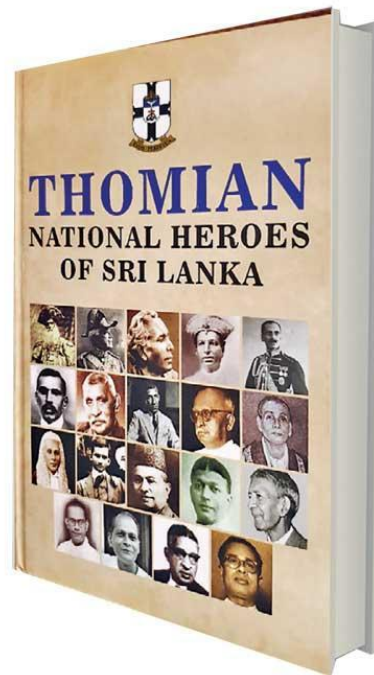




## SALUTING THE HEROIC THOMIANS



**In these days and times when Politics is a dirty word and most politicians are of questionable character Vijitha Yapa Publications and the Political Science Society of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia have released a masterpiece titled THOMIAN NATIONAL HEROES OF SRI LANKA. All present-day politicians must read from cover to cover and learn how our national heroes served the country that they loved so much! They spent their time, their energy and their money in serving the country without reservation.**

The galaxy of Thomians who are featured in this publication are Maduwanwela Disawe, Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike, Anagarika Dharmapala, C.E. Victor S. Corea, Sir James Peter Obeyesekere, F.R. Senanayake, D.S. Senanayake, Arthur Vincent Dias, Edward Henry Pedris, Sir Ratnajothi Saravanamuttu, Paikiyasothy Saravanamuttu, D.R. Wijewardena, Sir Alexander Francis Molamure, Dr. Tuan Burhanuddin Jayah, S.J.V. Chelvanayakam, Solomon West Ridgeway Dias Bandaranaike, Dr. Wijayananda Dahanayake, Dudley Senanayake and C.P.de Silva.

The Warden, Rev'd Marc Billimoria, in his foreword writes: "It is with much pleasure that I write this foreword to the book being published on National Heroes of Sri Lanka who were educated at S. Thomas' College first at Mutwal and then from 1918 at Mount Lavinia. "This ambitious initiative of the Political Science Society of the College got off the ground in 2018 initially as part of the 100 years at Mount Lavinia celebrations but soon went beyond that when it was realized that S. Thomas' College has produced several men of eminence who could be classed as national heroes even while the school was at Mutwal. "When Bishop James Chapman, the first Anglican Bishop of Colombo, founded S. Thomas' College and opened it on 3rd February 1851 his primary goal was the education and formation of local leadership for the fledgling Anglican Church in the island. A secondary goal was that all those who passed through the portals of his School would be men of character imbued with a sense of integrity, knowledge of right and wrong and a commitment to serve the community at large. There is no doubt that in its 168 years of existence, S. Thomas' has fulfilled the Founder's vision in more than one.

"It is ironic perhaps that the very system of liberal education introduced by the British colonial masters proved to be the foundation of the unravelling, decline and fall of their Empire, on which the sun was never meant to set! Young men, and later women, who had the good fortune of a missionary school education which introduced them to western liberal and enlightenment thought and if fortunate enough have the resources to do so attended the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, returned to their native land infused with liberal political views and nationalistic fervor that resulted in them supporting the cause of nationalism and the movements for self-rule and independence. S. Thomas' played a clear role in this movement, knowingly or unknowingly, by introducing Thomians to an education system that taught freedom, equality and liberalism as ideals in an imperialist world.

"It is not surprising therefore, that many leaders of the renaissance of national religions and cultures in the 19th century and of the temperance movement and the national and independence movements of the early 20th century received their early education at S. Thomas' College, Mutwal and Mount Lavinia. This small volume deals with a few of the prominent and well-known individuals as well as some who are lesser known or have not been given due recognition up to now.

"I wish to thank the former Teacher in Charge of the Political Science Society, Mrs. Lakmini de Silva for her enthusiastic support for this venture together with her dynamic student committee led by Uthsara Dunusinghe, the live wire behind the project. I also wish to place on record my thanks to Warden Prof. Indra de Soysa for having gone through the text and for his valuable comments and to Dr. Nimal Sanderatne for having consented to be the Chief Editor of the book. I also thank Mr. Vijitha Yapa for his support with the printing. This is, as a result of all this collaboration, a fully Thomian product. I commend it to Thomians young and old." Additionally, Chief Editor Dr. Nimal Sanderatne, writes in the Preface: "I am certain 'National Heroes of Sri Lanka from Mutwal to Mount' will be a valuable contribution to the political and social history of Sri Lanka and an inspiration for generations of Thomians."

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**By**  
**Sri Sangabo**  
**Corea**

*Courtesy of the Daily Mirror Sri Lanka*

## *The President's Message*

Dear fellow Thomians,



This is our final issue of the Thomiana for 2020 and wish I was in a position to inform you of the exciting events planned for the rest of the year. As you are well aware, the COVID 19 continues to haunt us and Victoria, in particular, has been the worst affected State in Australia. At the time of writing, there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel but unlikely to see any normalcy at least till Christmas.

In spite of the situation, the EXCO meetings were held monthly to review the situation and explore opportunities for events later in the year. We had tentatively earmarked the Carol Service for 12<sup>th</sup>

December 2020 and even considered the option of an on-line service. But this idea too had to be abandoned as the choir would not be able to practice due to the prevailing conditions.

We will continue to explore the opportunities for any activities in 2021 prior to the AGM which is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> February. The format for the AGM too will be dependent on the regulations governing social gatherings at that time.

I would encourage our members to continue to support our sponsors who are facing challenging times. Our *Thomian Community Assistance for COVID-19* is still continuing and will be pleased to provide any assistance to those in need. Please contact any member of the EXCO with your request.

Please stay safe and look forward to resuming our activities in the near future

***Esto Perpetua!***

**Peneeth Goonawardena**

President

### *Editor's Note*

Dear Thomians,

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Thomiana. Thomiana is the tool by which we communicate to our members of activities of the OBA and articles of interest. This edition is different to other editions as we do not have any activities of the OBA to report due to COVID19. Hence, we have increased the volume of this edition to mainly focus on articles written by our members and also a project of our OBA in partnership with a Thomian school. Enjoy reading and stay connected with the OBA.

I would like to thank Upali Gooneratne who helped me with this edition and all those who have contributed to this Thomiana.

***Esto Perpetua!***

**Vasikaran Ratnarajah**

[www.stcobaust.org.au](http://www.stcobaust.org.au)

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



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**Views expressed in articles contained in the Thomiana are of the respective authors. They may not necessarily concur with those of the Executive Committee**



## 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).

## Advertising in the Thomiana

**Did you know that you could advertise your business in the Thomiana?**

The Thomiana is circulated amongst members of the Association wherever they are – Victoria, Interstate and Overseas. You will be amazed how our network works!

**Enquiries:** [stcoba.finance@gmail.com](mailto:stcoba.finance@gmail.com)

# CALENDAR of Events

- Due to the restrictions for Covid-19, all OBA activities for 2020 had to be cancelled. We were hoping to have the Carol Service on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 but that too is unlikely at this stage.
- We have scheduled the AGM for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 6.30pm at Mount Waverley Youth Centre, Miller Crescent. The format for the meeting will be dependent on the rules for social gatherings prevailing at that time.

## Executive Committee – 2020

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## OBA NEWS



### First Ever Thomian to become Bishop of Colombo

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Archbishop of Canterbury announced the appointment of Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo as the Bishop of Colombo - Designate. Rev. Rodrigo, a product of S. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia, will be the first ever Thomian to be appointed to this position. Rev. Rodrigo, is currently serving as the Headmaster of STC Prep School, Kollupitiya. Our heartfelt congratulations - Esto Perpetua!

## STC Gurutalawa - Smart Classrooms Project



STC Gurutalawa's Smart Classrooms Project was ceremonially launched on the 26th of October 2020 by the Headmaster together with the STC Guru OBA Executive Committee.

STC Gurutalawa's biggest challenge, for quite some time, has been the difficulty of attracting quality teaching staff to live and work in Gurutalawa. No school, especially a fee levying private school, can survive without teachers.

So as to address this challenge, and maximize resources already available in the STC fraternity, the school's management made a decision to establish a teaching link between Gurutalawa with Mount Lavinia. The intention was for teachers in Mount Lavinia to conduct classes in Gurutalawa, via networked links, so that the students in the hills of Gurutalawa would have access to the same quality of education as their counterparts in Mount Lavinia.

In 2016, the estimated funds required for the project was Rs. 2 Million. STC OBA in Melbourne helped kick-off the fundraising with a donation of a sum of Rs 850,000. Over the next year, STC Gurutalawa's Management worked with several vendors and network companies but the project was temporarily shelved due to a lack of a suitable solution and adequate funds. The funds raised by STC OBA (Melbourne) were subsequently invested in high yielding fixed deposit accounts that grew the capital to Rs. 1.2 Million over the next few years.



*Ven Fr S P Nesakumar, Headmaster, STC Gurutalawa*

The onset of Covid-19 in 2020, however, brought new challenges as well as opportunities. Technology solution providers have rolled out viable distance learning solutions to counter the effects of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions on the education sector. As such, the STC Gurutalawa Smart Classrooms project was given a new lease on life and we invited bids from several vendors, earlier this year.



