



# WINTER 2022



## Newsletter

### **2022 The Centenary Year**

*We are over the half way mark and it has been an eventful year so far. Here in Melbourne, we had our spectacular "Peterite Centenary Ball" and earlier in the year our Centenary celebration "Cocktails on the Pier". In fact, Peterites around the World have been Celebrating in Countries such as England, Canada, New Zealand, U.S East Coast, Qatar and Dubai with sports carnivals, socials and Dances.*

*As the 2022 AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> August approaches I urge all members attend. I also take this opportunity to Thank Outgoing President Jerome Chandrasekera and his tireless team for the great job they have done to keep the Peterite Spirit alive in Melbourne this past year.*

**"KEEP THE FLAG FLYING BOYS"**

**Editor's Note**

ST PETER'S COLLEGE



**VIRTUS ET VERITAS**



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SPC Melbourne

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

Hope you and your families are keeping well & safe

The “**PETERITE CENTENARY BALL**”, what a spectacular night it was. I take this opportunity to thank all Petes, their Families & Friends for their attendance & support which helped us to make this a night to remember. The raffle draw with two complimentary Sri Lankan Airline tickets was a roaring success & part of the proceeds will be sent to college to assist needy Peterites.

I also take this opportunity to thank all who attended the mass for the departed and Rieni Machado & Dell De Rosario for their initiative in making this event possible.

For those that were unfortunate and missed out on the “**PETERITE CENTENARY BALL**”, The “**College Christmas Party**” on the **26th of November** is your final chance of celebrating the centenary with your college mates in Melbourne. The committee is working tirelessly to make this another successful night and we hope you all could join.

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 & visit the “Pearl of the Indian ocean” when opportunity comes your way.

On behalf of the Committee & Myself I wish you all Health, Wealth & Happiness

“**Fields of Culture, Fields all Muddy, watch us as We Grow**”

**Jerome Chandrasekera**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **\*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.

### **\*The Kingswood Touch Rugby Tournament (Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022)**

Organised by the Kingswood College (The First school to play Rugby in Sri Lanka) OBA at the Boxhill Rugby grounds, this tournament will have about 15 clubs this year and will be followed by a Social (details to be announced on our SPC Melbourne Facebook Page)

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

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

### **\*Annual Peterite Golf Day (Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022)**

Golf is back ....A great day out on the greens for all you golfers. Watch this space (details to be announced on our SPC Melbourne Facebook Page)

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

A Family evening to foster the Christmas spirit



## “THE PETERITE CENTENARY BALL” - ANOTHER SPECTACULAR SUCCESS FOR THE MELBOURNE SPC OBU ON 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022



Well done to President Jerome Chandrasekera and his dedicated committee for putting on a great centenary celebration for the Peterite community and their supporters and friends

Springvale townhall was packed to capacity with a fantastic turnout. The vibe throughout the evening was electric and it was great to see people having a good time after the difficult two years past. (Not forgetting the difficult time our mother country is

going through – Part of the raffle proceeds will go to help needy Peterites in Sri Lanka)

The themed Décor and entertainment (The fire and Champagne entertainers were a novel touch) arranged by Reshma De Cruz was exemplary being complemented by the lighting provided by Warren J (With the Indoor fireworks bring a new feature at our Dances)



As usual, Desmond of Silverline caterers did an extremely professional job in providing the catering with a varied buffet to suit all tastes.

And let's not forget the music .....Nex Gen and DJ Damien kept the crowd on their feet with the dulcet voices of the Peterite Choral singing a selection of songs a nice touch.

The singing of the college anthem was followed by the cutting of a Centenary cake and the toasting of college with Blue, White and Gold liqueurs.

And what grand Raffle prizes .... First and second Prizes being air tickets to Sri Lanka

What a night .... Keep that flag flying and a big thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, helpers and well-wishers who did so much to make this event come together.





