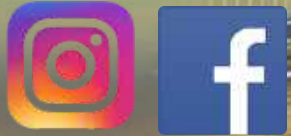


# ST. PETER'S COLLEGE OBSC MELBOURNE



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear fellow Peterites,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. I am delighted to share the wonderful success of our recent annual dinner dance, themed "Arabian Nights".

First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to our outstanding committee. Their unwavering dedication ensured the triumph of the event. Their tireless efforts made a significant difference, and we owe them our deepest gratitude for leaving no stone unturned. Thank you for your exceptional contributions.

I also want to extend my gratitude to every one of you who attended the event and supported the committee. Your participation played a crucial role in making the event a success.

Naturally, such a grand event would not have been possible without the generous support of our esteemed sponsors. Therefore, I sincerely thank Mr. Cedric Anthony from Austgrow International, our principal sponsor, as well as our gold sponsors Mr. Simon Whitely from Corex Plastics and Mr. Themiya De Mel from TDM Logistics United Kingdom. Your generosity and support are truly appreciated.

I would also like to express gratitude to all our silver sponsors, donors to the raffle draw, and advertisers for their generous contributions.

Shifting the focus to the sporting front, I would like to thank Dellon Udugamasooriya and the committee of St. Joseph's OBU Melbourne for their collaborative efforts, which greatly contributed to the success of the big match. Congratulations to our outstanding team on their victory.

On behalf of the club, it was my honour to present a cheque of Rs. 5,000,000.00 to Fr. Rector. I extend my thanks to all who contributed to our fundraisers organised by the club.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members for entrusting me with the role of President. As my two terms come to a close, I reflect with pride on our collective achievements during this time. I extend heartfelt thanks to every committee member who served alongside me. I offer my support to the incoming President and his committee. I wish him the very best, trusting in God's guidance and wisdom.

In closing, stay safe, and may God's blessings be upon you and your families.

Kind regards,  
**George Ajith Perera**

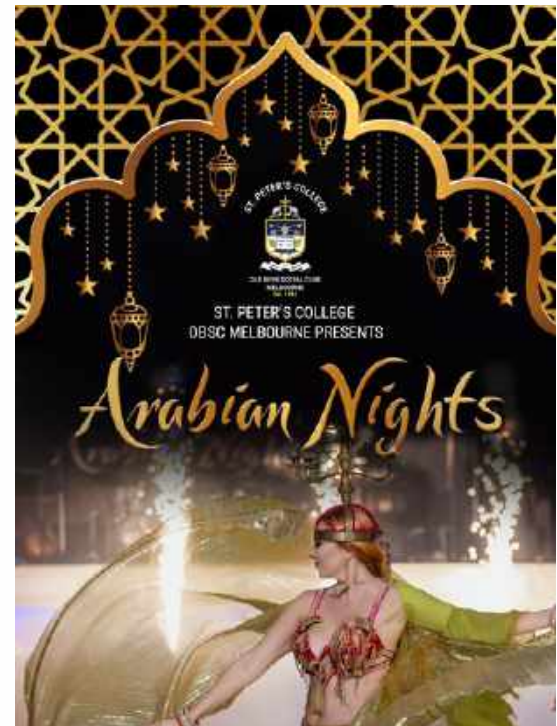


# "ARABIAN NIGHTS" 2024 WHAT A NIGHT IT WAS

Oh what a night it was indeed. Cathie's Lane was decked out in a spectacular Arabian theme. All one could say on entering was "Wow". Reshma De Cruze captured the required ambience perfectly. The whole evening just took off with the "Arabian Dance" act for a start which got the audience participating and Silverline catered an Arabian menu which perfectly complimented the evening.

Redemption got the music going to a great start with Dale Ryder and Andrew De Silva rocking us afterwards followed by DJ LUV D who had us all grooving. And what amazing prizes. A BIG shout out to our sponsors without whom we could not do it.

Well done to the Committee and without further ado, let the pictures do the talking.







