



Light from Heaven

Bulletin of SACK OBA (Colombo Branch) December 2025

THEME: Sending you love peace and joy this Christmas season

SLOGAN: Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a bright and happy new year

Contents

Editorial

President's message

Principal's message

Briefing by Immediate Past President

Congratulations to President, Parent Body

Flood Relief Programme

Tribute to TOM Deen

Week End at Hikkaduwa

Congratulations Rev. Fr. Araliya

More Antonian News

Noteworthy Antonian Achievements

Picture Gallery

Colonel Sampath Bulathgamuwa

Quadrangular 2025

Urgent Notice

Teachers Day 2025

LE TOUR DE CEYLON

OBITUARY PAGE

EXCO 2025/'26

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A month ago, at the 17th death anniversary of late Thomas Cardinal Cooray OMI which was celebrated at St Anthony's Church Negombo, our present Roman catholic Cardinal of Sri Lanka Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith stressed the importance of religious education in all Catholic schools in the island. Two chapels should be available and well maintained in our college for the primary and upper school of St Anthony's college Kandy.



The main activities of the Colombo branch in October, November and December 2025 were...

Regular executive committee meetings were held in October at Hikkaduwa ;

November at Sponge Colpetty and in December at Sponge Colpetty. .The attendance was excellent at Hikkaduwa and very good at Sponge Colpetty.

The annual trip by the Ex-Co, College of Presidents and families of the Colombo branch was a resounding success to Hikkaduwa Coral sands hotel. We thank Mr. MS Fernando of the College of Presidents for all the arrangements and logistics backing which he arranged so very meticulously, at the hotel. Thank you very much Mr. MS Fernando. And a big thankyou to our President Mr. Jude Pillai for his dynamic leadership at all times. Profound thanks in particular, go out to all those who attended this fabulous weekend of solidarity and enjoyment, spending their very own personal money for this entire weekend full board stay at the hotel and transport from Colombo to Hikkaduwa and back. . That's the "Espirit de corps" of Colombo Branch ...well done. A most sincere special thankyou with love, to all the ladies and children who were present that made this a very colorful event after a lapse of a few years. And finally, a thank you to those generous gentlemen who sponsored some of the Alcohol which included many Single malt whiskies too. All had a wonderful and memorable time, till 1 am and most made it on time for the buffet breakfast the next morning.!!

The annual Quadrangular which was held this year at St Joseph's college the hosts, at the royal college indoor complex due to rains, and at St Peters; over the weekend of 8th and 9th November 2025. The quadrangular 2025 was a resounding success. Colombo branch was actively involved with financial backing and participation. A word of praise and profound thanks to all those who represented Old Antonian teams at the Quad, and few Ex-co committee members who did yeoman service to make the events successful. (Concluded)

The Impact of Illegal drugs on Sri Lanka.

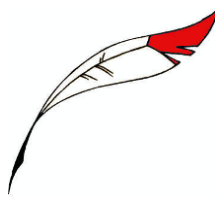
Illegal drug use does not just affect the life of the person using these drugs, the local community is also affected and there are wider reaching bad effects on society on the whole. Many thefts and violent attacks are by illegal drug users, illegal drug peddlers and illegal drug sellers, these persons are desperate to become billionaires knowing very well what a crime they do to the people and society and families suffer most often because of drug addicts within their families. The government or NGOs are compelled to spend money to rehabilitate addicts, which money could have been used towards development projects of the town or country. Buying illegal drugs in the street helps the big international traffickers to stay in business making sure that drug related crimes and suffering continue in the country and round the world. Drug related problems increases the risk of HIV AIDS in society and Hepatitis the dreaded liver disease, as knowingly these foolish people share syringes needles which contain illegal drugs. Many countries try their best to save them help them rehabilitate them, and some countries execute these illegal drug offenders' users' peddlers and traffickers with the death penalty because kindness is most often taken for weakness and more crimes in homes families and the country and society at large including crimes against people's innocent children.

Drug Dependence is the end of the road for a person's lifespan. The family has failed in their mission. The parents have failed to supervise their children's activities besides schooling. Drug dependency is when victim of illegal drugs, have to somehow continue to take illicit drugs in order to feel Ok, or to avoid feeling bad, as by now they have become physically fully dependent on that illicit banned substance drug or injection syringe. If such addicts don't have the drugs their muscles ache their bodies pain their muscles tremble and shiver. But there is light at the beginning of the tunnel too; as there is no light at the end of a tunnel for drug addicts, only terrible death. The Police and special forces will arrest drug addicts and take them away from their safe homes, to rehabilitation caners for methodical tough and strict rehabilitation. It is mandatory that parents must allow the law to take effect and they should hand them over for rehab even voluntarily without waiting for the police to arrest.

Illegal drugs could be, maybe distributed in front of schools Gates, both colleges and convents, hence security must have an Eagles eye, then the school prefects and tutorial staff, besides parents should also focus and observe children's habits in classrooms long hours using wash rooms, as this menace is ruining Sri Lanka. The College and parental Authorities must be aware from now on in particular and focus seriously on this mission in order to eradicate illegal drug use, as such Distribution is done by Cartel traffickers, by carriers, by transportation in cars in school buses and vans, by boats, by ships, by people concealing illicit drugs inside their inner under garments most of the time. AND By friend's and relations under our very noses. In conclusion, Drug awareness needs open dialogue which is a pre requisite, to facilitate anti-drugs campaign. This is recommended between parents and children and between teachers and pupils. Say no to drugs.