# "THE PETERITE CENTENARY BALL -Continued"





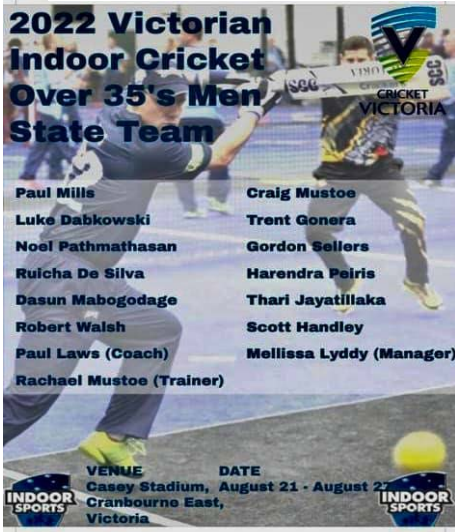
PICTURES OF COLLEGE FROM THE 1930'S & 1940'S





## PETERITE SPORTSMEN

### 2022 VICTORIAN INDOOR CRICKET OVER 35'S STATE TEAM



**Congratulations To Dasun and Thari on making the team**

### JUNIOR NATIONAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP 2022-PETERITE RUMESH THARANGA SETS NEW JAVELIN RECORD

The promising athlete Rumesh Tharanga of St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya, created a new meet record in the boys under 20 Javelin Throw when he was placed first with a distance of 69.3m at the Junior National Athletic Championship held at the Sugathadasa Stadium On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Tharanga also qualified earlier for the World Junior Athletic Championship in Colombia.

NOTE: Sri Lanka Javelin Record is 83.04m held by Sumeda Ranasinghe  
World Javelin Record is 98.48m held by Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic



### CONGRATULATIONS TO PETERITE POWERLIFTER RANUGA LIYANAGE

Peterite powerlifter Ranuga Liyanage achieved the Sri lankan record In the 2022 junior class Inter- Regional powerlifting championship in the UK.

Ranuga has emerged as an excellent powerlifter after having started his career at age 15. He is currently based in the UK and is coached by his father, a former national powerlifting champion (also a Peterite)



## 2022 JOE PETE NEWS

### 88<sup>th</sup> BATTLE OF THE SAINTS (Match Drawn)

88 <sup>TH</sup> BATTLE OF THE SAINTS			
MATCH SUMMARY			
<b>SPC</b>	1 <sup>ST</sup> INNINGS	<b>251/8 (60 OV)</b>	
Shenal Boteju	81 (138)	Shevon Daniel	3/67
<b>SJC</b>	1 <sup>ST</sup> INNINGS	<b>163/10 (45.1 OV)</b>	
Shevon Daniel	71 (93)	Wanuja Kumara	4/63
<b>SPC</b>	2 <sup>ND</sup> INNINGS	<b>232/7 dec (59.5 OV)</b>	
Abilash Wellalage	61 (134)	Shevon Daniel	5/80
<b>SJC</b>	2 <sup>ND</sup> INNINGS	<b>163/5 (45.1 OV)</b>	
Sadeesh Jayawardena	103 (189)	Danal Hemananda	1/17
<b>MATCH ENDED AS A DRAW</b>			



### 48<sup>th</sup> BATTLE OF THE SAINTS LIMITED OVER (ST PETERS WIN)

St. Peter's College regained the Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai Memorial Shield after a lapse of five years, beating St. Joseph's College by 26 runs in their 48th annual Limited Overs Cricket Encounter.

Brief Scores;

St. Peter's College – 245/8 (50) – Wanuja Kumara 102\*, Shenal Botheju 34, Danal Hemananda 81, Muditha Dissanayake 3/43, Deshan Senevirathne 2/45.

St. Joseph's College – 226/7 (50) – Sadeesh Jayawardene 61, Shevon Daniel 91, Dunith Wellalage 28, Niman Umesh 3/34, Shennon Rodrigo 3/32, Wanuja Kumara 2/50.

Individual Awards:

- Best Fielder – Dunith Wellalage (SJC)
- Best Bowler – Niman Umesh (SPC)
- Best Batter – Danal Hemananda (SPC)
- Player of the Match – Wanuja Kumara (SPC)

#### INAUGURAL MATCH 1975

Sunanda Jayasekera performed the remarkable feat of taking the wicket of Rohan Wijesinghe in the very first ball of the match.