# AND A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR DANCE SPONSORS

## PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

- Cedric Anthony from Austgrow International (Group) Ltd

## GOLD SPONSORS

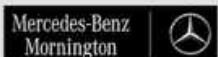
- Simon Whitely from Corex Plastics
- Themiya De Mel from TDM International
- Sathyan Mohan from SriLankan Airlines (AUS)

## SILVER SPONSORS

- Ajith Perera from ABC Group (AUS) Pty Ltd
- Ashley Silva from Mercedes Benz Mornington

## BRONZE SPONSORS

- Ainsley Baldsing from Chadstone Toyota
- Faizal Deva from State Financial Services
- Francisco Silva from My Finance Pro
- Indu Dehipola from Community Bank Pinewood (Bendigo Bank)
- Jacky Zhan from John Stonemart
- Niroshan De Cruze from AVIS
- Rifat Selimi from Acacia Flowers
- Shane Hassan from Pinnacle Fencing



ST. PETER'S COLLEGE



OLD BOYS SOCIAL CLUB  
MELBOURNE  
EST. 1982

## MELBOURNE OBSC 2024 EVENTS CALENDAR

- \* PETERITE GOLF DAY (Postponed) - Date TBA
- \* INTERSCHOOL INDOOR CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP - Sat 1st Jun
- \* MASS FOR DEPARTED PETERITES - Sun 7th Jul
- \* ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Fri 30th Aug
- \* TOUCH RUGBY 6'S (SRI LANKAN SCHOOLS & CLUBS) - Sat 21st Sept
- \* 70's GROUP LUNCHEON - Sun 27th Oct
- \* KINGSWOOD RUGBY 7'S - Nov (Date TBA)
- \* CHRISTMAS PARTY - Sun 8th Dec

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS  
ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE "SPC MELBOURNE"

(REVISED MAY 2024)

# MELBOURNE OBSC CONTRIBUTES TO COLLEGE HALL RENOVATION

The Melbourne OBSC is proud to support the renovation project of the Fr. Nicholas Perera (OMI) Hall with a donation of Rs. 5,000,000. We thank all those who have generously contributed towards making this happen.

On 5th April 2024, the President of OBSC Melbourne, Ajith Perera, presented a cheque for Rs. 5,000,000.00 to Rev. Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo, the Rector of St. Peter's College Colombo.

To mark this special event, Ajith was accompanied by Mr. Cedric Anthony, an alumni of St. Peter's College and a strong supporter of the Melbourne OBSC, Sri Lal Ranasinghe, a former committee member and a current member of the OBSC Melbourne, also attended the ceremony.

Representing the OBU Colombo, the current President Mr. Sanjeeva Abeygoonewardena, the immediate Past President Ravika De Silva, the Vice President Nalin Jayasundara, and the Treasurer Rajith Perera were present. The occasion was followed by a Luncheon hosted by Ajith.



# THE RENOVATED COLLEGE HALL IS FORMALLY OPENED

One of the biggest Projects College has undertaken for a number of years has finally come to fruition.

Our Melbourne OBSC Contribution of Rs. 5,000,000.00 has been acknowledged on a commemorative plaque (photo below)

.A big thank you to our members (and supporters)and all Peterites who contributed to this very worthy cause.



## COLLEGE WIN THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY 50 OVER JOE PETE ENCOUNTER



| 50TH JOE - PETE LIMITED OVER ENCOUNTER |    |    |                                         |        |    |
|----------------------------------------|----|----|-----------------------------------------|--------|----|
| MATCH SUMMARY                          |    |    | 50 <sup>th</sup> LIMITED OVER ENCOUNTER |        |    |
| ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE                   |    |    | 229                                     |        |    |
| HIRUN KAPURUBANDARA                    | 70 | 02 | LASHMIKA PERERA                         | 3 - 51 | 00 |
| HIRAN JAYASUNDARA                      | 65 | 00 | SHENNON RODRIGO                         | 2 - 41 | 09 |
| SENUJA WAKUNGODA                       | 41 | 32 | VISHEN HELAMBAGE                        | 2 - 53 | 06 |
| MAANASA MADUBASHANA                    | 12 | 24 |                                         |        |    |
| ST. PETER'S COLLEGE (WON)              |    |    | 230 - 7                                 |        |    |
| DILANA DAMSARA                         | 67 | 60 | YENULA DEWTHUSA                         | 4 - 45 | 10 |
| OWEEN SALGADO                          | 40 | 28 | MAANASA MADUBASHANA                     | 1 - 32 | 24 |
| SHENNON RODRIGO                        | 36 | 29 |                                         |        |    |
| NETHAN DAVID                           | 35 | 35 |                                         |        |    |
| ST. PETER'S COLLEGE WON BY 3 WICKETS   |    |    |                                         |        |    |