John Keells Office Automation (JKOA) was selected after considerable negotiations and the company's CEO (Mr Janodha Thoradeniya) has taken a personal interest in ensuring the success of this Smart Classroom Project. STC Gurutalawa has invested in four Smart Board solutions, complete with training of the school's staff by JKOA. Our teachers have embraced the technology and improved the delivery of their lectures to their students.

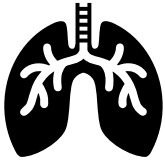
This Smart Classrooms project will help breathe new life into STC Gurutalawa and that success is a testament to the ready support of the Old Thomians in Melbourne. Special thanks go out to the STC Old Boys Association in Melbourne and especially to Mr. Malik Zaveer, an Old boy of STC Bandarawala, for helping kick-off the fund raising with a generous donation at the Thomian Ball in 2016.



### **Dr. Palitha Kohona - Sri Lanka's Ambassador Designate to China**

Our congratulations to Dr Palitha Kohona who was recently nominated as the Sri Lanka's Ambassador Designate to China. Palitha was the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations (UN) from 2009 to 2015. He also served as the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and the Secretary-General of the Secretariat for Coordinating the Peace Process.

Palitha is a product of S. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia and obtained a LLB (Hons) at the University of Ceylon, a LLM from the Australian National University on International Trade Law and a Doctorate from Cambridge University, UK. He has had a distinguished career to date in the United Nations and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs.



## COVID 19: JUST A BLIP - OR A MAJOR TURNING POINT?

Looking back on the fact that we have now spent the better part of this year living with this Covid-19 virus, I have been thinking about how this tiny micro-organism is changing the way we human beings live and get about our activities of daily living.

What will society look like in the post Covid world? Will this pandemic be just a blip in the march of human history – or will it be a major turning point?

History has shown us that pandemics come and pandemics go – and the world continues to function after the pandemic has gone. The Spanish Flu of 1918, coming so soon after the horrendous First World War, decimated populations and destroyed societies. Different countries tackled the problem in different ways – and even in the same country, while San Francisco did one thing, New York (like Frank Sinatra) did it its own way. But by 1920, with the pandemic having wreaked its havoc and gone away, the world was back to functioning again.

In 1665 the Bubonic Plague (Black Death) devastated London and killed off a sixth of its population. Following the Great Fire a year later, the city was rebuilt on essentially the same street plan used before the fire – and life went on as before. So can we be confident that in the course of time even this 21st century pandemic will come under control? The question of course is how long it will take to be controlled – and whether we will we go back to the old “Normal” or a “New Normal”. If the latter, what will the “new normal” state of affairs be like? Will we be able to reclaim our Health, our Time, our Travel and our Community?

Will Covid accelerate the flexibility of the workplace? A recent survey in the UK revealed that 87% of office workers stated that they wished to work from home in a post lockdown world. Will we change the way we work? Will there be less commuting as we work from home when we realise that we are able to work more productively, not in central workplaces an hour or more away from where we live, but in flexible workplaces closer to our homes or even from our home itself?

How will the way we access food and shopping change? Already businesses are seeing an exponential increase in online shopping. Even now when we do go to buy things at shops and food outlets we seldom use cash or coins – we use contactless cards. Will tattered bank notes and grubby germ-coated coins become a thing of the past?

Will we continue to greet each other sensibly as we Sri Lankans have been doing for centuries with the no touch technique of putting our hand together or by bowing respectfully as the Chinese and Japanese have been doing instead of the germ sharing methods of kissing and hugging and shaking hands? Will we become less averse to wearing masks – not only to prevent catching germs from others but also to prevent ourselves spreading our own germs to others, as is customary in Japanese society?

We have for many years and in many countries been coasting along in unprecedented affluence with nary a care for the world and the environment that provides us with life. Perhaps this pandemic will teach us that sustainability and unbridled capitalism cannot go together. This virus has humbled us to realise our own vulnerability and the very frailty of our being.

How we shape and accept the New Normal will have far reaching consequences well beyond our own lifetimes.



*Sanjiva Wijesinha (STCML 1956-1967) is an associate professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Monash University, Melbourne.  
More health articles may be found on his webpage at [sanjivawijesinha.com](http://sanjivawijesinha.com)*



## ***Arisen Ahubudu***

### **A Teacher Most Rare and Extraordinaire**

Today is World Teachers' Day. I consider myself blessed on a day like this because I can name many a teacher who epitomized the noble profession of teaching, especially at a time when teachers have refused to mark Advanced Level papers and held students to ransom, it is with both sadness and pride that I write about Mr. Arisen Ahubudu; a teacher who is unique and deserve the highest honour on World Teachers' Day. My pride stems from the fact that at St. Thomas' College (STC) Mount Lavinia we were fortunate to have had him as a teacher. My sadness is caused by the fact that teachers of today have failed to honour this profession like Mr. Ahubudu did.

Recently, I met Mr. Arisen Ahubudu at a function in Dehiwala, instantly I bowed down to worship him, someone who did not understand that I actually worshipped him asked me why I went so low to greet him in the traditional Sri Lankan way, I had to correct her and say that I really worshipped him because he was my teacher. Very few people know that Mr. Ahubudu was a teacher at STC, you might even think to yourself that this Sinhala scholar may not have suited the College culture. Wrong! He was in fact a guiding factor in instilling the College traditions in us. In a teaching career which spanned over 40 odd years a good 27 years was spent at S.T.C.

Mr. Ahubudu taught from grade 7 to Ordinary Level classes, to me he was like no other. His style of teaching was what we call 'out of the box' today, as soon as he enters the class room he draws pictures across the black board, the pictures included figures of kings, stupas and different ancient scenarios. With these pictures, which he drew under two minutes, he was able to draw our attention to him. He was an excellent artist and his illustrations were lively and intriguing. Then he would relate the story pertaining to the drawing, most often the stories were about a king or something from our history. He told us about Kings such as Dutugemunu and Dhatusena and their dedication to the country, religion and the people. His stories also included ancient cultivation practices, irrigation schemes and the commitment of the ancient leaders of our country. The stories which lasted for about six to seven minutes touched our minds and hearts creating a deep sense of affection and pride towards our language, culture and country. He did not ever have to shout at us to get our attention. His mild mannerisms and gentle way of addressing us together with his exemplary appearance made us want to listen to him. Imagine a classroom full of teenage boys taking an interest and listening to historical stories and encounters. Looking back, I feel that he was the one who sowed the very first seeds of patriotism in our minds. His vision on patriotism was all about being community minded. The heroes of his stories epitomized this vision. Our forefathers who were the main characters of the stories he narrated always placed country before self whether they went to war, made stupas, had trading with other countries or developed irrigation systems. He was able to strike that fine balance in his stories by highlighting the exemplary character traits of these heroes and heroines and not just giving a false sense of pride of being Sinhalese.

Even when he told us stories about the fight against the British Empire, he instilled no anger or animosity in our minds, he knew his audience was hundred percent teenagers, boys of a very impressionable age, so he was careful not to allow us to misconceive the idea of nationalism. He ensured that we never became 'liable patriots'; citizens who would call them patriots yet act contrary to the supreme notion of patriotism. He also introduced the concept of farming for self-sustenance to us, this was the time that Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike's government was promoting Sri Lanka produce and Mr. Ahubudu's contribution was immense in this regard. Once again he showed us our duty and responsibility towards the country's future.



I have been guided by many disciplinarians in my life, but none was gentler than Mr. Ahubudu. I still wonder how he commanded attention and respect, kept the students quiet and still stole our hearts and minds without ever having to be strict with us. He was a different type of character; non-threatening and soft spoken but extremely effective as a teacher. I cannot recall a single day when he punished us. He addressed each of us as 'oba' ('you' in its mildest and most respectful form), there was no necessity to send anyone to the Warden or give any sort of punishment. The reason was not that we were great students but because he was a great teacher; great because in his presence all the students behaved well.

How can I ever forget the 'sloka' (Pali and Sanskrit stanzas) through which he imparted deep philosophy to us? I still recall those stanzas from my memory effortlessly thanks to Mr. Ahubudu. These stanzas simply taught us the way to live in this world. He always gave us much more than the syllabus or the prescribed subject matter. Today, a teacher will not go beyond the subject matter for two reasons; one is because he or she would not know anything more than their own subject, the other is that they do not care that much about the students. Mr. Arisen Ahubudu went above and beyond his line of duty to give us more. Come to think of it, he never had a 'line of duty', whenever he taught something extra it was made so very interesting to us. We never made a mockery of his stories or thought it was a waste of time. From the moment we realized that this teacher was getting us on track to face life challenges, we followed him. This also taught us to train our minds to concentrate on one thing, a training which I find most useful especially now. It was his guidance which helps many of us today to move with people from all walks of life.



Punctuality they say is the politeness of princes. Mr. Ahubudu was a right royal prince for he was always punctual, it was his way of respecting others. He was simple, friendly and affectionate, his priority was teaching and his personal life was secondary. Sadly, for present day teachers that priority order has been reversed. Today the teachers work for a salary where as teachers like Mr. Arisen Ahubudu taught and were paid for their work. Undoubtedly, the teachers of today draw a very good salary, however, at the time

Mr. Ahubudu taught salary anomalies or personal benefits never came into the school system. Perhaps they had certain disagreements with the education or school authorities, but we never





## Rugby Memories – First wins against Trinity and Royal

S. Thomas' College (STC) and St Joseph's (SJC) kicked off into schools rugby in 1955, thereby joining Trinity, Royal, St Peters and Zahira, which had been the only schools playing the game in the country. Prior to that year, the football played at STC was soccer and it was reliably known that the change to rugby was initiated by Old Thomian / Oxonian, Noel Gratien, the eminent Advocate, Attorney General and later Supreme Court Judge.

