athletes including our Juniors, STC were declared Pubs Champions – Winners of the coveted Tarbat Challenge Cup for the fifth successive year (1967 to 71) – a proud record that perhaps still stands.



L-R: Rajpal Samarasinhe, Ravi Rudra, The Warden (Mr. S.J. Anandanayagam), Kelvin Speldewinde, Chulla Warusevitane



Ravi Rudra – winning the Ceylon Schools 1968 Under 16 100m

In 1972, under Kelvin Speldewinde's captaincy we finished runners-up at the Pubs when we sorely missed the services through illness our champion athlete, Jerome Speldewinde and my twin brother Hari Rudra who had left College early after winning the U17 Pubs Discus and finishing 2nd in the Putt Shot in 1970. In addition, both Rajpal Samarasinhe and I struggled with injuries on a regular basis – Rajpal with his groin from Rugby and me with both hamstrings.

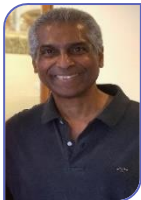
Despite that we performed admirably well against our main competitors, 1972 Ceylon Schools Champions, Dehiwala MMV, who were now represented by a team of 'imported full-time athletes' and coached by Lakshman de Alwis, the National Coach of Sri Lanka. If not, Kelvin Speldewinde would have lifted the Tarbat again in 1972 for a record sixth consecutive year – a fitting tribute to his services in an illustrious career where he along with his brother Jerome were stalwarts in multiple sports.

Apart from Rajpal Samarasinhe, one of the most naturally gifted athletes, and Kelvin Speldewinde, two others who contributed significantly to our extended success were my relay teammate Chulla Warusevitane and shot putter I.P. Munasinghe. Also, my sincere gratitude goes to three athletes who had a big influence in my early carrier: Manilka Wijesooriya, who introduced me to wind-sprints in 1966, which did wonders; Vijitha Jayasinghe, one of our finest all-round athletes, with the best work ethic of all in the way he trained with his punishing schedules; and our former captain and a wonderful human being, the late Laksen Salgado, a fine all-round athlete.

It must be noted that most of our athletes usually played several other sports, including cricket and rugby, and focused on athletics for only about three months in the year. Considering all the challenging factors, what was accomplished during those golden years is something to be greatly cherished by everyone involved. A Great Team Effort Indeed!

Looking back, many of us did not achieve our true potential but they are wonderful memories nevertheless! Also, I am greatly impressed by the vast number of talented athletes from various lesser-known outstation schools, who must have invested a lot of time and energy into their training in order to perform so creditably, producing some of the best performances at the all-island championships.

I am forever grateful for whatever success I achieved, and for who I am, to all my former Captains, with special mention to Ajit Jayasekera who captained in 1967 and 68; all my teammates both Seniors and Juniors; all supporters and well-wishers; head groundsman Karuna and his humble assistant Karuppiah; and most of all our highly dedicated coaches, Messrs Brookie D'Silva, E.C. Kingsley Abeysekera and N.M. Perera, who gave so much of themselves selflessly and with much kindness and encouragement.



Ravi Rudra is a product of STC Prep School (1959-1960) and Mount Lavinia (1961 – 1973). He captained the Athletics team in 1971 and also represented the 1st XI Cricket team from 1971 to 1973 and a part of the team that won 'Life Buoy' Shield for the Best School Cricket Team. Ravi is a Chartered Management Accountant by profession working in the UK, Sri Lanka, Zambia and Botswana. He migrated to NZ in 1987 and runs his own accounting firm in Auckland. He has also initiated several community service and inter-faith programs to serve the local community.