Shane Balthazaar

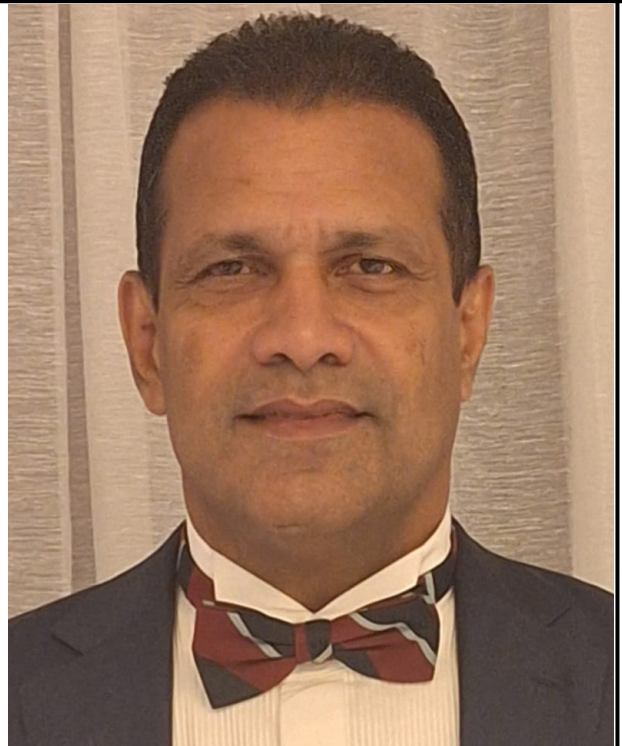
(An Antonian - Jan 1962 to May 1974)





MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLOMBO BRANCH MR. JUDE PILLAI

Initially, I sincerely congratulate Rev. Fr. Shamindra Jayasundera OSB on his appointment as the Abbot general of the worldwide OSB order based at The Vatican, Rome, Holy See. My heartiest wishes and congratulations to Rev. Fr. Araliya Jayasundera, OSB on his appointment as the Prior of the OSB in Sri Lanka. And To Mushtaq, my dear friend, I wish you all the very best in your roles and tasks ahead of steering the OBA to greater heights, with a most sincere note of Congratulations on your prestigious appointment as the President of the Old Boys association of St. Anthony's College Kandy. Your appointment to the post is a pleasing aspect to every one of us in the Colombo branch. Good luck and God Bless you. I congratulate the present principal of college and the Vice Principals for steering college through these difficult times in the central province due to the recent cyclone of November 2025 Congratulations Rev Fr Henry Wijeratne OSB.



We are a resilient island and we must all work together in every respective field we are in, in order to bring back the country to normal. We will rise again after the worst cyclone which was coupled with killer landslides and dangerous flood waters, that hit our motherland last month.

Mr. Rohan Wijesinghe, the Immediate past president of the Colombo branch and his subcommittee has assured the EXCO that he will focus on the work on the basketball courts projects at college.

In the past three months, October, November and December 2025 the Colombo branch held its monthly EXCO meetings every month with good attendance and co-operation. We held our Annual EXCURSION WEEKEND TRIP to Hikkaduwa Coral gardens Hotel which facilitated unity and comradeship among us.

As your President, I thank you all for your participation. A sincere note of thanks to the EXCO members who worked hard in making the QUADRANGLE 2025 a success. St Joseph's college, were the hosts this time and relevant sports events were held at St Josephs, St Peters and also at the Royal indoor sports complex due to the rainy weather. Last but not least we have launched a charity humanitarian project to help flood victims of St Anthony's College Kandy.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous new Year 2026 which is our Centenary year of the BRANCH.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

REV. FR. HENRY WIJERATNE OSB

I take this opportunity to wish the President of the Colombo branch Mr. Jude Pillai, the College of Presidents, the Executive Committee and all members of the SACKOBA Colombo branch, a very happy Christmas, the seasons Greetings and a Successful New Year 2026. Yes, the New year will be your centenary year. Colombo branch has been a vibrant, hardworking and interestingly very active branch of the Old Boys Association since its inception.



During Christmas we commemorate and celebrate the birth Of Our Lord God Jesus Christ. Let us refresh our memory of His birth. An angel of the Lord appeared to St. Joseph and spoke to him 'Joseph Son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary your spouse with you, for it is by the holy Spirit that she has conceived, she will have a son and you will name him Jesus. He will redeem the world and save mankind from their sins. At that time emperor Augustus ordered a population census throughout the roman empire and all the people had to go to their own towns or villages to register. As Joseph was of the family of David, he had to go to Bethlehem the town of David. Hence Joseph took his wife, Mary who was with child and travelled the long journey of 130 kilometers from Nazareth. They searched for a place to stay in Bethlehem, and through much difficulty found an INN to rest at night. It was in a stable in this INN that the Messiah Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. The promise was fulfilled Christ the Savior was born. Mary wrapped baby Jesus in pieces of cloth and lay Him in a manger in the stable.

In Hebrew, Bethlehem means "house of bread" and was originally called Ephrath. Bethlehem has many Biblical associations, reflecting a tranquil pastoral existence. Here Jacob buried his beloved wife Rachel, (Gen 35;16) and here was enacted the story of Ruth. Bethlehem is revered as the birthplace of David as mentioned earlier and of Jesus Christ. it was a part of Judea in the time and days of King Herod. East of Bethlehem is the village of Beit Sahur in the Shepherds Field, where the Angel appeared to the Shepherds and announced the Birth of Jesus..."Fear not for I bring you good tidings of great joy for unto you is born this day in the city of David , the Messiah Savior Christ the son of God,

Halleluiah. In conclusion, please refer to Antonian Media unit for all news about college. Thankyou. Good wishes and God Bless you all.

Dear Mr. President / Hon. Secretary,

Since I have excused myself from today's Exco meeting, I would like to share the following update.