Although Mr Gratien presumably started playing rugby only after leaving college, he represented CR & FC and subsequently, the Gratien Cup was awarded in his honour for the Colombo Schools vs Outstation Schools annual fixture. He had advised Warden De Saram that playing rugby would improve employment opportunities for Thomians within the plantation, as well as mercantile sectors:

As a brief explanation of the relevant background to those years, at the time Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) gained independence in 1948, most of the planting and senior executive positions in leading mercantile establishments were held by British personnel. After that year, the government began to progressively restrict work visas for ex pats, to pave the way for Ceylonese to be also recruited into those positions. When that policy came into practice, a high proportion of Trinitians were taken into plantations, followed by Royalists and Thomians in smaller numbers. Working on plantations was a much-desired occupation, as, apart from the healthy outdoor lifestyle and opportunities for sport, it provided excellent benefits such as spacious bungalows, as well as domestic and garden staff.

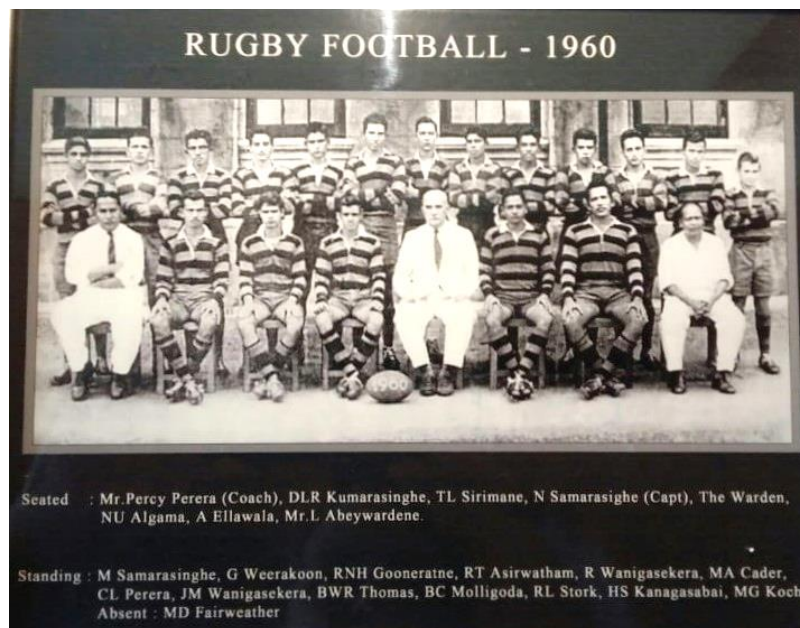
Perhaps based on the adage that the "battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton", the British owners and their agents preferred to engage rugby players to manage their estates: their thinking may have been that the hard knocks and pain absorbed on the field, built the endurance and character needed to work in climatic extremes and handle large, sometimes troublesome work forces.

That first STC XV in 1955 was coached by Mahes Rodrigo, an Old Royalist and probably the country's best scrum half in his playing era. As very few Thomian players then had much knowledge of the game, the team comprised boys drawn from other sports such as athletics, cricket, hockey, tennis and swimming, but most of them were versatile and outstanding in their respective activities. K.S. Ananthan, a swimmer, was appointed team captain, with cricketer S.B.L. Perera as his deputy. Only two official matches were played that year. One against a strong and experienced Trinity Team, which included players who already were (or were to become) Rugby Lions and the other with St Joseph, when STC registered its first rugby win (5 - 0).

Against Trinity, in a closely contested game where there was no score until the final stages, STC lost 0 - 13. A match report of the game in a daily newspaper was headlined "Trinity win but S. Thomas' make great debut". Clearly, a gritty and spirited performance by the newcomers to the game "played in heaven".

Percy Perera, an Old Peterite, took over as the rugby coach in 1958 and continued until 1964, when he was succeeded by Quentin Israel. His connection with STC was that his two sons, Cecil and Ranjit (Banjo), were students at STC. He was also an experienced referee in the Clifford Cup Tournament and popularly (and no doubt, undeservedly) known as "Penalty Percy". He was an insurance agent by occupation and also owned a flower shop along Galle Road, opposite the Green Cabin. In those days, coaches volunteered their time and expertise with no thought or expectation of payment, nor were there specialised coaches for different elements of the game. It was simply a single all-purpose coach. Percy used to drive to Mt Lavinia in his black Morris Minor twice a week for rugby training, with diminutive and well- respected Lassie Abeywardena as the master in charge.

The 1960 STC First XV was led by Nihal (Baila) Samarasinghe, and included six public schools' athletics coloursmen - Nihal Samarasinghe, Maurice Fairweather, Ronnie Asirwatham, Mohan Samarasinghe and Bandula Molligoda were in the backline and, at wing forward, Selva Kanagasabai, who later represented Ceylon as a centre and wing three quarter.



Captained by Eric Roles, the best lineout specialist in schools, Trinity came down to Longden Place with a formidable side. It was an open, fast- paced game, with both sides well matched in attack, as well as defence. Trinity's characteristic flowing moves were effectively nipped through fierce tackling by the fast Thomian defence. The game swung both ways and remained scoreless until the final ten minutes, when a misdirected kick towards the touchline by Tony Bultjens was collected by our wing three quarter, Maurice Fairweather, the country's fastest schoolboy sprinter: He outpaced the defence to score a converted try that gave STC a historic win 5 – 0. However, a double against the top two sides proved elusive, with a disappointing 0 -11 loss to Royal, who had a good game plan and executed it very well.

The following year (1961), STC was led by scrumhalf Tony Sirimanne, with several new players coming into the senior team.



The match against Trinity at their home ground in Kandy was convincingly won by us 10 - 6, with STC dominating in all departments of the game. Throughout the season, we had honed our skills and tactics, enabling us to face Royal with confidence a fortnight later. It was therefore no surprise to us, when we outplayed them, with a convincing 8 - 0 win at Longden Place, thereby achieving a creditable double, after only six years of rugby.

Mr Gratien's 'judgement' proved to be "right on the ball" when 12 players from the 1960 and 1961 teams were subsequently selected for careers in plantation management. This trend continued into subsequent years. Incidentally, Dimbula, a leading planters' team which used to beat some of the strongest Colombo clubs at its elevated home ground, Radella (5000 feet above sea level) had seven Old Thomians in its 1966 side. (The team photo can be seen on this link: <https://www.historyofceylontea.com/media-archive/selva-kanagasabai--198>)

Also, the following players from the 1955 - 61 era went on to captain leading rugby clubs in the Clifford Cup competition: - Rodney Ingleton: CR & FC: 1961 and 1962; Frankie David: Havelocks: 1966; Selva Kanagasabai: Dimbula: 1966; Tony Sirimanne: CR & FC: 1968. We would like to mention that Larry Schokman, an outstanding athlete who had left STC prior to 1955 and learnt to play rugby only after he started planting, also captained Dimbula, Upcountry and represented the country as a wing three quarter over a long-playing career.

Further, the following players from Percy Perera's coaching era were later selected for national teams: Rodney Ingleton\*, Frankie David, Maurice Fairweather, Maxim Flamer-Caldera, Selva Kanagasabai, Tony Sirimanne and Juni Cader. (\*Rodney was from the 1955 team and prior to Percy's tenure).

The foundations and groundwork laid by Percy Perera, as well as the achievements of the teams mentioned above, generated the interest, impetus and confidence for the groups that followed, to take STC rugby to higher levels and continue to be one of the leading schools in the game. This is the 60th year since that historic win against Trinity and we remember with much affection Percy, Lassie and our former teammates who heard the final whistle several years ago and are no longer with us.



**Contributed by two players from the 1960 & 1961 Rugby Teams - Selva Kanagasabai and Bandula Molligoda – August 2020**



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-Bill Gates



## Remembering a great friend – Randy De Silva

I have been asked to pen a few lines about my cricketing buddy Randolph DeSilva and I am delighted to do so. Randy as we all knew him was a fantastic friend to have and I had the privilege of playing alongside him in the 1985 and 1986 Royal Thomian Cricket encounters.

Randy to me was a very consistent and genuine friend. Someone who I lost touch with for a long time but when we met again it was as though we hadn't lost our connection at all. That no doubt is the sign of a true genuine friend who was always someone we all could count on.

Randy's passing was a shock to all of us and difficult as it is life must go on and it is with great fondness that I write these few words about Randy my cricketing mate.

Randy was one of the first mates to visit me when I came to Australia and offered a helping hand in any which way he could and I will never forget that of him. In a time when I had come to a strange land Randy had already established himself and was always giving me good tips and advice on how to move around and get things done.