ST. THOMAS COLLEGE, MT. LAVINIA

ATHLETIC RECORDS			
Under 19			
100 m	R. Rudra (B)	11.5 secs.	1971 & 1972
200 m	R. Rudra (B)	22.8 secs.	1972
400 m	R. J. Reid (B)	51.0 secs.	1965
800 m	S. K. Jayasinghe (S)	2 m 1.7 secs.	1965
1300 m	S. K. Jayasinghe (S)	4 m 17.2 secs.	1964
3000 m	C. Dissanayake (S)	10 m 15.0 secs.	1973
5000 m	D. C. Wickremasinghe (Wood)	19 m .06 secs.	1974
L. Jump	T. J. Devasagayam (W)	21 ft 7 ins	1959
H. Jump	D. De S. Daluwatte (Mil/Ch)	5 ft 9 1/2 ins	1963
Tr. Jump	N. de Soysa (Mil/Ch)	43 ft 7 ins	1962
Pole Vault	N. de Soysa (Mil/Ch)	10 ft 3 ins	1962
Putt Shot	H. R. C. D' Silva (B)	49 ft 0 ins	1963
Discus	H. R. C. D' Silva (B)	134 ft 8 ins	1964
Javelin	D. A. Ferdinands (W)	182 ft 3 ins	1957
Relay 4 x 100 m	Buck	47.0 secs.	1964
Relay 4 x 400 m	Mil/Ch	3 m 41.53 secs.	1960
Under 17			
100 m	R. Rudra (B)	12.1 secs.	1970
200 m	R. Rudra (B)	23.8 secs.	1970
400 m	J. A. Speldewinde (W)	54.2 secs.	1971
800 m	J. A. Speldewinde (W)	2 m 9.0 secs.	1971
L. Jump	A. Ganesan (B)	19 ft 3 1/2 ins	1973
H. Jump	Y. C. Condegama (S)	5 ft 2 ins	1971
Tr. Jump	L. W. Ratnayake (S)	33 ft 11 ins	1974
Pole Vault	G. C. T. de Silva (deS)	9 ft 6 ins	1973
Putt Shot	A. Senadeera (B)	39 ft 6 ins	1971
Discus	D. D. Bandaranaike (de S)	126 ft 6 ins	1974
Javelin	D. D. Bandaranaike (de S)	140 ft 10 ins	1974
Relay 4 x 100 m	(de S)	50.4 secs.	1973
Relay 4 x 400 m	(de S)	3 m 57.2 secs.	1973
Under 16			
100 m	R. Rudra (B)	12.2 secs.	1969
200 m	R. Rudra (B)	24.2 secs.	1969
400 m	J. L. C. Salgado (W)	56.3 secs.	1967
800 m	A. G. W. de Silva (de S)	2 m 6.1 secs.	1962
L. Jump	L. M. Fernando (W)	18 ft 9 1/2 ins	1964
H. Jump	W. R. Gunaseena (B)	18 ft 9 1/2 ins	1971
Tr. Jump	L. C. Seneviratne (W)	5 ft 6 ins	1959
Putt Shot	M. A. Cader (S)	38 ft 9 1/2 ins	1952
Discus	H. R. C. D' Silva (B)	43 ft 6 1/2 ins	1960
Javelin	B. Karunanayake (B)	128 ft 0 1/2 ins	1960
Relay 4 x 100 m	Buck	152 ft 10 ins	1965
Relay 4 x 100 m	Mil/Ch	4 m 1.0 secs.	1969
			1964

Tribute to Mr. Brookie D' Silva

(Legendary STC Athletics Coach)

By

Maurice Fairweather & Selva Kanagasabai



My memories of Brookie D'Silva. I never did Biology or Zoology so was never under Brookie as a student, but I believe he was proficient with both hands and could draw a frog on the board with both hands at once...or so I have been told???

Brookie drove an old Peugeot and had a parking spot behind the Old Swimming pool. It was a bit of a rust bucket...and the story goes the floorboards on the driver's side were so rusted through and he used his foot on the road to stop the car...

Brookie was a respected and popular master...unlike some others... I know I did not go for Rugged trials in Senior year one because Brookie very subtly indicated that I would get injured and would have put paid to my Athletics career??..I went the following year though!

He would set his students some tasks and go to his room next door and work on his Athletics programme...a guy called Tissa (TRP De Alwis...RIP)

was frequently summoned to help. TRP had beautiful and neat handwriting. At the start of the season...he would summon us and 'predict' the results against what he/we knew of the opposition...mainly RC, SJC and SPC...sometimes TCK...allocate points for results and get us to work on it.

In fact, I enjoyed the short sprints...but he coaxed me to take up the 440 yards. I was not overly impressed...but history proved him right...and lastly you have heard of the Milocarian tables???...I remember being told that he and Fr Yin a brilliant Mathematician...modified and rewrote the stats to suit Asian (SL) standards. In fact, at the 1959 group meet...a guy called Abdeen won both the 800 and mile I think...but I was awarded the best performance or something. I remember he was ranting in the SPC change rooms about it... till someone pointed out that it was given on the points corresponding to the timing!

I recollect pulling a left hammy at the 1959 Colombo South Group meet...may have been in the last event as I distinctly recollect what looked like a huge bruise. I did not know what a hamstring muscle was at that stage...anyway...I 'recovered' and continued to train (the bruising subsided) in readiness for the pubs.... A week before I again sustained a slight hammy strain...I told Brooke and he was pissed off! Anyway, the next day he called me to his lab....and opened some book and gave me a form of therapy...which I had or never have heard since. He said I was not to go to class...which thrilled no end...Being a school cop I shared a cubicle in Miller-Chapman. All I had to do ...religiously... was to sleep/rest...walk up to the small club grounds on the hour...every hour...and do ONE slow circuit of the grounds... I did this for the whole day till 6 pm I think 10/11 a day times for 7/8 days....I did not do any training in the last week!