1/ Basketball – Upper School

Myself, Mr. Thanuja, and Mr. Gayan were scheduled to meet Rev. Father Principal to discuss the new building plan. This visit was expected to take place around the 3rd week of November 2025 but was postponed due to the unavailability of Mr. Gayan.

2/ Basketball – Primary School

As per my email sent to the President of SACKOBA Australian Branch, I proposed a Mini Basketball Complex for the Primary School.

I visited the college and met Rev. Father Principal. We had a very good discussion, and he agreed to the proposal. The Primary Grounds, along with the base of the Sports Complex, have been identified for this project. Sponsorships are fully pledged and confirmed. I will present the full proposal, including the complex floor plan, court photos, quotations, and all relevant information, at the next Exco meeting.

ASSISTED STATUS

Mr. Dhammika Samarasekere called and updated me on several areas. I also had discussions with Mr. Dhammika Samarasekere, Mr. Udaya Jayasundare, Mr. Mushid Maharoof, Mr. Priyantha Rose, and Mr. Palitha Anthony.

We are scheduled to meet Mr. Rohitha Uduwawela, Secretary to the Ministry of Environment (Batch of '86), and a close friend of Mr. Palitha and Mr. Dhammika. They met him at the Kandy AGM with Mr. Mushid as well.

Mr. Rohitha has already spoken to the Prime Minister regarding this matter and given positive feedback. Several members from both Kandy and Colombo branches are expected to meet after mid-November to plan the way forward prior to meeting Mr. Rohitha.

I will also be contacting Mr. Mushtaq and will update you, Mr. President.

Wishing you a successful Exco meeting.

May God bless us all.

Sincerely,

Rohan Wijesinghe

The 115th Annual General Meeting of St. Anthony's College Old Boys' Association was held at Thilanka Hotel, Kandy on 11th October 2025.

Mr. A. J. M. Mushtaq was elected as the President of the SACK OBA for the year 2025/26.



Congratulations!

TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT



MR. A.J.M. MUSHTAQ
GROUP 86

We wish him every success to lead
SACKOBA to reach new heights
of excellence and service

SACKOBA



SACKOBA - දියසර

(Rising Above muddy)

FLOOD RELIEF PROGRAMME

Dear Fellow Antonians,
The St. Anthony's College Kandy Old Boys' Association (Colombo Branch) is organizing a flood relief programme to support those affected by the recent devastating floods.

Our Mission:

The funds collected will be used to assist school children who have lost everything due to the flooding. We will purchase essential educational supplies including:

- Exercise books and textbooks
- School uniforms
- School bags
- Stationery items
- Other necessary school materials

We greatly appreciate the generosity and solidarity of the Antonian fraternity & well wishers during this critical time. Your contributions, no matter the size, will make a meaningful difference in helping these children continue their education.

Please deposit your contribution to the following account:

Account Name : St. Anthony's College Old Boys Association Colombo Branch
Account Number : 115010131796 - Reference : Your Name + Flood Relief
Bank : Hatton National Bank PLC Branch: Kollupitiya
Branch SWIFT Code: HBLILKLX001
Bank Code : 7083
Branch Code : 115

For More Information:

Udaya Jayasundara: +94 777 332 322



TOM DEEN A LEGENDARY SPORTSMAN OF ST ANTHONY'S COLLEGE, KANDY IN THE 1950's

Tom Deen lives in Australia and pictures below are from his unique collection A great gentleman, a great cricketer and soccer player undoubtedly one of the finest products of Our beloved and great Alma Mater. He is respected by every Antonian the world over.

Tom Deen is still young at heart, now in his Nineties .



THE FANTASTIC WEEKEND AT HIKKADUWA IN OCTOBER 2025 BY COLOMBO BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FAMILIES



THE FANTASTIC WEEKEND AT HIKKADUWA IN OCTOBER 2025 BY COLOMBO BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FAMILIES



Great and happy news. Rev. Fr. Araliya Jayasundera OSB MSc, MA , the Principal of Trinity College Kandy since 2020 and the winner of the famous award for "Best Principal in Asian Schools" is appointed as the OSB Prior.....

Congratulations Rev. Fr. Araliya Jayasundera OSB , GOD BLESS YOU.



MORE ANTONIAN NEWS IN PICTURES

CEYLON TEAM, 1958



**Photo from the book
The History of Sri Lankan International Cricket**

The Ceylon Team

Standing from Left:

Anton Sethupathy, Malcolm Francke, Tony Buhar, Clive Inman, Michael Tissera, **A.C.M. Lafir**

Seated from Left:

Chandra Schaffter, C. I. Gunasekara, Vernon Prins (Captain), Channa Gunasekara, H. I. K. Fernando.

SOME NOTEWORTHY RECENT ANTONIAN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025
Sent by Antonian cricket capt. of 1981 Fazal Majeed



SOME NOTEWORTHY RECENT ANTONIAN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025
Sent by Antonian cricket capt. of 1981 Fazal Majeed



SOME NOTEWORTHY RECENT ANTONIAN ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

CONGRATULATIONS

ON BEING SELECTED TO REPRESENT SRI LANKA AT THE DIAMOND JUBILEE AND THE 19TH NATIONAL JAMBOREE OF THE BHARAT SCOUTS AND GUIDES, HELD IN LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA.