#### INAUGURAL MATCH 1975

Captain Bernard Wijetunga with Ball from the match





## THE RENAISSANCE RECTOR - FR. JOE WICKREMASINGHE (1978-1994)

(Extract from the Melbourne OBU Centenary Celebration Souvenir By Johann Gunasekera)

Ordained in 1960, Fr. Joe Wickremasinghe's first appointment was to St. Peter's in 1963. He was initially the Priest in-charge of the boarders and altar servers. He soon rose to be in-charge of discipline and studies. In 1972 he was appointed as Vice Rector of St. Joseph's during which time he graduated from the University of London in economics, history and philosophy.



Fr. Joe Wickremasinghe OMI  
Eighth Rector 1978 - 94

Appointed the eighth Rector of St. Peter's on 9th January 1978, he was faced with the herculean task of rebuilding the school which had been battered and bruised by the impact of the Schools Takeover Act of 1960. He took immediate action to improve the standard of studies which reversed the exodus of students. He implemented change in the school administration by establishing a board of management consisting of senior lay teachers to whom he devolved the responsibility for discipline and studies which was traditionally held by the clergy.



The Three storey Science Laboratory and 18 classrooms - March 1981

Undeterred by the tight finances, he embarked on replacing the old laboratory with a three-storey building comprising a modern laboratory for physics, chemistry and biology and 18 new classrooms which were opened in March 1981. Moving away from the twin desks and benches he furnished the building with individual desks and chairs and floor to ceiling partitioning doors between classrooms, enabling the space to be easily converted to several large halls where examinations could be conducted.

Fr. Joe also undertook a much-needed refurbishment of the College Hall, added new toilets and washrooms and renovated those that were dilapidated. He also added a public address system enabling instant communication with the classrooms from the Rectors office. The long-felt need for a statue of St. Peter was kindly donated by Mr. Francis Gomez and finally erected under the front portico.

The change in political ideology brought about in 1977 resulted in the lifting of the draconian regulations imposed by the Schools Takeover Act of 1960. Accordingly, in 1980 a block grant was provided towards the payment of teachers' salaries and in 1983, teachers' pensions were reinstated. These measures immensely eased the financial burden and enabled the recruitment of high-quality teachers.

'The Peterite Gold' was introduced in 1981 to recognise students for excellent conduct, remarkable leadership, outstanding service and loyalty to college which were awarded at the Prize-Day.

The much-depleted arena of sports was rejuvenated with the establishment of the Sports Council consisting of teachers in charge of their respective sports. Badminton, hockey and chess were revived during this time, whilst athletics and rugby continued in ebbs and flows. The cricketers gave Fr. Joe a rousing welcome in 1978 by winning the Joe-Pete Big Match and 50 over match under the captaincy of Suraj Abeysekara.

The Diamond Jubilee celebration falling on 18th January 1982 was marked with sixty priests concelebrating Holy Mass at the quadrangle with Archbishop Oswald Gomis as the chief celebrant. Two new houses, Basil and Arthur named after the 2nd and 3rd Rectors, were established. Importantly in this jubilee year, Cadetting was reintroduced after 22 years and the first Peterite Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr Henry Joy Gunawardena was afforded a warm welcome to his Alma Mater.



## THE RENAISSANCE RECTOR - FR. JOE WICKREMASINGHE (1978-1994) -Continued

The year ended with the Prize-Day with President J R Jayawardena attending as chief guest, prior to which, the College Hall was renamed the 'Nicholas Perera Hall'.

With the school now back to its former glory, Fr. Joe took leave to pursue his post graduate studies with Fr. Kingsley Jayamanne acting as Rector from July 1983. The refurbished school dental clinic was relocated to the main primary building and formerly reopened in January.

In September 1983, the 100th birth anniversary of Fr. Nicholas Perera was remembered with a special mass at the chapel. The Jubilee Lights Carnival in February 1984 was extremely successful in raising much needed funds for the upcoming building projects.