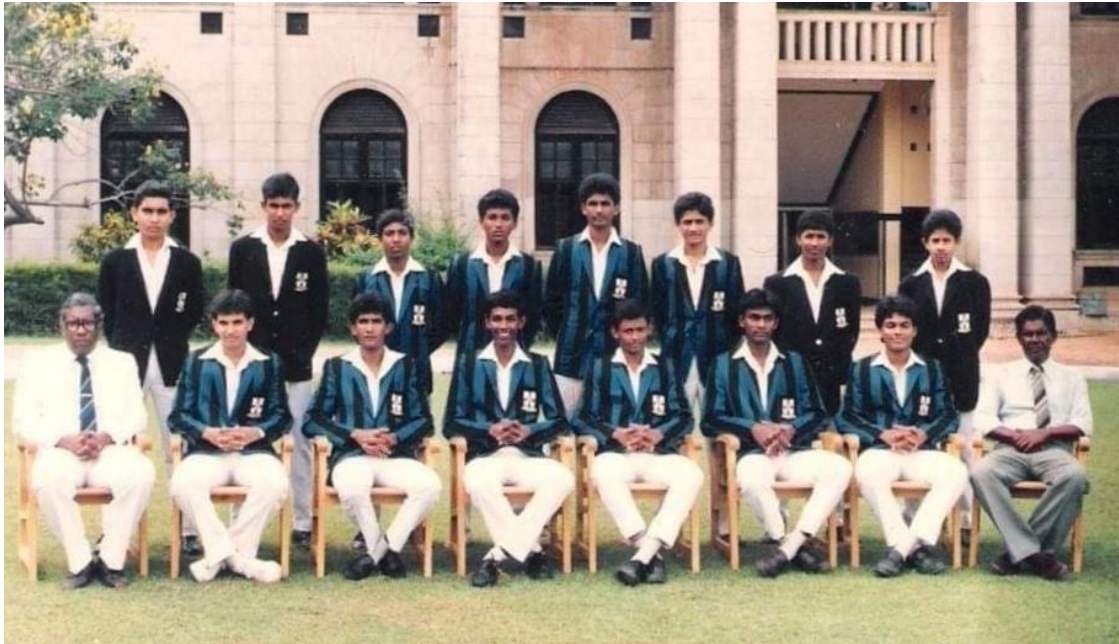
During our many social encounters I was mesmerized as to the amount of detail that Randy brought up about our cricketing days at STC and all the nuances and hints of conspiracy that went with them.

Randy and I played college cricket when it was expected for batsmen to play within the V for the 1<sup>st</sup> few overs and hit a ball only when it was a half volley. While that being the norm I personally think that it curtailed Randy's batting skills to a certain extent. He was a classic free flowing left hand batsman who had the natural ability to slash a good length ball over extra cover for a boundary only to be told off by the coaches at the time that it was not the way to bat. I reckon if Randy was allowed to bat with his free flowing Symonds bat that he used he would have been another Sanath Jayasuriya before slashing and driving on the up was a norm rather than an exception.

Cricketing skills aside, Randy was always the guy who rallied the boys together for a social gathering and kept the flag flying. There was never a social occasion which we didn't finish without the College song. *Esto Perpetua*.

Yohanne Samarasekera was a fellow teammate who was much closer to Randy than I was as a friend so Yohanne will also share a few thoughts about our dear mate Randy.

**Peter Wijeyaratne**



STC Cricket Team 1986 – Randy is 3<sup>rd</sup> from left (seated)

They say “There are friends that like you, there are friends that love you, and then...there are friends that you just know you will be friends with for the rest of your life”, Randolph (affectionally known as Randy) was the one for me.

Our friendship goes back over 42 years, knew him from the age of 7 or 8 where we met at S. Thomas’ Prep school in Kollupitiya. This grew over the years and I was fortunate enough to rekindle in Australia several years later.

He was happy to hold my hand and guide me in my settling process in Australia (just like a true friend would do), assisting me in numerous ways. I am sure he has done this to many people, which was reflected in the number of attendees in church when he left us.

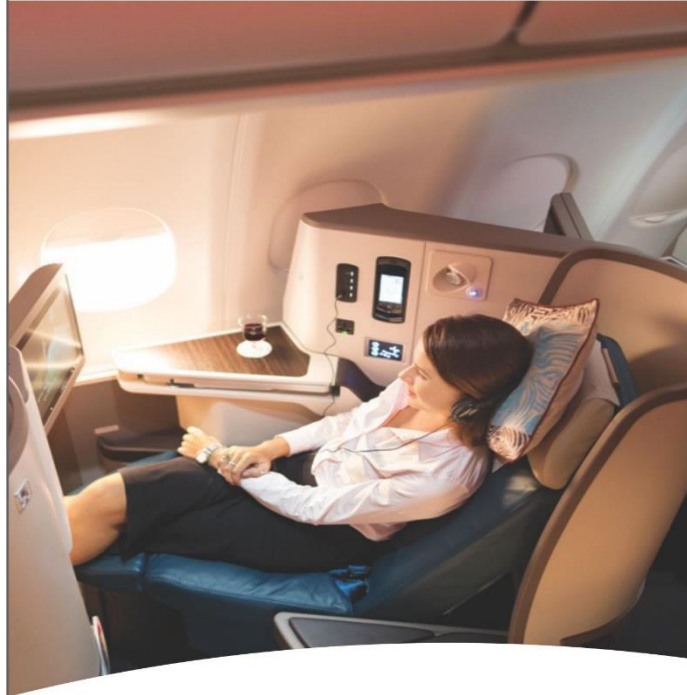
He was beautiful inside and out, always walked the talk and was very upfront, said things as they were. His generosity was second to none, I know for a fact that he supported many charities in Australia and Sri Lanka but never spoke about them.

He established a successful business and supported many events including college dances over several years. I never expected him to leave us so soon, but I guess good people are taken away too soon. He is now at peace but has left us in pieces, a fact that I struggle to date. I am grateful and thankful for the time I got to spend with him in this world and know that he is in a better place now.

The day he left us the church overflowed with mourners, one neighbour in Berwick had asked one of them if a celebrity had passed away as people had to park their vehicles kilometres away. My answer was “he was much bigger than a celebrity”, rest in peace Randy, until we meet again.

**Yohanne Samarasekera**

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## A PANDEMIC OBSERVED THROUGH THE LENS OF A ROYAL-THOMIAN BIG MATCH



The 137<sup>th</sup> Battle of the Blues in 2016 was undoubtedly one of the most memorable and unexpected Royal-Thomian encounters in the past decade. For those of you familiar with the result, in calling this game memorable, you might begin to question if my allegiance is to the School by the Sea or to that institution down Reid Avenue. To answer that, my roots are firmly planted in Mount Lavinia! But coming back to the match, it's difficult to deny the fact that for those of us who were at the SSC, in the stands or on the field, or those following the game from home, the events that transpired over those three days are hard to erase from memory. For us Thomians, that game was memorable. Memorable for the wrong reasons!

Before I continue any further, I wish to state that I do not in any way mean to put down anyone involved in that game and that this is a personal reflection of what happened over those three days and the lesson I learnt from it. I had the honour and privilege of being a member of the tent committee at this game and it is from that perspective that I write.

The Thomians had a phenomenal season going in to the match, having been undefeated in the inter-schools league with 7 outright wins and 11 first innings victories. The sniff of a victory at the all-important match was in the air and it hadn't been this strong since 2007. School morale couldn't have been higher; the 'Big Match Fever' was burning hot, any doubts of a win easily singed. We felt invincible going into that game. Boy, were we wrong!

The first day got off to a blinding start with the Thomians scoring quickly and declaring at 350 runs for the loss of 5 wickets with the Royalists occupying the crease at the end of the day's play. A win felt certain. The Royalists hung on and batted throughout the second day, dragging the game and slowly inching towards our total of 350. The hope of a win was beginning to grow dim at the close of day two with the match seemingly heading towards a dull draw. Hopes were reignited when Royal declared at 328 runs around noon on the third day, trailing by 22 runs, and the Thomians came into bat again. It was during this innings that the entire game turned upside down! Our batting order which performed so well during the first innings collapsed like a pack of cards, scampering to only 127 runs before being bowled out. Panic! How could this happen? This wasn't part of the plan. This couldn't be happening. The improbable was becoming probable.

Though the Thomians fought hard claiming 6 wickets, at the close of play on the third day, the improbable did indeed become the probable. The gravity of what had just happened slowly sank in as the sun sank below the horizon, and as the shadows slowly lifted over the SCC, so did a sense of despair, numbness, shock and disappointment. After all the hard work, cheering, shouting, running around and three adrenaline charged days, it was difficult to process what we had just witnessed. Royal had done

the impossible and stolen what we had been so passionately longing for. This glory should have been ours, we should have been celebrating, but instead, we were paralysed and downcast.

Personally, the events that unfolded that evening on the third day and the aftermath have been one of the most humbling experiences I have experienced in life. I'm not a sportsman so I can't relate to what the players would have gone through, but without a shadow of doubt what I felt paled in comparison to what they would have been feeling. But being a member of the tent committee or a steward at the Royal-Thomian is akin to playing the game, as many who have had the opportunity to do so would agree. It is the epitome of your career as a prefect and being on the field behind the boundary rope, you feel as if you are a part of the game. With all the work that goes on behind the scenes, starting all the way back in November the previous year, being responsible for building up the morale of the student body, culminating with the 3 days at the ground, in a sense you share the result of the game. In our case, we tasted defeat, especially because of the high riding expectation with which we went in to the game.



When looking back at this game and the current situation that the world is facing with the COVID-19 pandemic, I find that many parallels can be drawn. Similar to that defeat, this pandemic has humbled all of us. When we thought we were in control, invincible and nothing could get in our way, this microscopic particle unexpectedly appeared and brought us to a grinding halt. Our grand plans for our lives and future have been torn up, forcing us to draw up new ones, albeit uncertain ones. The improbable became the probable, although in this case inconceivable is more apt. Some of us have played the first innings well only to be bowled out cheaply in the second. Some have been run out without even facing a ball. Some have been forced to retire hurt. Our whole batting order seems to have collapsed and we were helpless to stop it. We feel defeated, not knowing how to stand up again.