MICHEAN
SUBASINGHE



AMU

ANKA
TECHNOLOGIES



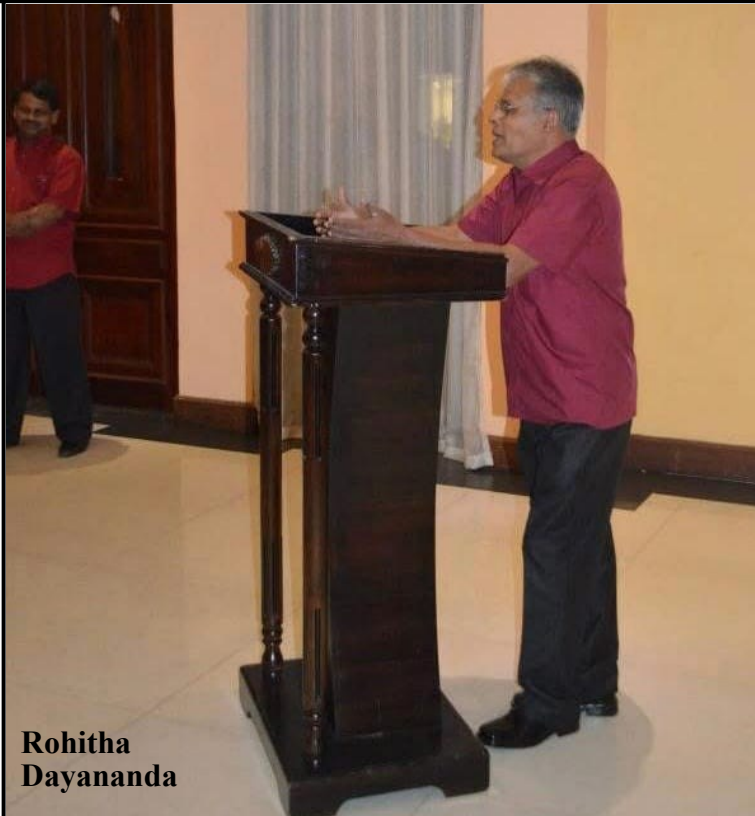
ANTONIANS BADMINTON CLUB 5th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025



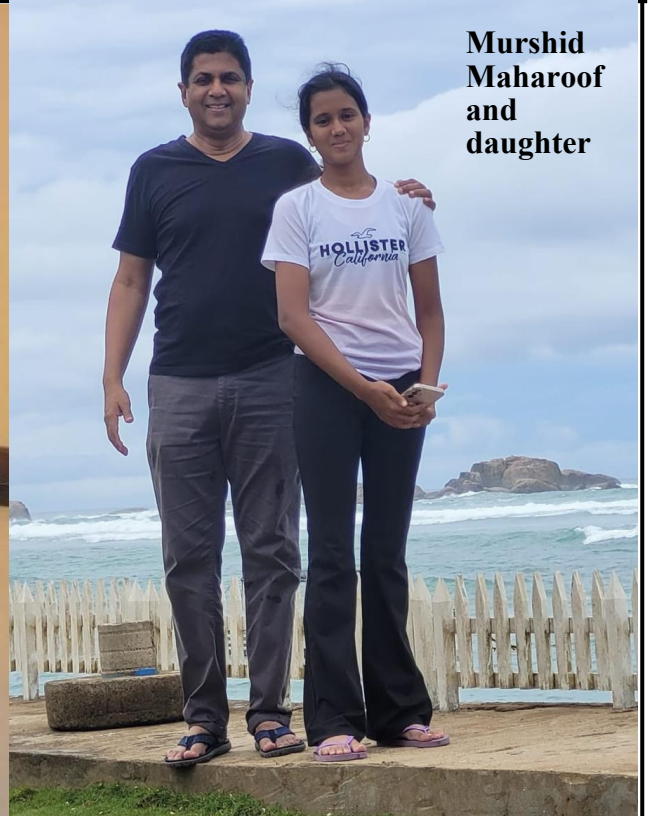
PICTURE GALLERY



PICTURE GALLERY



**Rohitha
Dayananda**



**Murshid
Maharoof
and
daughter**



**Asela Herat and
batch mates**

**COLONEL SAMPATH BULATHGAMUWA
AS CHIEF GUEST AT THE COLLEGE ATHLETIC SPORTS MEET 2025**



**Traditional Annual Saints Old Boys Quadrangular
Worked Out on 8th and 9th November 2025
(St. Anthony's, St. Benedict's, St. Joseph's and St. Peter's)**

*Article by Chief Coordinator of SACK OBA Colombo Branch
Mr. Ladis Gnanapragasam*

The 56th Saints Quadrangular Tournament Opening Ceremony was held at St. Joseph's. Appreciation is extended to Shabith Muthalif (Exco) and his colleague Chinthaka Wickramaarachchi for coordinating the rugby players. A special thank you is also due to Kushana Michael, who assisted in finding four replacement players at the last moment when four players dropped out. Kushana, together with Shehan, continued contacting players until 9.00 pm on Saturday. Kushana also stayed back in Colombo and played in the Rugby 7s matches on Sunday. In addition, he coordinated the Over-40 cricket team at short notice and represented the team on Saturday.

SACKOBA Colombo Branch has represented the College at the Saints Quadrangular Organizing Committee since the inaugural tournament in 1963. The Quadrangular originated when the Old Boys of St. Benedict's College organized a cricket tournament to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their alma mater and invited Old Boys teams from several schools. Only the Old Boys of St. Anthony's (SACKOBA Colombo), St. Joseph's (Old Josephians Sports Club) and St. Peter's (Old Peterites Sports Club) responded, and the tournament was played. Antonian late Ranjith Samarasekera encouraged the Old Boys of the three schools to make it an annual event, with the aim of fostering camaraderie among the four schools. Since then, the tournament has continued for 62 consecutive years, with the Colombo OBA ensuring consistent participation and financial support.