Any way the pubs came...got through all the heats...and for my luck got the last/outer lane...in the 440 final...I had no alternative other than to run my own race...which I did...all went well...and as the object was merely to win...when an inward glance towards the end confirmed that... I may have eased off ...knowing that there were other events to follow...and had no idea whatsoever about any record.

That was that...then came the 220 final...and entering the straight against...felt the familiar rip.... though I doubt I would have beaten Adolf Silva...one of the most beautiful runners ...poetry in motion...I opined...I managed to limp home...Then the drama...of the 4x440 relay...I told Brookie...no way could I do it...he wouldn't hear of it...managed to get hold of Specialist surgeon Mr. (no he was not called Dr) ...Drogo Austin to have a look after which they

strapped my thigh...not right round. To cut a long story short...did the 440 relay...where we came second by a whisker (I think??) ... of course, coming into the finishing straight the bloody plaster kept coming off and flapping in the wind...anyway to give Brookie his due...while I was reluctant to run, he made the correct call...and as they say...such is life!

Brookie was great coach...and was always so confident. We used to start our training during term 2 holidays...which was no big deal, but I was a boarder and valued my school holidays as I always went to my aunt's estate in Matale. Mate...them were great days"

Maurice Fairweather

(STC Athletics Captain 1959 & Ceylon Schools Athletics Captain to Australia 1960)

Brookie was uniquely ambidextrous: That natural coordination may have also been a factor in his becoming a champion javelin thrower. In the zoology class, with chalk in both hands he would draw perfect outlines on the board of the specimens we were to study or dissect: Needless to say, this impressed every student entering his class for the first time:

A few of them thought they could also learn to draw like him, although that was not an acquirable skill. To be in his inner circle, one had to be either good or at least interested in zoology or athletics, but not necessarily in that order.

There were a couple of very capable boys who had no intention of pursuing higher studies and they were drafted into admin work for the Public Schools Athletics Association during class hours, in the "zoo lab" next to his classroom. With the work experience gained in those roles, they were subsequently recommended for mercantile jobs by STC / Brookie and went on to forge successful careers in the private sector during the 1950s and 60s.

I remember a zoology practical class in "Coll A" one afternoon, when I was sitting at the back of the class dissecting a Scoliodon (small shark), which held very little interest to me or the classmate next to me, who kept talking to me about sports:

Having noticed this, Brookie came across and told the other boy, "*Isay -----, stop disturbing Kanagey: He has athletics practice this evening.*"

He then said to me: "*If ----- is being a nuisance, go up and rest in the dorm.*" Without a moment's hesitation, I retired to the cubicle I had in Copleston A for the rest of the afternoon and did likewise during the remaining zoology classes until the end of the term! Brookie must have kindled my friend's interest in the subject, for he qualified as a doctor and later became a popular GP, with a well-established practice.

A few years later, I heard that a couple of senior boys who had cut classes because of their involvement in sport, got into serious trouble with the next Warden.

(Our batch of guys must have been lucky to have left before "The Carnival ended"!)

This background information may be of interest:

In 1955, soccer was replaced with rugby at STC by Warden De Saram, reportedly on the recommendation of Old Thomian / Oxonian Noel Gratien, the eminent Advocate, Attorney General and later Supreme Court Judge. He had advised the Warden that playing rugby would improve employment opportunities for Thomians within the plantation as well as mercantile sectors, the senior ranks of which were held mostly by British expats, until changes to recruitment were set in train after independence, due to government policy.

This paved the way for Ceylonese to also be selected for training in executive roles across the private sector. Perhaps, based on the adage that the "battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton", the British owners and their agents preferred to engage rugby players to manage their estates.

The thinking may have been that the hard knocks and pain absorbed on the field built the endurance and character needed to work in climatic extremes and handle large, sometimes troublesome work forces. Initially, a high proportion of Trinicians were taken into plantations, followed by Royalists and then Thomians in smaller numbers, with their common attribute being rugby.

Brookie was consistently and firmly opposed to his leading athletes playing rugby for a simple and very valid reason: **The high risk of injury.**

Very few rugby players retire from the sport without chronic pain or long-term injury! Shot Put and Discus Throw champion Lorenz D'Silva was no exception, sustaining a shoulder injury in 1961, his first and only year of school rugby.

After STC beat Trinity for the first time in 1960, followed by wins over both Trinity and Royal the next year, our standing in school rugby was significantly enhanced. Mr Gratien's "judgement" proved to have been "right on the ball" when 12 players from those two STC teams were subsequently selected for careers in plantation management.

Those achievements also provided confidence and impetus to the STC teams that followed.

It is generally acknowledged that the plantation sector progressively lost its lustre as a source of employment, after nationalisation in the mid-1970s.