## 1ST JOE-PETE FIFTY OVER TEAMS PHOTO TAKEN AT THE 50TH ENCOUNTER MATCH

Seated L to R:

Lakshman Aloysius, Susilough de S. Wijeyeratne, Wayne Jansz, Shamilal de S. Wijeyeratne, Rohan Wijesinghe, Mr Angelo Rayer MIC SJC, Dushan Soza, Fr Ranjit Andradi Rector SJC, Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo Rector SPC, Bernard Wijetunge, Frank Hubert, Ranjan Perera, Angelo Wickremaratne, Narain Melvani, Darrel Wijetunge, Romello Anandappa, Kitto Fernandopulle, Charinda Perera.

Standing :

Paulinus de S Wijeyeratne, Kevin Hingert, Amal Cabraal, Nilkamal Perera, Sunanda Jayasekera, Reynold Anandappa.



## CLASS OF 1969 HAVE A REUNION IN MELBOURNE

Great to see so many classmates getting together, some seeing each other after over 50 + years.

In the below picture L to R:

Edward Wise  
Trevor Decker  
Jeffrey Parsons  
Anesley Grero(Hidden)  
Derrick Kelaart  
Patrick Vonhart  
Brian Jaysinghe  
Lindsay Ferreira  
Robbin Solomon's  
Jerome de Zilva  
Ronnie Stainwall  
Russell Mortimer



## PETERITE BADMINTON PLAYER SELECTED FOR OLYMPICS



**NEWS ROOM**

### Congratulations to Viren Neththasinghe

A distinguished Peterite, for his outstanding achievement in securing a place at Olympics.

He holds the title of being the youngest player in the world to directly qualify for the Men's Singles (MS) event at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Additionally, he is the sole player in the history of Sri Lankan badminton to reach the 'Round of 16' (pre-quarterfinals) at the Asian Games (individual event - Open-MS).

Currently ranked 72nd in the BWF World Ranking for Men's Singles, he exemplifies excellence in his sport.

We extend our heartfelt wishes for his continued success as he proudly represents our nation on the global stage.

# 2024 MELBOURNE JOE PETE (SUNDAY 24/3/2024)

St Peters, captained by Dilith Anjula, won the open age match in a thrilling finish scoring 148 to the Joes 8/142 in the allocated 20 overs.

St Joseph's won the overs 40's match scoring 111/1 to St Peter's 109/8 in the allocated 20 overs. The top scorer for the Joes was Michael Vandort with 52 not out and St Peter's was Roger Rode with 25. St Peters was captained by Jude Fernando

In the girls match HFC won scoring 75/1 to SBC's 16/3 in the allocated 5 overs.

Congratulations to our boys ....Well done !!



## FIVE PETERITE RUGBY CHAMPIONS

### L to R:

Senura Perera (Prop)  
Suhiru Anthony (Lock / CR Captain)  
Thenuka Nanayakkara (Fly Half)  
Vindya De Mel (Fly Half)  
Kushan Tharindu (Full Back)

All 5 of the above have played in teams that won the Presidents knockout trophy and 4 of them have won the Schools league.

Suhiru Anthony is probably the first Peterite and the only player to win three club leagues while playing for Navy, Kandy and CR.

Suhiru Anthony became the first Peterite since Angelo Wickremaratne 43 years ago (In 1981 for Haverlocks) to lift the club league championship (when he did it for CR recently)

What a record to break. Great work boys.