Antonian late Harry Jayasundara was the first Captain in 1963, and his son Hiran Jayasundara, the 1975 College Captain, also represented the Old Antonians years later. Members of the Executive Committee representing the Colombo OBA at the Saints Quadrangular Association (SQA) Organizing Committee for the 2025 Saints Quadrangular are: President of Colombo OBA Mr. Jude Pillai (Immediate Past President of SQA 2024), Samantha de Silva, Chandika Jayawardene, Kushana Michael, Ladislaus Gnanapragasam, Asela Herath, and Asanka Rajasinghe. Former Colombo OBA Exco member Mr. Ranjith Peiris, a senior active member of the SQA, has been recognized and appointed as Vice Patron of the Saints Quadrangular Association.

Team coordinators nominated by the Colombo OBA to the SQA are: Alex Anthony for Basketball, Chinthaka Wickramaarachchi for Rugby, and Selwyn Jamion for Under-40 Cricket. Appreciation is also extended to Shehan Fernando for stepping in as the 11th player for the Over-40 cricket team, despite having no prior experience in hard-ball cricket; fortunately, he completed the match without injury. Thanks are also due to Pramodth for participating in the Under-40 team and to Chandika Jayawardana for coordinating the Under-40 cricket team.

Although this is a Colombo OBA event, it was disappointing to note that none of the other Exco members were present at the grounds except for the members who took part in the teams and President Jude Pillai, who attended both the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Rev. Fr. Henry Wijeratne OSB travelled from Kandy to be present at the Closing Ceremony. Only three Antonians were seen at the grounds: Mr. Ramanathan from the 1972 batch, Vimalakanthan from the 1996 batch, and Zaharan Liyabdeen from the 2003 batch. Zaharan's wife represented the Kandy Convent PPA team on Sunday.

The SACK Over-40 Basketball team emerged Runners-Up at the 56th Tournament. St. Peter's were the Overall Champions, and SACK finished in 4th place among the four Catholic colleges in this traditional annual Quadrangular.



ST. ANTHONYS COLLEGE KANDY FIRST XI & SECOND XI CRICKET FIXTURES 2025 - 2026

efixture
WEEK 43rd UPDATE

MATCH NO.		VERSUS	DATES	VENUE		
				1 st XI	2 nd XI	3 rd XI
01	TR	Wesley College, Colombo	07 th & 08 th November		Home	
02	TR	S Thomas College Mount Lavinia	14 th & 15 th November	Home		
03	TR	S Thomas College Mount Lavinia	14 th & 15 th November		Away	
04	TR	Thurstan College Colombo	21 th & 22 nd November		Home	
05	TM	Thurstan College Colombo	21 th & 22 nd November	Home		
06	TM	Richmond College Galle	02 nd & 03 rd December	Away		
07	TR	Maliya Deva College	02 nd & 03 rd December		Home	
08	TM	Nalanda College Colomb	08 th & 09 th December	Away		
09	TR	Nalanda College Colomb	08 th & 09 th December		Home	
10	TR	Royal College Colombo	17 th & 18 th December		Away	
11	TM	Royal College Colombo	17 th & 18 th December	Home		
12	TM	St. Sebastian's College Moratuwa	29 th & 30 th December	Away		
13	TR	St. Sebastian's College Moratuwa	29 th & 30 th December		Home	
14	TM	DS Senanayake College Colombo	05 th & 06 th January	Home		
15	TR	DS Senanayake College Colombo	05 th & 06 th January		Away	
16	TR	Ananda College, Colombo	09 th & 10 th January	Away		
17	TR	Ananda College, Colombo	09 th & 10 th January		Home	
18	TM	St. Peter's College Colombo	15 th & 16 th January	Away		
19	TR	St. Peter's College Colombo	15 th & 16 th January		Home	
20	TR	St. Benedict's College, Kotahena	23 rd & 24 th January	Away		
21	TR	St. Benedict's College, Kotahena	23 rd & 24 th January		Home	
22	TM	Gurukul College Kelaniya	27 th & 28 th January	Home		
23	TR	Wesley College, Colombo	06 th & 07 th February	Away		
24	TR	St. Joseph's College, Colombo	16 th & 17 th February	Home		
25	TR	St. Joseph's College, Colombo	16 th & 17 th February		Home	
26	TR	Trinity College, Kandy (Mini Battle)	1 st Week March		Away	
27		Trinity College, Kandy (Blg Match)	12 th , 13 th & 14 th March	Away		
28		Trinity College, Kandy (One-day Encounter)	20 th March			

ABBREVIATION

Won
First Innings Win
Draw
Lost
TR - Traditional
TM - Tournament
WU - Warm-up Matches
IN - Inaugural Match
SECOND XI
SLOCT - Schools Limited Overs Cricket Tournament



UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH

QUADRANGULAR 2025 PICTURES



QUADRANGULAR 2025 PICTURES



SPECIAL NOTICE



Soar into the Season with the Eagles!

URGENT NOTICE

Dear Friends,

Due to the unavoidable circumstances faced by our people following the recent cyclone and flooding, the organizing committee has decided to cancel this year's get-together.

The funds collected from ticket sales will be contributed to a worthy cause to support those affected by the recent disaster.