Brookie taught, guided, encouraged, protected and trained generations of Thomians. A product of a bygone era, he was an icon admired and respected by countless students and athletes.

Selva Kanagasabai

(Athletics: 1958 – 60, Vice-Captain 1960; Rugby: 1959- 61)

To All Old Thomians – We like to hear from you!!

We are reaching out to all Old Boys in Australia and Overseas - If you do have an interesting anecdote about your days at College or some interesting tidbits about the after-school life of a fellow Thomian (or even a teacher) or just remember the good old days as they used to be, please, send in your articles, photos, letters, poems, stories, etc. to the Editorial Team: **Vasikaran Ratnarajah**: vasidaisy15@gmail.com or **Upali Gooneratne**: fgooneratne@iiec.org.

Membership Register

To all OBA Australia Members - It is vital that you advise us of changes to your contact details in order to ensure that this publication reaches you. Also, in order to maintain the membership records up to date, please contact the Membership Secretary of any changes (telephone number, address, deaths etc.). **Membership Secretary, PO Box 2337, Mt. Waverley, Victoria 3149.** Email: fgooneratne@iiec.org

Thomian National Cricket Stars

S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia has gifted many talented players to Sri Lankan cricket. Overall, STC has produced six Test cricketers and one ODI and T20 cricketers during the period 1975-2021. There are several others who were in the national team prior to Sri Lanka achieving Test status. During 1970s and 1980s saw the inclusion of many Thomians in the national team, however, since Sri Lanka gaining test status there have been only one Thomian in the national team.

1970s

In the 1970's, the Sri Lankan team participated in two ODI World Cups. Michael Tissera, Anura Tennakoon, Duleep Mendis and Mevan Peiris, represented Sri Lanka in those tournaments. Dennis Chanmugam was also was in the 1975 World Cup team but did not play in any of the games. He was a pace bowler who was quick an able to score some useful runs lower down the order.



Anura Tennakoon receiving the Champions Trophy in the qualifying tournament for the World Cup

ANURA TENNEKOON

Anura Tennakoon captained the Sri Lankan team in the inaugural World Cup held in England in 1975 and followed up by leading the side in the 1979 World Cup. He was known for his technical brilliance as a batsman.

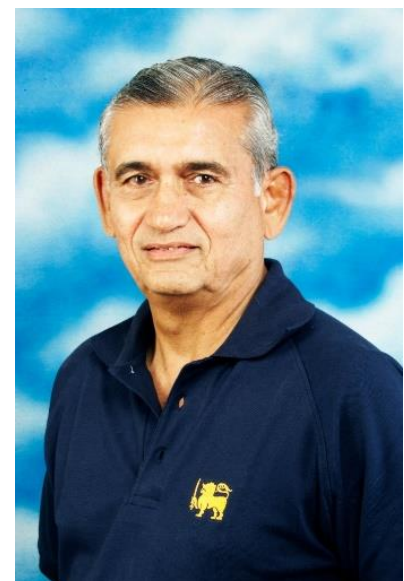
Anura started his ODI career with a duck against the West Indies. But in the 1979 World Cup, he gave a glimpse of his class with a fine fifty against New Zealand at Trent Bridge. He injured his left calf muscle in the match against NZ and missed the rest of the matches in the tournament. This included the match against India at Old Trafford when Sri Lanka pulled off an upset win.

As Sri Lanka weren't yet a Test nation then, opportunities were far and few between for this highly rated cricketer. Since retirement, Anura has been a CEO of the Sri Lankan board and was also the manager of the Sri Lankan team that toured England in 2011.

MICHAEL TISSERA

Michael Tissera played a crucial role in Sri Lanka's rise in cricket in the 1960s and 1970s, and he had to remain content with 3 matches in the 1975 World Cup. He scored 52 against Australia, the only half-century of his ODI career. Michael captained the Ceylon team in 1965 to defeat the mighty Indian team in Ahmedabad. It was the first unofficial Test victory for a Ceylon team. Not only a captain but also a batsman, Michel scored two centuries in unofficial Tests - 122 against India and 120 against Pakistan, both centuries scored in foreign countries. He had a massive leg-break, a deceptive googly, and a dead-straight flipper.

Michael later became Head of Cricket Committee in Sri Lanka Cricket, was appointed Chairman of Selectors in 2002; and managed both Sri Lanka A and Sri Lanka. He played a major role in getting Muttiah Muralitharan's action cleared. He has been vocal towards promotion of Provincial cricket to improve quality in the country; and he was a part of MCC's World Cricket Committee. The Test series between West Indies and Sri Lanka is named the Sobers-Tissera Trophy.