## 2024 COLLEGE RUGBY TEAM

Former Peterite Rugby Captain Frank Hubert poses together with Orville Fernando with the 2024 Rugby Team



## PROFILING A PETERITE KARATE CHAMPION

Sri Lanka Schools Under-19 Black Belt Karate Champion and twice a South Asian medallion ranked 11th by World Karate Federation Randev Athukorala was awarded Sri Lanka Schools Colours by the Ministry of Education and Sri Lanka University Colours for the year 2023. A 5th year Coloursman in Karate at St. Peter's College and 'Most Outstanding Sportsman', he went on to win the 'Best All-round Student' in his final year at college.



Young Athukorala went on to earn 4 A's at the Advanced Level Examination of the Ministry of Education and secured entrance to the University of Sri Jayewardenne. His passion for Karate began at the tender age of five years under Coach Sensei D.M.D. Nimal said, "Randev has been living the values of karate since his small age. He had his fair share of failures which has made him a competitive sportsman assisted by Coach Safraz.

Having captained the Sri Lanka Schools Karate Team, Randev went under the wing of the Sri Lanka National Coach Sensei Kalyana who brought out the best of him, said the St. Peter's Head Master Noel Cooray. Randev went on to win the Gold Medal at the South Asian Karate Championships in New Delhi, India, and also the World Championships in Teheran, Iran. "The lesson other sportsmen must emulate from Randev is how he balanced sports, studies, extracurricular activities, and being a Senior Prefect," said the St. Peter's College Rector Rev. Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo.

The World Karate Association Rankings listed him at number 17 in the world in the Cadet 70 kg+ weight class in 2017, and he went on to achieve a personal best of 11th in the global ranking. In the Asian region, young Athukorala was ranked second behind Indonesian athlete Billy Bilmona Mohammad Besnuh, while Chinese Karateka Yunlong Hu finished third behind the Sri Lankan that year. There are only three athletes from Asia who have broken into the world's top 30 rankings, said Coach Kalyana.

"I was diagnosed with dengue just 41 days before the South Asian Karate Championships in New Delhi, India but I wanted to fight for Sri Lanka and was happy to win the Gold," said Randev. When the pandemic hit Sri Lanka we lost the best years of my life in the world of sports but I focused strongly on studies. It was very motivating when I received 4 A's and qualified to enter university.

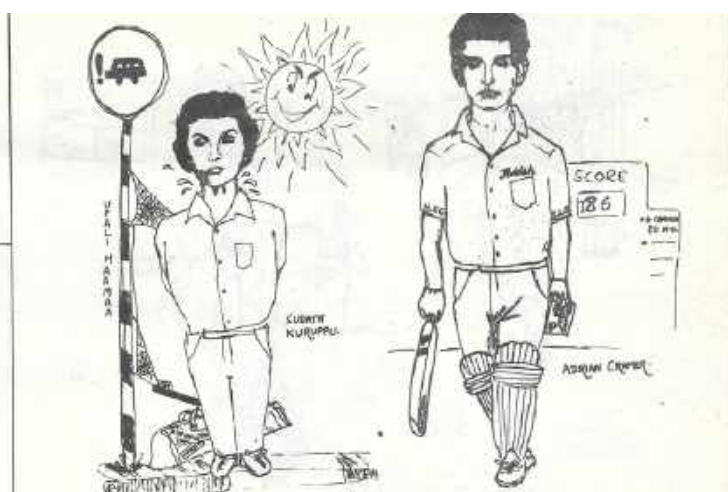
My next challenge is to win a medal at the World Inter University Games. But first, the world must see Sri Lanka out of the current economic challenge," added Randev.

# EXTRACTS FROM 1983 JOE-PETE SOUVENIR (49TH ENCOUNTER)



**PETERITE CRICKET TEAM 1982 -- 83**

Standing (L to R) Shafeek Rahim, Adrian Cramer, Lakshman Nadaraja, Royce Buultjens, Dilruksha Fonseka, Chrysanthus Kandasamy, Senerath Seneviratne, Riaz Farcy, Sean Nugera, Rohan Paul Pillai, Sudath Kuruppu, Heshan de Silva, Manoraj Chanmugam. Seated (L to R) Mr. Austin L. Fernando (Prefect of Games cum Master in charge), Bryan Setupathy, Shane Brohier (Captain), Rev. Fr. Joe Wickremasinghe, Ramesh Murugupillai, Edward Thangadurai, Col. H. I. K. Fernando (Coach)



# RUGBY CHARACTERS I HAVE KNOWN (BY MICHAEL DE NIESE)



**As a rugby player during the 60's era my College playing career spanned 3 years. Without any doubt those were the best 3 years of my time at St Peters College.**

Every school day started (and ended) with an almost ritualistic cup of tea and a "Bristol" at the infamous "Canal View" Hotel. Friendly waiters kept a sharp eye out for any unheralded visits by 'masters' who did not seem to approve of this practice. It was here that I met up with some of the most unforgettable characters of my school career.