Executive Committee
SACKOBA
Colombo Branch



TEACHERS DAY 2025



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APS 2025

TEACHER'S DAY '25
PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

ARS



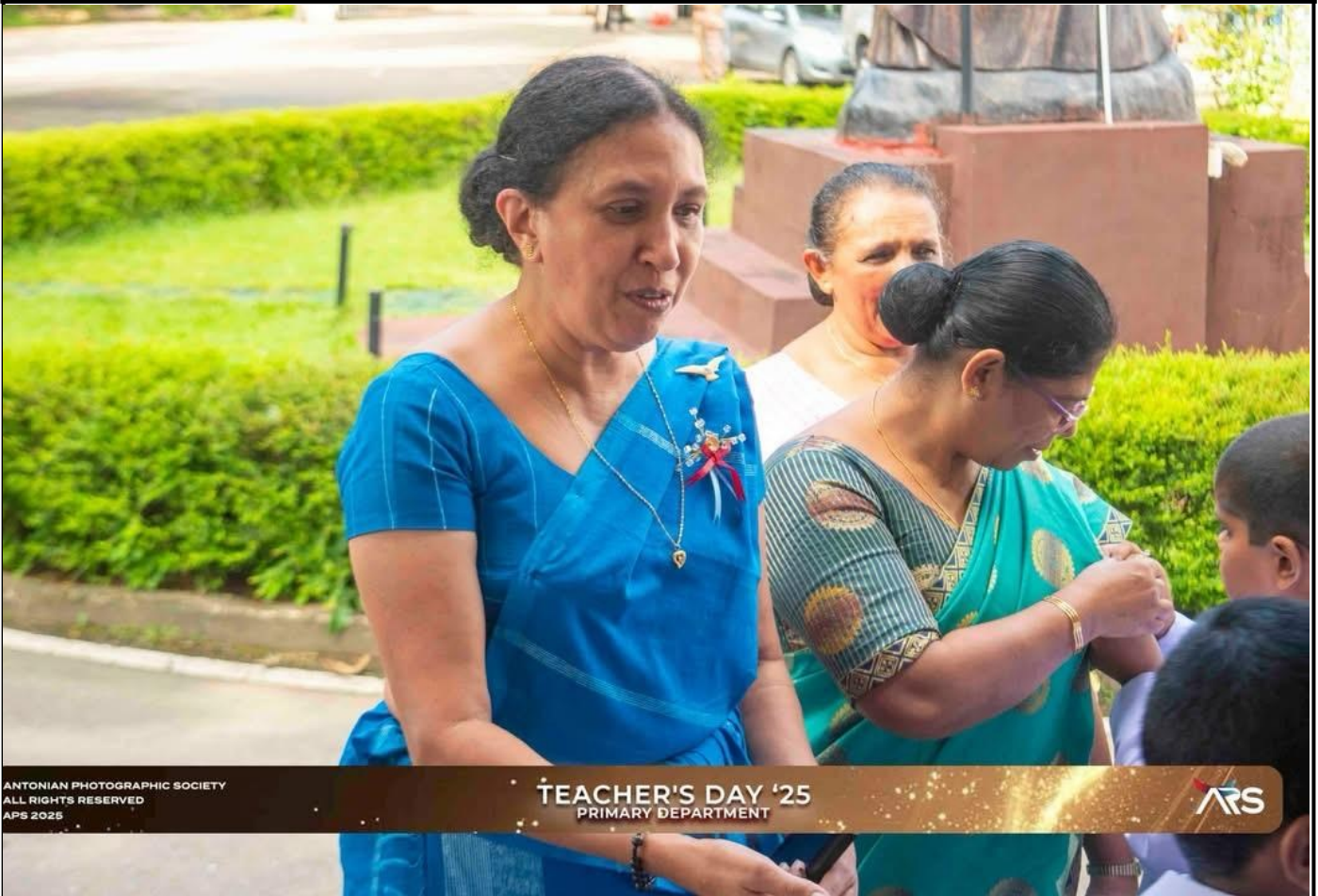
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PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

ARS



TEACHERS DAY 2025



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TEACHER'S DAY '25
PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

ARS

LE TOUR DE CEYLON

By Michael Macky

This is a true story of a group of young Antonians looking for something to do during the April/May holidays in 1962.

The Duff-Tytlers and Mackys were neighbours at the time, down Cemetery Road Kandy, Ceylon. There happened to be a gathering of friends including Robin, Tony and Chris Duff-Tytler, myself, Walter Lodewyke and Chris Wanigasekera. We were sitting around chatting, at the Duff-Tytler residence wondering what to make of ourselves during the holidays. All sorts of suggestions were made and the best one came from Robin. His brilliant idea was a cycling trip to Colombo. This sounded a good idea to me and the other Duff-Tytler brothers, Tony & Chris. Walter & Chris Wanigasekera laughed at us and suggested that we were crazy to think of such a ridiculous escapade. The two of them were not agreeable to this idea of Robin's and said that they were not interested in joining us. However Walter very kindly offered his Leica Camera to us, to record our trip and prove that we actually travelled by bike and did not cheat by taking the train!!! They made jokes about reading the obituary notices to see if any of us had died in attempting this trip! We were settled on this idea of Robin's and set about planning our trip. We had to borrow two bikes for Tony and Chris as I had a BSA racing bike and Robin had an old "standard bike. We borrowed Nihal Abeyaratne's Raleigh Sports for Tony. Nihal was my team mate and was responsible for spinning Trinity out in the 1962 "Big Match". He lived close to us at Asgiriya, near the Trinity grounds. I cannot recall where we got a bike for Chris. Not one of us can remember. May be alzhimers is sitting in!!! Once we got the bikes, we bought vulcanizing kits for repairing tyre punctures and set about making sure all the bikes were in good order.

We got a map and now decided that we could make this a memorable trip by settling on this route. We planned that we would travel to Colombo, Galle, Hambantota, up to Wellawaya then to Passara and back through Nuwara Eliya to Kandy. We all agreed that we could make it okay. We went to Fr Bede Amerasinghe, who was our parish priest at St Anthony's Cathedral, Kandy and asked him to please give us a letter of introduction, which would come in very handy indeed. Once we had all this in place we went to our respective fathers and asked for permission to make this trip.