DULEEP MENDIS



Duleep Mendis joined STC from St. Sebastian's College, Moratuwa and scored 184 runs in the 1972 Royal Thomian, the highest score by a batsman in the history of the tournament at that time. He was selected to represent Sri Lanka at the 1975 World Cup and has been a regular member of the Sri Lankan team for 13 years and has excelled in international cricket. He was infamously sent to the hospital by a rampaging Jeff Thomson in the 1975 World Cup. Thomson hit Duleep on the head with a fast bouncer which led to him having a concussion. He was the captain when Sri Lanka won a Test series for the first time ever. He was also the captain when they managed to draw a series for the first time. Both came against India. Duleep continued to play a big part in Sri Lankan cricket after retirement. He was the manager of the team when Sri Lanka

won the World Cup in 1996. He also served as the Chief Executive of the Sri Lankan cricket board from 2004. In April 2011, Mendis was appointed the chief selector for the Sri Lankan national team.

MEVAN PEIRIS

Mevan was known as the 'King of Swing' and represented Sri Lanka during the period 1970 – 1975 in unofficial test matches and limited over matches against MCC, India, Pakistan, West Indies, Australia, Holland and Denmark. He was regarded as one of the most successful Sri Lankan bowlers. Mevan was in the Sri Lankan squad in the inaugural 1975 World Cup in England and played three ODIs. An injury to the cartilage in his left knee forced him to quit cricket after the World Cup at the age of 29.



1980s

Guy de Alwis, Saliya Ahangama, Kaushik Amalin and Kapila Wijegunawardena entered international cricket from St. Thomas' College in the 80s.

GUY DE ALWIS



Guy de Alwis represented Sri Lanka in 11 Tests and 31 ODIs during the period 1983-1988. A terrific wicketkeeper who was extremely agile and sharp behind the stumps. He scored half centuries in two consecutive matches in the 1983 ODI World Cup. Guy scored an unbeaten 59 against Pakistan while he scored an unbeaten 56 against England. It was the first time a Sri Lankan wicketkeeper had scored a half-century in an ODI.

Guy sadly passed away in January 2013 after a brief illness at the age 52. In a tribute, Arjuna Ranatunga, one of Sri Lanka's all-time greats, said: "Guy was not only a committed cricketer but a person who fought for justice. As a selector he was not afraid to pick players on merit. As an administrator he was strongly against corruption and went to a great extent to try and eliminate it. And he was one of the best wicketkeepers produced by Sri Lanka".

SALIYA AHANGAMA

Saliya Ahangama had a meteoric rise to the Sri Lankan Test side. After making his first-class debut for the Sri Lankan Colts in 1985-86, he found himself thrust into the Test side to play India a mere two weeks later. He had a triumphant entry into Test cricket capturing the wicket of Mohammad Azharuddin with only his fourth ball, finishing with a match analysis of 5 for 109. In the third Test at Kandy, he returned a career-best 5 for 52, ending the three-Test series with 18 wickets at 19.33. Sri Lanka's lack of Test cricket and injuries prevented him from appearing in more, and despite touring England in 1988 and 1991 he never played another Test. He subsequently moved into broadcasting as a television commentator.



KAUSHIK AMALIN

Kaushik entered the international arena as a bowler and played in 2 test matches and 8 ODIs with a total tally of 7 test wickets and 9 ODI wickets

KAPILA WIJEGUNAWARDENA

Kapila was deemed to be best suited for ODIs as confirmed by his international career of two Tests and 26 ODIs between 1988 and 1992. His greatest moment came when he bowled Viv Richards for 24 in the World Series Nehru Cup, helping Sri Lanka beat West Indies by four wickets in Rajkot in October 1989. After a rather brief international career, he quit the sport altogether in 1992. Administration came naturally to him and in 2015, he was appointed as Chairman of Selectors for Sri Lanka.



Kapila at the 1992 World Cup

1990s



Nisal Fernando

Nisal Fernando and Aruna Gunawardena joined the Sri Lanka Cricket team from St. Thomas' College in the 90s. Both of them won ODIs in the 1994 Indo-Lanka ODI series. However, they did not get a chance to represent the national team again after that tournament.



Aruna Gunewardena

From 2010 to the present

During the period 1994-2010, none of the players from STC had the opportunity to represent the national team. After a long hiatus, Jeevan Mendis and Kaushal Silva qualified to represent the national team in 2010 and 2011.



JEEVAN MENDIS

Jeevan was a leg-spinning all-rounder and first came to the attention of the cricketing world at the 2002 Youth World Cup. Jeevan took 7 wickets for 19 runs in the match against Zimbabwe. It was the best bowling record ever at a Youth World Cup at that time. Eight years later, in 2010, Jeevan entered the national team and played in 58 ODIs and 22 T20s. He took 28 wickets for 636 runs in ODIs while taking 12 wickets and scoring 207 runs in T20 games.