Having completed his Diploma in Education, Fr. Joe returned to the helm in August 1984.

The second three storey building for the vocational training centre, a modern hostel, spacious and well-equipped canteen, computer room and more classrooms were completed in fifteen months and opened by Bishop Oswald Gomis in September 1986.

Many seminars were organised for teachers to get abreast of the latest teaching methods. The long-awaited Advance Level Commerce stream was established in the early 1980' and was a great success with Sriyan De S Wijeratne coming first in the Island with an aggregate of 322 marks.

After much angst our athletes under the guidance of national sprinter Mr Sunil Gunawardena once again came to the limelight winning the National Championships in 1986 and after 53 long years won the coveted Tarbart and Jefferson Cups, setting the stage for stellar performances in the years to come. Equal to the task was our Rugby team who beat Trinity College in 1985 after 44 years and Royal College after 10 years. In the same year our U19 Basketball team emerged All Island Champions. Sadly though Fr. Sunil Perera who shouldered much of the responsibility of putting our sports back on track passed away in May 1988 and was succeeded by Fr. Travis Gabriel.

Soon after this, another three-storey building for the primary school was built and was opened in March 1990.

The long-awaited swimming pool was finally declared open by The Bishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Oswald Gomis on 18th January 1991, in presence of a large gathering of Old Boys and well-wishers.

The foundation stone for the swimming pool was laid on 29th June 1988 by Fr. Dalstone Forbes and forty Old Boys who together kicked off the funding of the swimming pool which eventually cost Rs 5.5 million. The idea of a swimming pool was first conceived by Fr. Arthur in 1961, for which he raised Rs 100,000 through the "Fun-O-Rama Carnival". Unfortunately, the pool had to be shelved and the much-needed funds were used to run the school after the State withdrew assistance to private schools.

It is remarkable how Fr. Joe led the school out of virtual bankruptcy to a state of glory in academics and sports alike, whilst at the same time being able to double the cohort of students. There is no doubt that Fr. Joe's period at helm will be remembered as on par with that of the great Fr. Nicholas Perera, the first Rector.

With the last stage of the massive rebuilding program planned and funds already allocated to commence construction of the junior school, Fr. Joe retired in September 1994 after sixteen very productive years. Following his retirement, he was appointed as the Episcopal Vicar of Negombo.



Opening of the Swimming Pool - January 1991

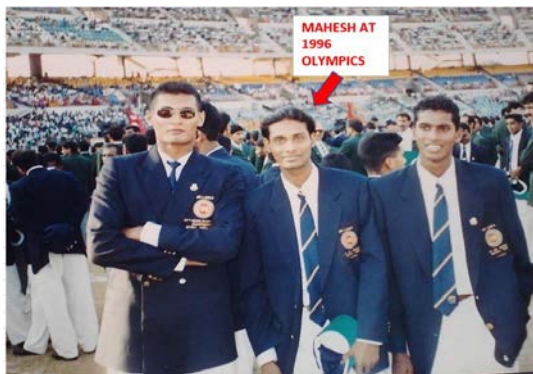
## Mahesh Perera – A Peterite Olympian

(Extract From the College Centenary Souvenir by Neil Cooray Headmaster)

Mahesh Perera was born on the 2nd of January 1974 and is a proud Peterite who has brought honour to his motherland Sri Lanka through athletics.

He started his sports career as a cricketer by joining the Peterite cricket team, eventually discovering his passion for athletics. At that time, he went into athletics as a complete novice knowing nothing about running or hurdling. When he started on hurdles his hurdling style was nowhere close to a professional hurdler and he used to arrive for practices without even a pair of spikes until he was presented a pair by his fellow athlete, Iresh Weerasinghe. He started his athletics career under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel as Sports Co-ordinator and during this period he was coached by Mr. Sunil Gunawardena and Mrs. Badra Gunawardena., two national coaches who discovered his talent and passion for athletics and moulded him for future success.