Permission was granted on the proviso that we buy post cards and pre-address them, and we post them at respective destinations, so that they new we were okay. We were given a little money by our dads, George Macky and Stephen Duff-Tytler.

At this moment I must say that we did not have mothers (both had passed away) and maybe our fathers thought that we young and responsible boys and needed to do something like this to make men of us! Once permission was granted we checked out the bikes to make sure they were in working order. We packed our knapsacks with very little clothes as we wanted to travel as light as possible. We had to have room for vulcanizing kits and other little items. We commenced our trip on a Monday morning as I recall and we estimated travel time to Colombo to be around 6-8 hours. How wrong we were!

We travelled at reasonable speed and when we got to Kaduganawa and started the descent, we became very reckless, foolish and on looking back, mad!! as we passed cars into the "Rock Tunnel". I had cable brakes on my bike and got a reality check when my rear cable snapped down the incline and had to very gingerly squeeze the front brake to slow my bike. I got fairly adept at this and continued on the whole trip with no rear brakes! We descended Kaduganawa easily and when we had to climb, we struggled and at times had to push our bikes up hill. There is a photograph of us pushing up into Kegalle. We stopped and had refreshments at "Kade's" (Boutiques) "Plain Tea"(Black Tea) was the best thirst quencher we discovered. We had our fair share of tyre punctures that slowed us down a lot. Poor Chris was plagued with cramps and had to stop on many occasions This did not sit well with Robin! He suggested that we keep going and that Chris will have to catch up, as we would never get to Colombo! Tony and I felt sorry for Chris and kept him company when he had to stop. He finally came good and we got to Colombo around 8.00 PM. This was nearly 12 hours since we left Kandy!!!

LE TOUR DE CEYLON

By Michael Macky

Robin suggested that now that we had arrived in the “big smoke” and do not have 9.30 pm movies in Kandy, we should go to the Liberty Cinema for World by Night, which was screening there. Now, we did not have much money and so went to the “Gallery” which is at front of the cinema. I recall the cost of a ticket to be 50 cents. By the way this was the first time I had been to the gallery. After the movie we had something to eat and had to look for a place to bed down for the night. We went to the Colombo Municipal Council garage and asked the caretaker whether we could sleep somewhere. He was very obliging and asked to sleep in the council garage! The next day we set off for Galle.

The weather was hot and dry and it was hard work cycling after the gruelling previous days effort. We took our time, admiring the scenery, especially along the coast. We had as much refreshments as possible. Thambili” (young coconut water) was the best thing for us. Along the way we stopped at a small coconut property and asked whether we could buy some “Thambili”. When the poor people learned that we were from Kandy, they offered to share their lunch with us. “Pol sambol” and rice.

We gladly took up the offer, as we were hungry and thirsty. They gave us “Thambili” to drink as well as rice and pol sambol for lunch. We were pretty grateful to these poor people who were willing to share their simple meal with us. God bless them. This was the second time that we experienced such decency and friendliness. We continued on the way to Galle, stopping to cool off in the sea, and wash some of our clothes!! We hung the clothes on our bikes for quick drying! We arrived in Galle earlier than expected and made a tour of the harbour and some of the sights, before looking for somewhere to camp for the night. Fr Bede’s letter came in handy when we went to the parish church and asked the priest there if we could find somewhere to sleep. Having read Fr Bede’s letter, he gladly gave us a place to sleep and fed us as well!! We slept on beds for a change! After the experience of the Colombo Municipal council garage floor, this was heaven!

We decided that we had to travel quicker, and to this end, made a challenge to get to Hambantota by the next night. We got moving from Galle fairly early in the morning after a nice meal that the parish priest organised for us.

We were making hard yakka of the attempt to get to Hambantota by nightfall. We had to stop on many occasions for tyre trouble and refreshments. We bought Ice Cream from a bicycle vendor! We were taking a risk of eating this stuff, not knowing how it was prepared, but threw caution to the winds and ate the stuff! Our stomachs had got used to all the “Kade” food and had no trouble at all.

It was very hot and progress was slow.

We got to Matara and kept going even though it was now dark, hoping to get to Hambantota. Only Tony’s bike had a dynamo for the light on his bike. I had a portable lamp that kept falling off over bumps on the road, which was very often. Robin and Chris had no lights at all! While we were travelling fairly slowing following Tony with his measly light when saw ahead of us what looked to us like the shape of an Elephant!! We could hear bells as well and naturally we were scared and stopped. It is difficult to explain what we saw in the dark. We argued among ourselves whether we should continue. We finally decided to get closer and have a look. We discovered that the shape ahead was a bullock cart with hay piled up at back that gave it that elephant like shape!! We killed ourselves laughing and over took the cart and picked up speed. We realised that we had to get better lights to see as well as be seen. We came to a small town and went to a boutique and found “Vesak” lanterns for sale. The Vesak festival was drawing near. We purchased four lanterns for each of us and hung them on our bikes and kept riding!!

A couple caught fire!! We finally arrived at a town called Ambalantota which was still a fair distance from our destination. We were tired and hungry and decided to have some food and drink and find a place for the night. We went to a “Kade” and had something to eat and asked the people there if there was any place we could sleep for the night. They suggested we go to the Police station. They gave us directions and we headed there. The sergeant in charge said that there was nothing he could offer, except a crashed CTB bus that was in the compound and if we were happy to sleep in the bus, we had no problem with that. We gladly accepted his offer and slept on the hard seats. We were so tired that sleep came easily, even though the seats we uncomfortable.

LE TOUR DE CEYLON

By Michael Macky

The next morning after we awoke, we found a tap and had a cats wash! And went back to the same "Kade" from night the before. We sat down to have some breakfast and since we were thirsty, asked for some water to drink. What was presented to us in tall glasses was brown in colour!! We had no choice but to drink that muck!!