KAUSHAL SILVA

Kaushal, who has been in Test cricket since 2011, scored 2099 runs in 74 innings with three centuries and 12 half-centuries. Kaushal scored centuries against Australia, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The highest score of his Test career was 139 against Bangladesh, which was also his maiden test hundred. In May 2018, he was one of 33 cricketers to be awarded a national contract by Sri Lanka Cricket for the 2018-2019 season.



Editor's Note: Sincere appreciation to Anura Tennekoon for his assistance in compilation of this article

THE THOMIAN CLASS OF 1962-1973 VISIT THEIR ALMA MATER

The Thomian Class of 1962 – 1973 celebrated 60 years of their group coming into existence with a celebration on 22nd January 2022.

Following a morning service at the Chapel of the Transfiguration, the Group handed over a cheque of Rs.400,000 to the Sub-Warden in support of the "Smart Board" project, initiated by this school by the sea.

The Group thereafter visited the boarding dining room for breakfast after which they walked around the Campus, reminiscing nostalgic childhood memories. They also admired the novel developments brought about to the school and felt proud of being a part of it.

They group later gathered at the Old Thomians Swimming Club for fellowship and a discussion about their plans for the future. They formally elected a committee to forge ahead and achieve their envisaged goals. For the benefit of those domiciled abroad or deprived of participation at this epoch-making event, due to COVID or other reasons, the organizers had arranged to include them in the fellowship on "Zoom".



The Committee elected comprised of the following:

Office Bearers:

Sunil Peiris	- President
Devaka Wickramasuriya	- Secretary
Hiran Fernando	- Treasurer

Committee Members:

Arjun Dharmadasa
Ajith Abeygunawardena
Sunel Rambukpotha
Premasiri Ratnayake
Eshanth Fernando
Palitha Senanayake

Overseas Representatives:

Mohandas Seneviratne - Australia
Dev de Silva - USA
Sena Rajkumar - United Kingdom

Kudos to the organizers who had painstakingly worked round the clock to make this eventful re-union, a successful reality, especially D.J. Amarasuriya, Sarada de Silva, Sunil Peiris, Asite Talwatte, Hiran Fernando and Eshanth Fernando.

Esto Perpetua!

Devaka Wickramasuriya
Secretary – Thomian Class of 62 – 73
Email: devakaw@slt.net.lk

Exclusive Offer to Members**COMMEMORATIVE LAPEL PINS**

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All Old Boys renewing their membership and new members in 2022 will receive a special Lapel Pin as a token. Pins will be handed over during OBA events or sent by mail on request.

For more information, please contact the Membership Secretary, Upali Gooneratne – 0449 024 294 or email: fgooneratne@iiec.org

FROM COLLEGE TO LIFE DOWN UNDER....

The sixties and seventies saw a significant increase in migration from Sri Lanka to Australia, especially in the Burgher community, that could comply with the migration rules prevailing at that time. Like many other of my school friends, leaving the shores of Sri Lanka for a new life Down Under was an option and my parents too accepted the opportunity.

I had the privilege of living just a walking distance from College (STCML). The property (79, Galle Road, Mount Lavinia) was owned by my paternal grandparents. The three boys (Tyrrell, Darrell and I) all attended College and obviously, as day scholars. In addition to Prep School (Colpetty), Girls High School (GHS), Mount Lavinia has been the traditional first stop for early schooling, especially for boys waiting for admission to College. I was no exception, starting my schooling at GHS and extending my stay to 4 years (1948 – 1952) than the normal one year, prior to joining College from Lower Third Class. Being a co-ed school, there are many stories emanating from GHS, of students meeting their life partners (“love at first sight”) while in the school.



I have many recollections of my early years at College. I joined during the time of Canon De Saram as Warden and subsequently, Warden Davidson. Rev. Barnabas who was Headmaster of the Lower School and together with his wife was also in charge of Winchester House. Following the tradition of nicknames for staff, this duo was called “*Barniah and Barnichi*”. The lower school block overlooked the “big clubs” and in the vicinity of the famous Bo Tree, sick room, Winchester house, pavilion/tuck shop, the railway lines and the office block (Thallasa). The tuck shop, managed by Mrs. Gauder, served the most delicious “roll and lime” package, a standard favourite of most students.

The intercollegiate cricket season was a great distraction especially during “home” games which started midday on a Friday. With the classrooms being so close to the action, concentration was very challenging with the temptation to have a peek on what was going on in the middle. On the subject of cricket, I recall attending the Big Match at the Oval with my parents (wearing my Mum’s blue/black rosettes), when Ronnie Reid broke the record of Norman Siebel.