However, do not be discouraged. This will not last forever. As the Thomians fought back in the last innings in the midst of looming defeat, as they won the Mustang's Trophy the next weekend and as they lifted the D.S. Senanayake Shield three years later in 2019, I firmly believe we will come out of this situation eventually. Many of you would agree that the lessons we learnt at STC, not so much the ones from books, but the ones you learned by being a part of her life, the extras that she has to offer, have indeed been life lessons for all of us and enabled us to enter the world with some preparation. So now, take a lesson from STC. Look back at the defeats and trials you may have faced, at STC or in life. I hope you find that you were indeed able to get back up, possibly a little stronger. Of course, it would never have been easy or pleasant. Neither would it have taken place immediately. What we are facing today is not easy or pleasant for most of us, and it surely isn't going away immediately! I believe this situation calls for patience, perseverance and a little bit of Thomian grit as we accept what has happened, look back at where we stumbled, go back to the drawing board, retrain ourselves and prepare to come back stronger than before.

**Darren White** (Class of 2016)

## *Climbing the Great Pyramid of Giza .....*

The sky to the east glowed from the lights of Cairo which filled the eastern horizon as far as the eye could see. The night sky behind the city was lightening with the false dawn. Tiny boats on the river Nile, some already underway before sunrise, crept along the wide river that disappeared into the darkness to the south.

In 1978 when I was living in Egypt working for the UN Emergency Force, I joined a group of colleagues who had negotiated with one of the local tour guides to take us to the top of the tallest pyramid outside Cairo.

The Great Pyramid is the oldest and largest of the three pyramids in the suburb of Giza located to the southwest of Cairo. It is the oldest of the seven wonders of the ancient world and the only one to remain mostly intact. The pyramid was built around 2560 BC and was the tallest man-made structure in the world for over 3,800 years.



We had heard from others who had climbed to the top of the great pyramid, that watching the sunrise over the city of Cairo was one of the great travel adventures in the world—climbing the pyramids. However, once a popular tourist activity was considered extremely dangerous and was officially forbidden.

In the early evening, nervous with anticipation for what we had planned, we left Ismailia, a small city on the Suez Canal, to drive to Cairo. There were eight of us in two cars, four Brits, two Aussies, a Canadian and me. Tony, a Brit who had climbed the monument before, had volunteered to take us to the top. The real reason, I found out later, was that he was sweet on Wendy, one of the two Aussie girls who were accompanying us, and had offered to take her to the top to ‘see the sights.’ I don’t think he was too happy when he found out that she had invited her friends along and that his little tête-à-tête had expanded exponentially.

The desert road between Ismailia and Cairo was straight and flat, the only danger being a stream of ‘flying coffins’ racing past. These Mercedes wagon taxis, filled to the brim with passengers, some sitting on one another, were driven at extremely high speeds which would be considered dangerous even on the immaculate autobahns of Germany. But here in Egypt, where fast, modern machines competed with centuries-old means of transport like donkeys and camels that wandered where they may, the clash of the ancient and modern was sudden and always catastrophic to both parties.

We arrived in the outskirts of Cairo after dark, passing through a checkpoint manned by Egyptian soldiers. Driving past the Cairo International Airport, we crossed the wide Nile River at the Giza Bridge before driving to the Mena House Hotel where we had reserved a few rooms for the night.



The Great Pyramid seen from the Mena House

The Mena House was once a hunting lodge for the Khedive Isma'il (Isma'il Pasha, known as Isma'il the Magnificent was the Khedive or Viceroy of Egypt and Sudan from 1863 to 1879). The building was used by him when hunting in the surrounding desert or visiting the pyramids. It was opened as a hotel in 1886 and is one of the oldest and most unique hotels in Cairo.

Dinner at the hotel, located less than a kilometre from the pyramids, was loud and exhilarating. The pyramids which could be seen from where we were sitting, was lit up for the nightly Sound and Light show which bathed the structures in coloured lights. The excitement was palatable and most of us drank too much in anticipation of the adventure ahead of us.

We planned to leave the hotel after midnight so some of us took the opportunity to go to our rooms to rest in anticipation of the strenuous climb we had before us. I had heard that getting to the top of the pyramids was not for the faint-hearted. Some of the limestone blocks at the lower level were taller than the average human, and I was smaller than an average human's height.



We slipped out of the hotel in ones and twos. We had been warned that the hotel guards often stopped guests from going out at night on foot, demanding *baksheesh* to look the other way. We got past the guards without raising the alarm, but the walk in the dark to the entrance of the pyramid precinct was far from unnoticeable. Word must have gotten out that a group of foreigners were climbing the pyramids that night, and as we got closer to the gates, we seemed to attract a group of Egyptian locals like bees to honey.

The guards at the gate must have been surprised to see the approaching horde. Luckily, the guide with whom we had arranged the climb, had done his job. The few guards manning the gates chased off all the touts, pimps and souvenir sellers allowing us to enter the enclosed area unhindered. Money changed hands, and with broad smiles and pats on the back, we were asked by the guards to follow the guide who gestured us towards the base of the pyramid.

Even in the dark, the Great Pyramid was an imposing sight. It towered over us, totally shutting off the night sky and stars from view. We were taken around to the eastern side, opposite the tomb of Queen Hetepheres, where we would begin our climb. The guide who could speak passable French explained that it was easier to climb the side facing the city. The glow from the city's lights would help us find our way up the 146-metre monolith

Much to my delight, the first two levels of the pyramid were only shoulder high, and most of us needed a boost to get to the flat surface at each level. But after the third level, the blocks were only waist-high, making it much easier to negotiate. We didn't climb up in a straight line however, the guide led us through crumbling gaps in the limestone blocks which allowed a much easier climb. One of the Brits whose name was Johnny and his Canadian friend Jim, decided to go straight up. I followed the two girls and the rest of the group who sedately followed the guide, mostly along one corner of the pyramid.

The limestone blocks were steep and crumbly. What looked like solid blocks of stone from the bottom were in fact covered with loose pebbles and sand. It was not easy to climb as our feet kept slipping out from under us and our hands kept losing their grip on the rock. What struck me

as we were about halfway up was how cold it was getting. There was a light breeze which made it seem much colder. The change in temperature between day and night in the desert is quite significant, and it felt much colder towards the top than it did at the bottom.

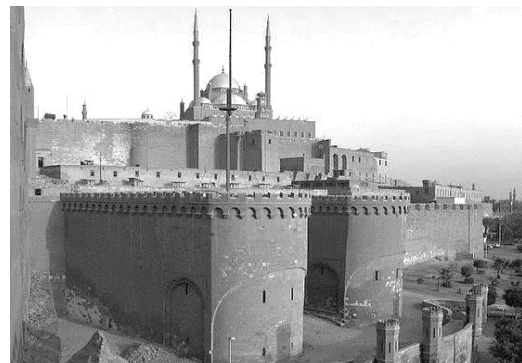
There was nowhere to rest as each ledge was only about two feet wide. We finally got to the top of the pyramid, where I promptly sat on the ground. My legs trembled, and my calves hurt from the exertion of climbing the limestone blocks. Jim, the Canadian who had rushed up the side of the pyramid with Johnny, had twisted his ankle badly and lay on the ground rubbing his leg in agony. Johnny who had brought a pair of binoculars with him, was looking through them towards the city.

The view from the top was spectacular. The lights of Cairo spread out to the north-east and the Nile River, looking like a black ribbon in the grey darkness, meandered sinuously towards the south

The flat summit was bigger than I expected, perhaps the size of an exceptionally large living room. An old wooden postmarked its center. We sat quietly, our feet dangling over the side, awed by what we could see. No one spoke louder than a whisper. Not that anyone could hear us, but we were just overwhelmed by what we had done and what was spread out in front of us.

The enormity of the man-made structure was incredible. I had read at the hotel that the pyramid had been constructed of over 2.3 million limestone blocks and taken 20 years to build. The stones at the summit were worn smooth, and I could see scratches and grooves cut into the rock from people who had been there before us.

Sunrise over Cairo was everything I had heard it would be. The normal pollution over Cairo had been blown away during the night and a thin sliver of light tinged with red and yellow suddenly appeared outlining the horizon, which could not be seen in the dark. The sky got gradually lighter and red streaks mixed with pinks, yellows and blues



Citadel of Cairo

reflecting off scattered clouds gradually brought the city of Cairo into view. The sun peeked into view shining off the great walls of the Cairo Citadel, a medieval fortification built by Salah al-Din in 1183 to protect the city from the Crusaders. We had been warned not to bring cameras as the pyramid guards often confiscated them and sold them in the local *souk*. It was common practice amongst UN staff not to carry cameras around. Our job was to maintain a buffer zone between the Egyptian and Israeli forces, and crossing the front lines was normal for us. The sight of a camera invariably meant being stopped and questioned and having the camera confiscated, and sometimes even being arrested for spying.

Ant-like figures in the pyramid precinct made me realise how high we were. To one side, a great sea of yellow sand stretched as far as the eye could see. On the other, a broad green belt with harvested fields and date palms surrounded the river Nile with the awakening city of Cairo on its banks. There was no sound to be heard except the undulating call to prayer from a mosque far below us.

The guide who had brought us to the summit started calling to us. He wanted to start the descent as he didn't want to get caught climbing down. We waved off his pleas to leave, wanting to spend more time enjoying the view. But as the sun rose, it started to get hot, and we reluctantly gathered ourselves to begin the descent.

Getting ready to climb down I could see graffiti dating back many centuries ground into the rocks at the summit. There were Greek, Latin, Arabic, and other languages which I could not recognise plus those in English and other Western scripts. There were names of soldiers from the time of the French and British occupations with their regiments and years served carved into the rock.

Climbing down the face of the pyramid felt more dangerous than climbing up. We could now see how high we were and how dangerous it was. Jim struggled coming down and had to be assisted by the rest of us who carried him from one level to the next.