We had breakfast and set off for Wellawaya. We went through Hambantota and did not realise how grueling it was. We made slow progress and with many stops for tyre punctures and refreshments we arrived at Tanamalwila around 5.00pm. We went to a "Kade" for "plain" tea and a rest. We asked the Kade owner if we could ride to Wellawaya at that time of the day. He advised that it was not safe to do so as Elephants crossed the road at around dusk in search of water. He suggested that we stay over at the "rate house" meaning rest house! We went over there and persuaded the rest house keeper to give us a room for the night for the princely sum Rs 10.00. He agreed and we had a good nights sleep. We woke up early and went back to the "Kade" and thanked the owner for his good advice, had some breakfast and set off for Wellawaya. Whilst riding along we came across fresh elephant dung! We took no chances and pedalled at breakneck speed to get clear of the area Thank God we listened to the "Kade keeper at Tanamalwila. I don't think anyone could have ridden as fast as we did. It is amazing what fear can do to ones strength and will power. We made good time until we got clear of the thick jungle. We were trying to get to Passara by nightfall. We were planning to stay at L.V.Wickremasinghe's residence at Ury Group. His father was tea maker there. WE got to Wellawaya pretty quickly and after a few stops for tyre punctures and lunch, we continued on and arrived at Ury Group just on dusk. We were welcomed with open arms by the Wickremasinghes and given right royal treatment! We were able to have showers and sat down to a wonderful meal. We actually were ashamed at the amounts we devoured. We had seconds as well. I suppose this was because we had not had a proper meal since we left home. The Wickremasinghes suggested that we stay another night and rest, before we left for Nuwara Eliya.

We were well fed and had showers for a second time and felt fresh when we left the next day for Nuwara Eliya.

This trip to Nuwara Eliya was going to be very trying, as we had a lot of hills to climb through Welimada and Hagala. On the way we met my brother Dicky & his wife June who was a cousin of the three DuffTylers, on their way to Badulla. They were absolutely shocked to see us. We had a quick chat and parted on different ways. Now, Tony came up with the bright idea of visiting his girl friend Marie Quinlan (his wife of over 40yrs) who was holidaying with her uncle, George Alston who was a former Antonian cricket captain and superintendent of Moneragala Estate, Hali Ela. Tony actually begged of us to make a detour and said we could scrounge a lunch!! We reluctantly agreed and made the climb to the PD's bungalow, which was high up on a hill. We were made welcome by the Alstons and given an excellent lunch. After taking photographs and Tony not wanting to leave for a while, we finally left the Alstons to get to our next destination in Nuwara Eliya, Scrubbs Estate, the Hydes residence.

We struggled all the way up Hagala hill and finally arrived at the Hydes at around 1.00am!!! They were so welcoming, even though we arrived at such an ungodly hour. My classmate Royston was away on holidays elsewhere, but the rest of the Hyde family namely Tessa, Anne, Basil and Cuthbert and of course Mr & Mrs Hyde were so hospitable. We left the Hydes residence after a late lunch to make our way back home. We had a great time riding down Ramboda Pass. We were absolutely reckless as we passed cars on the way down. We were making good time down hill until we had to stop to repair tyre punctures. Even though we were very tired we kept on riding with a view to getting home for a well earned rest.

We were attacked by dogs when passing through Gampola. Chris was given a hard time by stray dogs and was not able to kick out at the dogs like the three of us did. Robin actually shouted at Chris to do what we were doing!! We finally got away from them and kept riding as fast as we could.

I must add that this was happening in the night. We had no lights and were lucky not to get hit by passing traffic.

We were so tired that we parted to go to our respective homes for a well earned rest.

LE TOUR DE CEYLON

By Michael Macky

Robin's bike was prone to quite a few punctures and when he got one close to Peradeniya, he decided that he was not going to waste time repairing this puncture and said he was going to ride on a flat tyre!! This slowed us down quite a bit and finally arrived at Cemetery Road around 1.30 am.

I must say that this was a great experience and adventure for us.

It is so sad that this sort of adventure is not possible today, due to all the trouble in that country. We travelled a great distance, something like 750 miles and did not experience any trouble. People were so nice to us everywhere we went.



OBITUARY PAGE

Old Antonian Hans Shrader of 1950s and early 60s. Australia.

Old Antonian Ron Barber of 1950s and 60s of Dambulla Sri Lanka

Old Antonian Neville Paul of group 78 of Nugegoda Sri Lanka.

Old Antonian Indika K. Karunarattne Kandy Sri Lanka

Old Antonian Guruge Jayaratne of Kandy Sri Lanka

Beloved Sister of Old Antonian Shirley Wickramasinghe a past president of the SACKO-BA Colombo branch and presently of the college of presidents of the Colombo Branch.

Beloved wife of Old Antonian N. Nagendra , a former college cricket captain of 1965, a very good wicket keeper and opening batsman of 1963, '64 and '65., of Melbourne Australia

Old Antonian Allanson Fernando a former much respected teacher of the Alma Mater in 1970s and 80s , of wattapuluwa Kandy who is the brother in law of Priyantha Mendis, a former president of the Colombo branch and presently of the college of presidents of sack Oba Colombo branch.

Old Antonian Allan Kelly of group 76 of Melbourne Australia

Old Antonian Michael Willis group 76 of Canada

Old Antonian Jasim Mohamed Azeez, group 1985 of Akurana passed away in South Africa.

Beloved Mother of Old Antonian Periyasamy Pathmanadan of group 1985 of Kandy.





St. Anthony's College Kandy Old Boys Association (Colombo Branch)

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