Mahesh Perera established his first-ever record in 1992, when he set a new record in the hurdles event and was named as the Best Athlete at the National Schools Championships. He was placed 4th in the 110m hurdles event at the Junior Asian Championships in India. Mahesh never looked back from there and won the 110m hurdles with a record time of 14.8 sec. at the Under-20 Senior National Athletics Meet in 1993. In the same year, he won the Silver Medal in the 110m hurdles event at the South Asian Federation Games in Dhaka, Bangladesh with 14.36 sec, a new Sri Lanka record. He took the Gold Medal in both 100m and 400m hurdles while competing at the 1995 SAP Games in Madras, India. He helped his team win a Bronze Medal in the 4X100m relay at the same games. He then went on to win a Gold Medal in the 110m hurdles event at the 1999 SAP Games. His best effort was the time of 14.00 sec in the 110m hurdles at the 1997 Asian Championships in the Manila Philippines, which is still unbroken.



Every athlete shows his best performance with each event he gets to participate in but if you ask an athlete his or her dream and ultimate goal, it would be to participate at the Olympic Games. Mahesh Perera was selected for the 1996 Atlanta USA Olympic Games at the age of 22 with his outstanding performances at the above events and he did participate in the 110m hurdles event at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics but couldn't achieve his all-time best performance of 14.00 sec, finishing the event with a timing of 14.24 secs.

When asked about his astonishing sports career he said "I feel humble and grateful to have participated as one of the very few athletes to represent my motherland at the Olympics". He further said "even though I participated in many events including the Olympics my most cherished moment was when I ran at a relay carnival at College. It was the 4 x 100 relay event, the Peterite team comprising Iresh Weerasinghe, Asiri Gabadage, Lance Periera and me. The team was keen to win a medal for Asiri as he had not received any, so we planned a strategy and targeted to get third place and win Bronze. We participated in the event, I ran the last lap and just before crossing the finish line I turned back to look at the opponents, something which I had never done before. That's when I realised, we had achieved first place to win a gold medal.

Mahesh Perera is a Cricketer, Banker, Businessman and Olympian but above all a proud Peterite who brought pride and Glory to his country and College. He lives by the motto "Once an Olympian, always an Olympian". As Peterites we are proud of Him.



## THE GREATEST SCHOOLS RUGBY RIVALRY – ST.PETERS VS TRINITY COLLEGE

The annual school's rugby fixture between St. Peter's and Trinity is one of the oldest school's rugby matches. The rivalry goes back to the inception of rugby at St Peters in 1932 with St Peters first beating a vastly more experienced Trinity team by a resounding 6-0 in 1935.

Below is a summary of some of the most memorable games:

**1956:** At Bogambara Trinity led by David Frank , considered to be one of the strongest ever sides, were held by the Peterites to a tie. With the game in the home stretch and the score nil all, disaster struck the Peterites as one of their players got injured and was carried off the field. The Peterites reduced to fourteen (no substitutions were allowed in that era) conceded seventeen points in the dying stages of the game.

**1965:** At Bambalapitiya, the Peterite side led by the late Darrel Wimalaratne lost in a close game which was their only defeat of the season. They were the unofficial school champions. Five players from that side including the captain himself went on to represent the Combined Colleges in their annual fixture against the University. The others were Royden de Silva, Hamzee Hameed, Ranjan Rajendran and Rodney Paternott.

**1969:** At Bambalapitiya the Peterites led by Sunil Perera (son of Archibald) confronted the unbeaten Trinity side. The Peterites took the lead and prevented Trinity from scoring but a penalty, late in the game by Shafi Jainudeen enabled them to squeeze out a draw and escape defeat.

**1971:** At Bambalapitiya ,a strong Trinity side that included a future Sri Lanka rugby captain Irwin Howie took what many thought was a convincing 11-0 lead at half time. But St. Peter's came back in the second half to equalize and force an honourable draw. For the Peterites it was like playing in two cup finals in one week for they met Issipatana on the Monday of the same week and were held to a five all draw. Jizvi Nizar captained the Peterites.