We finally got to the bottom. It was only 8:00 am, but it was now really getting hot. We sat down talking excitedly amongst ourselves when we were startled to see a guard, shouting in Arabic, rushing at us waving a pistol in the air. Our guide ran forward to meet him, and a loud discussion with much hand waving took place. The guide came over and explained that the guard wanted to arrest us. Pulling a couple of us aside, he

whispered knowingly that if we gave the guard some money, he would go away quietly and ignore that we had just climbed down the pyramid. Tony shrugged and handed a US\$20 bill for the guard who immediately holstered his gun when he saw the money. The guard went off with a big grin on his face, and I could not help but think that this was a well-rehearsed incident, and we had just been suckered.

Walking back to the Mena House through an area of mud huts and wandering donkeys which looked like it had been there for centuries, I looked back up towards the summit feeling a sense of awe at what I had accomplished. A bit irresponsible and a bit dangerous no doubt, but I had done something that not many people had done. I had climbed the Great Pyramid of Giza!

*Written by Roderic Grigson, Old Thomian, Recipient of the OBA President's Award 2020 and author of the 'Sacred Tears' trilogy: a historical fiction set during the civil war in Sri Lanka.*

[www.rodericgrigson.com](http://www.rodericgrigson.com)



## Interview with Dr Peter Selvaratnam by Thomiana

*Dr Peter Selvaratnam is an Assoc. Clinical Professor, The University of Melbourne, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences and Specialist Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist; and the son of the former Warden, the late Rev. A.J.C. Selvaratnam.*



*Thomiana: Peter, what made you join St Thomas' College?*

*Peter:* I initially commenced at St Thomas' Preparatory School for two years while living in Bullers Road, Colombo. When we moved to Mount Lavinia, my yearning was to join the 'College by the Sea.' The reputation of St Thomas' College (College) as the leading school in Ceylon in the 1960's and the cricketing prowess was extremely attractive for a young boy. I was very excited when I joined St Thomas' College (College) in 1964.

*Thomiana: What were the highlights in the first few years?*

*Peter:* In Form I (Grade 1) we won the Royal-Thomian 'Big Match' under the captaincy of the late Premalal Gunasekera. We won in the last session on the second day. It was an exciting finish with College winning by 8 wickets.

I recall at that match, Barney Reid, the left arm opening bowler, kept a steady length. He was also a good bat. I was fortunate later to meet Barney when he was playing for the University of Melbourne and face his bowling. I nervously was able to keep my wicket! Barney also coached my son later during his junior cricket in Melbourne.

*Thomiana: What are the memories of your teachers?*

*Peter:* First impressions are important. I had a good English teacher, Mrs Karunaratne, who was very industrious and made us memorise some great poems from 'Path to Parnassus.' Mrs Karunaratne was at times not popular with a few boys as she used to 'dob' them to the Headmaster, Mr Deutrom David.

The boys enjoyed the young teachers who could relate to them such as Ms June Boralessa (whose brother played first eleven cricket in 1964), Ms Doreen Abeywardene, Ms Ira Mendis, and Ms Olga de Alwis. Ms de Alwis was also our Cub Teacher and Mr Leo de Silva's the Cub Master and together helped us to have good habits. Mrs Jacobs and Mrs Samuel taught us Tamil and their gentle manner was helpful in learning a language, with 247 alphabets, and poetry by a famous poet called 'Ovvayar.'!

Mrs Nita Silva who was the Principal at the adjacent Mount Lavinia Montessori taught me Sinhala. Her meticulous preparation helped me later to pass Sinhala at the GCE Ordinary Level. I still meet her during my trips to Mount Lavinia and converse in Sinhala to her delight though not as fluent as 40 years ago!

Mr Brodie was the Lower 3rd teacher with Mr Leo de Silva. Mr Brodie was also our under 12 cricket coach. I was fortunate to play under the captaincy of the ever-pleasant Dayal de Silva, along with DS (Dhamika) Wickremasinghe, Sabu Weerasooriya, Gihan Ratnayake, NL Perera, Shauketally (Junior) to recall a few.

Mrs Bandaratileke was an exceptional English teacher in upper third and encouraged us to stretch our horizons. Sadly, Mrs Bandaratileke left for better pastures to the UK with her unique shoes which boys fondly referred to as "Pirimi Sappathu." Imelda Marcus would have been proud of her collection. Another outstanding teacher was Mrs V Welikala who helped us to understand 'adjectival clauses' and 'adverbial clauses'!! Mrs Welikala was one of the kindest teachers I came across in the middle school. She nurtured us in our teenage years which were at times challenging.

Mr C.S. Weerasinghe who was our Middle School Headmaster was a 'no-nonsense' disciplinarian and students feared him. He had a unique dress code and loved wearing Safari suits. I also recall Mr Ariyasena Ashuboda who used to illustrate to us great stories on ghosts. We used to wonder whether Mr Ashuboda

was ‘pulling our legs’ though with time I learnt that we are dealing with a ‘spiritual’ world. He changed his name later to Arisen Ahubudu and he was later (by His Excellency the President of Sri Lanka) decorated with the title ‘Kalasuri’. He was not just a hero of STC but through his cultural contributions to Language, Drama, Music and Movies-he was (and his memory) is that of a ‘Sri Lankan national treasure and celebrity’. His kindness to his students endeared him to all.

*Thomiana: Any teachers who gave you a bit of curry?*

*Peter:* Overall, the teachers at College were good, especially in the lower school.

In a recent article for the NSW OBA, I stated that my potential to be the ‘Wall Street hedge fund manager’ did not turn out well with the intimidatory approach by the Lower 6th Mathematics teacher, Mr R. N. S. Karalukulasingham . He was quite liberal in using his ‘hard coated hands’ on boys and we had to take it standing as if it did not affect us! These experiences in understanding the soul hurts of others, shaped me to be more compassionate and forgiving of others.

*Thomiana: What helped you to be an all-rounder?*

*Peter:* The College provided us many opportunities and the teachers encouraged us. Apart from my love for learning, I enjoyed cricket, athletics, drama and learning life skills in the Boys’ Scouts. The Boys’ Scouts encouraged one to be a ‘do it yourself’ person and to cook rice, dhal and a meat curry!

House sports and house drama helped to develop skills in communicating with colleagues and evolve friendships. There were outstanding and ‘down to earth’ colleagues in our year level, and others who were older and younger to me with different interests in sports, academia, the arts, and life in general. Many had an impact on my life. I was fortunate to meet some of them in our 2014 class reunion at Mount Lavinia organised superbly by Russell de Mel, S.R.P. Jayawardene and their team.

I recall the generosity of the late Richard de Zoysa who became a journalist, actor, and human rights activist. Richard and I were in the same House, de Saram House and acted in House plays. On one occasion, Buck House did not have their act together with a play. Hence, he wrote a play for them. The Buck House members acted so well that they won the House competition! Richard had this gift of caring and sharing beyond himself.

*Thomiana: What sort of leadership roles did you have?*

*Peter:* I was a ‘Prefect’ in the middle school and liaised with Mr C.S. Weerasinghe the Middle School Headmaster. We had the honour of taking the boys to the quadrangle for the school Assembly. I was also a class monitor in lower third which helped to organise the day’s events. Later, I was the Deputy Head Prefect at our Anglican brother school, St John’s College, Jaffna.

*Thomiana: When did your father, the Rev John (AJC) Selvaratnam, become Warden of St Thomas’?*

*Peter:* On 1 July 1965, a year, and a half into my time at College, my father was invited by Bishop Harold de Soysa to succeed Warden C.H. Davidson who retired.

My father was an educationalist and an Anglican Minister. He had previously taught at Christian College Kotte, St John’s College Jaffna, and was a lecturer in the Divinity School, Colombo. He was the Chaplain at the University of Ceylon and was also in the Standing Committee of the Anglican Diocese for many years and served as Editor of the Ceylon Churchman. The inauguration service was a special day on 1st July 1965 with Bishop Harold officiating the service. Many boys came to the steps of the Chapel to hope and pray that the new Warden would give them a holiday! My father being an educationalist declined, much to their disappointment.

***Editor’s Note: This is the first part of an extended interview conducted by the Thomiana. The second part covering his memories of being a Warden’s son and the Transfiguration Mural will be published in the next issue.***

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 Upali Gooneratne: Mob: 0449 024 294 Email: [fgooneratne@iiec.org](mailto:fgooneratne@iiec.org)