Even at a younger age, classroom antics of students were common. What has etched in my mind was the occasion when I wrote “Kick Me Please” on a piece of paper and gently stuck it on the back of the student seated in front of me. To cut a long story short, I was reported to the teacher and had to face the Headmaster, who instead of reprimanding me, arranged a boxing match between the student and me near the Bo Tree. Donned with boxing gloves and a few student spectators, the bout began and stopped in a couple of minutes with I being adjudged the winner by a technical knock-out (“a punch in the face”). The student’s father happened to be an English teacher in the Upper School and master-in-charge of boxing!!

Caning was a common form of punishment during my time and a vast majority of students have not gone through their schooling without receiving a few “cuts” either from the Warden and/or Headmasters. I was no exception, having received “three of the best” from Warden Davidson after being put on On-Report and classified as “slacking” in Maths.

My stay at College ended in December 1961 having reached the Upper Six Form. I soon found employment with a firm of solicitors in Hultsdorf partly owned by two old Thomians Cyril De Alwis and Charles Oorloff. For those not familiar with this location, Hultsdorf is the legal hub of the country with the District and Supreme Courts located there together with many legal firms. The site of lawyers with black jackets and ties braving the hot weather is very common; and with crowded courts and media presence. I understand that this situation has not changed except for technology. Hultsdorf is a place where you still see a mixture of Dutch, British and more recently, Chinese architecture. The old law courts were built by the Dutch and British; and the current Supreme Court complex was built by the Chinese, which is called “Aluthkade” (new shop) by the locals.



LAW COURTS OF HULTSDORF – OLD AND NEW

Commuting to work six days a week included a train ride from Mount Lavinia to Fort and then a ten-minute walk to the office. Considering the speed of the old steam trains, the journey took over an hour. Another pleasant memory was the “Lunch-Man” who picked up lunch boxes (plates) of office workers and delivered them to each office and returned the empties in the evening. These “lunch-men” from various areas met at Thurstan Road and the distribution was coordinated by areas and later met in the afternoon to sort the empties to the right person.

I left the shores of Sri Lanka with my parents and siblings in 1970 for a new life Down Under, settling down in Melbourne. I sponsored Rosita after an introduction via Air Mail letter and photo; and later she became my wife. Having to migrate with limited resources, due to foreign exchange restrictions in Sri Lanka, led to many challenges in the initial years. However, looking back I have no regrets. Melbourne was never a strange place considering the influx of Sri Lankans during that period, including many Old Thomians.

I soon became a member of the newly formed STC OBA in Melbourne and attended the regular functions aimed at raising funds for our alma mater. I joined the Executive Committee (Ex-Co) and served for 14 years (1999 – 2013) under many Presidents. It is great to see the OBA celebrating its 50th anniversary and the active involvement of the younger generation. The monthly Ex-Co meetings were held at the Burgher Association Hall in Clayton with the day varying depending on the consensus of the Committee. Socialising before and after the meetings were normal with a whisky or two and always ended with dinner. The dinner roster included two members nominated each month and I was fortunate to be with Chris Lawton. However, the cooking was done by our faithful wives, Monica and Rosita.

In the OBA my main involvement was associated with the Transfiguration and Carol Services led by Rev. Baldwin Daniel. These two events were normally well attended and followed by “light refreshments” giving an opportunity for the usual socialising. As with life, sometimes things don’t go according to plan, even a carol service. I recall the carol service held on a Sunday at St. David’s Anglican Church, Moorabbin. I received a call from the printer the day before (Saturday morning) confirming the Order of Service booklets were ready for collection. The booklets were collected without any need for checking and later that afternoon it was discovered that all the pages were jumbled – making it a Disorder of Service!! The printer was notified just before closing time and to his credit, he stayed back till late evening and rectified it.

Memories remind us the roads we have travelled and the people we have loved.
ESTO PERPETUA



Ashton Anthonisz (STCML 1952-1961 and OBAAustralia Ex-Co 1999 – 2013)

















OBA Executive Committee – 2022

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Immediate Past President			
	Mahes Heenetigala	0418 182 707	maheenet@gmail.com

New Members of the OBA: January – May 2022

Name	Branch	Period
DE SILVA, Lahiru	Mount Lavinia	2004 - 2007
KOSGODAGE, Lakshitha	Mount Lavinia	1990 - 2003
WIJESINGHE, Malinda	Mount Lavinia	1993 - 2006
RAJASINGHAM, Naresh		
NATHANIEL, Elmo	Prep / Mount Lavinia	1969 - 1981
PERERA, Shenal	Prep / Mount Lavinia	2004 - 2018
GUNARATNE, Dulith	Mount Lavinia	2005 - 2019
WEERAKODY, Anoushka	Mount Lavinia	2005 - 2018
KANAGANAYAGAM, John	Prep / Mount Lavinia	1969 - 1981
MUNASINHA, Kishan	Mount Lavinia	2007 - 2021
LIYANAGE, Chamit	Mount Lavinia	1979 - 1993
DUNUWILLE, Sanjaya	Mount Lavinia	1984 - 1997
DE SILVA, Ravi	Mount Lavinia	1985 – 1997
PARANAVITANE, Shehan	Prep / Mount Lavinia	1984 - 1988