The ones that stick most closely in my mind were some of the ruggerites of that era and I shall endeavour to tell you about them.

My first captain and one of the largest who springs to mind was Rohan Abeysundera - or 'Vul Abe' as he was affectionately known. For some unknown reason Rohan did not particularly like this nickname and threatened all who used it with dire consequences.

He was not particularly fond of me, because in my efforts to make the first fifteen I used to 'undercut' him quite often in the line outs. A giant of a man, his landing chest first made the ground shake. I used to quickly make tracks for home after practice for fear of awful retribution but in reality Rohan was a good tempered guy and I'm sure he has forgiven me.

There was our hooker - Selvan Mather. Small of stature but lightning fast with his strike. Mistakenly called 'young Mather' by a journalist (he was one of the oldest team members at that time), the nickname stuck. My least favourite memory of him was running to collect a high ball during the Zahira match and colliding head first with 'young Mather'. We each lost a tooth or two and a bit of blood and the game went on.

Another unique personality was Franklin Bowen - almost European in appearance, bow-legged and quite fast. Frank was a good centre but he had a particular aversion to tackling. His favourite method and one least appreciated by opposing centres (and referees) was to run towards an opponent at full speed and stick out an arm at right angles to his body, which made contact with an opponents throat. Needless to say - this was not copy book rugby.

And who will forget that unholy Trinity of Brian 'Ali Kan' Pieris, Tony Joseph and Gary Pompeus. They were legends! Brian will always be remembered for his murderous tackle of our beloved coach Archibald Perera during a practice session which almost put him in hospital.

Tony Joseph will be remembered for his reckless play in 'the loose' both on and off the rugby field and Gary Pompeus's for his line out jumping as well as his rugby gear which always looked like he had retrieved it from the dirty clothes bin.

Once he arrived for practice with his boots tied with 'kohu lanu'. I cannot repeat 'Archies' comment about Gary's appearance.

Then there was Durand Beckmeyer. Short of stature but loud of voice. Those who know him will never forget that hysterical laugh and his boastful predictions of the number of tries he would score during any particular game. (Which he almost

always fulfilled). His low slung swerving run demolished many a school side, and not known for his shyness Durand would relive every moment after the game.

During this era, St Peters College had many great tacklers. Ranjan Rajendran, Aubrey Paternott, Kitsiri Cooray, Everard Hoffman, Paramasoothy to name a few. But none struck more terror into the hearts of opposing backline players than Dennis Killalea. Better known as 'Butta' (the origin of the nickname is not known). Dennis was one of the most devastating tacklers on the rugby field. His method was simple - he would launch himself at you like a human projectile - often head on. There were no prizes for guessing who came off worst.

Then there was Junaideen and Vashista. Two players of great skill and courage but we were always unsure whether they were actually attending college while sporting the Peterite Jersey. There were even whispers that they both attended Nawala Hall and had actually left school, but I'm sure those were just rumours. I will never forget half back Junaideen's snake-like runs through the blind side, head always pointing to the sky but his passes always found the sure hands of Darrel Wimalaratne. Unfortunately 'Vashi' is no longer with us but I will always remember him for his tireless work in the third row and his great sense of humour.

Before I close I have to mention Sathivadivel. 'Sathi' was unique among school-boy fullbacks. Short and powerfully built with muscles chiselled on the parallel bars of 'Rudra Park', Sathi was an impressive figure. Even more impressive than his appearance were his kicking skills honed in the unforgiving soccer fields of his youth. The drop-kick was his forte which he seemed to utilise in impossible situations. Not for Sathi was the standard drop-goal 25 metres under the posts - he would let them go from anywhere. I will never forget the roar that used to go up when Sathi joined the line. 'Sathi-drop' was the chant and he always obliged - occasionally by dropping the ball but mostly with a devastating drop kick for 3 points.