## STC OBA AUSTRALIA – Membership as at 15 October 2020

Name	Paid To	Name	Paid To	Name	Paid To
<b>A</b>		DEVAPURA, Jetha	2010	GUNEWAREANA, Devinda	2019
ABEYNAIKE, Ajith	2018	DHARMAWARDENA, Kushan	2019	<b>H</b>	
ABEYSEKERA, Victor	2006	DIAS, Pradeep J. A. G.	2014	HAFEEL, Husain	2018
ABEYSINGHE, Dr Rohan	2020	DIAS, Yohan	2006	HAMEED, Azam	2017
ABEYWICKREMA, Anil N	2021	DISSANAYAKE, Janaka	2021	HALLOCK, Shantha	2015
AKMEEMANA, Chami	2009	DISSANAYAKE, Loshan	2009	HASTIMUNI, Supun	2018
ALDONS, Roger	2020	D'SILVA, H. Derek	2020	HEENETIGALA, Dr. Nihal	2021
ALVIS, Randolph Lawrence	2019	D'SILVA, H. Roger C.	2016	HEENETIGALA, Mahes	2020
AMBROSE, Shiran	2020	D'SILVA, Ralph	2019	HENRICUS, Cholmondeley	2021
AMUKOTUWA, Nimal D.	2005	<b>E</b>		HENSMAN, Dr. Indran. C	2009
AMUKOTUWA, Sarathkumar	2020	EMERSON, Richard J	2022	HENSMAN, Kumar	2022
ANDRADO, Amrick	2013	ESANKAMAL, Malinda	2012	HENSMAN, Rajan A.	2020
ANTHONISZ, Ashton	2019	<b>F</b>		HERAT, Norman	2022
ANTHONISZ, Darrell	2019	FERDINANDS, Donald A	2010	HERFT, Christopher P.	2020
ANTHONISZ, James M.	2014	FERDINANDS, James (Jim)	2016	HENAKANKANAMAGE, Naveen	2020
ANTHONISZ, Tyrell	2020	FERDINANDS, John	2006	HEWAVITHARANA, Shehan	2014
APONSO, Lalith	2020	FERDINANDS, Maurice	2006	<b>I</b>	
APONSO, Roshan	2010	FERDINANDS, Rupert W	2022	ILANGAKOON, Amal Michael	2020
APONSO, Suren Diyal	2021	FERNANDO, Billy	2014	<b>J</b>	
ARIARATNAM, Chris	2013	FERNANDO, Deeptha	2007	JANSEN, Conrad Gary	2010
ARMITAGE, Andy	2012	FERNANDO, Dinesh	2020	JANSEN, Shane	2010
<b>B</b>		FERNANDO, Dylan	2019	JANSZ, Brian Gordon	2005
BASTIAENZ, Ralston	2020	FERNANDO, Dushmantha	2013	JANSZ, Rodney	2019
BENERAGAMA, Gamini Dr.	2022	FERNANDO, L. Melville	2023	JASINGHE, Neomal	2024
BIBILE, Rajindra	2020	FERNANDO, M. Kingsley	2020	JAYASEKERA, Bumpy C. W.	2021
BRAINERD, Leslie	2023	FERNANDO, Mewan	2005	JAYASEKERA, Gavin	2021
BROHIER, Richard	2020	FERNANDO, Navodh Shenal	2020	JAYASEKERA, Sandy Rajpal	2013
<b>C</b>		FERNANDO, Niral	2021	JAYASENA, Rajiv	2016
CABRAL, Sriyan	2019	FERNANDO, U Savinda Milan	2017	JAYASINGHE, Chandra. A	2017
CADER, Fazal	2020	FERREIRA, Jeremy	2010	JAYASINGHE, Kalyanasiri	2019
CHAPMAN, Ivor	2012	FONSEKA, Mandula	2018	JAYASINGHE, Ranga P	2008
CHAPMAN, Johann	2020	<b>G</b>		JAYASUNDERA, Stephan	2019
<b>D</b>		GAMAGE, Kolitha	2018	JAYASURIYA, M.D.A. Tarik	2012
DANIEL, Bertram	2021	GAMMAMPILA, Anil	2025	JAYASURIYA, Sarath	2021
DANIEL, Dr. Robin	2008	GANEGAMA, Tilak	2020	JAYASURIYA, Viraj	2018
DASSENAIKE, Nalin	2021	GANEWATTHE, Dharshana	2017	JAYAWARDENA, Asanka	2020
DAVID, Frank	2021	GERLACH, Maxwell	2021	JAYAWICKREME, Suraj	2018
DE LIVERA TENNEKOON, S	2013	GIBSON, R. Maurice E.	2019	JAYAWICKREME, Eshan	2009
DE MEL, Duvin Vichinth	2020	GOMES, Yushantha	2015	JAYETILEKE, Shehan	2011
DE MEL, Jarit	2020	GOONAWARDENA, Peneeth	2020	JESUDHASON, Dr Edward	2020
DE MEL, Sarath	2021	GOONERATNE, Dinesh	2008	JEYAKUMAR, Jebastian	2016
DE MEL, V. Chevinda	2019	GOONERATNE, Sena J.	2013	JUNAIDEEN Rayhaan	2008
DE SILVA, Anura	2021	GOONERATNE, Upali J. F.	2020	<b>K</b>	
DE SILVA, Eranga	2018	GRIGSON, Roderic	2022	KANAGASABAI, H. Selva	2021
DE SILVA, G Gunananda	2018	GUNATILAKE, Druvin	2020	KANATHIGODA, Malithi.N	2014
DE SILVA, Jeremy	2021	GUNARATNAM, Visahan	2009	KAPUKOTUWA, Eraj	2019
DE SILVA, Lakshman D.	2023	GUNASEKERA, Diresh	2018	KAPUWATTE, Shaveen	2018
DE SILVA, Lalindra	2020	GUNASEKERA, Hemanga	2017	KAPUWATTE, Shevaan	2019
DE SILVA, Larry	2014	GUNASEKERA, Yohan Mark	2007	KARIYAWASAM, Nadeeshan	2012
DE SILVA, Senal.C	2021	GUNASEKERA, Rayesh	2020	KARIYAWASAM, Viren	2011
DE VOS, Milroy	2022	GUNAWARDANA, Chanaka	2020	KARUNARATNE, Rayendra	2020
DE ZILVA, Adrian	2022	GUNEWARDANA, Upali	2010	KARUNATILAKE, Bandula	2005

Name	Paid To	Name	Paid To	Name	Paid To
KARUNATILAKE, Saliya	2015	NICHOLAS, Christopher	2018	RODRIGO, Pramuditha A	2019
KATHIRGAMATHAMBY, S	2007	NICOL, Nigel	2021	RODRIGO, Ranmal	2014
KAVINDA, Nuwan	2016	NILaweera, Tilak	2009	RODRIGUE, Darrel	2021
KELLY, Christopher Derrick	2021	<b>O</b>		ROWLAND, Ed	2009
KOCH, Garvin	2017	OPATHA, Rashmika	2020	ROWLANDS, Adlai Perc	2006
KOCH, Godfrey E. L.	2014	OHLMUS, Evelyn R. D.	2019	RUDRA, Sachin Diwarkar	2020
KOCH, Jeffrey H.	2021	ONDAATJE, Peter P.J.	2022	RUPASINGHE, Don Janith	2019
KODITUWAKKU, Ravindu	2020	OVERLUNDE, Stevie	2019	RUWANPURA, Helaka	2009
KULATUNGA, Sisira	2019	<b>P</b>		<b>S</b>	
<b>L</b>		PALMER, Carlyle (Carlo) .	2024	SAMARAJIWA, Manish N	2018
LA BROOY, Glen Arden	2012	PALMER, Gavin	2022	SAMARAJIWA, Shalindra	2020
LANDERZ, Millon Hope	2021	PAUL, Dr Amarjit	2013	SARAVANAMUTTU, Arasu	2020
LAPPEN, Delwyn	2021	PEARS, Michael	2020	SARAVANAMUTTU, Ari	2020
LAWRENCE, Michael	2010	PEIRIS, Duane	2012	SARAVANAMUTTU, Tiru	2021
LAWTON, Christopher A.	2022	PEIRIS, Mangala	2005	SCHARENGUIVEL, Keith	2017
LAWTON, Christopher J.	2025	PEIRIS, Nadija Kalhara	2006	SCHOORMAN, Peter	2020
LAWTON, Michael E.	2022	PEIRIS, Randika	2018	SELVADURAI, Sehan Nehru	2020
LEKAMGE, E. D. B.	2010	PEREIRA, Ernley O	2011	SELVARAJAH, Mano	2010
LEWIS, Leon Howard	2020	PERERA, Avishka	2021	SELVARATNAM, Dr. Peter	2020
LIYANAGE, Milinda J.	2021	PERERA, Dr. Mahendra H	2018	SELVARATNAM, Lakshman	2010
LIYANAGE, Saman	2020	PERERA, Naveen Tharindu	2008	SENANAYAKE, Akila	2012
LOOS, Rev Gerald	2020	PERERA, Niranga	2020	SENARATNE, Godfrey	2020
LOOS, Granville Allison	2020	PERERA, Ruwan	2020	SENARATNE, Sarath	2020
LOOS, Lyndon Wilhelm	2020	PERERA, Senarath M S R.	2010	SENEVIRATNE, Chanaka	2009
LOOS, Hermon	2016	PERERA, Usher Nalaka	2015	SENEVIRATNE, Eardley K	2006
<b>M</b>		PILAPITIYA, Daham Anthony	2012	SENEVIRATNE, Earle	2011
MARCANDAN, Suresh	2020	PONNIAH, Jeya	2020	SENEVIRATNE, Mani	2020
MAHENDRAN, Shylagen	2010	PRABHA David	2009	SENEVIRATNE, Niranjan	2007
MALLAWAARACHCHI, S	2017	PREMKUMAR, Sanjay	2020	SETUNGA, Raymond	2020
MALLETT, Anthony J. W.	2020	<b>R</b>		SHMUEL, Immanuel	2014
MASILAMANI, Michael	2016	RAHIM, Shihan	2011	SILVA, Danidu	2018
MATHANGAWEEERA, Rishen	2020	RAJADURAI, Joe	2009	SILVA, Kristian	2010
MATHER, Professor Paul	2023	RAJAKARUNA, Shiran	2017	SILVA, P. Jayampathy O.	2025
MAZAHIR, Nishad	2007	RAJAPAKSE, Suraj	2013	SIRIMANE, Anura	2008
MEARES, Trevor	2023	RANABAHU, Sean Dimith	2016	SIRITUNGA, Mahendra V	2004
MEDONZA, Siddath	2019	RANASINGHE, Malaka N	2014	SIRIWARDENA, Janaka	2020
MEEGAMA, Suren Royden	2011	RASARATNAM, Mahendra	2017	SMITH, Adam A A	2008
MENDIS, Glen	2020	RASIAH, John	2007	SMITH, Norman Allan	2012
MENDIS, Trevor A.	2021	RATNARAJAH, Vasikaran	2022	SOMANADER, Gehan Rufus	2016
MOLLIGODA, Bandula	2020	RATNAYAKE, Ravi	2009	SOMASUNDERAM, Marty	2020
MOLLIGODA, Suriya	2013	RATNAYAKE, Thivanka M	2018	SRI BAWAN, M	2020
MORENO, Emilio	2022	RAUFF, Mazhar M.	2020	SRI NISSANKA, Vinuka N	2019
MORTIMER, Geoffrey L E	2012	REID, Barney D.	2020	ST. JOHN, Ajit Gavin	2023
MUBARAK, Mohamed Nabil	2023	REID, Claud E.	2020	ST. JOHN, David	2021
MUTTUKUMARU, Rushan	2015	REID, Dr. Barclay G.(Buddy)	2020	STORK, Lynwood	2022
<b>N</b>		REID, Ronnie	2019	SUNDARANATHAN, M	2015
NADARAJAH Suresh	2008	RICHARDS, Marcus	2012	SURIARACHI, Gamini A.W.	2008
NADARAJAH, Prashanth	2011	ROBERTS, Anthony Gerald	2010	<b>T</b>	
NAGARAJAH, C. Romesh	2020	ROBERTS, Richard	2022	TIRIMANNE, Ranjan	2022
NAGARAJAH, Rajievan	2008	ROCKWOOD, David C.	2015	THAJUDEEN, Asfan	2021
NANAYAKKARA, Dilusha R.	2020	RODIE, Gavin	2020	THAMANEGAMA, Thisura S	2020
NANAYAKKARA, Mark	2020	RODIE, John	2021	THIEDEMAN Michael	2019
NANAYAKKARA, Nalin	2019	RODRIGO, A. Lakshan	2013	THIEDEMAN, Shane	2056
NESIAH, Vaseeharan	2020	RODRIGO, Nimal Ravindra	2004	THIRUNEELA, Mauran	2007