 <p>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)</p> <p>Friday 11th February 2022, 6.30pm</p>  <p>Waverley Youth Centre, Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley, 3149</p>	 <p>ROYAL – THOMIAN CRICKET MATCHES</p> <p>Saturday – 26th March 2022 9.30 am</p>  <p>Keeley Park Clayton South, 3169</p>	 <p>THOMIAN BALL 2022</p> <p>Saturday 4th June 2022 6.30 pm</p> <p>Sofitel Melbourne on Collins 25, Collins Street, Melbourne 3000</p>
 <p>INFORMATION FORUM</p> <p><i>Information night for new and pending arrivals to Australia on a range of topics</i></p> <p>22 JUNE 2022 ON-LINE</p>	 <p>ROYAL THOMIAN LIVE BROADCAST</p> <p>Friday 22nd July 2022 7.00pm</p> <p>Waverley Youth Centre, Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley, 3149</p>	 <p>TRANSFIGURATION SERVICE</p> <p>Sunday 7th August 2022 Time: To be confirmed</p> <p>St, Aidan's Church Noble Park, Vic</p>
 <p>FRANKIE DAVID – MEMORIAL SERVICE</p> <p>Saturday 20th August 2022 5.00 p.m.</p> <p>St, Aidan's Church Noble Park, Vic</p>	 <p>50TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERS LUNCHEON</p> <p>Sunday 21st August 2022 12 noon</p> <p>RSL Club 23 Osborne Ave, Springvale, Vic</p>	 <p>NINETIES NIGHT</p> <p>Saturday 17th September 2022 7.00 pm</p> <p>Jan Wilson Community Centre Nobel Park, Vic</p>
 <p>MELBOURNE CUP SWEEP</p> <p>Tuesday 1st November 2022 2.00pm</p>	 <p>CAROL SERVICE</p> <p>Saturday 10th December 2022 Time: To be confirmed</p> <p>St, Aidan's Church Noble Park, Vic</p>	 <p>CHRISTMAS PARTY</p> <p>December 2022 To be confirmed</p>

For more information on any of the above Events, please contact:

- Peneeth Goonawardena : 0404 213 166
- Saman Liyanage : 0407 358 415
- Asfan Thajudeen : 0416 877 788
- Rayendra Karunaratne : 0416 350 244
- Chris Varney : 0407 630 351



IN MEMORIAM



They remain in our memories forever



Mathavaraja Sri Bawan – Fondly known as Bawan, he was a product of Mount Lavinia Class of 1955, who was well loved by all his friends and made a lasting impression on them. He was a 1st XI cricketer and also excelled in hockey and swimming. Bawan worked for the Hatton National Bank prior to migrating to Australia in 1992 and continued his banking career with ANZ and Suncorp Bank. He served in the Executive Committee of the OBA (Australia) and was a strong supporter of OBA activities. A memorial service celebrating his life was held on Wednesday 16th February 2022 at the College Chapel.



Jabir Junaid - He was a student at STC Bandarawala from 1954-1962, then at Gurotalawa from 1962-1964 and finally at STC Mount Lavinia from 1964-1966. Jabir was an exceptional sprinter and his moving from Bandarawala to Gurotalawa and finally to Mount Lavinia was primarily to work with eminent athletics coaches at each school which accompanied his meteoric rise in sprinting. After leaving school, Jabir trained and was renowned as an architect. Most notably working with Geoffrey Bawa on the country's present Parliamentary complex in 1978.



Mohan Kandaneeratchy – Former student of three Thomian schools – Prep School (1962-1967), Gurotalawa (1968-1972) and Mount Lavinia (1973-1976) . He was a member of the 2nd XI Cricket team in 1974/75 and a College Cadet. Mohan has been in the tea trade since 1980 and serving in several companies, more recently with JV Global and Union Commodities.



Errol Knower – a renowned athlete at STC Mount Lavinia in the mid-seventies, was one of Sri Lanka's fastest ever youth sprinters. Errol held two Sri Lanka Public Schools track records for almost thirty years until they were finally broken in the twenty-first century. Rev. Duleep de Chickera, the emeritus Bishop of Colombo who was the chaplain at St Thomas's in the seventies, presided at his funeral.

Esto Perpetua

PHOTO GALLERY

AGM – 11TH FEBRUARY 2022



PHOTO GALLERY

ROYAL THOMIAN CRICKET MATCHES



AWARDS CEREMONY



Cricket photos courtesy of Yohan Pasqual (RC OBA)

PHOTO GALLERY

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