**1972:** At Nittawela on a Tuesday evening the Peterites considered the strongest schools side led by the irrepressible Jeffrey de Jong in a side that also included his brother Travis, Ronald Rodrigo, Noel Vanlangenberg, and Nimal Jayasuriya stunned the large crowd present with some superb rugby and with a 10-nil lead seemed to have the game under control but Trinity keeping to their "motto" 'Respite Finem' (Look to the End) made a comeback to register another close victory. The Peterites only defeat for that season was at the hands of Trinity. The Peterites were the schools' unofficial champions.



**1973:** At Bambalapitiya, Trinity was holding on to a one-point lead and with the minutes ticking away the Peterites came storming into the Trinity 22 and were awarded a penalty. Here was the moment of truth for the Peterites since they still had to register a Post War victory. Expectations were high but to the dismay of the Peterites the normally reliable Frankie Hubert's kick hit the cross bar and with it the final whistle. A Peterite victory like the elusive dream had to wait for some unknown date in the future.



**1984:** At Bogambara St. Peter's took an early lead through a fine try by their winger and held on to this lead till the very last moment when Trinity was able to score and seal victory. It seems on that day that St. Peter's were denied justice as the referee interpretation or either misinterpretation or sheer ignorance of the law on injury time a contributory factor.

**St. Peter's didn't have to wait long as in the following year 1985 they scored an 8-0 victory at Longden Place helped by two unconverted tries by Rovern Gunasekera and Crofton Joseph to break a 44-year-old jinx.**



## NEWS FROM COLLEGE

### COLOMBO SPC OBU HOLD 93RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (2022)

The St. Peter's College Old Boys' Union, Colombo had its 93rd Annual General Meeting recently at the D. J. Nicholas Perera Hall. Ravika De Silva was re-elected President for the year 2022/23.



### NEW MONUMENT UNVEILED IN COLLEGE ON 29/6/2022(ST. PETERS FEAST DAY)



### COLLEGE TEACHING STAFF DECEMBER 2021





## 2022 MASS TO CELEBRATE THE LIVES OF DEPARTED PETERITES

The 2022 mass for the departed to celebrate the lives of departed Peterites and Teachers was held at the Resurrection Parish in Keysborough on Sunday 3rd July 2022.



This event is held every year on the first Sunday after the feast day of St Peter (29th June).

Prayers for the departed were said together with pictures of departed Peterites Prince Machado and Benedict Chandrasekera (father of our Melbourne OBU president Jerome Chandrasekera) being displayed. Also displayed was a photo of Teacher Chandra Weerasekera.

The mass was followed by a fellowship get together in the church hall.

Event Organiser Rienzie Machado read out the below list of recently departed Peterites (With an apology proffered if he missed anyone). The reading of each name was followed by fond recollections of our departed brothers (and sister) by those present.

1. Allan Perera
2. Arden Nelson
3. Ben Gomez
4. Benedict Chandrasekera
5. Bill Forbes
6. Brian de Zilwa
7. Cedric Forster
8. Chandra Weerasekera (Teacher)
9. Denham Van Gramberg
10. Desmond de Silva
11. Fr. Chrys Abeyratne
12. Gaetan Noel Silva
13. Jean Stewart (née Ekanayake)
14. Justin Perera (Basketball Captain 1962)
15. Lyn Wiratunga
16. Mark de Silva
17. Mark Gonsalves
18. Marlon Alexander Fernando
19. Mervyn Varma
20. Michael Ian Vandort
21. Mineka P. Wickramasingha (Founder of CBL)
22. Nigel Forbes
23. Noel Misso
24. Prince Machado
25. Roderick de Rozairo
26. Royden de Silva
27. Sandy Rode
28. Shakir Anverdeen
29. Stan Lumanauw
30. Sunil Perera
31. Tulsi Randeniya
32. Vincent Anthonis



We say a fond farewell to departed Peterites and thank all those who took the time to attend

# 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:тино.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 July 2022)

Roger Van Hoff

Pathum Aponsu

#### 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 Godlieb	<b>70's Group</b>	Brian Jayasingha
<b>Past President</b>	Valentino Pereira	<b>Rugby Group</b>	Vacant
<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			