Name	Paid To	Name	Paid To	Name	Paid To
<b>U</b>		<b>INTERSTATE</b>		MISSO, REVD. KAROL	2020
UDUGAMA, Jitendra A	2020	<b>ACT</b>		WANIGASOORIYA, Kamal	2012
<b>V</b>		ALDONS, Malcolm Eric	2010	WEINMAN, Beaufort A.	2012
VAN TWEST, Harold	2014	ARSAKULASURIYA, Aruna	2006	<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	
VANDERWERT, Cedric	2016	DIAS ABEYESINGHE, Rohan	2020	LECAMWASAM, Dr D.S	2010
VANNITHAMBY, Reg	2017	JACOB, Elmo	2020	PONNIAH, S.G. Ranjan	2020
VARNEY, Allan	2021	REBERA, Basil	2017	<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>	
VARNEY, Ashley	2021	WICKRAMASURIYA, Revan	2005	ARNDT, George Arthur R	2115
VARNEY, Christopher	2021	<b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b>		DE KAUWE, Dr. Vevil	2021
VARNEY, David	2020	ARNDT, Dr. Douglas V.	2019	FAIRWEATHER, Maurice D	2022
VELUPILLAI, Gerrard	2022	BARTHOLOMEUSZ, David	2009	INGRAM, Dennis	2010
VYTINGAM, Raj	2020	BERENGER, Milroy	2022	JAYASEKERA, Mohan D	2013
<b>W</b>		DE ZILVA, Charles	2011	MAKALANDA, Kavan	2007
WAMBEEK, P.E. Keith	2020	D'SILVA, Stefan	2010	MAY, Walter	2022
WANIGATUNGA, Jayantha	2019	DISSANAYAKE, Prabudith	2018	SHOCKMAN, David Norman	2023
WARNAKULASURIYA, D	2024	FLAMER-CALDERA, Maxim	2025	VIRASINGHE, Indra. A. K	2016
WAZIL, Adhnan	2006	GOONATILAKA, Tissa	2020	<b>OVERSEAS</b>	
WEERASINGHE, Praveen	2018	GRIGSON, Francis Frederick	2013	CALDERA, David Lalith	2025
WEERASINGHE, Odath S.	2020	GUNASINGHE Ruwan	2019	LOHENDRAN, Chelliah	2023
WEERASIRI, Dr Tilak	2019	HENSMAN Mohan	2007	CLAASZ, Anthony Dermot	2020
WICKRAMASEKERA, Rajitha	2012	MASEFIELD, Graham R.L.	2010	COSWATTE, Renuke J B	2006
WICKRAMASINGHE, Chenutha	2019	PERERA, Nimal J	2004	DE ALWIS, Anil Denham	2010
WICKRAMASINGHE, Lahiru	2019	PERERA, Ranjith (Hettige)	2021	DE SOYSA, Sunil	2012
WICKRAMASINGHE, Sankha	2020	RUPESINGHE, Roshan	2014	EPHRAUMS, Lance.H.D.	2011
WICKRAMASURIYA, Dushan	2009	SWAN, William L	2021	HILLMAN, Jeremy	2025
WICKREMARATNA, Vidura	2013	VANDERSMAGT, Vernon	2009	FERNANDO, Dayan (DDL)	2015
WIJAYASURIYA, Prasada	2026	VELUPILLAI, Anthony R. Ln	2010	JAYASURIYA, Dhammika D	2023
WIJERATNE, Dhanuja	2020	VIDAYASAGARAN(Haran) R	2015	MALLET, Anthony J. W.	2020
WIJESINHA, Dr. Sanjiva	2019	WICKRAMASINGHE, Thishan	2019	MORRIS, Reyhan	2005
WIJESINHA, Rohan Devinda	2013	<b>NORTHERN TERRITORY</b>		MUNASINGHE, P.L.	2006
WIJESIRI, Reginald Terence	2019	SHU Jimmy	2009	PEREIRA EDWARD. V	2005
WIJESUNDERA, Chamila	2008	<b>QUEENSLAND</b>		SARAVANAMUTTU, Rajan	2020
WIJESURIYA, Jehan	2006	AMARATUNGA, Rohith	2011	SATURNINUS, Peter	2004
WIJEY, Ashley	2017	BAINES, Trevor	2009	SENARATNE, Lalith	2007
WIJEYARATNAM, Sancho	2018	COORAY, Hiran	2011	THOMAS, Bertram W.R.	2005
WIJEYARATNE, Peter	2005	DISSANAYAKE, Sadeesh	2009	GOMES, Prem	2006
WIKRAMANAYAKE, Nimal	2010	EDWARD, J Roy D	2012	TISSERA, George Vernon	2009
<b>Y</b>		GARTH, David	2017	WEERASINGHE, Abhaya	2020
YAPA, Shamal	2020	GUNAWARDANA, Uditha W.	2011	WIJERATNE, W. D. Neil	2019
<b>Z</b>		HAMEED, Ahmed Shezad	2007	WIJESINHA, Shirley Patrick	2024
ZARANI, Mohamed Yusuf	2013	HERFT, Spencer.G.	2025		
ZAVEER, Mohamed Imran	2017	LAYMAN, Leon Anthony	2006		
ZIMSEN, J. A.Terance	2021	MENDIS, Niru Duleep	2005		

**OBITUARIES – They remain in our memories forever!!**

Brain. A Ferdinands

R.M Fernando (1<sup>st</sup> XI Cricket Captain 1961)

S.P.B. Jayasinghe

Angelo Dias Wanigasekera



**S Thomas College Mt Lavinia Sri Lanka OBA Australian Branch Inc.**

ABN 18 114 799 661  
 PO Box 2337, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149  
[www.stcobaust.org.au](http://www.stcobaust.org.au)

**1 Application for Membership**

I desire to become a member of S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka O.B.A. Australian Branch Inc. On admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association

Surname			
Given Names			
Date of Birth			
Address			
	State		Postcode
Telephone	Home/Work		Mobile
Email			
College Branch Attended		From	To
Proposer (Name)		Phone or Email	
Seconder (Name)		Phone or Email	

Signature of Applicant: ..... Date: ...../...../.....

**2 Membership Renewal / Change of Address**

Membership Renewal		Change of Address		(tick)
Name				
Address				
	State		Postcode	
Telephone	Home/Work		Mobile	
Email				

**3 Payment Details**

Membership Fees	<i>Members: \$25.00; Full-Time Students &amp; Seniors Concession: \$10.00</i>			
Cash/cheque/MO	\$..... enclosed (in favour of S Thomas College OBA)			
Bank Transfer	I have credited <b>STCOBA's</b> account online at CBA, Mount Waverley <b>BSB 063-151, Account No. 1002-9468</b> , in the sum of \$..... having clearly recorded my name as remitter for identification purposes.			
Credit Card	Visa		Mastercard	(tick)
	Name on Card			
	Card Number		Exp	...../..... CVV
	Cardholder's Signature: .....			

**New Members: Please complete Sections 1 and 3; Existing Members: Please complete Sections 2 and 3**

Postal Address and Enquiries	Membership Secretary	<b>Committee Use Only</b>	
	PO Box 2337, Mount Waverley Vic 3149	Application Approved	
	Enquiries: Jayampathy (Pajjo) Silva	Payment Recorded	
	Email: <a href="mailto:pjosilva@tpg.com.au">pjosilva@tpg.com.au</a> Tel.: <b>0418619382</b>	Member Notified	

*Subscriptions for 2020 were due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. If you have not already joined or renewed your membership please use the above form. We will always welcome you. So why not come, join us and support the Association*

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Australia Branch Inc.,

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