These were some of the names of players who would no doubt bring a wry smile to the faces of team mates and opponents. I must not forget to add that these players besides being unique characters, were also proud Peterites whose performances on the field brought much credit to the *Alma Mater*. There were other great schoolboy players at this time, but this is a story about characters who happened to be great players also. I will remember all of them with much fondness.

## ABOVE IS AN EXTRACT FROM OUR MELBOURNE OBSC 1994 DANCE SOUVENIR



## A BIT OF MELBOURNE PETERITE HISTORY FROM 13 YEARS AGO

Past students of St. Peter's College around Australia and from overseas reconnected at a gala night in Melbourne on Saturday, October 1st, 2011. Nearly 350 old Peterites, wives, and friends got together for a night of reminiscing interspersed with skits and re-enactments of those schoolboy days.

It was the second reunion in three years and the Peterite spirit and enthusiasm shone through as strongly as ever. In addition to the good time, the night served as a fundraiser to benefit students at St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya.

Reunion organising committee spokesman Rienzie Machado said funds raised would pay for 3-5 scholarships over the next three years. A Grade 11 and 12 scholarship is about \$200. I am sure we can fund a few, Machado said.

The Blue that Crowns the World reunion truly lived up to its billing, with the highlight being the presence of old boys from overseas. Notable among them were former Peterite captains Travice Fernando and Michael Elias who travelled from Colombo. Machado said: It was amazing to see the Peterites reconnect, it was as if we had just left the gates of our school. As organisers, we aimed to lift the bar on the 2008 reunion and make it a night to remember. What a terrific response we had from the committee and Peterites of all vintages."

Music was provided by many past students including well-known entertainers Darrell de Silva, Randy Pieris (from Sydney), and Dwight Vangramberg (Perth). The brilliant choral group of young Peterites, based in Sydney, provided the audience with something special as they harmonised in true barbershop fashion. Other highlights of the night were specially brewed Peterite beers, a canteen re-enactment, fully catered buffet dinner, laughter-inducing skits and the appearance of Fr. Rector aka Rienzie Machado.

However, the piece de resistance of the night was when Peterite voices were raised in a stirring rendition of the college anthem – Lend a Heart and Lend a Hand, with not a song sheet in sight.

Plans are now underway for the Peterites to reconnect again in 2014, with moves for the next venue to be Brisbane.



Fr Rector aka Rienzie Machado addresses the gathering.



The Peterite Choral group, made up of university students, were in fine voice.



Cricketing quartet Michael Elias, Denham Juriansz, Travice Fernando and Gamini Goonasekera front up for

# SRI LANKA NOSTALGIA



# 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 at "tino.delamotte@gmail.com "**

**You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram at "Spc\_Melbourne"**

## **Club Key Contacts**

\*Inquiries regarding membership or your financial status can be emailed to Rashaad Jamaldeen (Membership Secretary) at "**membership.spcmelbourne@gmail.com**"

\*General Inquiries can be emailed to Sheyenne Algama (Club Secretary) at "**secretary.spcmelbourne@gmail.com**"

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER:**

**\*Franciscu Suranga Silva**

## **A CLOSING NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

So, the two year term is fast approaching its close for our 41st President Ajith Perera and his committee. I need to thank Ajith for his strong support for all things editorial

From the new logo to the revamping of our newsletter look and making my life easy by introducing updated technology for the newsletter. I wish Ajith all the best in whatever his next endeavour is.

We have continued to try and broadbase our Social Media presence with a mixture of OBSC and College info together with Peterite sports and other issues of interest .

It's heartening to see an increase in our Facebook followers which now stands at 2835. We really do need your feedback .... let us know how we can improve.

As we track towards the latter part of the year we have a lot more events for you to join in. Do check out the events Calendar in this newsletter.

Until next time.....Take care and Enjoy life (we live only once)

**Tino De La Motte**

